



The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

# RAMBLER

The Rambler is published monthly by:

The OVMRC  
Box 5530, Station F  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K2C 3M1

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## 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 Training: John Moffat, VE3NJ, 224-5204  
Field Day: Jake Guertin, VA3TQX, 744-2717  
Flea Market: Ed Strange, VA3CEJ, 828-4804  
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, 488-3299

## 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**

**SEE THE OVMRC WEB PAGE:**

<http://www.worldlink.ca/ovmrc>

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

## Mark Your Calendar !

### Next general meeting:

Thursday, May 9th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. The graduating class of the OVMRC's radio course will be introduced and presented with their achievement certificates.

### Deadline for next Rambler:

Friday, April 26, 1996.

### 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  
Metroplex ACA, New York  
Ottawa ARC, Ottawa, ON  
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RAC, Kingston, ON  
Rideau Lakes ARC, Smiths Falls, ON  
Scarborough ARC Inc, Scarborough, ON  
Seaway Valley ARC, Cornwall, ON  
Sudbury ARC, Sudbury, ON  
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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  
WorldLink Internet Services Inc, Ottawa, ON

# Ramblings

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



The past month has been a short and busy one for members of the executive. The first anniversary event of the re-opening of VE3JW was a success with about 120 contacts. Our thanks to Jacques, VE3TSC, for all the organization and promotion of the event that made it the success it was.

Speaking of successes, the variety night meeting was very successful with an attendance of 90. It was really intended as a ladies night and the executive has decided to recommend it as an annual event to our successors. We owe Ken, VE3KJB, a big hearty THANK YOU for the excellent work and organization he put into the event.

The RAC annual meeting was held in Ottawa on Sunday, April 21, at the Howard Johnson Hotel on Slater Street. The President, "Hoppy" Hopwood and others brought those present up-to-date on activities of the organization and plans for the future.

It has been reported that the club now has a web page, largely as a result of the efforts of Richard, VE3UNW, and Rick, VE3IHI. There has been considerable discussion among the executive on what information should go on the page. If you have views on this or suggestions, please contact Bob, VE3SUY, or myself, VE3EJJ, we are both listed on the second page of this issue.

The nominating committee has been active during the past month. While they will not divulge their nominations, they do say that they still have a few positions to fill. If you are interested in a position on the executive for the '96/'97 term, contact Dan, VE3XDD, Jerry, VE3CDS, or Larry, VE3WEH.

The first VHF, SWR indicator, building party occurred on Saturday, April 27, at Carleton University. It was very well attended. The YL's were represented by Anne, VE3TSB, and Elaine, VE3UXZ, and the Brien father and

sons team was in attendance. Mark, VE3DRV, Jake, VA3TQX, Pat, VE3KJQ, and myself, VE3EJJ, are building the club sponsored units, with audio output, for presentation to the CNIB sight-impaired radio amateur project. Wil, VE3XMT, has done an masterful job of developing the unit. Wil had the very able assistance of Jacques, VE3TSC, who looked after the organization of the participants, Elaine, VE3UXZ, who looked after the organization of the bulk parts into the individual kits (I didn't hear anyone complain of missing parts), Jim, VE3TVW, who built a drilling jig for the cases, and there are undoubtedly others involved of whom I am not aware. We owe them all our thanks for undertaking this project that is benefitting so many. The local amateur community will sorely miss Wil's presence when he exercises the ultimate solution to the Canadian winter and moves to California. The second and final building session for the SWR indicator is scheduled for 11 May.

Speaking of people leaving the area, our Historical Chairperson, Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP, has advised that he is being posted to Kingston, so will no longer be able to participate in club activities. We are sorry to lose you Mike and wish you every success in your new posting, our loss is Kingston's gain. The May club meeting is a week earlier than usual, on the 9th. This is because of a conflicting booking for the auditorium on the usual third Thursday of the month. The graduates of this year's radio course will be introduced to the membership at the meeting, and we will have a chance to look at several different approaches to the mobile rig. Come on out, welcome the new members and get some new ideas for summer activities. See you all at the meeting. 73

# Minutes

## OVMRC Regular Meeting, 18 April, 1996.

The meeting was called to order at 19:32.

The President welcomed all guests and introduced a few 'old timers' responsible for the birth of our club: Ed (VE3GX) and Doreen (VE3CGO), Jerry (VE3CDS), Gerry (VE3GK) and Doug (VE3CDC). Because of the special program this evening, the President made the announcements first.

Last Sunday's Special Event Station (VE3JW) which celebrated its first re-opening anniversary, took place. 120 contacts were made and anyone wishing to obtain a certificate should send a SASE at the Club's postal box.

The VHS SWR building workshop will be held on Saturday, April 27th at 9am in room 4195 at the McKenzie Building (Carleton U). A talk-in on 146.580 simplex will guide you in. Kits are \$25.00. You will need a soldering iron (25w) and small tools. A second session is planned, possibly May 11th to complete the kit and calibrate it. Four volunteers are needed to build 4 kits which will be donated to the CNIB ARC. If interested, see Ernie. The Flea Market will be held on June 8th at the Algonquin Lees Avenue Campus. Ed needs volunteers, 5 for security, 3 for parking, 10 to set up and 10 to clean up, 2 for the raffles and 2 to man the PA and talk-in. If interested, call Ed at 828-4804

The Field Day event will be held June 22/23 at the museum. Jake and Larry are looking for volunteers. A familiarization session will be held on Saturday June 15th at 10 am in the green classroom. Contact Larry if interested to attend. Bill, the director of communication for the National Capital Air Show spoke about this event which will be held June 29/30. He is looking for 40 volunteer communicators.

Doug (VE3CDC) announced that RAC will hold its Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, April 22nd (1:00pm) at the Howard Johnson. All RAC members are invited to attend.

The President turned the meeting over to Ken (VE3KJB), the MC of our special program - Variety Show.

Ken welcomed everyone. One act, the Barber Shop quartet has cancelled due to illness. Coffee and goodies will be served to everyone, courtesy of the club, during the social hour following the meeting. The first act was introduced.

Gerry (VE3GK), got rolling with a couple of Honkey Tonk tunes on the piano which included "St-Louis Blues" and an Encore.

A classic BBC production video tape in black and white (The HAM) by Tony Hancock was shown. Ernie was able to get this little gem through Les (VE3OMT). We were treated to a very entertaining story about an amateur radio operator dealing with a 'Mayday' call in a very humorous manner. Two door prizes were drawn. John (VE3NJ) won dinner for two courtesy of the Swiss Chalet and Jim (VE3GJY) will receive a callsign cut out donated by Larry (VE3WEH).

We had a short intermission to set up the stage for our troop of comedians, the RRCAF. Tom (VA3OFD), Mark (VE3AIU), Larry (VE3WEH) and Charlie (VA3SWR) performed a skit poking fun at the unusual terminology heard in the amateur radio community.

Two more door prizes were drawn. #3989 went unclaimed and Guy (VE3ZZJ) won an ARRL Handbook.

Elaine (VE3UXZ) and Rosalind Conway offered us a delightful sample of Celtic music. Elaine on the harp and Rosalind on the flute.

The 50/50 draw totalling \$49 from an attendance of 90 people was won by Gord (VE2HEX). This was followed by another door prize and Theresa Wightman won 250 QSL cards.

Ted (VA3TJL) and his magic piano played a medley of popular tunes. Ted will play at a fund raiser for CHEO on May 5th at Hillcrest High School and tickets are available (\$15) from John (VE3NJ).

Another door prize was drawn and Helen Lowe got herself a museum sweatshirt. For picking the number, Ned Richard was given a family pass to the museum.

To close the show, Gerry (VE3GK) returned with his banjo and got everyone involved in a sing along "This Land Is Your Land".

Ernie thanked all the performers for a job well done and a very entertaining evening. The entire show was video taped and copies will be available (\$15). A big thank you and a round of applause to Ken (VE3KJB) for organizing and presenting this evening's program.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 22:15. Coffee and goodies were served.

# There Are Too Many That Are Not Interested In Ham Radio ?

Written By Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Are you really interested in protecting **our** amateur radio hobby? Do you really care about amateur radio? Do you want to continue to use your radios in the MF, HF, VHF, UHF, SHF, and EHF radio spectrum allocated for exclusive primary and secondary use by amateurs? What if I told you that the 2m, 70cm and HF bands you now use to talk to your ham friends would not be there for your use 5 years from today? Are you interested in learning how to **ensure** continued access to the bands ?

Like it or not, our radio hobby is licenced by the Government of Canada and is governed by the Radiocommunication Act, General Radio Regulations, Parts I & II and the International Telecommunications Union Radio Regulations. The radio spectrum is a finite resource and the pressure is on by "commercial users" who are applying for access to and want licences in our bands. They have already invaded some of our territory in the 220 Mhz range! Big business bucks mean pressure and threats to our bands! And they want more and are banding together to try and get it!

So who protects us and our interests? Do you realize out of our entire Canadian amateur population of over 47,000 that only about 50 dedicated people are diligently investing an immeasurable amount of brainpower, hard work, countless hours of time, out-of-pocket costs, making personal sacrifices by relinquishing time normally spent with families, friends or on their own interests, **just** to ensure your and my hobby with all its privileges survive? These people are working on **our** behalf! They are the volunteer amateurs working in and for the RAC organization! They include members of the National Executive, all Regional Directors and Section Managers and other amateurs working behind the scene. Are you a member of **our** national organization, **Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)**? If not, have you considered - "Why not?" What is RAC? What do they do for you? Why should you join?

RAC's primary goal is to **protect** us and our use of the spectrum at the National and International levels. They are doing their best to protect our hobby from the loss of and invasion into our current radio spectrum allocations.

In his "President's Report to the Members" at the Third Annual General Meeting held on Sunday afternoon, April 21, 1996 here in Ottawa, Mr. Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD, noted: "Even though the number of Amateurs doubled to 47,000 over the past ten years, RAC's 8,200 members (17.5%) continue to carry the lion's share of support. This severely limits RAC's opportunity to sustain and fund an organization that is capable of meeting the complex demands of serving and protecting the interests of Canadian amateurs."

Ask not what amateur radio can do for you but rather, "What can I do to contribute to our hobby?" "How can I invest in our hobby?" Do you care? If you do, you **can** make a difference! At the very minimum, support RAC for \$3.45 a month, or 11 1/2 cents a day, and you will receive "Canada's Amateur Radio Magazine, The Canadian Amateur (TCA)". Do you know about the ADWG, ARAS-SARA, or the IARU? If you are not a member of RAC and don't receive a copy of TCA, how do you find out what IS happening? Learn the issues facing amateur radio and find out what's happening in and to amateur radio in Canada and around the world! Find out for yourself rather than from listening to hearsay! Membership also gives you the right to vote on any issues brought forward by your National Executive.

Do you invest in your future? I strongly believe that we **must** invest to protect our hobby! We **need** and must have, a strong national organization to represent our interests and to **protect** our hobby at the national and international levels! I have invested in my future and will continue to do so each year by renewing my membership in RAC. What about you?

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 1996 - 1997 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	
City		Province	Postal Code
Home Phone	Work Phone		BBN  Amount Enclosed \$
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- 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

## Advice For New Hams

I was looking for background material that might help newly licenced hams form good habits for their on-the-air conversations. Here is a sample of what I found :

- \* Promulgating your esoteric cogitations, or articulating your superficial sentimentalities and amicable philosophical observations, beware of platitudinous ponderousness.
- \* Let your conversational communications demonstrate a clarified conciseness, a compact comprehensiveness, or coalescent conglomeration or precise garrulity, jejune bafflement, or asinine affections.
- \* Let your extemporaneous verbal vaporations and expatiations contain lucidity, intelligibility, and vicious vivacity without rodomontade or thespian bombast.
- \* Sedulously avoid all polysyllabic profundity, pompous propensity, psittaceous vacuity, ventriloquial verbosity, and valiloquent vapidty.
- \* Shun double entendre, obnoxious jocosity, and pestiferous profanity - unobservable or apparent.
- \* Say what you mean, mean what you say, and , for gosh sake, don't use  
b i g w o r d s !

## HTs Forbidden

The Olympics Broadcast Frequency Coordination Committee has issued a warning to amateur radio operators planning to attend the Olympics in Atlanta : "Leave your HT radio at home ! "

There are problems with amateur repeater coordination and since many VHF and UHF HTs are known to be easily modified for wide band use, security officers will not permit amateur HTs at the Olympic venues. It may seem unreasonable, but it will be in effect and enforced. Save embarrassment, leave your HT at home.

## How Morse Chose Dits - Dahs

Have you ever wondered how Samuel Morse decided on which letters of the alphabet would have the least dots and dashes and which should have the most ? It seems that Mr. Morse went into a printer's office and checked on the quantities of each letter used to determine the frequency of their use. He found the following, in descending order :

e-12000	t-9000	a-8000
i-8000	n-8000	o-8000
s-8000	h-6400	r-6200
d-4400	l-4000	u-3400
c-3000	m-3000	f-2500
w-2000	y-2000	g-1700
p-1700	b-1600	v-1200
k-800	q-500	j-400
x-400	z-200	

As a result of his research, Morse decided on the following order in compiling the Morse Code: e, t, a, i, n, o, s, h, r, d, l, u, c, m, f, w, y, g, p, b, v, k, q, j, x, z.

## IC Invites Your Comments

Reprint from April, 1996, TCA  
Industry Canada has released a discussion document titled "Consultation on Radio Licence Fees - Phase 1" in which the Department presents the basic elements and the first phase of development of a proposed radio licence fee structure based on spectrum consumption and spectrum scarcity.

The paper concludes with a list of subjects that require further exploration and discussion. IC recognizes the importance of obtaining public input to the further development of this new structure and invites comments on the outstanding issues. Copies of the document are available from Industry Canada in Ottawa and their regional and district offices. Comments should be transmitted by May24th to the Department at 300 Slater Street, 15th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C8.

# dB Or Not dB? -- The Antenna Question

No antenna topic gets more distortion of the truth, intentional or otherwise, than gain. Advertisers and popular writers mislead many an unwary ham despite the best efforts of the experts who tell us otherwise.

How can you know the truth? Start by accepting that until the laws of physics are repealed, they will dictate the maximum gain of any particular size or configuration of antenna.

Unfortunately, more than a few manufacturers base their claims instead on the Barnum and Bailey law of human nature, "There's a sucker born every minute." Consider vertically polarized antennas for two meters that are omnidirectional in the horizontal plane. Let's say you have a vertical dipole high and in the clear. What is its gain? First, gain is relative. In antennas, it is a measure of how much stronger (or weaker) the signal from one antenna is relative to another antenna, when you drive both with the same power. So before a gain figure means anything, you must know what "reference" antenna was used. A common reference antenna is the "ideal" dipole - one with no losses.

So what is the gain of your real dipole? If your dipole's losses are negligible, its gain is ZERO decibels over an ideal reference dipole, or 0 dBd.

But a 0 dB gain figure might not sell antennas. So some call it "unity gain." Others inflate the figure. But actually, 0 dB gain is not bad; it sure beats some antennas - a rubber duck, for instance.

If we want more gain, we must add elements. But to maintain horizontal omnidirectionality, we must "stack" the elements vertically, along a single axis - an arrangement called "colinear". On two meters, a dipole is about three feet long. A second half-wave dipole stacked end-on makes a six foot antenna, and increases gain to about 2 dBd (2 dB better than a single dipole).

We can increase the gain to about 3 dBd by

separating the elements by two feet, making the antenna eight feet long. That 3 dB increase has the same effect at a remote receiver as increasing transmitter power by a factor of two. To add another 3 dB to the gain requires again doubling the number of elements, to four, extending overall antenna length to 18 feet.

How about adding elements off to the side, as in a Yagi? You can, but doing so produces a nonuniform horizontal pattern; the antenna is no longer omnidirectional. Arrangements that use the mast as a reflector are of this type. They can increase gain in a favoured direction, but at the cost of weaker performance in other directions. There is no free lunch.

You can easily estimate the gain of an omnidirectional two-meter antenna; you only need to know its length. Then, when you see a ten-foot antenna that claims 6 dB gain over a dipole, or a three-foot antenna with a 3.75 dB claim, you can say, "fertilizer" - or words to that effect.

Here are some approximate real gain categories, and popular antennas that fall into them:

<u>-3 dB :</u>	groundplane vertical
<u>0 dBd:</u>	dipole, J-pole, AEA Hotrod, AR-2
<u>3 dBd:</u>	Isopole, Ringo Ranger ARX-2B, Diamond X200, Hustler G6-114BA

Note that some antennas in the 3 dBd group have parts that don't radiate - decoupling stubs, radials, the J-pole's matching stub, for instance. To estimate gain correctly, you must exclude these from the length.

And remember that all such figures are the maximum possible gain. Losses in the antenna or feedline, or radiation from the feedline, can further reduce actual gain.



## Part Three

# Amateur Radio Operating Procedure

Written by Hugh Clark, VE3WM

### **Looking For A General Contact**

If you just want someone to talk to on VHF FM, and are not looking for anyone in particular, you give your callsign and say "monitoring" or "standing by". This indicates you would like to start a conversation with someone. "CQ" (derived from "seek you") is a Morse telegraphy general call. "Calling all stations" or "All stations" is the phone equivalent. However, the call "CQ" is now used on SSB, through satellites and in HF operations, but is seldom heard on FM. "VE3XXX monitoring" is an accepted norm.

### **Changing Frequency**

Once contact is established, it may be advantageous to change frequency to a repeater that provides more reliable coverage of both your areas. In this case you may suggest a change in frequency.

You: "VE3ZZZ, VE3XXX let's try repeater VE3UUU on frequency 147.060, down 600."  
He: "Roger, VE3ZZZ."

The "down 600" is just an optional reminder of the offset of the other repeater, and the "Roger" is the quickest way to say "yes, I understand let's do it." Many people will use the "Q" signals such as "QSY" which means, I am changing frequency. These signals were intended to be used on Morse telegraphy, but have crept into use on radiotelephone over the years. Some amateurs take exception to their use on "phone". Use them with discretion !

Contact is established on the other repeater as previously mentioned. If the other repeater (147.060) is busy, it is usually agreed that you should return to the previous repeater before trying other frequencies, unless you have made previous arrangements.

### **Weak Signals**

This is often a problem on VHF/UHF when you are some distance from the repeater, or using only a small "rubber duck" antenna. If you don't think you are accessing the repeater (no "beep" or "kerchunk" is heard), try using a better antenna (like a 1/4 wave or 1/2 wave), or increase power, or move the

antenna a foot or two in any direction. You may have good copy from the repeater at one position, while it is very weak and distorted only a few feet away. This is due to multipath, a propagation anomaly. Changing your position changes the path. If you are inside a building, by going outside, or by placing the antenna near a window, may help, especially if the building is concrete or steel reinforced.

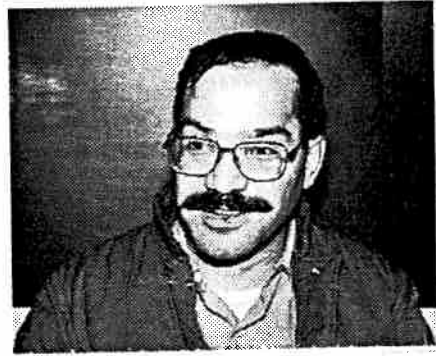
### **Joining A Conversation Already In Progress**

If you hear a group talking on a repeater and you would like to participate in the conversation, wait until there is a break between transmissions. To decide when to let your presence be known, listen for a while to see who seems to wait the longest before transmitting when it is their turn. As soon as the other station has stopped transmitting, and you hear a beep, say your callsign once and then stop transmitting. The idea being to interject your callsign into the space between transmissions without interfering with any of the stations. Now wait until someone recognizes you. If you have been heard, the next station to talk may recognize you immediately, and call you back, or he may wait until the end of his transmission to acknowledge your presence. If there are several people on frequency, it may take a while but you should be acknowledged before everyone has had a second chance to transmit. If you don't hear any response to your call, don't despair. Your signal into the repeater may be marginal, or you might have started to transmit just when someone else did, even though you tried to avoid "doubling" Again, be patient, and try once more with your callsign only at the appropriate time. These procedures hold true for HF operation as well, keeping in mind that propagation change is more of a concern than on VHF.

Some operators just use "break" during the pause. Although this usually works, the result may not be the desired one since some people consider this rude or indicative of an emergency. Be very careful using "break".

# Potpourri

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



Winnipeg - A word of warning has been issued to all amateurs to leave their HT's at home if they are planning to visit Atlanta for the Olympic Games. The Frequency Coordination Committee mentions that all RF gear will have to pass a certification inspection. Since HT's are renowned to be modified for wide band use, they will not be permitted at the Games.

Sarnia - A new prefix has been assigned to be used from 0000Z Mar 30 until 2400Z May 30 to mark 50 years of UNICEF. Thus - VE1-9 = VD1-9, VA2 = VC3, VA7 = VC7, VO1 = V07, V02 = VO8, VY1 = VY7 and VY2 = VY8.

Internet - Some sites for radio propagation numbers: [www.drao.nrc.ca](http://www.drao.nrc.ca), [www.sel.noaa.gov/forecast.html](http://www.sel.noaa.gov/forecast.html), [holly.cc.uleth.ca/solar/](http://holly.cc.uleth.ca/solar/).

Calgary - An amateur license in Belgium is required for 3 modes: fixed, portable and mobile. Each mode requires a special "taxation" stamp. Take note - the total cost for all is about \$250/year!!!!!!

RAC - Bob Thirsk VA3CSA will be the next Canadian astronaut for a flight scheduled June/96. He will be carrying a small RAC flag on the shuttle Columbia which will be returned to RAC following the flight to mount and display.

West Island, Montreal - The military disaster channel is 5300 khz USB. The Canadian Coast Guard uses 5696, 6693, 6753, 8746 khz.

QST, Apr/96 - Readers be wary! For those

who had seen the announcement re: the latest \$800 Atlas 400X transceiver, this turned out to be a bogus ad. One ham, after having placed his order a year ago and getting false promises from Atlas Radio, is angry and frustrated. Several other disappointed people who had lost their money have written to the ARRL. Countless others, numbering in the hundreds, who invested thousands of dollars in the company in hopes of getting some profit are in the same boat. Johnson who had initially started Swan and Atlas is now living off Social Security and his wife's part-time job. Monitoring Times Apr/96 - Up in a desolate area 225 miles SE of Fairbanks, Alaska, a huge project is being put together which could affect HF propagation. It is called HAARP -High Frequency Active Auroral Research Project. A phased array on a 33 acre gravel site will have 180 towers each supporting 2 crossed dipoles to cover from 2.8-10 Mhz. These are connected to 30 transmitters housing six 10 kW amplifiers to have an of ERP will be 3.6 MW.

This site will study instrument design, HF ionosondes, ELF-VLF receivers, magnetometers and light detection in the optical/infrared range. No one knows how bad this will affect the Aurora Borealis. We all know that changes in the Northern Lights cause havoc on world wide radio transmissions. So more "secret" tricks by the government in not letting us know in advance what they are precisely planning!

## **Thank You !**

***This is to thank all those who helped operate the special events station VE3JW on April 14th. Those amateurs who helped are VE3JDS, VE3WEH, VE3CDS, VE3ECW, VA3KER, VA3TQX, VE3EJJ and VE3VIG. I also wish to acknowledge VE3NJ who helped us by relaying the fact that some weak stations were also attempting to check-in. In total, we made 120 contacts across Canada, Colorado, Texas, Florida and Bermuda. Commemorative contact certificates will be distributed shortly..***