



# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 40, Number 5, December, 1995

## The End Of SWR Kit Building An Era Party

After twenty-six years of helping local amateurs either find or sell radio and related equipment, Ed Morgan, VE3GX, has decided to close his Swap Net ledger and pass the microphone on to someone else.

The amateur community of greater Ottawa certainly owe Ed a very large "thank you" for having given so freely of his time for almost three decades in helping local amateurs with his much listened to Swap Net on the Pot Hole Net on Sunday morning and the Capital City Net Monday nights..

Ed is passing the reins (and the headaches) of running the net to Dan Reardon, VE3GUU. Dan has no illusions that he is "replacing" Ed. After so many years at the helm, you don't replace a fellow like Ed Morgan, Dan is quick to point out. However, he says, he'll do his darndest to continue the precedent set by Ed .

If you would like to list items for sale or wish to try to find an item to buy, you can reach Dan by telephoning (613) 836-2633.

## 50 - 50 Draws To Start

Just in time for Christmas, the first OVMRC 50-50 Draw will take place at our December 14th meeting. Tickets will be sold for one dollar at the door. The winning ticket will be drawn and the winner will receive half of money collected at the end of the meeting. So bring your loonies and join in the fun - one dollar could bring you a lot more !

At press time, there were still a few spaces left at the work bench for participants to join in the SWR meter kit building party. It is planned to hold the building session towards the latter part of January in one of the labs at Carleton University. Each participant will build his/her own 2 metre SWR meter with a bar graph display for forward/reflected power. Each kit contains all the necessary parts to build the meter and will cost \$25 each. General instructions will be provided to build the meter and some construction assistance will also be available. Each completed meter will be tested and , if necessary, adjusted.

Anyone interested in participating in this useful and fun project is asked to contact Jacques, VE3TSC, any evening at 748-6597.

## New OVMRC Roster Issued

After a two year hiatus, the OVMRC has issued a new Club membership roster which is included in this months mailing of the Rambler to those members who did not receive their copy at the November meeting. Unfortunately , you will find certain members are not included in the listing . This is the result of their not renewing their membership prior to the cut-off date of November 1st. In order to ensure your copy of the roster is up-to-date may we suggest you add any name, call sign, etc., you find missing from the list.

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

# RAMBLER

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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: 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, December 14th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. The meeting will feature presentations on the History of Amateur Radio and a special Xmas Social Hour with Xmas baked goods.

### Deadline for next Rambler:

Friday, December 22th, 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  
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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

Ed VA3CET Mike VE3BGP  
Kernan VE3LPH

Jacques VE3TSC

# Seasons Greetings

Larry VE3WEH

Gordon VA3GRB

Bob VE3SU  
To One and All

Jerry VE3CDS

Colin VE3UZU

From your

Roger VE3XRB

Steve VE3KUU

Executive

John VE3NJ

Ernie VE3EJJ

Jan VE3XDD

Jake VA3TQX



# Ramblings

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



The yuletide season is fast approaching and with it all of the excitement and anticipation for youngsters, and opportunities to show good will and understanding for 'oldsters'. I expect that we will all enjoy it to the fullest. The presentation of Windows 95 at the November meeting was most informative. The program and publicity chairpersons, Moe, VE3CTD, and Leonard, VE3LPH, are to be thanked for arranging such an interesting presentation. Microsoft provided a copy of the Windows 95 update software as one of the door prizes. It was won first by Richard, VE3UNW, who already has a copy and called for a second drawing, and then by Peter, VE3LBW, who donated it, to be raffled off for the benefit of the club. Ed Strange, VA3CEJ, has volunteered to organize the raffle, probably at our January, 1996, meeting. There was a good level of interest indicated for a 50/50 draw at club meetings as a revenue raising activity. The executive has decided to institute the draws starting at our December meeting. The basic ticket cost will be \$1.00 each.

John, VE3NJ, our Course Director, advises that the course is progressing well. He plans to start on-air code practice sessions shortly at about 7050 Kc. Listen in and see if you can keep up with the students, you may be shocked.

The Military Net recently rejuvenated by Larry, VE3WEH, is off to a good start on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM on VE3TWO. It is not restricted to military or ex-military people, although the subject matter discussed is of a military nature. All are welcome to join in.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, the Museum has agreed to let us use the north parking lot for swap meets of "Trunk Junque" on an ongoing basis. The executive feels that the first suitable time will likely be a sunny Saturday morning in late February or March. More on this later.

Ed Strange, VA3CEJ, our Flea Market chairperson, is looking for a location for the 1996 event. If you have any suggestion for a place which is available at a reasonable rental and has good parking, Ed would be pleased to hear from you.

Jerry, VE3CDS, is organizing talk to Santa at the Museum for Sunday afternoon, 17 December. This is an annual event that helps the Museum to increase its attendance. The Museum is one of the club's major benefactors and we can, in some measure, return this favour by making the talk to Santa an outstanding success. To do this, Jerry needs several volunteers with 2 M. HT's from 13:00 to 16:00 at the Museum on 17 December. If you enjoy working with younger children, come on out, you will have a good time. Jerry can be reached at 225-7374 if you have any questions.

As you probably already know, the December meeting date has been moved to the second Thursday of the month, the 14th, to accommodate a Museum requirement for the auditorium on the third Thursday of the month, our usual meeting date. Please note this change on your calendars. I hope to see you all at the December 14th meeting and reception. If I don't see you there, a Very Merry Christmas and a super New Year to all. 73.

# Minutes

## OVMRC Regular Meeting, 16 November, 1995.

The President called the meeting to order at 1934 hours. The Club welcomed visitors and guests - Chris, VE3CUZ, and Steve, VE3KEQ, from Kemptville.

The President advised he had received a signed copy of acceptance of terms from Judy, VE3PAB, regarding the use of the Club's logo on articles of clothing. The letter along with \$1 was turned over to the Secretary.

Larry, VE3WEH, on behalf of Leonard, introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Bill Knowle, an assistant engineer with Microsoft Co. Bill spoke and demonstrated Windows '95. He took us through the features of the new software, including the task bar, printer options, multi-tasking, accessibility to conventional DOS environment, plug and play options, Microsoft Net and Internet links, E-mail and fax options, etc. He closed his presentation with a questions and answer period.

Leonard and the President thanked Bill for his presentation on behalf of the Club. The President advised that the Club's December meeting will be held one week earlier than usual, on December 14th.

Ernie asked for a show of hands in support of holding a 50-50 draw at Club meetings.

There was overwhelming support of the idea.

Doug, VE3JDF, provided an update on the RAC Advisor Delegation Working Group concerning two contracts - Certification and Examination and Allocation of Callsigns and Document distribution. The Group is still looking for a bilingual administrator to fill a paid position coordinating this particular contract with Industry Canada and RAC.

The informal Swapmeet which was recently held was such a success that the executive feels similar events should be held. The President approached the Museum to ascertain whether they would permit the use of the rear parking lot for such events. They have approved this request but asked that they be provided with advance notice and that we ensure the area is left clean. The executive will pursue the matter with the Publicity/Program Committee.

The Editor (Dan) is still looking for an understudy to take over his duties when he steps down in June, 1996.

Len, VE3LGZ, has "Cut Off" circuits for sale. He also has copies of old test equipment manuals. Anyone interested is asked to contact Len.

Jerry, VE3CDS, is still looking for operators to spend some time at the museum's station, VE3JW.

The President completed the sale of the power supplies and a cheque totalling \$155 was turned over to the Club. He still has a couple of the 5v units left. Anyone interested is asked to contact Ernie, VE3EJJ.

Dan, VE3GUU, introduced himself. He is the new net controller for the Swap Net. He is taking over from Ed Morgan, VE3GX. Dan advised that he can be reached at 836-2633. The President praised Ed for all his work operating this net over the years and wished Dan good luck.

Larry provided additional copies of the "intermod filter" schematic which can be picked up after the meeting.

Larry advised that there was a Kenwood sign-in sheet for those who wanted a free Kenwood world map. A video presentation of the new Kenwood TS-870S will be shown at our next meeting.

Jacques, VE3TSC, reminded the membership of the SWR meter building session upcoming in January. The cost will be \$25 per participant. If interested contact Jacques.

The door prizes for the evening were provided by Microsoft, with the Club's sincere appreciation. The first prize, the MS Ocean package was won by Larry, VE3WEH. The second prize, a copy of Windows '95, was won by Richard, VE3UNW. Richard declined the prize as he already owes a copy of the software. Peter, VE3LEW, was the second winner of the prize and he too owes a copy so he donated the prize to the Club to be raffled off at a later meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2130 hours for coffee, tea and cookies and ragchew.

# Battery Alternatives For Handheld Radios

*The following is the first of a two part series of articles from Sport Aviation magazine on this very interesting subject. The final instalment of this series will appear in next month's issue of the Rambler.*

All handheld, battery powered product designers are burdened with a need for an attractive mix of portability, size, convenience and performance. However, acceptable trades between performance and convenience can be a very personal matter; handheld products would be more useful if battery packs with higher capacity could be purchased or fabricated.

First, consider some new battery products on the market. Some local retailers of electronic gear have a high capacity AA-cell rated at 850 mAh as opposed to the more common 500 mAh cells (standard with most handhelds). 850 mAh represents 60% more capacity in the same size container. Further, look for a new rechargeable technology called nickel-metal hydride (ni-mh) batteries. They come in AA-cells and offer about twice the capacity of garden variety ni-cads. Stores which feature portable entertainment products will have both cells and companion chargers to offer. There's a new breed of rechargeable alkaline cell from Ray-O-Vac which purports to deliver 1400 mAh in an AA sized cell. These batteries carry a lot more snort than ni-cads but their longevity is much poorer. Compared to one-time AA alkaline cells, the rechargeable alkaline have a very good cost/performance ratio and pack a lot more energy for their volume than ni-cads.

Of course, there is still the venerable alkaline AA cell which packs almost three times the capacity of a ni-cad cell. The author of this article writes that he likes the convenience and freedom from attaching wires while operating the radio from self-contained batteries. Ni-cads become an increasingly unknown quantity as they age so for his amateur radio handhelds, he has a backup alkaline AA pack and two rechargeable AA packs.

Next, consider oversized battery packs offered either by the original manufacturer or

by third party after-market suppliers. There are a number of after-market suppliers which may be able to either rebuild your old battery pack with higher capacity cells or offer a larger replacement pack with more snort than stock battery packs.

For most handheld products there are home-brew alternatives to reliance on self-contained batteries. Most radios offer a "cigar lighter adapter" option; usually some form of power supply connector on the radio itself. All of these connections are designed to accept power from a 12 - 14 volt DC vehicle. However, when this is not available, consider using this jack to connect your own fabricated external power pack. The author's personal favourite for this application would be an 8 pack of alkaline DE cells. Street price for these cells is about \$1 so eight of them will set you back about \$8. These cells should be strapped together with glass fibre tape and solder short pieces of wire between cells to make a series interconnection. The reason for soldering is simple: there are no spring loaded battery holders made that will provide reliable connection to an array of cells in a vehicular environment. Consider a flashlight that has lain around for a few months. The battery capacity may still be adequate but you may have to shake the thing a few times to get full intensity illumination. Low pressure, relatively loose joints between cells suffer from fretting corrosion; a phenomenon that occurs when two pieces of metal are pressed together lightly and vibrated - soldered cells are the only way to go! The advantage of an external alkaline pack is that it's relatively cheap, it has lots of capacity for its size and weight, they're easy to build and have a pretty fair shelf life. Every type of battery has a self-discharge characteristic. Rechargeables seem to be the worst. Neither ni-cads nor the lead-acid batteries will hold a charge for

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## **Bring Goodies To Our December Meeting**

The OVMRC's December 14th meeting will feature a review of some of the history of our Club, but it will also feature some of the aspects of the festive season. However, our Social Convenor, Lillian Getkate, has asked that members bring a plate of Xmas cookies or squares or a fruit loaf or muffins so that she can prepare a decorative table of goodies for everyone to enjoy during our social hour after the meeting. Lillian also asks that, when possible, bring your goodies on a paper plate - china has a tendency to break.

## **Qualify As A Wise Owler !**

Once again this year the Wise Owl Net will be offering a decorative "Wise Owl Certificate" to those amateurs who check into the net on successive weeks. Beginning Friday, January 19th to Friday March 29th, anyone checking into the Wise Owl Net on Friday evenings at 2000 hours (8:00pm) will have their call sign recorded and credited towards a Wise Owl Certificate. During the eleven week period, you will qualify for a CLASS "A" Certificate by checking into the net on a minimum of ten separate dates. To qualify for a CLASS "B" Certificate, you must check into the net on a minimum of seven separate dates. These distinctive decorative certificates, which are easy to earn as you can see from the foregoing, make an ideal conversation piece top hang on the wall of your radio ham shack.

## **Xmas Morn Wise Owl Special**

The tradition continues this year, thanks to the good grace of Sidney, VE3VGI, there will be a special Christmas morning edition of the Wise Owl Net on the OVMRC repeater VE3TWO. It will be your opportunity to wish all your amateur friends "Holiday Greetings" (possibly on your new rig !). Sidney will be accepting checks-in starting at 0930 hours (9:30am) and will continue the net until he runs out of checks-in or it's time to go to church. Our best advice is to check in early !

The OVMRC wishes to thank Sidney, VE3VGI, for giving up several hours of family time on Christmas morning to facilitate this annual event which local amateurs look forward to.

## **Santa's Helpers Required**

It's that time of year again when children are anxious to communicate with the jolly ole gent and make him aware of all the goodies they would like to find under the tree Christmas morning. Santa is going to be at the Museum of Science and Technology on Sunday, December 17th so that children can talk with him via 2 metre radio. However, Santa does require helpers who have 2 metre HT radios and who can walk around the museum to find children who would like to speak with Santa. Bilingual helpers would be helpful. For a fun afternoon, volunteers are asked to contact Jerry Wells, VE3CDS at 225-7374.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**THE OVMRC'S NEXT MEETING IS  
DECEMBER 14th, at 7:30 PM  
Featuring  
History of the OVMRC**

# Mark Your Calendar !

Next General Meeting is one week early - Dec. 14th!

The History of Amateur Radio and the OVMRC! You are invited to come out and listen to our Life Members who will inform and entertain you with the interesting past history of amateur radio and our Club! You are also invited to bring your "antiquish" amateur radio or piece of equipment to the meeting to display and describe it to other enquiring amateurs during the social event after the meeting. Now is your chance to show off that special "whatcha-ma-call-it" or "thinga-ma-jig" to the new hams! Just bring it along for all to see!

We will also be showing a video about the newest piece of amateur gear on the market today - the Kenwood TS-870S which features DSP. This 13 minute video will be of interest to all amateurs.

## For Sale

Surplus to OVMRC needs, the following Club equipment will be on display and sold to the highest bidder in a silent auction at our December 14th meeting:

MFJ 1270 TNC. It comes as is, in good working condition but no manual is available.

The following items are for sale:

Kenwood TH78A Dual band Transceiver with speaker mic; Kenwood PB18 Nicad 1100 mah battery; battery wall charger; auto DC cord; connector to MFJ TNC; TH78A manual; MFJ 1270B/1274 TNC2 packet radio with connections with manual; Hammond Power Supply, cabinet and wiring; Diamond dual band 3/4 wave antenna with mag mount; 2m 1/4 wave antenna with mag mount; Jacob ladder 2m antenna; 2m ground plane antenna with 100 feet of coax cable; AARL 1993 Handbook.

If you are interested in any of the foregoing items, please contact Ray Hamilton, VE3RYH, phone (613) 737-5193.

## Easy Dipole Adjusting

Instead of the usual method - carefully snipping a little at a time from the ends of a dipole until you overdo it and have to add some back - try starting with ten percent more length than calculated. Push each wire end through the hole in its end insulator, making the dipole length what you calculated. Then loosely twist the free end back on the antenna.

Find the frequency where the minimum SWR occurs. Then adjust the length by pushing or pulling the wires through the insulators until you obtain minimum SWR at the desired frequency. Be sure to keep both ends approximately the same length by always changing both ends by the same amount.

When you have arrived at the final length, wrap the wire ends tightly for a few turns. That's it; no pain, no soldering, and you even get a free corona loop!

If you leave the ends loosely wrapped and secure them with several large cable ties (pulled real tight), you can go back later and readjust your dipole - still without soldering. That's nice if the wire stretches, or if you want to optimize for a different part of the band at some future time.

## What Hams Think

Here is partial list of what hams think ...

- \* Antenna always fail during storms.
- \* Police dispatchers never understand ham phone patches .
- \* The heavier a piece of equipment, the weaker the table you place it on.
- \* Seller always leave manuals at home.
- \* Hams never read equipment manuals first.
- \* When you demo a radio you're trying to sell, no one answers your CQ.
- \* You always find an item you've just bought offered cheaper at another hamfest booth.
- \* You're always one person short when lifting a tower off the truck.
- \* Rubber ducky tips always break in a porta-potty while you are holding your HT by its ducky in your teeth.



# B a t t e r y Alternatives

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more than a few months. On the other hand, alkaline cells have shelf lives on the order of years, lithium batteries can hold their energy for as long as ten years.

If rechargeable batteries are most attractive to you, consider C-size, ni-cads with solderable tabs on each end. Garden variety C-cells have a 1500 mAh capacity . . . about three times the garden variety AA cells. There are battery suppliers that can sell you C-cells having capacities of up to 2400 mAh (check out stores offering to rebuild handheld drill motors and carving knives). Beware of any D cell offered . . . the market share of cell sizes is predominately AA and C, most D cells sold really have innards from a C cell. A real, ni-cad D cell should have a capacity of not less than 4000 mAh. If you really want to go-for-the-gold in rechargeable cells, there is a Super F cell available with a capacity of over 10,000 mAh. Again, irrespective of the size battery you choose, acquire cells that are solderable.

If you are building an external pack for connection to an external power socket, an array of cells which delivers a nominal 12 to 14 volts as needed. In alkaline cells, use at least 8 cells; with nickel-cadmium, 10 cells are needed. If you've got an old, defunct battery case, it can be either rebuilt or modified for us as electrical connection to an external battery. In this case, you need to duplicate the original battery pack voltage. Some radios have 6 ni-cads for a nominal pack of 7.2 volts, in this case 5 alkaline, D cells are in order. It's possible that your radio has a high and low power option which is switched by exchanging a 7.2 volt battery pack for some higher voltage like 112 volts. Check the manufacturer's literature carefully before applying 12 volts to a battery port of a radio lest lack of information causes you to let all the smoke out !

Now for the most difficult aspect - charging the rechargeable battery. The sales literature for any ni-cad would have you believe they are good for a thousand charge cycles. It is

conceded that it may happen in the laboratory but it never happens in real life. The reason is simple. Any rechargeable battery is like a child. . . it needs to be loved and have lots of attention in order to achieve full potential. For the ni-cad cell this means (1) use it regularly, (2) don't discharge it below 1.0 volts, (3) don't allow it to set in a discharged state for long periods of time, and (4) don't recharge it too fast or for too long. Only then might you see performance on the order of many hundreds of cycles before the cell's capacity suffers significantly.

Well, if not thousands then what ?

In terms of economics, you need to reuse a rechargeable cell about 5 to 10 times to compete with alkaline cells for price; beyond that they're "free". Most ni-cads have recharge protocols printed right on the side of the cell. For example, some Radio Shack 600 mAh ni-cads suggest 45 mA for 14 hours or 150 mA for 4 hours. Note that both protocols suggest putting 600 to 630 mAh back into a 600 mAh cell. Some cells will recommend you put back 10 -20 % more than you take out. The recharge process for any rechargeable battery is not 100% efficient; you should put 10-20% too much back in order to top off the cell. The slow, 45 mA rate is not terribly abusive to the cell if left on for longer than 14 hours. the 150 mA rate is another matter. There are products coming on the market that permit fast recharging of ni-cad cells in as short as 15 minutes. Obviously, this requires much larger charging currents with an attendant risk of cell damage. The electronics industry is developing a plethora of "smart chips", integrated circuits to go inside chargers or, in some cases, right inside a battery pack. These devices are endowed with sensors and software to measure battery temperature, recharge rates and voltage and do computation needed to terminate charging at exactly the right moment that 100% charge is reached.

# Potpouri

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



Calgary - RadCom: The G suffix In England is rapidly coming to the end of its letters. Thus from Apr 1, 96 the M prefix will also be used. The regional indicators will be the same as with the G call signs.

Pioneers, Ottawa - Due to budget restraints this club will now offer its newsletter to its members in the following ways: postal, e-mail, packet, BBS or at their Web site ([www.parc.ottawa.on.ca](http://www.parc.ottawa.on.ca)).

A local Internet provider (Information Gateway Services), whose owner is a ham, is offering to waive the setup fee to any amateur who wishes to try the information highway.

W5YI (USA) - A new magazine titled CQVHF is being put on the market in Dec. It will cover material in the amateur VHF/UHF and microwave frequencies.

Chatham-Kent - FINED FOR QUACKING: An Australian ham has been fined \$1500 for quacking like a duck on his transmitter. An official announced that the man was convicted of broadcasting something that was'n't speech.

A manual for the visually impaired to operate an Icom 281H has been written by George VE3PEV. This manual is available in Braille or on tape from John VE3EJN, CNIB at 416-621-5248 or e-mail at [nat-amateurradio@immedia.ca](mailto:nat-amateurradio@immedia.ca).

Kingston - Bill VE3DXY is the CW net control on Wednesdays, 2000 hrs on 3645 to help others practice NTS format traffic handling.

Cornwall - Plans are in progress to start a course to help people get their advanced qualification.

Monitoring Times (Nov 95) - In reference to the Air Force pilot who was shot down in Bosnia and had a hazardous time being rescued, a new device called "Soldier 911" is being developed to aid in future searches. This 2 1/4 lb. handheld radio is designed to let the soldier send out an emergency

satellite signal without speaking. The device is to be accurate to within 16 yards.

A Fort Myers, Florida news crew sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns when their news van tower contacted an overhead power line. The 2 crewmen while covering a flood had set up and raised the hydraulic tower to transmit live back to the studio. While being raised the metal mast of the tower touched a 7000 volt power line and the men were thrown 20 ft. when they stepped out of their van. (This is something we must not forget when we raise towers near our homes!!! - VE3TSC)

One of the articles in this issue had a debate on amateur radio and if it would be taken over by the new Internet phone. A letter had been sent in which reminded us exactly what this hobby is about. "Ham radio's 'ennemies' are not SWL, freebanding, scanning, CB or Internet but from our own rank and file. I feel that instruction to our new operators has failed to convey the fact that the license is a privilege NOT a right."

Ottawa - Corel Corporation's New Technology Tour landed in Ottawa on November 29th. The tour introduced four new Corel packages - CorelXara, Corel Print House, Corel Flow 3, and Corel 2 CD Creator. The OVMRC was well represented at the Corel presentation with four members

Ottawa - Carleton University's School of Computer Science is now home to one of the largest research computer installations in Canada, thanks to agreement with Gatineau's Almerco Inc. Technologies. The agreemtn, worth \$9 million, continues the existing research partnership in the area of parallel computing.

Kanata - Digital Equipment of Canada's plant at Kanata, just outside Ottawa, is building an average of 2,000 computers a day, exporting \$1.5 billion worth of systems a year to North, South and Central America.