

THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 39, Number 10 - May, 1995

Developing It Further

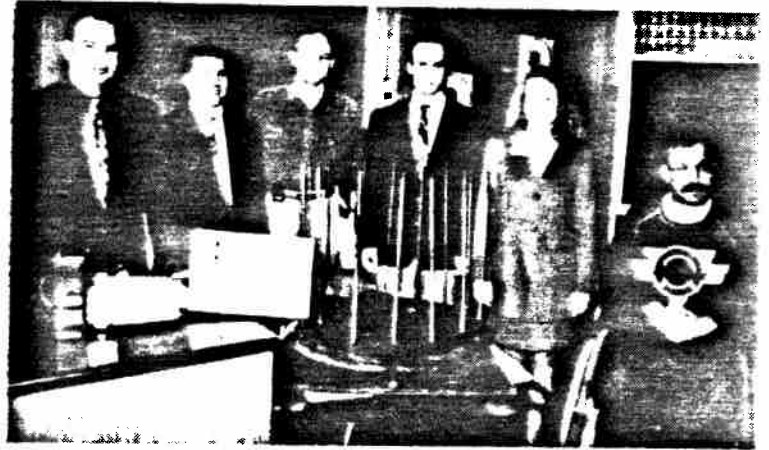
After six months of intensive work, utilizing much of what they had learned during the past two years, a team of four third year Computer Engineering students at Algonquin College displayed their Radio Frequency Monitoring System to their peers, College Faculty and invited guests.

Interest in the project was evident as the lecture theatre in which the monitoring system was presented had few vacant spaces. The team comprised of Paul Hundrieser, Project Manager, Catherine Pavley, Paul Thresher and Marc St. Amour, took turns explaining their respective work in developing the system.

At the beginning of the school year, the students undertook to computerize Wil Warren's, VE3XMT, highly successful DF system which he had developed. The quartet replaced the circuitry in Wil's system with a computer interface and a microprocessor. They combined analog and digital circuitry with the microprocessor, which they built from scratch, to process and store information which had been entered into the computer.

They explained that their unit can store frequency monitoring information for up to four hours which facilitates a series of frequency readings and ultimately providing a very accurate triangulation of the frequency source on a map of the city which is superimposed on a video screen. The students pointed out that they had developed computer software which does all the necessary calculation in pinpointing the frequency source. The program also filters out bounce signals thus registering only the original signal.

Each of the student on the team spent close to 250 hours in developing their respective



The energetic foursome of Algonquin third year Computer Engineering students who further developed Wil Warren's DF unit. Pictured from left to right are Paul Hundrieser, Project Manager, Marc St. Amour, Wil Warren, VE3XMT, Paul Thresher, Catherine Pavley and Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, who was liaison between the Algonquin team and the OVMRC.

phase of the monitoring system. They are certainly to be congratulated on the work they have done and the very professional manner in which their system was presented. Possibly the best criteria of the effectiveness of their work is the fact that police are interested in their system.

Interestingly, none of the students are amateur radio operators which meant they had to familiarize themselves with ham operating procedures so as to understand the full requirements of the monitoring system. The group did admit, however, that their research and work has created an interest in acquiring an amateur radio licence. And each of the four Computer Engineers would be a welcome addition to our hobby !

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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We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Corel Corporation in producing the Rambler.

Mark Your Calendar !

Next general meeting:

Thursday, May 18th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. Jack Belrose, VE2CV, noted Canadian authority and author on HF transmission and antennas will speak on HF Antennas. As well, during the social hour, a demonstration of unusual and antique CW keys.

Deadline for next Rambler:

Friday, May 26th, 1995.

OVMRC's Repeater:

VE3TWO , 147.300MHz (+)

444.200MHz (+)

Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC exchanges newsletters with the following organizations:

Algoma ARC, Sault Ste Marie, ON
Augusta Amateur Radio Assoc. Augusta, ME
Border City Radio Club, Windsor, ON
Chatham-Kent ARC Inc. Chatham, ON
Calgary Amateur Radio Assoc. Calgary AB
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West Island ARC, Dorval, PQ
Winnipeg ARC, Winnipeg, MAN

Sponsors

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

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc.
Mississauga, ON
Corel Corporation, Ottawa, ON

Ramblings

Wise words from our President,

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ



As I sit looking out at a sunny day with thoughts of flea markets, field day and antenna modifications, I am also philosophising about where the hobby has come from and where it might be going. To paraphrase a very well known book - in the beginning there was CW and only morse code. Then modulation was found and AM was born. Since this humble beginning which lasted well into the '50's, amateur radio technology has grown exponentially. Much of this rapid growth is tied to the development of solid state technology that has made the vacuum tube obsolete and permitted mind-boggling sophistication and miniaturization of equipment. A down side of this development is the extreme complication of circuitry and the accompanying problems of working on ever smaller and more densely packed equipment. On the other hand, the miniaturization has made portable amateur radio equipment much more efficient, affordable and reliable. Enter the computer and its marriage to telecommunications equipment. Again, amateur radio equipment has been involved and has benefitted greatly, but at the expense of added complication. Digital techniques are only now coming into wide spread use, but radio amateurs, being the innovative souls that we are, have used simpler forms of them in RTTY for many years, and in more recent times in packet operations. The miniaturization, specialized manufacturing techniques and the difficulty of obtaining component parts, has put state-of-the-art equipment home brewing beyond the reach of many of us. Attention has naturally turned to those areas that do not lend themselves to miniaturization - such as antenna experimentation. Radio amateurs have always taken pride in being good operators and using their equipment to the fullest, and it is only natural that this trait

should continue and intensify as the hobby evolves. With the ever growing range of sophisticated equipment types available more attention is being given finding new ways of combining them to get new and better results rather than developing individual pieces of equipment. All of this preamble leads to the conclusion that the range of interests in the radio amateur community is growing broader quite rapidly. It was this realization and comments from a few club members that prompted me to ask at the last meeting whether the formation of special interest groups within the club should be encouraged. It was not surprising that about half of the members present thought that this would be a good idea. Most surprising was that no one indicated opposition to the idea. To follow up this expression of membership wishes, I intend to write to a major club in western Canada that seems to have successfully implemented this approach for details of how they handle it and how it is working for them. Depending on the response, a recommendation will be made to next year's executive on the issue.

On a closing note, the speaker for the May meeting, John S. Belrose, VE2CV, will give us sound technical advice to help us get back to the roots of the club. He will speak on HF mobile antennas and for those of us with the more modern problem of restricted antenna space, he will also speak about a compact loop antenna design.

The local amateur community was saddened with the news of the recent death of Fred Haire, VE3NJJ. Fred was a regular contributor of technical articles in the Rambler and quietly, without fuss or fanfare was always ready to help other amateurs with antenna work and other problems. Fred had been hospitalized for the past few years at St. Vincents Hospital.

Minutes

OVMRC Regular Meeting, 20 April, 1995.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 1935 hours. He welcomed visitors Harry, VE4GQ, from Brandon, Elie, VE3EKZ and Max, DL8SEP, an airline pilot who is making Ottawa his new home.

Seeking assistance, Ed, VA3CEJ is looking for replacement plastic caps for the ends of coils on a TH3. Elie, VE3EKZ, needs help relocating a 3 element beam on a newly acquired 45 foot DMX tower. (A couple of contact who might help were provided.) Baba, VE3KX is having some problems with interference on a neighbours touch lamp. Rick pointed out an article in the April issue of '73 magazine on the problem. John, VA3LAR, made a recording of some interference on VE3CPC repeater and asked for an experienced opinion on its identity.

Ken, VE3KJB, provided an update on the flea market. He reminded members of the need for volunteers to help set-up and take down tables. There are also raffle ticket available.

Larry, VE3WEH, introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Paul Cooper, VE3JLP.

Paul, who has a regular column in TCA (CQ DX) presented a video of one of the most ambitious DXpeditions ever organized. It took place in February, 1994, to Peter Island (Antarctica). There were 9 members on the expedition, each of whom contributed \$10,000 along with sponsors to cover the more than \$300,000 total cost. The video showed the difficulties and experiences shared by them. The station (3YOPI) was on the air for three weeks and made over 60,000 QSOs.

Paul followed the video with a short discussion on the strength and weaknesses of such an expedition as well as his own experiences with an expedition in Gambia (Africa). This will also be the subject of his CQ DX column in the May issue of TCA.

Larry thanked Paul for a most informative and entertaining presentation.

President Ernie asked for an indication of membership support in creating special interest groups in the Club in view of the

diversity of members' interests. A show of hands clearly indicated the Club's backing of the idea.

Al, VE2TYJ, provided an update on Field Day '95. Plans are to take this event back into the field. The Provincial Rideau Campground (just north of Kemptville) has been approached to accommodate our needs. A group site could be reserved. A show of hands indicated support for the move. Al is looking for transportation for the equipment and a cook. He also asked that anyone wishing to camp overnight at the campgrounds contact him ASAP.

John, VE3NJ, asked for an indication of members' interest in viewing an half hour video of the Gambia DXpedition. The video is owned by one of the commercial vendors who will be at our flea market and arrangements can be made to view the video if there is enough interest.

The President introduced the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Ed, VA3CEJ. Ed introduce his committee, Eric, VE3OTT and John, VA3JBS. Ed reminded members of the Club Bylaw 8.4 which details how members are to be nominated. Ed can be reached by phone at 828-7435.

Rick, VE3IHI, has finally been able to find a power transistor for the UHF repeater. Thanks to Paul, VA3OHE for his help in locating the part.

Announcements; Bob, VE3SUY, advised that the radio course final exams have been held with the highest results ever attained. Ernie announced that Marcel, VA3MG had left a few handouts for those wishing to order QSL cards. Doug, VE3CDC, reminded members of the RAC meeting on April 23 at the Talisman Hotel. Ed, VA3CEJ and Mike, VE3FFK, will hold licensing exams next Tuesday at 1830 hours at Algonquin College. Leo, VE3NVL, now has all the Wise Owl Class A and B certificates available and can be picked up after the meeting.

The doors prizes, donated by Lalonde Electronics in Hull were drawn for by Paul, VE3JLP. The meeting adjourned with the announcement of free coffee and cookies.

Is It Really Broken ???

Simple Operator Troubleshooting

The most unwelcome event that can happen to any ham radio operator is for his or her rig to stop working. Kenwood Corporation has sent the Rambler a few suggestions you should try before resorting to the repair depot.

Kenwood has found that the vast number of failures can be attributed to misoperation of the radio, rather than equipment failure. Here are some suggested simple procedures you can do to determine whether or not something is broken, or if there might be some other cause.

STEP 1

Take a little time and read the instruction manual all the way through. You'd be surprised to find how many problems can be solved this way. Let's look at several examples.

SYMPTOM; "My radio cuts in and out of receive. It happens on all bands, and the transmitter is okay."

CAUSE; The Squelch control on the radio is causing the receiver audio to turn on and off, or the Priority Alert function of your radio is on.

CURE; Turn the Squelch control fully counterclockwise, or turn off the Priority Alert.

SYMPTOM; "I can't get the automatic antenna tuner to function properly."

CAUSE; Not enough power for the tuner to sense forward and reflected power, or the transceiver's antenna tuner menus are not properly configured.

CURE : Adjust the carrier control for an on-scale ALC reading in the CW mode per instructions in the operators manual. For the Menus, if your transceiver has them, be sure to check to make sure that any menu items that relate to the auto-tuner have been properly configured.

STEP 2

Is the station installed properly? Many times Kenwood receives calls about symptoms that are caused by inadequate station set-up.

Let's look at a couple of examples to illustrate this point.

SYMPTOM: "Every time I key the transceiver, the lights get brighter on the display; or I get 'bit' by the exposed metal surfaces on my microphone and radio; or my transmitted signal is distorted, etc."

CAUSE: The antenna is too close to the transceiver location (less than 40 feet) or poor station grounding. (This is the single most frequent cause of transmitter failure or misoperation !)

CURE : Move the antenna and make sure all equipment that is attached to the radio is properly grounded. This is especially critical on HF frequencies when using wire type antennas, and for apartment dwellers.

If you can't supply a good short ground, less than a 1/4 wavelength on 10 meters, use a counterpoise. (A counterpoise is a 1/4 wavelength piece of wire with one end attached to the ground lug on the radio. The other end of the wire is left free and may be tucked along the wall. It should be cut to a length that corresponds to the centre of the band(s) that are giving you trouble.)

SYMPTOM: "Every time I key the radio the lights dim, or the frequency display jumps around, or the transmit audio is distorted, or I don't get full power output."

CAUSE: Not enough voltage being supplied to the transceiver under load or RF feedback (RFI) is interfering with the operation of the power supply.

CURE : Make sure your power supply will supply enough current and voltage for the job. Measure the DC voltage at the power connector on the rig in transmit. The voltage should not drop under the load ! For RFI problems, wrap the DC cable around a toroid core, or add a 0.01uf bypass capacitor between the DC line and ground.

STEP 3

If Steps 1 or 2 don't result in a cure for your symptoms, see your authorized dealer for your make of radio.

Part 4

Ham Radio Station Lightning Protection

This is the fourth in a series of articles which appeared, starting in the February, 1994, issue of the "Striking News" from PolyPhaser on lightning protection information for ham radio stations.

PROTECTORS

Coax protectors should be units that have DC blocking on the centre pin. This serves as a high pass filtering which prevents the low frequency energy of lightning from continuing to your equipment. The strike energy is picked off and diverted into the ground system in a controlled, preconceived fashion. The DC blocking ensures the operation of the protector regardless of the input circuitry of the equipment.

Did you know that protectors with DC continuity will not work on receivers and shunt fed duplexers? This is not a well known fact. The shunt to ground inside a receiver (coil to ground for static draining) prevents the low frequency lightning from being conducted by the DC continuity protector. The coil shunts the energy to ground all right, but it is at the wrong place. If the coil can't handle the energy (half the coax surge energy is on the centre pin), the coil will open up and the current will translate to a large open voltage source capable of arching anywhere within the radio.

The absolute best protector not only DC blocks the centre pin energy, but also DC blocks the shield to your equipment. This type protector prevents the shield energy from continuing to your equipment chassis. When the protector's withstand voltage is exceeded during a strike event and if a proper single point ground system is in place, the voltage on the shield to your equipment will not exceed 10 kV.

Lightning protection can be summed up simply: You have control of the lightning strike energy and not Mother Nature. Once control is lost, all can be lost.

SHACK LOCATION

Looking at the table below of site considerations we will pick one from each group. The variations will make changes in the design of the grounding and protection locations.

The basement is the best location for the shack. It is closest to ground and will have the lowest inductance connection to the grounding system. Because it is below grade, some magnetic shielding may occur. Most basements have concrete floors. Since concrete is a conductor, your equipment must not sit directly on the concrete. Doing so will allow surge energy to enter the shack and find a ground path through your equipment to the floor. Insulate your equipment with material that does not absorb water. Wood is NOT a good choice.

Continued on next page

Lightning Protection

Continued from previous page

Polypropylene is better than nylon to use as a full footprint sheet insulator. Needless to say, you should not be on the concrete floor touching the equipment when a storm is near!

The first floor is the next best location. The magnetic shielding is less than the basement and the inductance to ground is higher. If your tower is close to the building, the recommended grounding strap, running down the building's outside, may inductively couple some energy from the tower. This is also true for other lines such as coax, tower lights and rotorlines. The longer this parallel runs, the more energy will be coupled. Our recommendation is to protect these lines at the tower base then run them in EMT (electrical metal tubing) steel conduit. The conduit should be grounded to the tower base ground point. This will act as a faraday shield for the cables inside. Do not run unprotected lines in the EMT. The protectors must be grounded to each other as well as to the tower ground. The best way to do this is to place the protectors inside a weatherized NEMA type box. A NEMA 3R or 4X will do nicely. Make sure the box is grounded, as well as the inside mounting plate. To do this correctly, remove the paint from the box's outside and inside surfaces at the ground point and use proper joint compounds to weatherize the connections. Stainless hardware may be used. Crimp lugs must be crimped, soldered and weather covered. Solder (60/40) will not hold up to sun light and ozone without protection. Use a short section of strap or a pig tail to bond between the inside surface of the box and the inside protector plate.

Our definition of a high rise building is different from upper stories of a house in that the antennas on a high rise are not on a ground mounted tower. Therefore, the single point grounding plan is a must for a high rise equipment room. The grounding of the antenna is a different story. Normally common grounding is recommended. Grounding both the antenna and the single point in the equipment room is easy for

buildings with structural steel frames - just bond to the building steel. Buildings other than steel construction are not as simple. Some high rise buildings have a fire riser which has a home run to the basement where a super charger pump is usually connected. The riser may be used as a ground path if the pump's power is protected (3 phase) and a strap jumper installed to take the strike energy past the pump's gasket on both its input and output ports. If the riser is over 50 feet away, it may not be the best ground path to use. Check for other paths such as existing building lightning rods with down conductors or large electrical conduits. Do not use drain pipes or vent stacks. If none are available, regardless of the path distance, and it is impossible to run a strap down the side of the building, then the antenna just can't be grounded! When an ungrounded antenna is hit by lightning, the energy will traverse the coax line to your single point equipment ground location. This may be many meters from earth and the inductance/resistance voltage drop will be very large (hundreds of thousands of volts). The grounding plan is to have a single point ground with no sneak paths. Sneak paths are loops that allow lightning current to flow into the equipment room. The easiest sneak paths to miss are the safety ground and the concrete floor. The safety ground can be fixed by adding a distribution panel and protector at the single point ground location or, for small sites, a plug-in protector grounded on the single point ground panel. All I/O's (input/output) must be protected at this single point. The next thing to measure is distance. During a strike, distance equates to voltage drop to earth, the entire room of equipment will be elevated. The sharp corners of equipment cabinets can breakdown the air, causing current to flow. This will be a very low current unless another path is found by these streamers. Heater vents and electrical conduit which are not grounded to the single point can become such paths.

Part five of this series - next month.

Packet Racket

Written by Ken Asmus, VA3KA

Last month I discussed the terminal and RF components required to get started in packet radio. In this edition, I'll provide an introduction to the other two main components of a packet station - the Terminal Node Controller (TNC) and the controlling software.

The Terminal Node Controller

The Terminal Node Controller is basically a "black box" which acts as the interface between your computer and the RF equipment. Essentially, the TNC is a "smart" modem which converts the computer output into "packets" which it sends to the transmitter and, conversely, disassembles received packets from your receiver and sends them to your computer.

There are two ways to implement a TNC, via hardware and via software. The hardware method is the most popular. There are a number of TNC's available on the market from a number of manufacturers. MFJ, Kantronics, AEA and others produce TNC's and the price ranges from about \$150 for a basic unit to about \$1,000 for a state of the art Digital Signal Processing (DSP) unit that will do all and be all ! There are usually a number of TNC's on the used market at varied prices. The mid-range priced TNC usually offers a number of other modes i.e. RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR, SSTV, CW, etc. I will be discussing these other modes in future columns. Most TNC's come with built-in Personal Mail Boxes allowing others to leave and retrieve messages to/from you even when your computer is turned off.

A second method to get on packet is to use a software TNC. There are two popular systems on the market, Baycom and Poor Man's Packet (PMP). Both of these systems are very low cost, starting at around \$50 for a kit to about \$90 for one which fully assembled and tested. The software version requires a very simple "dumb" modem interface between your computer (RS-232 or printer port) to the RF equipment. This modem can be very small and in fact the commercially available Baycom system has the modem built into the 25 pin connector which plugs into and gets

it power from the computer. The control functions, normally handled by the outboard TNC, are all handled in software and uses your computer to provide the "smarts".

The Control Software

The TNC requires some software to control it. There are a number of software packages available. The simplest method is to use any terminal software package that you may have accessing telephone BBS's, such as Procomm, Telix, Crosstalk, etc. Any of these packages will "talk" to a TNC but they are not designed for packet and are, in the long run, really not suitable. They normally do not provide useful functions such as split screen capability. Each manufacturer of TNC's normally provides a basic packet radio software program with their unit. There are also some very nice full featured software packages available as shareware or even as freeware. Two of the more popular programs are PaKet and TPK. I will describe these in future articles.

The foregoing discussion on software is primarily for those using the AX25 protocol. If you have been tuned in on packet activity, especially in the Ottawa area, you have probably heard a lot of discussion about TCP/IP and JNOS. JNOS is a software package that enables you to use the TCP/IP protocol over packet. JNOS still requires a TNC or Baycom style modem, but has a different set of operating procedures. Using TCP/IP will open up a whole new world of amateur radio and allow you to get connected to the Internet and the Information Superhighway ! I will be devoting a few columns to TCP/IP in the future, stay tuned !

The last two columns have described what is needed to get started in packet radio. Next month I will start to discuss what packet can do for you starting with Bulletin Boards and how to access them.

A reminder, if you have questions about packet, please put them in writing and send them to the Rambler. I'll be pleased to answer them either in this column or direct to those submitting them.

Ni-Cads A Fire Hazard

Reprint from the Chicago FM Club "Squelch Tale"

Beware, anyone who uses Alinco HT's, especially the DJ-180 and DJ-580, and all users of rechargeable battery equipment. The charging terminals on the Alinco HT batteries are not diode-protected against external short circuits. The manual points this out but fails to emphasize the possible consequences.

A young amateur in Chicago had his Alinco on his bed along with items from his school bag including a spiral-bound notebook. Somehow the charging terminals of the battery contacted the metal binding of the notebook, and, within seconds, either the battery case or the spiral wire heated enough to set the blanket afire.

Fortunately, he noticed the smoke and fire in time to extinguish it, preventing more serious consequences. Had it happened when no one was home, the house could have burned down.

The same could happen to you, if you carry a battery in your pocket, along with change, keys, nail file, etc.

It is strongly recommended you use a soft case for Alinco HTs. And never place the uncased radio, or its spare batteries, on any surface other than something like a table that is clear of conductive items.

Perhaps you are asking yourself, "How can a small, low voltage battery pack be so dangerous? Well, the nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cad) batteries in most portable equipment have extremely low internal resistance. So they can deliver a very large current into a short circuit.

Most Ni-Cad battery packs don't have exposed charging terminals connected directly to the batteries. The Yaesu FT-23/73 family of HTs, for example, uses an internal diode to block current flow out of the charging terminals. To test whether a battery-pack's charging terminals for safety, measure the voltage across its charging terminals with a multimeter. If you read a voltage, your battery pack is unsafe.

Call The Doctor, Even If 10,000 Miles Away

Reprint from San Lorenzo Valley's "Downlink"

This is a true story, published in several places, including the classic book, *Calling CQ*, by Clinton B. DeSoto.

During the 1920's and 30's, Clyde De Vinna, K7UT, was a well known and respected cinematographer. Among his classics: *The Good Earth*, *20-Mule Team*, and *White Shadow of the South Seas*.

For many years DeVinna carried ham gear with him wherever he went. His rig not only provided him with off-duty pleasure, but furnished the film crew with much needed communications when they were filming in remote areas. In the mid-1930's, while DeVinna was in Alaska filming *Eskimo*, he began working a New Zealand ham named McLaughlin.

One evening DeVinna entered his shack, an 8 by 10 foot shed sealed tight to hold out the bitter cold. He turned the gas stove full-on and sat down for his schedule with McLaughlin. Signals were good, and they began their nightly CW ragchew. But then McLaughlin detected changes in DeVinna's sending. His dots and dashes became muddled, missed, out of rhythm. They stopped and then started again fitfully, then became a continuous dash. McLaughlin knew DeVinna was in trouble.

What could a person 10,000 miles away possibly do to help? McLaughlin tuned frantically for another Alaskan station, but found none. Suddenly he came across a Hawaiian station who had also worked De Vinna. Could he help? The Hawaiian station called CQ Alaska and got an answer! The ham in Alaska instantly telephoned the police at Teller, the town nearest DeVinna's shack. Ten minutes later the Teller police were at DeVinna's door, with a doctor in tow. They found DeVinna unconscious from carbon monoxide poisoning. The doctor worked on DeVinna for a few minutes and finally announced he would be fine. Ain't radio wunnerful!

Tribute From The Brass Pounders

Fred Ennis, Page Six columnist with the Ottawa Sun had the following item in his column on Sunday, March 26, 1995.

Friends of Gordie Smith, longtime advertising specialty salesman, heard an unusual tribute at his funeral services a few days ago. Gordie was a "brass pounder" or railway telegrapher back in the days when messages were sent by Morse Code.

Some of Gordie's friends from out of town who could not make it to the service sent their messages of tribute in Morse Code. The tape of the messages was played by his friend Richard Inwood, who translated the dits and dahs for the benefit of those who could not decode it.

Wise Owl Certificate Qualifiers

The following amateurs have qualified for Wise Owl Certificates which can be picked up from Leo, VE3NVL, at any regular OVMRC monthly meeting or at the OVMRC flea market.

CLASS A ;

Joe, VE3JHT; Chuck, VA3CAB; Ed, VA3CEJ; Danny, VA3DLM; Gord, VA3GRB; Paul, VA3HOE; John, VA3JBS; John, VA3LAR; Tom, VA3OFD; Vince, VA3VGH; Fred, VE3BAJ; Ernie, VE3EJJ; Mike, VE3FFK; Jim, VE3GJY; Sydney, VE3GVI; Herb, VE3HRB; John, VE3IAO; Rick, VE3IHI; Pat, VE3KJQ; Leonard, VE3LPH; Paul, VE3NPD; Denny, VE3OFV; Steve, VE3RUU; Gerben, VE3SUV; Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG; Dan, VE3XDD; George, VE3XS

CLASS B:

Steve, VE2CYC; Gord, VE2HEX; Keith, VA3KER; Ken, VE3KJB; Eric, VE3LBE; Eric, VE3OTT; Mailles, VE3MD; John, VE3NJ; Steve, VE3SKP; Larry, VE3WEH; Ed, VE3VLF; Al, VE3ZTU.

Many thanks to all amateurs who participated and thanks to the OVMRC for sponsoring this annual event.

It Will Be Interesting

The Club's May 18th meeting should be an extremely interesting one with Jack Belrose as our guest speaker. Jack is a noted authority on HF transmissions and antennas who has authored numerous articles on the subject and has spoken to a number of prominent groups on HF. He also serves as a technical advisor on HF matters to the ARRL. He will be speaking on "HF Antennas - Compact Loops and Mobile Antennas.

Club members who have unusual and/or antique CW keys are invited to bring them to this meeting to display and demonstrate them during the social hour immediately following the meeting.

By the way, the graduates of the highly successful 1994 OVMRC Amateur Radio Course will be introduced to the Club's membership.

Save Money When Joining RAC

A reminder to all OVMRC members - when joining or renewing your membership in RAC, indicate on your application form the account number "OTT101". This will result in the OVMRC receiving a \$3 credit for each new or renewing member. The \$3 will be automatically applied against your next year's membership dues to the OVMRC.

Slow Speed CW Net

The Club's executive is reviewing the feasibility of establishing a slow speed CW net. It is felt that there is a need for a net where amateurs with 5wpm can participate and feel comfortable doing so. Thought is being given to holding the net on Sunday mornings at 0900 hours.

Eavesdropping The Bunny Hunters

Written By Mike Kelly, VE3FFK

The following is an edited fake transcript of the cockpit voice recorder on board the vehicle that was first to find the bunny in the January 14 Bunny Hunt.

DRIVER: Ok, which way do we want to start?

NAVIGATOR: Well, the hidlers are from the east end, and the last target was in the south- east, so lets go west.

RADIO OPERATOR: All right, provided we can hear it when it starts up. ... Its up, around S4. Lets go.

N: Queensway west

RO.... S3-4, dropping slowly

D: Do we U turn at Woodrooffe?

RO: Not yet, lets make sure we aren't going through a null or something

N: Looks like we turn at Pinecrest if the signal doesn't come back

RO: He isn't in this end of town
...much driving takes place..

RO: Signal picking up, S6-7, time to think about switching radios

D: Where do you want to leave the Queensway, and which direction?

RO: South

N: St Laurent looks good

D: St Laurent south it is
...much more driving takes place...

RO: Lots of flutter, no better than S7, probably northwest of us

N: Lebreton maybe, NRC Sussex, any ideas?

D: Rocliffe airport?

RO: Beechwood cemetary?

N: That could be, its just inside the line..Lets take St Laurent north and see which it is
...more driving...

RO: Signals picking up, switching radios

D: There goes Al, we must be close

RO: Signals coming up too slowly for the cemetary, head west

N: Take Montreal Road, left, two lights ahead

D: Ok, where to?

RO: Don't know yet... setting up tripwire radio

N: Slow it down

RO: Signals picking up

N: Any right turn around here is good. We'll check the river this way.

RO: Attenuator going in now.

N: Go right, then right on Beechwood, we'll try the other side of the river

ALL: Tripwire!

D: Keep looking outside...he`s around here somewhere... get us over there

N: Left at the lights, then any left, then cruise

D: Lets go around this park

RO: Tripwire

D: I'll check that stick in the snowbank... ... nope, where to now?

RO: Lets go back to the island and see if we can see anything from the far side of it
...more driving...

R: Tripwire on solid now, going upscale, we've got him now.

D: There he is, thats his car

RO: I hope the bunny is in the car with them

N: Where's Al?

D: Where's Wil?

RO: Where's Darryl?

Bunny: Congratulations, you're first in!

ALL: What?!

RADIO: Click - Click (off, that is)

Join in the fun of learning DFing by taking part in the monthly Bunny Hunt. Listen to the Welcome Mat and Wise Owl Nets on Wednesday and Friday evenings for complete details about the next "Hunt".

Potpourri

*A sampling of news and comments
from newsletters and newspapers
from across the country - written
by Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC*



Monitoring Times (letter) - Interestingly enough, back in the early 1900's, when Morse was the dominant mode, a primary concern among government officials was the ham's abuse of privilege and their profanity. It's nothing new: the nuts are still with us. We don't need to impose a code test, we need to administer psychological evaluation. (?????!!!!-VE3TSC)

Omaha, Nebraska - Residents complained heavily to Sears that their newly purchased door openers refused to open once closed. Local amateurs helped the FCC in tracking the problem source to a local Air Force base. Their new air-to-ground radio system was broadcasting close to a frequency used by the garage door openers.

Windsor (All Ohio Scanner Club Jan/95) - Lawrence County has switched their CB radios to a UHF system. This coincided with the death of the county's long-time engineer. Seems this person did not like radios because he wanted his men working rather than yapping all day on their mobiles.

RAC - During the month of June, the Halifax and Dartmouth clubs will operate special club stations CG7H and CG7D to commemorate the G7 conference in Halifax.

Calgary (Cablestream News) - Recently Charles Kissinger in Henderson, Kentucky has been woken up at 0630 with the sound of barking dogs, music and the bugle tune "Reveille" from a bullhorn at his neighbour's home. The 2 have been feuding for years with each other saying that Kissinger's radio signal interferes with his own ham/FM

radio/TV reception along with the phones and other appliances. Police have put a disorderly conduct charge on the neighbour.

Windsor (Amateur Radio Newsline) - Two new hamsats were lost when a Russian rocket launch instead of achieving polar orbit fell into the sea. Lost were TECHSAT ONE from Israel and UNAMSAT ONE from Mexico.

Cornwall - Andy Rugg VA3TEE/VE2EM did some tests on 160M to compare results between a congested, limited space, shortened base antenna and a PRO-AM PHF-160 mobile. He found that after adding 2 capacity hats to simplify tuning the mobile antenna was better for CW DX.

Sudbury - Jerry Proc VE3FAB is the radio restoration volunteer for HMCS Haida, a WW2 Tribal Class destroyer in Toronto. He is trying to locate various antiquated radio gear/manuals. To see if you can help, call him at 416-249-0261 or Internet -> jproc@worldlinx.com.

Comox (London, England) - A local inventor has patented a wind-up radio that will run without batteries or electricity. All one does is wind up a large spring which while unwinding generates enough DC to power the radio. (How many springs for a 100W HF set? VE3TSC)

Windsor - The transistor radio is 40 years old! Original Regency TR-1 then worth \$40 are now worth as much as \$600 to collectors. It was pocket size with 4 transistors from Texas Instruments.