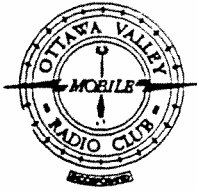


Rec'd Aug. 9/95



# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 40, Number 1 - August, 1995

## OVMRC ANNOUNCES... AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING COURSE

The OVMRC is again announcing its yearly Amateur Radio Course, starting in September 95. This year, as in the past, those features of the course that were the most successful will be enhanced, with the objective of graduating the greatest number of students with enough knowledge and enthusiasm to carry themselves forward into a lifetime of enjoyment from a great hobby.

Although the fee is now \$199, it represents great value. Consider the benefits that each participant will receive.

1. Course text "Amateur Radio for Beginners". This is the main text for the course, and enables the student to learn the theory required for the Basic license, as well as make a significant dent on the theory toward the Advanced.
2. Course manual, containing notes from the practical lessons, operating hints and instructions, reference cards, information on packet radio, and much more.
3. Morse Code audio tapes for learning the code, an IBM PC Morse Code practice program, and 24 hour code practice by telephone.
4. A code practice oscillator kit. This kit will be built under supervision in the classroom during one of the class periods.
5. Option to purchase a quality hand (Morse) key at a subsidized price.
6. Loan of a radio receiver to listen to "on-air" code practice transmissions and amateur conversations. These include daily transmissions from the American Radio Relay League station W1AW, and transmissions specifically geared to the

class, sent by members of the OVMRC training committee.

7. Membership in the OVMRC for 1995/96, including the *Rambler* newsletter.
8. Membership in Radio Amateurs of Canada, including 11 issues of *The Canadian Amateur*. This feature will greatly "connect" the students to the world of amateur radio in Canada.
9. Tuition covering approximately 26 weeks of instruction/tutoring in theory, practice, regulations, and Morse.
10. Industry Canada Licensing Examinations in theory and Morse code.

We have had great success with students of all abilities, taking the non-initiated from scratch to the Basic license, and beyond. Most of those who do the recommended 2 to 3 hours of home study each week are able to easily keep up with the pace, developing an understanding of the principles involved, and capability at 12 words per minute in Morse code. Weekly tests in Morse and theory provide the feedback required to keep the student informed of progress. Instruction and practice are provided on the operation of a variety of amateur radio equipment, amateur radio conversations, and the procedures and etiquette of radio communications.

Industry Canada licensing examinations for both the Basic and Advanced qualification as well as the code are conducted in the classroom near the end of March. Additional help and supplemental examinations will be provided if required.

If you would like information on this course, please contact the OVMRC Training Director, John Moffat, VE3NJ, at 224-5204, or Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, at 737-9443

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

# RAMBLER

The Rambler is published monthly by:

The OVMRC  
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Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K2C 3M1

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## The 1995-1996 OVMRC Executive

President: Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, 728-3666  
Vice-President: Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749  
Treasurer: Colin Finlayson, VE3UZU, 722-4452  
Secretary: Roger Rose, VE3XRR, 741-9847

## Standing Committee Chairs

Amateur Radio Exhibit: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 225-7374  
Amateur Radio Training: John Moffat, VE3NJ, 224-5204  
Field Day: Vacant  
Flea Market: Vacant  
Historical: Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP, 739-8871 &  
Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565  
Membership: Gordon Beatty, VA3GRB, 722-4675  
Newsletter: Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214  
Publicity & Programs: Moe Cluff, VE3CTD &  
Leonard Chodat, VE3LPH, 733-5122  
Radio Operations: Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, 748-6597  
Technical: Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, 737-9443  
Novice: Joe Donneley, VA3JJD, 488-3112

## OVMRC Life Members

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY  
Gerry King, VE3GK  
Fred Noble, VE3BAJ  
Jerry Wells, VE3CDS

## Joining or Renewing RAC Membership

When joining or renewing your membership in RAC, remember to quote "OTT-101" on your application. This will reimburse the OVMRC \$3 of your RAC membership dues which will be passed back to you in the form of a credit on your next year's OVMRC dues.

***The OVMRC gratefully acknowledge the support of the Corel Corporation in producing the Rambler.***

## Mark Your Calendar !

### Next general meeting:

Thursday, September 21st at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. Renew acquaintances after the summer recess by attending the opening meeting of the season and meet your friends and fellow amateurs.

### Deadline for next Rambler:

Friday, August 31st, 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  
Comox Valley ARC, Comox, B.C.  
Halifax ARC, Halifax, N.S.  
Heritage ARC, Cobourg, ON  
Kingston ARC, Kingston, ON  
Lambton County ARC, Sarnia, ON  
London ARC, London, ON  
Metroflex ACA, New York  
Ottawa ARC, Ottawa, ON  
Pioneer ARC, Nepean, ON  
RAC, Kingston, ON  
Scarborough ARC Inc. Scarborough, ON  
Seaway Valley ARC, Cornwall, ON  
Smiths Falls ARC, Smiths Falls, ON  
Sudbury ARC, Sudbury, ON  
Surey ARC, Surrey, B.C.  
Saskatoon ARC, Saskatoon, SK  
Thousand Island ARC, Brockville, ON  
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

*Our President, Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ,  
would like you to know...*



I want to thank the membership for the confidence they shown in my administration of the club over the past year by re-electing me to the position of president for another year. The election process was somewhat incomplete in that the Technical, Flea Market and Field day chairs remained empty. Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, has volunteered to take up the Technical chair and was duly appointed at the recent executive meeting. Filling the remaining positions will be one of the first items of business for the new executive as there is a lot of planning and preparatory work to be done before the flea market and field day events occur. Any member interested in joining the executive in either of these vacant positions should contact me or another member of the new executive as soon as possible. Dan, VE3XDD, the Rambler editor, has given notice that he will be leaving the position next June and suggests that a successor work with him for several months before then so as to learn the intricacies of the rather complex software and other facilities that he uses to produce the Rambler. This seems like an excellent suggestion to ease the transition to a new editor. Anyone interested in succeeding Dan is asked to contact him or another member of the executive.

The field day had a turn out of dedicated people and was in a pleasant camping locale, complete with the usual large and hungry mosquitoes in the evening. Thank goodness for insect repellent. Girl Guide and Boy Scout groups camping in the park visited the site in the evening and were treated to an in-depth explanation of amateur radio by

John, VE3NJ, and others. Hopefully, amateur radio will gain a few new converts. The weather certainly cooperated and, all in all, those participating seemed to enjoy themselves.

As I write this, the 70 cm transmitter for the repeater is on order and, by the time you read this newsletter, it should be commissioned and operating. Hopefully this will permit those having a 70 cm capability to use the repeater in the down town core where intermod is a problem.

During the past month I have received a response to my letter to the Calgary Amateur Radio Association dealing with their approach to interest groups within their club. Their approach looks interesting, and I want to look over the details during the summer. More about this later.

Looking back, the club has had an active year with several traditional community service projects, and some that were initiated by individuals for the benefit of other club members. As a service oriented organization we should be looking for more opportunities of this sort. In this context I would urge members to communicate their ideas for projects or improved club operations to a member of the new executive. We will not be having a comprehensive questionnaire this year but we do need your inputs so as to keep on track with the direction YOU want the club to go.

I hope you are each and everyone having an enjoyable, safe and rewarding summer, and I expect to see you all at the September meeting full of renewed energy, ready for a memorable '95/96 season.

# Minutes

## OVMRC regular Meeting, 15 June, 1995.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 1937 hours. Ernie, VE3EJJ, welcomed visitors Max, DL8SP, Glen, VE3AKZ, Marc, VA3DRB and Dave, VE3QQQ.

Amateur requiring assistance - an amateur was looking for the person who purchased the Yeasu Morse Reader at the flea market. Doug, VE3CDC, wanted to know if anyone had bought the new Digital Signal Processor from Radio Shack. He would like a demo of its potential. Neil, VE3PUE, asked for some information on American Amateurs wanting Canadian call signs.

Ernie thanked all of the volunteers who are contributing to the success of the Museum station (VE3JW) and reminded everyone that Jerry, VE3CDS, is providing operational training on the station's equipment during the month of June.

Al, VE2TYJ, reported that everything is going well with field day plans, except for tents. Anyone wishing to help should call Al in the next few days. Bryce, VE3EDR, asked for more CW operators and loggers.

Ernie informed the membership that he can obtain 20 or so extendable antennas (type used with old military radio model 19) at a Quebec flea market for about \$25 each. Anyone interested contact Ernie.

Steve, VE3RUU, has 3rd anniversary Welcome Mat Net certificates for all those who checked in to the net. See Steve after the meeting.

Fred, VE3PAB and Judy, VE3PAA, have personalized caps and T-shirts available. Anyone interested see them after the meeting.

Bill, VE3NR, reported on the Amateur Delegation Working Group that they have made a proposal to Industry Canada regarding Certification and licensing of Canadian amateurs. The proposal was well received with the exception of the financing arrangements. A review is now underway. They are also working on the appropriateness of the question and answer bank, the selection of examiners as well as studying the process of delegation.

Ernie provided a detailed description of the

proposed 1995-1996 budget. Some major cuts will have to be made and increased membership dues introduced in order to have a balanced budget. After some heated discussion, it was moved by Bryce, VE3EDR, seconded by Bob, VE3SUY, that the OVMRC charge admission to its flea market and that \$250 from the proceeds be allocated to field day to facilitate procurement of tents. MOTION CARRIED.

The proposed budget was approved by the vote taken on the previous motion.

Ernie introduced the proposed bylaw change to Section 11 which proposed reducing the number of issues of the Rambler from 11 to 9. It was moved by Rick, VE3IHI, seconded by Bill, VE3NPG the amendment be approved. Following discussion, Rick agreed to withdraw his motion until later in the meeting.

Al, VE2TYJ moved that the proposed amendment to bylaw 2.3.3 be approved. Seconded by Bill, VE3NPG. MOTION CARRIED.

Ken, VE3KJB, moved that the proposed amendment to bylaw 2.3.1 be approved. Seconded by Moe, VE3CTD. MOTION CARRIED.

Rick, VE3IHI, re-introduced his motion to approve the proposed amendment to bylaw section 11. Seconded by Ken, VE3KJB. MOTION DEFEATED.

Ed, VA3CEJ, the Nominations Committee Chairperson introduced the proposed slate of officers for 1995-1996. He then asked for further nominations from the floor. None having been made, he declared the new executive as follows:

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ
Vice President	Steve Middleton, VE3RUU
Treasurer	Colin Finlayson, VE3UZU
Secretary	Roger Rose, VE3XRR

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Radio Exhibit	Jerry Wells, VE3CDS
Training	John Moffat, VE3NJ
Historical	Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP & Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH
Membership	Gordon Beatty, VA3GRB

Continued on next page

# Minutes

Continued from previous page

Newsletter Dan Doctor, VE3XDD  
Radio Operations Jacques Choquette,  
VE3TSC  
Novice Joe Donneley, VA3JJD  
Field Day Vacant  
Technical Vacant  
Publicity & Programs Moe Cluff, VE3CTD &  
Leonard Chodat, VE3LPH

Ernie thanked the Nominations Committee for the work. Ed, VA3CEJ, advised the membership that Judy, VE3PAB, had been appointed Auditor. Baba, VE3XK, moved that a round of applause be given for a job well done by the past executive.

Ernie presented awards as selected by a committee comprised of Larry, VE3WEH, Dan, VE3XDD and himself. Jerry presented Ernie DeCoste, VE3RIM, of the museum, a scroll plaque on behalf of the Club for his dedication in re-establishing the museum station VE3JW. On behalf of the museum Ernie thanked the Club for their work and continued efforts in operating the station.

Jerry presented Ernie, VE3EJJ, with a plaque for promoting amateur radio and good will over the past year.

Plaques were presented by Ernie to:

Ken, VE3KJB, for his many years organizing and coordinating the OVMRC flea market.

Jacques, VE3TSC, for his unselfish interest and setting a good example to other amateurs.

Dan, VE3XDD, for his dedication and skill in editing and publishing the Rambler.

Rick, VE3IHI, for his outstanding effort in upgrading and maintaining the efficiency of our repeater.

Richard, VE3UNW and Mike, VE3FFK, for their overall contribution to the amateur community, and their providing training and technical support.

John, VE3NJ and Bob, VE3SUY, for their leadership and efforts in providing training and instruction to new amateurs.

Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG, for promoting amateur radio and unselfish support at public events.

Wil, VE3XMT, for his research and development in the amateur radio field.

Cy, VE3SIY, for his dedication in re-establishing the museum station.

Jerry, VE3CDS, for his exemplary efforts and involvement in re-establishing VE3JW.

Larry, VE3WEH, for his untiring efforts in arranging programs and speakers for our general meetings

Ernie reminded members to see Steve and pick up their Welcome Mat Net anniversary certificates. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2152 hours for coffee, tea and cookies.

## YAC-ety YAC

The new Sunday evening Young Amateurs of Canada net (YAC) on VE3TWO is looking for checks in! If there is a young amateur in your household, or you know of one in your neighbourhood, may we suggest you encourage them to check in to the YAC net. The net was organized by young amateurs so they could discuss the many subjects which are of interest to "young people", and to help one another solve technical problems. It is a good net, worthy of the support and participation of young amateurs in this area. You're invited to monitor the net Sunday evenings at 7 pm.

## A r e Y o u Fashionable ?

Ever wonder where some amateurs get those personalized caps and T-shirt with their name and call sign ? Well your search is over! Judy and Fred Taetz, VE3PAA and VE3PAB, respectively, have a wide assortment of colours and styles of caps and T-shirts on which they will place your call sign and name, and the OVMRC logo if you want it, You too can have people wondering where you got the personalized items. Prices are reasonable and order turn around is relatively fast. Call Judy or Fred, evenings, at 822-0937 to make an appointment to choose your cap and T-shirt.

It's

## The OVMRC

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of year again ! Yes, it's time to renew your Club membership for the 1995 - 1996 season. Be a member of the OVMRC and enjoy what is sure to be an interesting, informative and entertaining program of guest speakers and events in the coming year. Don't miss out on all the fun - complete the renewal form at the bottom of this page and, along with your cheque, mail them to the Club's postal box. This procedure will ensure the uninterrupted delivery of your monthly issue of the Rambler, the inclusion of the your name in the Club's Directory of Members (to be issued early in the new program year), and help eliminate having a long line of members waiting to register and renew their membership at the registration desk before meetings. Please note the revised membership dues which came into effect as of July 1, 1995:

- (1) Full membership with the Rambler mailed to your residence each month.....\$25/year.
- (2) Full membership and receiving the Rambler by one of the alternate methods provided by the Club other than delivery by Canada Post.....\$20/year

**THE OVMRC MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS JULY 1ST TO JUNE 30TH**

# OVMRC Membership Application

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.  
Box 5530, Station F, Ottawa, ON K2C 3M1

- The membership year starts in July and runs to June 30 of the following year.
- Regular membership is only open to licensed amateurs.
- Associate membership is open to all radio enthusiasts.
- The family rate is for second and subsequent members of the same family living at the same address.

Call Sign	Surname	Preferred First Name	Date
Mailing Address		Apartment Number	BBN
City	Province	Postal Code	
Home Phone [ ][ ]-[ ][ ][ ][ ]-[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]	Work Phone [ ][ ]-[ ][ ][ ][ ]-[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]		Amount Enclosed \$

— One year membership. Regular or Associate, includes mailed Rambler - \$25/year  
— One year membership. Regular or Associate, without mailed Rambler - \$20/year  
— Family rate. For family of current members. No mailed Rambler - \$ 5/year

Cheque  Cash

## Fuses & Breakers Protect You & Your Gear

Fuses protect equipment and users from the effects of excessive electrical current - heating that can cause fires.

A fuse contains a link that melts when current exceeds its rating. The cause of excess current can be a malfunction or a user trying to connect too many loads. A fuse is not repairable; it must be replaced.

Fuses deteriorate over extended use. Thus the advice: "If a fuse blows, try another of the same rating; if the replacement blows, find the problem and fix it!" Never replace a fuse with one whose current rating is higher. Fuses can be of the fast-blow or slow-blow type. Slow-blow fuses are for circuits that must withstand a current surge, such as when a motor starts.

Some automobiles use "fusible links". A fusible link looks like a wire, but is really a fuse. As with a fuse, always replace it with another of the same rating.

Cartridge fuses are another type. Though larger, they work like other fuses. In electronic equipment, you may encounter a "pigtail fuse" - a standard fuse with lead wires welded on - for soldering into a circuit. You can remove a pigtail fuse and solder in a new one, or use special clips to attach its replacement.

The circuit breaker is still another type of over-current protector. Circuit breakers are more expensive than fuses, but have the advantage that they only "trip" rather than being destroyed by excessive current. A common household breaker has a handle that flies to the centre position when the breaker trips. A breaker can double as a power switch.

Like fuses, circuit breakers should not be replaced with higher-rated units.

## Marconi Visits Ottawa

June was the month, Ottawa was the scene, and Italian Week '95 was the occasion, when Elettra Marconi who was visiting Canada, was at St. Anthony's Soccer Club to unveil a travelling exhibit about her famous father, Guglielmo Marconi the inventor of wireless radio.

The travelling exhibit was in Ottawa for just a few days as it was scheduled to head across Canada marking the 100th anniversary of the first wireless transmission made by Marconi.

Elettra Marconi, the only child of the famous inventor and his second wife, is married to Italian Prince Giovannelli and is, therefore, more commonly known as Princess Marconi. Following her visit to Ottawa, Princess Marconi travelled to St. John's Newfoundland where she visited Signal Hill the site from which her father made his first trans-Atlantic transmission in 1901.

Guglielmo Marconi was born near Bologna, Italy, in 1874. He is reported to have made his first wireless transmission in 1895 and received his first patent in 1897 at the age of 24. Marconi died in Rome, Italy in 1937 at the age of 63.

## Fleamarket News

For those amateurs looking for a fleamarket here's one you might consider!

The Kingston ARC will be holding its Eastern Ontario Fleamarket on Saturday, September 16, 1995 at St. Margaret's United Church, 690 Sir John A. Macdonald Blvd in Kingston. Take exit 615 off the 401 at Kingston. Admission is \$3, talk-in on 146.34 (-), doors open to the public at 9:00am.

If you go - drive safely!

*IT'S COMING BACK*  
*The Wise Owl Net*  
*Friday, September 1st, 1995, 2000 hours (8:00pm)*  
*VE3TWO -147.300 (+)*

## Beyond 2M FM

Well now, you have had your licence for a while and you have enjoyed using 2 meter FM with repeaters and simplex ! Now, however, you would like to expand your hamming. How about trying DX ? This doesn't mean your having to upgrade your licence, or having to learn morse code. You can work DX on the VHF bands !

DX means working over long distances, not just countries outside the U.S.A. Weak signal operation on 2 meters and the other VHF and UHF bands can be quite exciting. It can be either direct contacts or through any of several amateur satellites now in orbit.

The weak signal portions of the 2 meter band are from 144.000 to 144.300 and 145.800 to 146.000. The national calling frequency for SSB is 144.200. The first 100KHz of the band is for CW only. The satellite portion is 145.800 to 146.000.

Antennas are horizontally polarized for SSB and CW operation. Circular polarization is typically used for satellite operation.

Modest antennas of 7 to 10 elements can be quite effective to start out with. The distance you may be able to communicate over will be much greater than comparable FM operation. There are several different types of propagation that can yield DX contacts on 2 meters and the other VHF and UHF bands. One of the more common ones is tropospheric ducting. A "tropo duct" can provide communications over more than 1,000 miles. Meteor showers provide another type of propagation and they occur on a regular and predictable basis. They are reported in "The World Above 50MHz" column in QST magazine as well as in other amateur radio publications.

SSB audio has a very different quality than FM. It was originally referred to as "Donald Duck" sounding. It is necessary to tune around on a signal to get it to be understandable when you are first listening to SSB signals. It does get easier with practice and will soon be second nature. CW stations are tuned to a typical audio note of 800Hz. The radio will have an automatic offset in transmit so the station you respond to will hear the same note on their receiver.

## NASA Fingers "Ozone Hole" Culprit

Data from the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS), the largest environmental-monitor satellite ever orbited, prove what scientists have long suspected - that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) cause ozone depletion, including the "ozone hole" over Antarctica.

Anti-freeze, insulation, and refrigerants all contain CFCs, which do not occur naturally. And when CFCs decompose in the ionosphere, the released elemental chlorine destroys ozone.

"CFCs cause the ozone hole," Dr. Mark Schoeberl, satellite project scientist, told a press conference at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in suburban Maryland.

The ozone layer acts as a shield against damaging ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Increased ultraviolet intensity reaching the earth's surface could cause crop damage, cancers and cataracts. The ozone also provides the ions that return HF radio signals to earth.

Scientists first detected the ozone hole over the South Pole in 1979. No one really knows how long it has existed.

Some scientists have blamed volcanic eruptions, but analysis of the satellite data left little doubt that CFCs are the culprit/ Satellite photos show that the hole extends northwards to southern South America. Scientists fear ozone thinning over the earth's heavily populated mid-latitudes - threatening human health.

One chlorine atom can "kill" 100,000 ozone molecules. CFCs are being phased out worldwide as its manufacture has ceased.

## Did You Know ?

The OVMRC was incorporated March 16, 1962. Its first directors were James Lyle Ward, Doreen Ruth Morgan, Alan Graham Ide, Kenneth Nadeau Cogan, John Anthony Gilbert, Norma Rudolph Hunter and Alfred Mitchell Powell.



# Circus Train Express

In 1884 when the five Ringling brothers started their circus in Baraboo, Wisconsin, they couldn't have known they would become "The Greatest Show on Earth", the largest American circus ever to be. Baraboo is still home to their circus heritage, with its world-famous Circus World Museum housed in the original winter quarters of the Ringling Brothers Circus. The Ringlings bought the Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1907, resulting in the name Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Combined Shows.

On July 4, 1963, Milwaukee first hosted its spectacular circus parade. In the first years, the growing collection of circus wagons travelled from Baraboo and back by truck. Then something special happened: the Great Circus Train!

The Wisconsin ARC got an enthusiastic response when they approached the museum about having ham radio aboard the train. So in 1965, Don Evenson, K9JYX, became the first radio amateur to operate from the circus train.

At that time, converted commercial tube-type gear was all that was available to two metre FM. The famed durability of Motorola's FM radios was proven beyond any doubt when someone spilled a can of pop into a Motorola Compa-Station. Don picked up the radio, poured out the pop and kept right on transmitting without so much as a burp (from the radio that is!)

Anyway, with its two shiny diesel locomotives, the annual circus train is a rolling advertisement for the Circus World Museum and the Milwaukee parade. The train has 19 flatcars, 2 stock cars, 5 passenger cars, and a rather colourful caboose.

Today, radio amateurs from Milwaukee County ARC supply communications equipment and operators. They handle traffic and send progress reports that help folks estimate the time of arrival of the train at Milwaukee. While newspeople and train officials handle business matters over cellular phones, the amateurs handle everything else via wide-area repeaters along

the route.

Huge crowds line the wayside during the leisurely two-day, 164 mile trip. It's not unusual to see people perched atop farm silos, haystacks, buildings, gravel piles, and even atop railway signals. Spectators cheer those on the train, whose riders cheer them back. Wisconsin Governor goes along for the ride, cheering as loudly as anyone else caught up in the excitement.

In the early years antenna installation was a problem, but permanently installed brackets now allow mounting the eight antennas in minutes - four on each side of the roof.

A large diesel generator in a circus wagon on the first flat car behind the passenger coaches supplies electricity for the lights, PA system, kitchen and radios. To guard against equipment failure, a chase vehicle follows on roads close to the railroad line. A ham alongside the driver maintains contact with the train. He is ready to call for any type of help and to guide helpers to the train.

And yes you are correct, Hams do provide communications for the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee when the train arrives and unloads its precious cargo.

## What Does It Mean ?

### **CQ - CQ - CQ**

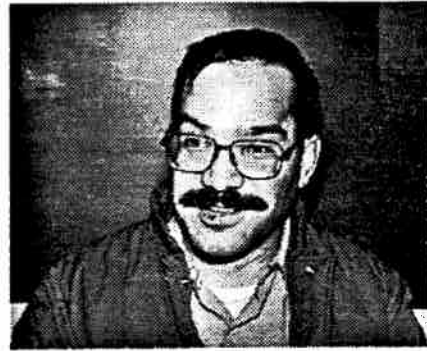
Some of us use it, we all hear about it, but what do the letters "CQ" really represent? We accept the term as used by amateurs on their radio looking for a QSO. But, like with so many things in life, we take them for granted.

Our research to date has found that the "C" stands for COULOMB, (quantity of electric charge). The "Q" represents a figure of merit or tuned circuit.

However, where, when or by whom it originated remains an open question. If you know or have information about the abbreviation CQ, please write to the Rambler and pass the information along either in a note or an article and we'll print it in a future edition.

# Potpourri

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



Saskatchewan - Thirty-two Saskatoon amateurs handled communications at an air show that commemorated the WW2 50 year anniversary. They provided coordination for an umbrella network that covered 4 different frequencies. Contacts were kept between various services. The knowledge of proper operating procedures made the task that much easier to manage.

Industry Canada - On June 15/94 an examiner for the Quebec City office noticed that one of the candidates was an impostor. An individual had asked a friend to impersonate him in writing the exam. When charged, both pleaded guilty. While the fines are not great, they now have a criminal record.

W5YI - FCC has made permanent the Short Term Authority allowing unattended operating HF packet stations. Automatic control is now defined in the rules as the control of an amateur station without the operator being present at a control point.

TELEParc (Ottawa) - Even if Heathkit no longer manufactures kits, replacement parts and manuals can still be had. They can be reached at this address: Heath Replacement Parts, 455 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor, MI, USA 49022.

Sudbury - The Laurentian University Internet Gateway has made considerable progress. The following equipment has been purchased/donated: radio, TNC, 386SX computer system, ethernet and JNOS packet program. Fund raising efforts have been great but if you wish to donate funds/equipment, please contact: John Rumball VE3BUS, 2108 Highgate Road, Sudbury, Ont., P3B4G6.

Halifax - A scanner owner overheard a cellular call describing how a break-in attempt was to be made at a store. The police were notified and 3 men were taken into

custody.

Columbus Dispatch (Ohio) - A citizen of this city overheard on his baby's monitor a death threat directed towards him. His neighbour had been using a cordless phone whose transmissions were within the same frequency range as the monitor. Tapes of the conversations were given to the police.

Winnipeg - It seems that with commercial companies moving away from microwave systems to fibre optics, it has left behind much surplus equipment (high power amplifiers and low noise receivers). This has led to increased activity by hams to do EME moonbounce experiments in the 5.7 Ghz band.

Chris VE4SET (Winnipeg) - It seems that Microwave Modules no longer produce 28 Mhz transverters. However, an amateur has picked up all the remaining stock and rights. He still has substantial stock for 28 -> 70, 144, 220, 432-437 Mhz. Information can be had from Dirk-Jan Koopman tel/fax +44 1362 696076 or e-mail at G1TLH@GB7TLH.#35.GBr.EU.

Monitoring Times (June/95) - At 460M it is the 3rd highest building in the world. It is the Shanghai radio/tv tower which has broadcast/microwave equipment, 25 hotel suites and a 110M antenna on top. (Toronto's CN tower is still the highest!-VE3TSC)

Sarnia - The club president visited the Hammond Museum of Radio and was allowed to call CQ on a spark-gap transmitter. His words, "Great blue arcs, ozone, thunderous noise!" This museum has a collection of amateur/commercial equipment, literature and many items covering the last 80 years. To visit first contact Fred Hammond at 81 College Ave. West, Guelph, Ont., N1G 1S2 or call home 519-822-8323 or office 519-822-2960.