



# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 41, Number 2, October, 1996

## Field Day Results

The ARRL has announced the official results of the 1996 Field Day. The OVMRC was included in Group 3A which lumps together participants who operated three stations. The OVMRC had 20 operators participate in our field day operations and made 697 QSO's during the 24 hour period. Our official score was 2,860 points which place the Club eighth in Canada.

Our hearty congratulations goes out Groupe HF de l'Outaouais who placed first in the Canadian Group 3A with 5,828 points.

## Inter-Club Visit

The OVMRC's October meeting will be somewhat different as we play host to a group of fellow amateurs from the West Island Amateur Radio Club.

Our West Island visitors will be making a video presentation on their recent DXpedition. It will be an informative and interesting evening - make your plans to attend the meeting!

## RAC Moving To Ottawa

The RAC office in Kingston is relocating over the first two weeks of October to Ottawa which cause some delays if you are expecting correspondence, etc. from this office.

Please note their new address and amend your records accordingly.

Radio Amateurs Canada,  
720 Belfast Road, Suite 217,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

## Club Executive Taking Shape

The OVMRC has a new President - he is Dan Reardon, VE3GUU.

The executive officers asked Dan to resign his position as Vice President and stand for election as the Club's President. At our regular Club meeting on September 19th, 1996, Dan's name was placed in nomination for President and was unanimously acclaimed.

It was also announced that Earl Andrews, VE3AB is the Club's new Secretary, as of November 1st.

## Flea Markets Are On Their Way

The OARC has announced that after a one year hiatus they will be holding a flea market this year at the Kennedy Community Centre in Cumberland on Sunday, October 27th.

Ken Barry, Chairman of the OVMRC Flea Market, has served notice that the Club will be holding its flea market at the Stittsville Arena, April 27th, 1997.

## Club Nets On The Air

All of the Club's radio nets are operating once again and are back on the air. You're invited to checkin to the Pot Hole Net on Sunday morning on HF; the Military Net on Tuesday evening; the Welcome Mat Net on Wednesday evening; and the Wise Owl Net on Friday evening

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

# RAMBLER

The Rambler is published monthly by:

The OVMRC  
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Canada K2C 3M1

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## The 1995-1996 OVMRC Executive

President: Dan Reardon, VE3GUU, 836-2633  
Vice-President: Vacant  
Treasurer: Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, 728-3666  
Secretary: Earl Andrews, VE3AB

## Standing Committee Chairs

Amateur Radio Exhibit: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 828-3839  
Amateur Radio Training: VACANT  
Field Day: Jake Guertin, VA3TQX, 744-2717  
Flea Market: Ken Barry, VE3KJB, 746-4823  
Historical: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565  
Membership: Gordon Beatty, VA3GRB, 722-4675  
Newsletter: Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214  
Publicity & Programs Steve Middleton, VE3RUU,  
731-6749  
Radio Operations: Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, 748-6597  
& Maurice-Andre Vigneault, VE3VIG, 749-9010  
Technical: Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, 737-9443  
Novice: Joe Donnelly, 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, October 17th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. This will be a different kind of meeting as we play host to the West Island ARC. They will be making a video presentation of their recent DXpedition

### Deadline for next Rambler:

Thursday, October 25th, 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  
Pioneer ARC, Nepean, ON  
RAC, Kingston, ON  
Rideau Lakes ARC, Smiths Falls, ON  
Scarborough ARC Inc, Scarborough, ON  
Seaway Valley ARC, Cornwall, 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  
WorldLink Internet Services Inc, Ottawa, ON

# Ramblings

*Wise words from our President,*

*Dan Reardon, VE3GUU*

Welcome to the 1996-1997 activity year of the OVMRC ! At our executive meeting it was decided that this year we would concentrate on "Basic Amateur Radio". We have , what I consider to be, a very interesting program for this year; but we need your participation in it. As I outlined at our last meeting - you will only get out of the Club what you put into it. Our Club is only as strong as our membership.

Due to four positions not being filled on the executive in June, we are a little behind on a few items for the Club. We have been fortunate to fill the four positions in the last few weeks. Steve Middleton has agreed to look after both Programs and Publicity. Elias Zayden has agreed to work with Dan Doctor until he can take over the editorship of the Rambler. Earl Andrews is presently on assignment in Halifax but will return in time to assume the position of Secretary as of November 1st. I am sure you join me is both thanking these members for assuming their respective positions and expressing our congratulations to them.

I want to thank Larry Wilcox for an excellent presentation at our inaugural meeting. It was very interesting and educational - again Larry, thank you for a job well done !

I must serve notice on all members who have not submitted their 1996-1997 Club dues. **FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR 1996-1997 DUES, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST MAILING OF THE RAMBLER UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU RENEW YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP.**

The OVMRC Flea Market is now "set in stone" - it will be held on April 27th, 1997 at the Stittsville Arena. The arena has loads of free parking space, access for vendors to drive their vehicle into the display area and controlled entry to the arena. I believe you'll find these facilities ideal for our flea market. Ken Barry will be providing more information closer to the date of this event.

Our Club still needs a Vice President to complete our executive. If you know of some one who would accept this position, or if you would accept it, please speak to me at the next regular meeting and let me know.

Just a few words to remind everyone that October 8th was registration night for the OVMRC Amateur Radio Course. Instruction classes will start a week later, October 15th. If you know of anyone who would like to become an amateur, please advise them of this course. I don't believe I have to remind you that the OVMRC Radio Course is considered by almost everyone one of the very best available anywhere.

Have you ever been on a DXpedition ? Attend the October meeting and a delegation from the West Island Radio Club will take you on one - via video tape. The presentation is of the West Island group's last DXpedition which I am sure you will find very interesting.

I very much look forward to seeing you at our next regular meeting on October 17th at the museum.

# Minutes

## OVMRC Regular Meeting, September 19, 1996.

The meeting was called to order at 18:36 by Vice President Dan, VE3GUU. The membership welcomed guests Chuck Caldwell, George Steves and Gord, all of whom are not currently licensed, as well as Terry, VA3TG, Rory, VE3RRY, Don, VE3DRO, VE3ISA, Wil, VA3WTJ, Morteza, VA3TAN, VA3LJN and VA3PJN.

Ken Barry, VE3KJB asked for help in taking down a tower, especially someone able to climb the tower.

Dan called upon the immediate Past President, Ernie, VE3EJJ, to complete the election of President. Ernie reported that over the summer the membership had been canvassed for nominations without success. The executive had therefore nominated Dan, VE3GUU, to relinquish his Vice Presidency and stand for election as President. Dan, VE3XDD moved that nomination be closed, seconded by Jacques, VE3TSC. A unanimous vote by the membership elected Dan as President for 1996-1997.

Dan introduced the new executive for the ensuing term. The position of Secretary will be filled by Earl Andrews, effective November 1. Earl is on assignment out of the city until then. The position of Editor will be filled by Elias Zayden.

Dan briefly outlined what the program would be for the rest of year. The overall theme is "Back to Basics". Some of the programs planned are:

- Radio Canada International
- West Island ARC DXpedition
- Industry Canada demo on DF equipment
- Bill Westbrook Presentation on ATV
- Antenna night (homebrew)
- Rig night (new amateurs can see a variety of equipment and stations)
- Packet information - The Basics
- Variety Night

Jacques, VE3TSC, is looking for 15 amateurs to assist communications with a car rally on September 29th. Interested persons please see Jacques.

Ken Barry, VE3KJB, reported that the OVMRC Flea Market will be held on April

26th, 1997 at the Stittsville Arena. Entry fee will be \$2; tables for non-commercial will be \$10 and commercial \$20.

Ken also reported that our December meeting will be a combined Christmas and Variety Night.

Rick, VE3IHI, reported that the OARC Flea Market will be held at the J. Kennedy Community Centre in Cumberland on Sunday, October 27th.

Jake, VE2TQX, announced that there would be a bunny hunt on Sunday, September 22 from 1 to 4pm.

John, VE3NJ, announced that registration for the new OVMRC Basic Radio Course will be held October 8 at 7:00pm. Classes start on October 15th. Twenty persons have indicated interest in enrolling in the course. Bob, VE3SUY, reported that the new crystals will be installed in the Club's repeater over the next two weeks. It is hoped that with some technical manoeuvring the repeater will not have to be out of service during the repairs.

Larry, VE3WEH, made an extremely interesting presentation on Radio Canada International. He showed a video he took while on holidays in Sackville, N.B. The Club's membership thanked Larry for his presentation.

Larry provided information on the QCWA International Convention which is being held in Ottawa on October 4th.

Steve, VE3RUU presented 4th Anniversary Certificates to those members who had checked in to the Welcome Mat Net.

There will be a Trunk Junk Sale on September 28th in the Museum parking lot. Sales start at 10:00am.

Mailles, VA3MD, noted that Vick Holtquist became a Silent Key last evening at the age of 62. A long time amateur, Vick's call was VE5AX.

Joe, VE3JDD, had the draw for the 50/50 winner. The draw was won by Steve, VE3RUU.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:11. Coffee and goodies were served for the social hour.

REVENUE

INCOME

Field Income	0.00	
Memberships	4,555.88	
Fleamarket Sales	2,367.13	
Fleamarket Raffle	246.00	
Equipment Loan Deposit	0.00	
Donations	950.98	
Licence Plate Sales	0.00	
Bank Interest	34.16	
Miscellaneous Income	456.20	
<b>TOTAL CLUB INCOME</b>		<b>8,610.35</b>
Course Registration Fee	3,004.30	
Manual Incomes	253.00	
Manual Royalty Fees	569.89	
Misc. Course Income	760.00	
<b>TOTAL COURSE INCOME</b>		<b>4,587.19</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>13,197.54</b>

TOTAL REVENUE

13,197.54

BALANCE SHEET Jun 30,1996

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Bank Club A/C 5314075	5,474.99	
Bank Course A/C 5314075	1,450.13	
Repeater Allotment	465.53	
Bank Account: Net		4,490.39
Petty Cash	0.00	
Cash: Net		0.00
Miscellaneous Receivables	0.00	
Receivable Field Day OARC	0.00	
Receivables: Net		0.00
Furniture & Equipment	2,485.42	
Inventory - Equipment	0.00	
Fixed Assets: Net		2,485.42
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>6,975.81</b>

TOTAL ASSETS

6,975.81

EXPENSE

EXPENSES

Rambler Supplies	400.46	
Rambler Postage	1,024.47	
Rambler Printing	823.42	
Code Telephone	772.27	
Station Licences	72.00	
Station Operation(QSL)	100.00	
Repeater Equipment	357.27	
Rent for Meetings	40.00	
Donations	43.50	
Field Day Expense	845.52	
Membership(Awards,etc.)	36.80	
Name Tags	55.45	
Insurance	955.80	
Office Supplies	0.00	
Raffle Expense	0.00	
Fleamarket Expense	952.50	
Licence Plate Holders	0.00	
Club Promotional Expense	273.88	
Bank Charges	27.60	
Miscellaneous Expenses	151.62	
<b>TOTAL CLUB EXPENSE</b>		<b>6,845.56</b>
Course Supplies	794.53	
Course Classroom Rent	0.00	
Instructor Honoraria	0.00	
Manual Expenses	277.21	
Miscellaneous Expense	5,727.96	
<b>TOTAL COURSE EXPENSE</b>		<b>6,799.70</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>13,645.26</b>

TOTAL EXPENSE

13,645.26

INCOME

447.72-

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES

96/97 Memberships	709.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>709.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>709.00</b>

EQUITY

EQUITY

Equit Beginning of Year	6,714.53
Current Earnings	447.72-
Equity to Date	0.00
Field Day Adjustment	0.00
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>6,266.81</b>

TOTAL EQUITY

6,266.81

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

6,975.81

# Earth's Big Capacitor All Charged Up

Reprinted from May '96 Foundation for Amateur Radio "Auto-Call"

Scientists have known for 150 years that an electrostatic field surrounds the earth. The planet has a negative charge, so as you move upwards through the atmosphere, the potential trends positive at 150 volts per meter. If you are six feet tall, the air near the top of your head is 300 volts more positive than the ground beneath your feet. The positive potential peaks at 300 kilovolts some 200 miles up.

The earth and the ionosphere are fair conductors, but the air is not. So we live between the plates of a giant spherical capacitor (capacitance: 14,000 microfarads). Wind friction can cause ionic charge separation in the air. And natural radioactivity makes the air slightly conductive. A steady current "leaks" from the ionosphere to the earth's surface. It's only a few microamps per square kilometer, but over the whole earth it adds up to 1800 Amps. That means the total power flow is 540 megawatts. Taken as a whole, the leakage resistance of the atmospheric dielectric is 166 ohms (and an R - C time constant is 2.4 seconds).

Where the 540 megawatts comes from nobody knows. Nicola Tesla dreamed of capturing it. The power isn't constant; the potential gradient shows daily variations of 40 percent, peaking worldwide around 1900 universal time. And the surface field varies, depending on whether over sea water, land, or desert. It also increases under a thunderstorm.

Volcanic eruptions provide plentiful ions, as do nuclear weapon bursts and large meteors. These events can short circuit the earth's capacitor. Next time you see a film of an atomic bomb cloud, notice the lightning flashes inside.

Other atmospheric electrical effects can be dramatic. The author once drove into a sandstorm along the Red Sea coast while listening to a BBC broadcast. Hearing an S-9 plus roar, squeal, howl, and scream, he nearly drove off the road before realizing it was coming from the radio. I saw lightning flashes, and heard their simultaneous AM

radio crashes. The radio growled like a cornered lion when Saint Elmo's fire sprouted from the hood ornament - all this at 15 percent humidity and no rain.

In the days of wooden sailing ships, Saint Elmo's fire off the masts and spurs awed sailors, especially when they had to man those spars to change sails. The cause is charge separation by wind-driven friction between water droplets, rather than between sand grains.

Sporadic E propagation occurs when ions accumulate into a "cloud" low in the ionosphere that refracts VHF signals back to earth. In the summer you can sometimes pick up a fluttery low-VHF TV channel from a thousand miles away via sporadic E. These "clouds" - typically a few hundred square miles in area - form, drift, and evaporate within hours.

By concentrating the skater's weight on a very small area of blade, ice skates produce high pressure that melts the ice, to let the skater move on a film of water. A sharp point similarly concentrates an electric field, increasing it. A sharp point can cause breakdown of the air dielectric, resulting on "corona". That is how a lightning rod can discharge the atmosphere locally, often preventing a strike.

When you travel, foreign countries have problems saying what they mean in English. Consider these gems:

Mayrocan hotel sign advertising its cleaning service : " Drop your trousers here for best results".

Detour sign in Kyushi, Japan: " Stop, Drive sideways".

Rome laundry: "Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time".

On a breakfast menu in Argentina: "Revoltig Eggs".

Dentist in Hong Kong: " Teeth extracted by latest Methodists" .

Vienna Hotel : " In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.

# A Visit To ARRL HQ

Written by John J. Barnhardt, VE3ZOV

Last summer my wife and I attended a wedding in Springfield Massachusetts. She taught 16 years in Springfield and has many friends in the area. I decided to visit the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) headquarters since it is only about 45 minutes away. I took along a non-amateur friend (graphics artist) from West Springfield. Newington is a southern suburb of Hartford, Connecticut. The ARRL HQ is located in downtown Newington at 225 Main Street. It was easily reached from I-91. Newington is a mature community with large trees lining the streets. After driving a few blocks you suddenly see many large antennas towering above the trees. The 2 acre site has two buildings and a small parking lot. The main office is two stories high and has been there since 1968. This is where all the staff is located. Another smaller building is located across the parking lot and contains the W1AW transmitters. W1AW has been on the air since 1938 and operates at full legal power on the 160 to 10 metres (not 30m) and 2 metres at 200 watts.

Hiram Percy Maxim founded the ARRL in 1914. His original Spark Gap Transmitter called "Old Betsy" (~200 metres) can be seen on display at the entrance of W1AW.

Four large towers are situated on the grounds -- three 60' high and one 120' high. The tallest one has fixed beams for the bulletin transmitters. It also has a rotatable beam. Two of the 60 foot towers also have rotatable beams. These beams cover the 10 to 40 metres ham bands and are connected

to three ham booths located inside the W1AW building. Amateurs can operate these systems from 1 to 4 p.m. during the week. You should book in advance and have a copy of your license.

The main office building has a reception area with many of the ARRL publications and maps on view. You can purchase many of these articles on site. A museum is located on the right side and has shelves containing many artifacts. A DeForest "Audion" tube, old glass transmitting tubes and 40's through 60's classic radios from popular manufacturers are on display. I saw an old Gonset Communicator 2 Set that was popular when I was licensed in 1964. A spare Oscar satellite hangs from the ceiling. The original W1AW 40m rack transmitter is there. The first model airplane and radio controller ever built (developed by Ross Hull and another ARRL staff member in November 1937) hangs from the ceiling. It is a large glider with one radio channel controlling the rudder.

A display case on the hallway adjacent to the lobby contains some old enforcement tools. These are the Wooff-Hong, the Rettysnitch and the Ugerumph!

Mike Tracy (KC1SX) gave us a wonderful tour and answered our questions. The one hour tour was very interesting and gave me a better understanding of the evolution of ham radio. There are many departments and services offered by the ARRL. I can outline them at a later time. I recommend amateurs to visit the ARRL.

## Hello ! May I Introduce Myself ?

Hello, my name is Gossip ! I have no respect for justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted the more I am believed. My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face. To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become. I am nobody's friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same. I topple governments and wreck marriages. I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights, heartaches and indigestion. I make innocent people cry in their pillows. I am called Gossip and I make headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself : "Is it true ?" "Is it harmless?" "Is it necessary?" If it isn't, don't repeat it !

## RAC Report To IARU

There is no more important subject than our vision of the future of Amateur Radio. The RAC Ad Hoc Committee report to the IARU "Looking At The Issues", is the result of careful analysis and judgement.

Questions concerning regulations over the "Definition of the Amateur Services", " The Banned Country List" , " The Amateur Service As A Resource for Emergency Communications" , " Messages On Behalf Of Third Party" , and " The Technical and Operational Qualifications To Be An Amateur" are to be examined.

The issue of "Morse Code", however, took much time to consider. What to do about it is most difficult to answer. It touches upon something which is sacred. The issue is charged by firm beliefs and deep emotional feelings. Yet, we know that many countries are moving to have Morse Code abandoned as a mandatory requirement to operate below 30 MHz. It is no longer viewed by some governments as a suitable international "treaty" obligation.

RAC is a solid supporter of using code but they can't demand that it be kept as a mandatory "requirement" for HF licensing. The original need in being able to respond to government stations in CW has disappeared. A large majority of amateurs use SSB or prefer digital modes. To suggest that code be kept as a "filter mechanism" to exclude those unable or unwilling to learn it, is discriminatory. A more appropriate and effective approach is to ensure that examinations demand more in-depth knowledge of all operating modes. It should also focus on operating procedures and operating ethics.

The RAC report to the IARU is just that, "a report". A set of proposals which will be considered, modified, adopted or rejected by the IARU.

Needless to point out, Amateurs across Canada and around the world are waiting with baited breath for the final outcome of the Union's deliberations and ultimate ramifications.

## Kenwood Speaks Out

Last month's Rambler carried an item titled " Troubles Ahead ?". It dealt with Kenwood Communications plan to expand its marketing network to include highway service centres.

Graham Walker, Bytown Marine, Kenwood's Ottawa distributor, contacted the Rambler to advise that Kenwood's expansion plan is confined to the United States. Graham continued by stating that there is no such plan for the Canadian market.

Kenwood Communications has announced the introduction of their FTP site that includes many Kenwood Service Bulletins and Application Notes dating back to 1975. Kenwood expects this new service to be of great help to Kenwood amateur equipment owners and service providers.

Kenwood points out that for many years they have realized that their customers throughout the United States and Canada are in need of more information about older Kenwood products. This has always been difficult to provide. Now, with the power of the internet, Kenwood is able to provide information on an easy to use jpeg format that is downloadable and printable.

The Kenwood FTP site can be visited through their WWW address - - <http://www.kenwood.net> that includes a complete file directory or visit the site directly at <ftp://ftp.kenwood.net>.

## Your Last Issue of the Rambler

For those Club members who have not renewed their membership for 1996-1997, please be advised this will be the last copy of Rambler to be mailed to you until such time as your Club dues are paid.

A reminder to all members - please be sure to advise the Membership Chairperson of any change of your address so that our Club records and mailing list will be maintained up-to-date.



# Mail Order Distributors

Reprinted from Winnipeg ARC Newscaster

The following is a list of mail order distributors who supply catalogues to hams who wish them. Some of the companies charge for the catalogue, but most who do charge will offer a credit on the first purchase of merchandise over the value of the catalogue. In no particular order :

Burghardt Amateur Centre,  
182 North Maple  
P.O. Box 73  
Watertown SD 57201  
1-800-927-4261  
Cost: free

Atlantic Ham Radio,  
368 Wilson Avenue,  
Downsview ON M3H 1S9  
1-416-636-3636  
Cost: free

Northam Radio Inc.,  
4373 Steeles Avenue West,  
North York ON M3M 1V7  
1-416-667-1000  
Cost: free

Icom Canada,  
3071 #5 Road, Unit #9,  
Richmond BC V6X 2T4  
1-604-273-7400  
Cost: free

Kenwood Electronics,  
6070 Kestrel Road,  
Mississauga ON L5T 1S8  
1-416-670-7211  
Cost: free

Yeasu USA,  
17210 Edward Road,  
Cerritos CA 90701  
1-310-404-2700  
Cost : free

Amateur Electronic Supply,  
5710 W. Good Hope Road,  
Milwaukee WI 53223  
1-800-558-0411  
Cost: \$5 US

Universal Radio Inc.,  
6830 Americana Parkway,  
Reynoldburg OH 43068  
1-800-421-3939  
Cost : \$1 US

Amateur Radio Supply,  
5963 Corson Avenue South, #140  
Seattle Wash. 98108  
1-800-457-2277  
Cost : \$2 US

## Magazines & Kits

The Canadian Amateur,  
Radio Amateurs of Canada,  
614 Norris Court, Unit #6  
Kingston ON K7P 2R9  
1-613-634-4184  
Cost:\$38/year - includes membership

CQ  
CQ Communications Inc.  
76 North Broadway  
Hicksville NY 11801-2953  
1-516-681-2992  
Cost: \$33.75/year US

QST  
American Radio Relay League,  
225 Main Street,  
Newington CT 0611  
1-203-666-1541  
Cost: \$57.75/year US

73  
P. O. Box 58866  
Boulder CO 80322-8866  
1-800-289-0386  
Cost: \$43.16/year US

Radio Fun,  
P.O. Box 4926  
Manchester NH 03108  
1-800-257-2346  
Cost: \$27.90/year US

Ramsey Electronics (KITS)  
793 Canning Parkway,  
Victor NY 14564  
Cost: free

# Potpouri

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



**Internet** - A group of Portuguese hams organized the 1996 IOTA Insua Island DX expedition (July 26-29) at the extreme north of Portugal. Despite the challenge of severe winds and sandstorms they managed to achieve 2500 QSO's.

**Ham Radio Online** - Phillip Nichols, KC8DQF uses an HP200LX handheld computer, a tiny Tigertronics packet modem, and his 2 meter handheld to check into a packet BBS from anywhere. This is an excellent method to show some of the neat kinds of high visibility, useful applications you can perform with Amateur Radio.

**Microsoft** - A month ago, it was decided to remove the amateur radio forum from Microsoft's Internet network. Excessive pressure has resulted in the forum being put back for users perusal.

**Los Angeles** - On 10 August 1996, a power grid control failure interrupted electricity from Mexico north to Western Canada. Local amateur radio operators provided support communications to public safety agencies. They were helpful in passing traffic on power/water service, along with reports on the containment of a discharge from an oil refinery.

**San Francisco** - A 14 year old Japanese boy has become the youngest person to sail single handed across the Pacific Ocean. His trip (July 22- Sept 14) was from Tokyo, Japan to San Francisco in a 30 ft. yacht. He kept contact with parents/supporters by ham radio but part way through the trip no contacts were made due to a generator engine failure. With sheer perseverance he still made it safely to port despite having travelled through some large Pacific storms.

**Ham Radio Online** - A new magazine titled Cyberham is now available which capitalizes on the fact that 70% of hams have computers. It will feature material for people who want to learn. It was started by Gene WB9MMM and his wife Shari

**WB9SFT**. More info on the magazine can be had by telephoning 1-800-557-9469.

**Comox** - Some trivia for you: - the world speed record for copying CW is by T.R. McElroy at 75.2 wpm on July 2/39. A code message was included on the 1943 Canadian nickel - "We Win When We Work Willingly".

**Amateur Radio Newline** - The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers net meets every Saturday on 14.327 at 1600 UTC.

**Windsor** - This May 11th a 16 year old ham in Kentucky was arrested on charges that he had ham radio equipment capable of receiving police communications. The radio was a Radio Shack HTX 202 which all amateurs know cannot be modified for wide band receive. Also there is a local exemption which allows hams to own/operate scanners. Arresting officers had not bothered to verify the radio or that law. Worse, the judge had refused to listen to a lawyer trying to explain that clause and how it pertains to amateurs! What is the end to this story? A higher court judge has ordered the charges dropped and the HT returned to its owner.

**FCC** - May 13th a public notice was issued that regulations are broken if amateur radios capable of operating outside of amateur frequencies are imported or marketed. Reasoning for this is to cut down on the number of radios used by "Freebanders" who operate on 26-28 MHz and sometimes use the 10M band. It seems this practice is becoming very popular for those who wish to communicate long distances but avoid having to take a Morse Code exam.

**Vancouver** - A scanner listener helped nab a 35 year old karate instructor from California who had also brought along a 12 year old runaway. The missing person's report had been heard by the listener who had seen their vehicle in traffic. This karate instructor had already been convicted of having sexual intercourse with another 13 year California girl.