

THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 40, Number 4 - November, 1995

It's Kit Building Time, Again

After much deliberation, it has been decided to hold another in the series of "kit building parties". Wil, VE3XMT, will be hosting the get together in one of the Carleton University labs at the end of January, 1996. It is planned to build 2 metre SWR meters with a bar graph display for forward/reflected power. Each kit will contain all the necessary parts for the meter and will cost each builder \$25. General construction instructions and some assistance in building the meters will be available. Each completed unit will be tested and adjusted, if necessary, at the end of the session.

Anyone interested in participating in this kit building session is asked to contact Jacques, VE3TSC, any evening at 748-6597.

Work bench space in the lab is definitely limited, so to avoid disappointment call Jacques and register early.

Microsoft - Windows '95

The OVMRC's November 16th regular meeting is going to feature a presentation of the most ballyhooed piece of computer software on the market - Windows '95. This newest of basic computer software is revolutionizing the industry as, one after another, software manufacturers are converting their products to be compatible with Windows '95. What's new in the computer field - it all starts with Windows '95 and you can see it demonstrated at our November 16th meeting. Plan now to be there!

Special Interest Groups Encouraged

From time to time OVMRC members have proposed that the Club organize or sponsor some ongoing event or activity only to find the executive rejected the idea for various reasons. Basically, the rejection of such initiatives was mostly due to a lack of volunteers to chair the proposed event or activity.

The executive has now placed the onus on the originators of ideas for events or activities to form their own Special Interest Group. The only qualification is that the executive is asking that the group develop their objectives, no more than one page, and present it to the executive for their approval and Club sponsorship.

The formation of Special Interest Groups should put an end to any complaint by Club members - "Why isn't the Club doing 'this, that or the next thing' ? As a bottom line, it is a form of "Do it yourself" with the Club's approval and support.

Your Help Needed

Ed Strange, VA3CEJ, Chairman of the Flea Market, and Jake Guertin, VA3TQX, Chairman of Field Day, are looking for volunteers to assist them in the organization of their respective events.

If you would like to become involved in these major Club activities, please contact Ed or Jake and volunteer your help. Remember, your help is required to ensure the success of these all important Club activities. (see page 2 for Ed's or Jake's phone number)

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

RAMBLER

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The 1995-1996 OVMRC Executive

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

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Amateur Radio Exhibit: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 225-7374
Amateur Radio Training: John Moffat, VE3NJ, 224-5204
Field Day: Jake Guertin, VA3TQX, 744-2717
Flea Market: Ed Strange, VA3CEJ, 828-7435
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

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM
Doug Carswell, VE3ATY
Gerry King, VE3GK
Fred Noble, VE3BAJ
Jerry Wells, VE3CDS
Bill Wilson, VE3NR

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.

OVMRC CODE PHONE - 737-0197

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

Mark Your Calendar !

Next general meeting:

Thursday, November 16th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. The meeting will feature a presentation by representatives from Microsoft of their new software program, Windows'95

Deadline for next Rambler:

Friday, November 24th, 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
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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...*



Aside from a couple of heavy rains that washed the pollution off the antenna insulators, we have had very good weather since I last wrote in this column. I hope you have all got your antenna work done and are ready for a cosy winter session of better propagation and good DX'ing. The recent executive meeting was a busy one and I will try to pass along the highlights to you.

The current paid up membership is 187. Publication of the membership directory is imminent. We are working the bugs out of the arrangements to distribute the Rambler to those who wish to receive it by a non-postal means. To ensure that there will be sufficient copies available, without letting production costs get out of hand, the Rambler will only be available at the door, to members in good standing (fully paid up members) who have elected to receive their Ramblers by a non-postal means. Further, the executive feels that the benefits of club membership should be available only to members in good standing so that, henceforth, door prize tickets for regular meetings will only be given to members in good standing.

An Air Show participation donation of approximately \$143 has been received. The Air Show was not as profitable this year as in former years, and because of the direct conflict with the annual amateur field day, staffing of the Air Show communications requirements had to be opened to several groups. Our club's participation was only about 40% of the total. In view of the unbudgeted requirement to publish 11 issues of the Rambler instead of the planned 9, a

supplementary budget will be presented to the general membership. This is being planned for the January, 1996, meeting. As a money raising activity, it has been suggested that a 50/50 draw be instituted at regular club meetings. The winner gets half of the proceeds from ticket sales while the club gets the other half to support its activities. I will be asking the membership present at the next meeting whether they would support such a money raising activity. Jake Guertin, VE2TQX/VA3TQX has graciously volunteered to assume the Field Day chair. We are indeed fortunate to have such an experienced field day hand as Jake step forward. I know you will all give Jake your support. He is considering possible locations for the June '96 event. If you have any suggestions, please contact Jake. We are still in need of an understudy to pick up the editorship from Dan when he steps down next July. Anyone interested should contact Dan or a member of the executive.

The Swap meet held last September was an outstanding success and the executive is investigating whether it should be continued, perhaps on a monthly, bimonthly, or irregular basis. A suitable site is being sought that can be used on a continual basis. If you have any views or suggestions for such an activity, please contact me.

On an indication from the membership at the last meeting, the executive has decided that the regular December meeting will be held on the usual third Thursday of the month, this year, 21 December, 1995. A party type of meeting is being planned with what promises to be a very interesting program.

Minutes

OVMRC Regular Meeting, 19 October, 1995.

The President called the meeting to order at 1937 hours. The membership welcomed visitors Fred, VE3IO, Bart, VA3LGD, Paul, VE3KKG and Les, VA3BZQ. Will, VE3KLK, was looking for assistance in how to make "Turk's Head" knots. Moe, VE3CTD, offered to help.

Moe, VE3CTD, introduced the guest speaker, James Dean, VE3IQ, Vice President, RAC. James covered three areas of interest to the members. First, an update on the Advisory Delegation Working Group (ADWG) covered certification and examination study, the effects of budget and staff cuts on them and a plan prepared by Doug, VE3XK, a Pilot Project which includes the creation of an Internet Home Page and Centralized Certification, the new name 'Hamserve' which was approved by the Board (ARAS/SARA) and Single Licences. Second, a report on the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory (CARA) meeting which dealt with EMCAB-2, power line interference, the ADWG report, the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP), CEPT and 220-222 Mhz. Third, James gave a report on the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) conference in Niagara Falls. The conference dealt with the election of Tom Akins, VE3CDM, as President of Region 2. They also discussed Band plans, 40 m, monitoring, EMC committee, WRC preparation, Article 32 and IARP.

The President, on behalf of the Club, expressed appreciation for James presentation on the several legislative aspects of our hobby.

Doug, VE3XK, introduced himself and advised that he would be please to answer question about his study plan after the meeting.

Bob, VE3SUY, reported that the radio course students are doing well. The code phone is out for a while but should be back in operation by next week.

Bill, VE3EKA, is working on setting up an amateur TV repeater. He is in need of parts and equipment. Anyone interested and can help, contact Bill at 837-3482.

The President advised that the Club would like to encourage the formation of "Interest Groups". Groups should hold a meeting, develop their objectives and present same at an Executive meeting.

Len, VE3LGZ, has technical manuals for sale. All proceeds go to the Club. Len can be reached at 749-5101.

Ernie, VE3EJJ, has 5V (8A) and 15V (40A) power supplies (switching type) with metric fuses for sale \$20 each. All proceeds going to the Club.

Jacques, VE3TSC, is still looking for Net Controllers for the Sunday morning Pot Hole Net. Jacques can be reached at 748-6597 in the evening.

Jerry, VE3CDS, is also looking for volunteers to operate the museum station VE3JW. Jerry can be reached at 225-7374.

Lillian, VE3ZDK, would like to know how many members are planning to attend the Club's December meeting for our usual Christmas social. A show of hands indicated a good turnout is expected.

Larry, VE3WEH, has a few copies of the much requested Band Pass Filter designed by Wil, VE3XMT. These will be available after the meeting.

Richard, VE3UNW, announced and introduced the winner of the Joe Norton award for 1995, Dean, VA3DNX.

Mike, VE3BUP, brought in his bicycle mobile and invited those interested to inspect it after the meeting.

The President announced that Jake, VA3TQX, has volunteered to chair the OVMRC's Field Day Committee. Ernie, on behalf of the Club, thanked Jake for volunteering for the position.

The door prizes were won by Richard, VE3UNW, a one year membership in RAC which was given by James Dean, and Peter, VE3EPB, won a Repeater Directory which was donated by Joe, VA3JJD.

The meeting was adjourned at 2115 hours for the social hour with coffee, tea and cookies.

"The Military Net" Has Been Resurrected

The first edition of "The Military Net" starts the evening of November 7th, 1995. Check-in each Tuesday evening at 2000 hours on VE3TWO, 147.300 + Mhz.

The Military Net is sponsored by the OVMRC and was established some years ago as a military ragchew net. While there are a number of Net Controllers who have generously volunteered their time, additional Net Controller volunteers are most welcome. The net is intended as a ragchew and will be of interest to current and former members of any of the services, including the Air Force, Army, Navy, Merchant Marine, or any of the Cadets or Reserves. You're encouraged to share your interesting military experiences, stories or to discuss subjects of general interest. You do not have to belong or be associated with any of the forces to check in with your comments or join in the discussion.

Listed below are the Net Controllers :

Larry Wilcox , VE3WEH
Maurice-Andre Vigneault, VE3VIG
Mike Pilon, VE3BUP
Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD
Phil Robinson, VA3PR
George Smith,. VE3CAO
Keith Rupert, VA3KER
Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC
Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP

The Body of every Organization Has Four Bones:

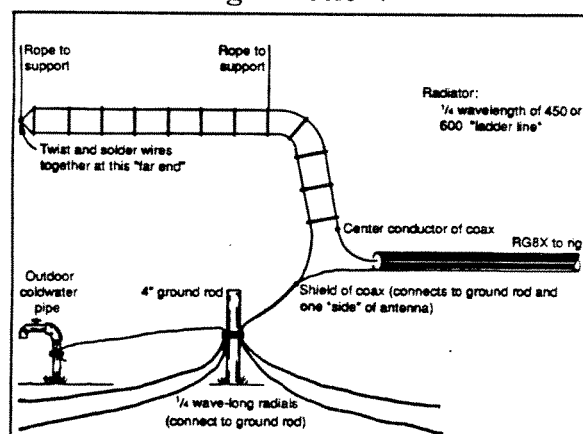
- *WISHBONES - those who wish someone else would do all the work.
- *JAWBONES - those who do all the talking but little else.
- *KNUCKLEBONES - those who knock everything anyone else tries to do.
- *BACKBONES - those who get under the load and do all the work.

"El Toro" Open-Wire Antenna

The original version of this antenna used difficult to handle traps for multiband coverage, so this revised version has been simplified to a single band antenna which one can assemble quickly and use on their favourite band without fumbles.

The "El Toro" is basically a 1/4 wave radiator with a high efficiency advantage. Rather than using a single wire worked against ground (like a 1/4 wave vertical) it is made of ladder line with ground connected to one conductor. This simple step raises the antenna's signal radiation efficiency from 20 to 60 percent. In other words, performance is surprisingly good !

Assembly information for the El Toro is shown in the diagram below.



Assembly outline of the El Toro antenna. Radiator can be installed vertically, sloping, or bent to fit available space.

The main radiator is made from open-air 450 or 600 ohm ladder line (your choice). It is end fed with RG-58 or RG-8X (again your choice). Calculate radiator length using the formula $243/\text{frequency (Mhz)} = \text{feet}$ (i.e. $234/10.1=23.1$ feet). Add two inches for connections, twist the far end wires together, connect coax, solder all the connections and enjoy. A good idea would be to insert a balun between the coax and the ladder line to prevent TVI and RF from coming down the line into the hamshack. Make sure to use a current balun which has proper ratio (i.e. 9:1 or 12:1).

BASIC COURSE IN PROGRESS

Written by John Moffat, VE3NJ
(A bird's eye view of this year's licensing course)

As of the end of October, the 1995 Basic Amateur Radio course had been in progress for eight sessions. The study of Ohm's Law has been completed, and the 14 students are delving into capacitors and inductors, and "looking forward" to the challenge of A/C circuits! Slowly the mystery and magic of radio and electronics is unfolding.

On 10 October each of the students built a code oscillator and purchased a Morse hand key. The code has been committed to memory and students are working at improving their sending and receiving skills. All the instructors are very pleased with the dedication and commitment shown by the students in studying both theory and code. By December it is expected that the training committee will start the daily on-air transmissions of Morse code on the 40 metre amateur band, as it did last year, for the benefit of the students and, for that matter, anyone interested who has the capability to receive the signals. If you are not on the course and wish to bone up on your code, now is the time to dig out those code tapes, phone the code phone at 737-0197, or tune your receiver to the CW portion of the band and get some practice. Don't have a receiver?? The training committee will rent you a 40 metre direct conversion receiver so that you can listen to our own as well as the WIAW code practice transmissions, and to the many amateur CW conversations on that band. All that it will cost you is a \$75 refundable deposit and \$3 per month.

The OVMRC transmissions will be at a range of speeds beginning at 5 words per minute, and will increase during each session to the limit of the capability of the students in the class at that time.

If you wish to try or rent one of the receivers, call John Moffat at 224-5204 or Bob Kavanagh at 225-6785, to make arrangements.

Overvoltage Protector

Written by Len Glefand, VE3LGZ

At a recent flea market, I bought cheap insurance against nurnout of my HT which I run at home from a plain vanilla regulated 13.8 V power supply. It's a small 3 5/8 x 1 1/4 inches overvoltage protector that handles up to 20 amps and disconnects the power supply from the transceiver if the voltage exceeds 15 volts. This cutoff voltage is user adjustable.

The unit was designed and built by Real Lauze, VE2LRF, phone (514) 463-1245. It comes without a case but with 4 standoffs to mount the PCB, a piezo alarm, and a circuit diagram, all for \$20. I travel to Montreal fairly often so if you are not in too much of a hurry, contact me, Len Gelfand, VE3LGZ, 749-5101 and I'll pick one up for you the next time I'm in Montreal.

For Sale

For all those Amateurs who have problems being heard when using their 2 metre HT, this will be of interest to you. For sale - a two year old Ramsey 2 metre amplifier, like new, with a 40 watt output. The asking price is \$75 but is negotiable. Please contact Jacques, VE3TSC, at (613) 748-6597 any evening.

Interactive TV Planned for Summer

Thirteen companies including Viacom, NBC, Intel, Netscape and America Online are planning to create interactive TV for the PC. Expected next summer, the Intericast technology would allow a PC to display a TV broadcast in one part of the screen and World Wide Web-style information in another.

Applause...Laugh... You're the Audience !

Reprinted from Calgary ARA 'KEY KLIX'

"APPLAUSE" the sign said, and the studio audience clapped their hands. "LAUGH", the sign said, and the studio audience roared with laughter. Not everyone thought the act was great, many people did not get the joke. But there was a very enthusiastic person waving those signs.

Just to be polite, the audience clapped and laughed on cue. What's this got to do with amateur radio ?

Patience, please ! Allow me a few sentences to develop a concept. I promise to tie the opening paragraph to Ham radio, and perhaps to a "decision point" that you reach - more often than you realize. It's OK to laugh and applaud, even if it's not sincere, as a prompted member of the studio audience. If, and only if, your approval does not cause hurt to someone else. They may be holding up a huge sign, but if the humour is racist, sexist, ethnic or any other slurs or individual attacks - I for one will not provide the requested response. Actually, I would get up, even in the middle of the show, and leave.

The common thread throughout these "guidelines", be they official regulations (as in RIC 25) Good Amateur Practice (as in ARRL Operating Guide) or the policies of various repeaters - they advise what to do when transmitting. However, most of the time we are listening. We are the audience to the transmitting station. There are no formal "listening Rules" for amateur radio operators. Most hams don't want to hear endless fights and arguments that a few hams consider the subject of choice. Their problem with individuals/clubs and the RAC are best discussed over the telephone, if at all. We are all painfully aware of a few hams who spew venom. These unfortunate individuals lead an unhappy life - they don't like themselves. They prefer to fight, curse, and "put down" others as a means of forgetting just how miserable they are. They are beyond our help; they need professional care.

Fortunately, there are only a few such sad individuals. It only seems more, for what they lack in number, they make up in air time. This air time is spent talking to whoever will listen. They don't enjoy talking to themselves. It's a real good day for them when they can make someone dislike someone else who they don't even know. Misery truly loves company. When you are the "Audience" you are involved. If the station you are talking to is leading the QSO in what you feel is an "improper" direction make your feelings known. Notice I said "what you feel", it's your sense of values that determine what is right or wrong - not mine. How do you make your feeling known ? One way is to "clear" and no longer take part. If you feel a verbal objection is warranted, e.g. "I don't agree - I don't like hearing what you are saying - This is not the place for that kind of talk. etc".

We certainly don't have to limit the content of our QSO's to SWR, rigs, antennas and Santa Claus. There are serious subjects for discussion that can always be covered - without intentionally hurting someone. Is it the intent of the person you are providing an audience to make someone feel bad? Would you like such things said about you, your friends or family ? To those listening, but not taking part in the QSO there is very little difference between the one who makes the vulgar statement - and those who laugh.

We truly are known by the company we keep. When you provide a receptive audience to a malcontent's delivery of insults, consider that it would not have happened if you had cleared.

Next time, when the urge strikes, and he knows you are not listening, you will probably be the next target. The clown without an audience is the silent clown.

I've learned that country music can always make me feel better when I'm melancholy because the people in the songs are always in a worse situation than I am.

Digital Signal Processing (DSP)

What does it mean ... ?

Digital Signal Processing is a term you will be hearing a lot about in the future. This fascinating new technology allows you to tailor both your transmitted and received signals in ways that were only dreamed of just a few years ago.

The normal transmitted (and received) signals that you hear on the bands are analog signals. These signals usually have some level of distortion and noise riding on the signal. In the past, it was not practical to do much about removing this distortion and noise since most noise is amplitude modulated, just like the human voice.

The recording industry discontinued using analog techniques and started digitizing their signals. The analog signals were applied to sampling circuits that generate a staircase type waveform. By using this sampling method of signal conversation they were able to remove much of the noise that was present on the audio signal. Any noise that might be present on the signal between the sampling periods is ignored.

Digital Signal Processing techniques do not end with converting the signal into a digital waveform. The signal is also applied to programmable filter circuits that let you select the desired audio passband.

DSP technology uses a dedicated computer chip to convert analog waveforms into digital information in 'real-time', providing the opportunity to filter and enhance the quality of the signal before it is reconverted into analog form for the human ear or for radio frequency transmission.

One of the most frequently asked questions is why bother with DSP at all when changing crystal filters will allow adjustment of the audio passband ?

Just adding analog filters to a circuit will not remove as much noise as converting the signal from analog to digital. Nor will analog filters allow you to tailor the audio passband as easily.

Analog filters are also unable to provide the improvement in the transmitted carrier and sideband suppression that are realized with

DSP circuits.

DSP is the most effective way of using current technology to separate what you want to hear versus what you do not want to hear. The bottom line is that any device that will help you break through a pile up, or help you pick a signal up out of the noise, is a definite advantage. Digital Signal Processing provides just such an advantage and is something you should seriously consider when purchasing your next rig.

A Lesson In Economics

For those who have been studying the world's money markets over the past year, they have noticed that the Japanese YEN has fluctuated a great deal. The Canadian distributors of amateur radio equipment, most of which is designed and manufactured in Japan, have pointed out that this has caused a great deal of manufacturing cost instability. Observers of the money markets now see that the YENs value against the US dollar is improving. This signals that prices should be coming down. The Canadian distributors point out, however, that they instituted very modest price increases this past year which did not begin to reflect the true cost differential of importation of amateur radio equipment. All Japanese manufacturers continue to produce products at reduced margins - but, needless to say, without profits you can't stay in business very long ! In effect, the slightly weaker YEN means only that manufacturers can begin to recover a small portion of the big loss that was absorbed while the dollar fell so far. Translated, this really means that all this time you really have been able to get a great deal in relationship to the actual cost of any Japanese product.

Top 20 Engineering Terminology

Courtesy VE3MAF

1. **A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES ARE BEING TRIED**
We are still urinating in the wind.
2. **AN EXTENSIVE REPORT IS BEING PREPARED ON A FRESH APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM.**
We just hired three kids fresh out of college.
3. **CLOSE PROJECT COORDINATION.**
We know who to blame.
4. **CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS DELIVERED ASSURED.**
We are so far behind schedule the customer is happy just to get it delivered.
5. **MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH.**
It works okay but looks very hi-tech.
6. **PRELIMINARY OPERATIONAL TESTS WERE INCONCLUSIVE.**
The darn thing blew up when we threw the switch.
7. **TEST RESULTS WERE EXTREMELY GRATIFYING.**
We were so surprised that the stupid thing worked.
8. **THE ENTIRE CONCEPT WILL HAVE TO BE ABANDONED.**
The only person who understood the thing quit.
9. **IT IS IN THE PROCESS.**
It is so wrapped up in red tape that the situation is hopeless.
10. **WE WILL LOOK INTO IT.**
Forget it ! We have enough problems for now.
11. **PLEASE NOTE AND INITIAL.**
Let's spread the responsibility for the screw-up.
12. **GIVE US THE BENEFIT OF YOUR THINKING.**
We'll listen to what you have to say as long as it doesn't interfere with what we've already done.
13. **GIVE US YOUR INTERPRETATION.**
I can't wait to hear this bull.
14. **SEE ME or LET'S DISCUSS.**
Come into my office, I'm lonely.
15. **ALL NEW.**
Parts not interchangeable with previous design.
16. **RUGGED.**
too damn heavy to lift.
17. **LIGHTWEIGHT.**
Lighter than RUGGED.
18. **YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT.**
One finally worked.
19. **ENERGY SAVING.**
Achieved when the power switch is off.
20. **LOW MAINTENANCE.**
Impossible to fix if broken.

Taken from the 1980 Rambler

Some definitions to consider:

LIGHTNING ARRESTER -

A very fast policeman.

MIXER -

Used with an alcoholic beverage.

OHM -

A house in England.

RESISTOR -

Someone who demonstrates.

TRANSIENT VOLTS -

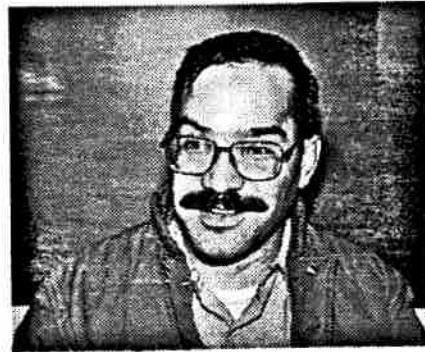
Usually found in old railway box cars.

AND FROM THE FEBRUARY, 1974 RAMBLER WE REPRINT THE FOLLOWING:

Our first meeting in 1974 and our first meeting at the National Museum of Science and Technology after 16 years of meetings at NRC on Sussex Street. Mr. E.A. DeCoste, Curator, Communications Technology, officially welcomed us on behalf of the Museum. Club President Bernie Best, VE3SH, thanked Mr. DeCoste for his warm welcome.

Potpouri

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



Monitoring Times (Oct. 95)- Here is some "radio humour" from Brisbane, Australia Air Traffic Control: "Quantas 153 transmission check. Could you please do a radio count? Quantas Airlines 153, Eenie, meenie, minee, mo, can you hear my radio? If it squeals, please let me know. Eenie, meenie, minee, mo." Brisbane Control, "We read you 5 by 5."

Whistler, B.C. - Mike Houde and his hiking party of 4 had just been caught in an avalanche while exploring a mountain in the Rockies. Using an VHF radio, he was heard by a taxi driver who relayed their predicament to the Whistler RCMP.

A rescue group successfully found the trapped group of hikers. Houde, himself, had 2 broken limbs and internal injuries. A local Search and Rescue official mentioned that if the search had been delayed by a few more hours, Houde's injuries were serious enough to have been fatal.

Chicago, Ill. - A local ham, Paul Masching, used his radio and DF techniques to track down a door that had fallen off an aircraft in flight. He beat several teams of aviation investigators to the site which was in the woods 9km. from the runway.

Pioneers (Ottawa) - Trivia: According to Microsoft, it took 293 "person years" and 2.3 million cups of coffee to develop Windows '95.

Pioneers (Ottawa) - AMSAT BBS - Scientists at Caltech's Observatory say that they have identified the first new sunspots in the next cycle on August 12, 1995. This could indicate an early beginning to Cycle 23 with sunspot maximum in 1998 or 1999 - 2 years earlier than expected. As the sunspots begin to appear, so does improved HF transmissions.

Bob Grove, WA4PYQ - This person wrote a recent editorial titled "Internet Phone - The Successor to Ham Radio". DX voice contacts are now possible with no license to worry about. No code, no theory test, no antenna, no expensive transceiver and no static. And it's all for about a dollar an hour. All you need is a PC, modem and Internet.

(Is our future slated to hitting a keyboard for QSO's? VE3TSC)

Monitoring Times (Oct. 95) - Six Englishmen who hijacked a security van thought they had carried out a perfect crime. They had radioed the driver to be still and send no distress calls or else a bomb would go off.

In a deserted clearing, they erected a lead shield around the van to prevent radio signals from getting out and used acetylene torches to remove the van's doors. Sadly, the heat generated from the torches ignited the \$20 million in bank notes inside the van. And just as an aside, the lead sheeting used as a shield around the van did not prevent RF from getting out. The police arrived at the scene in time to see the van erupt in flames.

Ottawa, Ont. - The new TV Discovery Channel will be telecasting an interesting 2 hour special on AMSAT satellites called "Eyes In The Sky" on 15 March, 1996. It will be well worth viewing!

Japan - Toshiba will be jointly developing a one-gigabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chip, with Siemens, AG, IBM, and Motorola.

U.S.A. - PureData Ltd., the largest manufacturer of intelligent fax modem hardware said its going to distribute Delrina's WinFax PRO software with its modems.