

THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 41 , Number 4, December, 1996

Xmas Morning Wise Owl Net

Once again, Christmas morning will see the continuation of the annual tradition of a special edition of the Wise Owl Net on the Club's repeater, VE3TWO. And, again this year, Sidney, VE3VGP, will be the Net Controller.

The net offers local amateurs the opportunity of wishing their amateur friends "Happy Holidays" (possibly using your new HT or rig). Sidney will be accepting checks-in starting at 0900 hours (9:00am) and will keep the net open as long as there are checks-in, within reason.

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

Club Crests Now Available

The Club's logo, a copy of which appears above beside the word, Rambler, is now available in an attractive cloth crest. The crests, first available at our regular November meeting, will on sale at all of our regular meetings for \$5 each, while supply lasts.

The crests are ideal; for sewing on windbreaker or T-shirts. While there is a reasonable supply of the crests, they are selling well, forty of them have been sold already, so the reminder, don't be disappointed purchase your crest(s) now .

Our December Meeting

The OVMRC's December meeting will be truly socially oriented. One of the very special meetings last season is being repeated as our December meeting - "The OVMRC Variety Night". This is an open meeting to which you are encouraged to bring your spouse, girl or boy friend and grown children. It will be an entertaining evening with music, fun and snacks.

Our Social Convenor, Ann Asmus, has asked that members bring a plate of home baking - cookies, squares, muffins, fruit cake, etc., so she can prepare a colourful and decorative table of goodies for everyone to enjoy during our social hour. Ann also reminds everyone that she would appreciate you bringing your goodies on a paper plate - china, it seems, has a tendency to crack and break.

RAC Needs Your Help

As previously reported, RAC has relocated it's headquarters from Kingston to Ottawa. As we all know, RAC is a volunteer organization of amateur radio operators who work to protect and enhance our hobby. Now that RAC is located in Ottawa, their office requires the help of volunteers to perform such duties as stuffing envelopes, some filing, etc. While the bulk of the work will be done by volunteers on Wednesday mornings, you can arrange to help out on other days. Volunteers are asked to contact Jim Dean, VE3IQ, telephone 733-5585 evenings.

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

RAMBLER

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The 1996-1997 OVMRC Executive

President: Dan Reardon, VE3GUU, 836-2633
Vice-President: Vacant
Treasurer: Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, 728-3666
Secretary: Earl Andrews, VE3AB, 828-5955

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: Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, 747-9577
Newsletter: Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214
Publicity & Programs: Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749
Radio Operations: Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, 748-6597
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](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, December 19th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. It's the OVMRC Variety Night. Music, Fun and Snacks for all ! It'll be a special evening as you are encouraged to bring your spouse, boy or girl friend and grown children. Arrange for a baby sitter now and reserve the evening of December 19th for the OVMRC Variety Night.

Deadline for next Rambler:

Thursday, December 27th, 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

Minutes

OVMRC Regular Meeting, November 21, 1996.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dan, VE3GUU, at 1930. The members welcomed guests Tracy, VA3TFC, and Orlando, VO1OVT, (Nfld) (ex. CM2VA, Cuba). Members requiring assistance, VE3CLW has obtained a HP Plotter, model 7475A and requires a manual. John, VE3ZOB, was looking for an antenna which could be used at his townhouse.

President Dan announced that Club crests are now available for \$5 each. Also available are amateur license plate frames for \$2 each. Two new members of the Club's Executive were introduced - Earl Andrews, VE3AB, as Secretary and Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, as the Club's new Membership Chairman. President Dan announced that effective immediately, coffee and treats at the end of the meeting would now cost \$1. The increased price is necessary if the Club is break even or make a meager profit.

Editors of amateur radio newsletters were encouraged to meet with Hans, VE3REL, after the meeting.

The next meeting of the OVMRC on December 19th, will be our Christmas meeting, featuring the Variety Night. Members are encouraged to bring a plate of home baking and to bring their spouse, girl or boy friend.

Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, Technical Committee Chairman, gave a brief report on the Club's 2 metre repeater. Bob also announced that he was looking for volunteers to help in establishing the broadcast patterns of local repeaters.

Jim Dean, VE3IQ, provided a brief report on the RAC headquarters move from Kingston to Ottawa. He pointed out that eventually, the RAC Ottawa office will have an HF station which local amateur can operate. Rac, he said, is looking for volunteers to help the office staff to stuff envelopes on a Wednesday morning.

The meeting was turned over to the Program Chairman, Steve, VE3RUU, to introduce those who would be demonstrating home brew antennas.

Jake, VE2TQX, had several VHF antennas

including a 4 element 2 metre quad, a "lindenblough" antenna which is used to receive signals from low orbiting 2 metre satellites.. Also demonstrated was a telescoping vertical for VHF and UHF. Jake also had a two element telescoping dipole. His last antenna was loop constructed with foil tape used in alarm systems.

Larry, VE3WEH, unyielded his polished yagi for 2 metres. While it was not home brew, he wanted to demonstrate it.

Ernie, VE3EJJ, demonstrated a large attic HF antenna. It was similar to a sail rigging and was a short dipole which was centre loaded with 2 slinky coils which nested into two large juice cans. It was operated by a small DC motor making both legs of the dipole extend or retract equally by remote control.

Bob Cavanaugh, VE3OSZ, demonstrated his antenna by showing overhead projection slides. His antenna is a 160 and 80 metre inverted L type. The antenna is at such a length that by actuating a relay, he could switch in a capacitor to tune out the inductive reactance on 160 and an inductor to tune out the capacitive reactance on 80 metres.

Bob Campbell, VE3KLG, demonstrated a dipole centre insulator with ferrite beads on the coax line to prevent unwanted radiation. Bob stated that the connector really improved the performance of his low band dipole.

The last demonstrator was one of our guests, Orlando, VO1OVT who explained he lived in an apartment and his XYL was critical of his antennas. He uses a j-pole mounted on a tripod. And to please his wife, he uses plastic flowers strategically placed around the tripod.

The judges awarded first prize for his antenna to Ernie, VE3EJJ. Second prize went to Bob, VE3OSZ. And third prize went to Jake, VE2TQX.

The last 10 minutes of the meeting had a video presentation of antennas by Gerry King, VE3GK. The meeting was adjourned for the social hour.

We Get Letters

Key To The Executive Washroom

Soon after his election as President of the OVMRC, Dan Reardon received the following letter which we reproduce for your information and daily chuckle.

Dear Dan:

During 1985/86 when I was President of the OVMRC, the offer of access to the "Key to the Executive Washroom" was a frequent, albeit empty, enticement aimed at encouraging members to come forward and take on some of the executive positions. It was certainly in use before I became President and may have been started by Mike Graham, VE3KMG, or perhaps Dave Coutts, VE3KLX, both having been President before me. In fact it was Mike Graham who coaxed me into taking over the Rambler editor job, a position I held for several months before it occurred to me that I was not at the time even a club member, but was dunning other members to pay up or lose the thrill of receiving the 1-page RAMBLER.

During my term of office, the decision was taken to dispose of a lot of redundant material that was of no further use and which was cluttering up the homes of various long-suffering club members. Among the items declared surplus was the "out-house" that had been used at the club field-day sites and was being stored in Paul Cooper's barn. We were thus disposing of the club's "only piece of real estate". In any event, disposal was approved and Paul was authorized to get rid of it. If I remember correctly, he managed to sell it for \$25.

Later, after my term of office, the discovery of an old key, to no known lock, triggered the thought that here indeed could be the mythical "Key to the Executive Washroom". So I made an appropriate shield with a suitable identifying plaque and composed the few descriptive lines that are printed on the back. It, like the club gavel, which I also made, is to be ceremoniously passed into the custody of each new President, to be held in safekeeping against the day when the

"executive washroom", which was now lost, might again be discovered or replaced.

I think the first recipient was Alan Boyce, VE3LNH, and I made the presentation as the chair of the nominating committee when he became President.

Yet another tradition of the OVMRC.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) W.R. Bob Campbell
VE3KLK

VE3JW Activity

This past month at VE3JW has seen several new faces among the regulars who operate the station. Band conditions have shown a steady improvement and conditions are getting back to what they were several years ago. If you have not been to the station recently, come along and spend a bit of time operating and meeting the public. If you are not sure that your name is on the volunteer list at the security desk, give Jerry Wells a call at 828-3839. There is a new procedure for access to the station. Go to the security desk and ask for the key to VE3JW; the key is labelled OVMRC. Sign for the key. And be sure to return it to the security desk when you leave the museum. Anyone who requires a refresher course on station operation, please call Jerry Wells.

We have a special event coming up on December 15th at the museum. We will be talking to Santa on 2 metres between the hours of 1:00 to 4:00pm. We have a bilingual Santa, but we need helpers to ensure that every little boy and girl in the museum gets a chance to talk to Santa. Certificates will be provided to the children after their contact with old St. Nick. Join the gang and have an afternoon of fun. Bring your 2 metre HT. Jerry Wells would like to hear from Club Members on ideas on adding to the VE3JW display station at the museum. There are all sorts of possibilities to expand the station activities. How many members would like to participate in regular special events about ham radio presented to the public at the museum? Give it some thought and let's try and make a couple of special presentations to visitors to the museum this winter. Jerry looks forward to your input - give him a call at 828-3839.

HOW ABOUT A BUNNY HUNT?

Written by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Bunny Hunts or transmitter hunts have been taking place in and around the National Capital Region since 1992 when the first one was held by Wil VE3XMT and Mike VE3FFK. They are still being held and you can be a participant!

We have a real "Bunny" complete with radio, hat and headset and now we have an official callsign for it, VE3BNE. Our Bunny Hunts are not sponsored by any club nor are they associated with any club. However, we now call ourselves the "Capital Area Region Bunny Hunters Association" or CARBHA. We have chosen this title to cover the entire region on both sides of the river and would like to have many participants! We are not an official association, but merely associated as a result of our common interest in Bunny Hunts.

Just check-in to the "Welcome Mat Net" on 147.300(+) Wednesdays to find out when the next Bunny Hunt will be held. If you are unsure how to hunt for the Bunny, we invite you to ask for assistance and you can be teamed up with someone with experience. Beginners and experienced hunters work very well together and often find the Bunny first! Come out and enjoy the fun.

A M A T E U R PACKET RADIO BBS - VE3KYT

Written by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Do you want to try out packet radio without all the fuss and expense? Do you want to get on packet without a "Terminal Node Connector" (TNC)? Do you want to have live communications via packet around the world? Do you want to find out who has ham gear for sale, or the place and date of hamfests and flea markets across Canada and the USA? Do you want to find that special "thing-a-ma-jig" for your latest

project? Do you want to find the external VFO for your radio that you haven't found yet? Do you want to know when the next space shuttle goes up and what frequencies they will be using to communicate with hams on earth? Do you want to check a Canadian or American callsign to find out who owns it or where they live? Do you want to find a particular program for your computer?

You can do all the foregoing and more and find answers to your questions on "VE3KYT - Packet Bulletin Board System (BBS)". This BBS system has been available since 1990 and is maintained and operated as a FREE service to all local amateurs by John Rodger, VE3JR. John invites you to use his BBS to satisfy your requirements, FREE OF ANY CHARGES !

You can get onto the Packet BBS and into packet radio without a TNC and all the cables, connectors, radio and antenna! All you need is a computer, such as an AT, XT, 286, 386, 486, or Pentium and a modem capable of at least 300 baud along with your favourite communications program. You simply dial up John Rodger's "VE3KYT Packet BBS" at 747-7783 and follow the on-screen directions to register. The only requirement is that you must be a licenced amateur to use the system to it's fullest. Give it a try, call today, I'm sure you will be pleasantly surprised!

New Club Roster

Membership Chairman Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, has prepared a new Club membership roster which lists all members, their callsign and phone number. This information has been compiled, as of November 30th, from membership and renewal applications.. If you have paid your Club dues for 1996-1997 you should be listed in the new roster. Please check your listing and report any errors to Tom St. Julien ASAP

Qualify As A Wise Owler

Circle January 17th on your calendar as the first date on which checks-in to the Friday evening Wise Owl Net will start receiving credit towards a Wise Owl Certificate. These decorative certificates, when presented, contain your name and callsign, and are signed by the Wise Owler himself, Leo Desjardin.

The qualifying period runs for eleven weeks, January 17th to March 28th. To qualify for a Class "A" certificate you must check into the net on a minimum of ten separate dates. For those amateurs who cannot meet the requirement for a Class "A" certificate, they may qualify for a Class "B" certificate by checking into the net on a minimum of seven separate dates.

A reminder to all, the Wise Owl Net is on the Club's repeater, VE3TWO, Friday evenings from 2000 hours (8:00pm) to 2100 hours (9:00pm)

RAC Report

Written by Pat Doherty, VA3GD,
Director, Norther Ontario

Radio Amateurs of Canada is forming an Examination Working Group and invites inputs for examinations. The group will, over 1997 and 1998, publish a new Basic and Advanced syllabus and answer banks. The scope of the examinations will be expanded and questions banks enlarged. This is an ongoing process, with an updated syllabus and question bank for Basic and Advanced being published on a rotation basis every two years. You need not be a member of RAC to submit your suggestions. Comments and suggestions should be submitted to:

Chair - Examination Working Group,
c/o Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.,
Suite 217 - 720 Belfast Road,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 0Z5

They may feel your suggestions are good enough that an invitation to join the EWG may be offered. With half of the Working Group retiring each year, spaces will be available. New examination software is in development and it is expected by mid-1997.

Volunteer examiners will be able to give on-line computerized examinations.

The Federal Communications Commission in the United States has issued regulations covering RF exposure. As of January 1, 1997, United States amateurs will be required to meet standards for exposure to RF fields. Any amateur whose output is over 50 watts will be required to evaluate their station taking into account power output, antenna gain, frequency, proximity of antenna to inhabited areas. They will have to comply with the new standards. Most stations will not have to alter their configuration. High power stations close to their neighbours, especially in the VHF/UHF range with high gain antennas and arrays could have serious problems. Amateur stations will have to be able to show that they have evaluated their stations and meet the standard. Fortunately, they do not have to do an environmental assessment like commercial licensees. I understand that while Industry Canada is not pursuing this, Health and Welfare is investigating it. You can bet if it has reached such a stage south of the border, we will see it here in the not too distant future. (You don't think this could be a sinister plot by the QRP Group! Just kidding).

By the time you read this you should have received a mailing from Radio Amateurs of Canada. I could say the brochure is required reading, but I won't. Certainly look it over, if you have any questions - ask - and above all fill out the membership form and send it in. We need the support of all Canadian amateurs. Times and rules are changing. You are going to need a National organization as a source of information and support and a strong voice in the future. They say if you don't vote, you lose your right to b----.

When a midget psychic escaped from prison, the headlines in the daily papers read "Small Medium At Large"

A stay-at-home neighbour says, "I'm not travelling this year. I took a pay-later vacation last year."

Di-Pole Centre-Connector

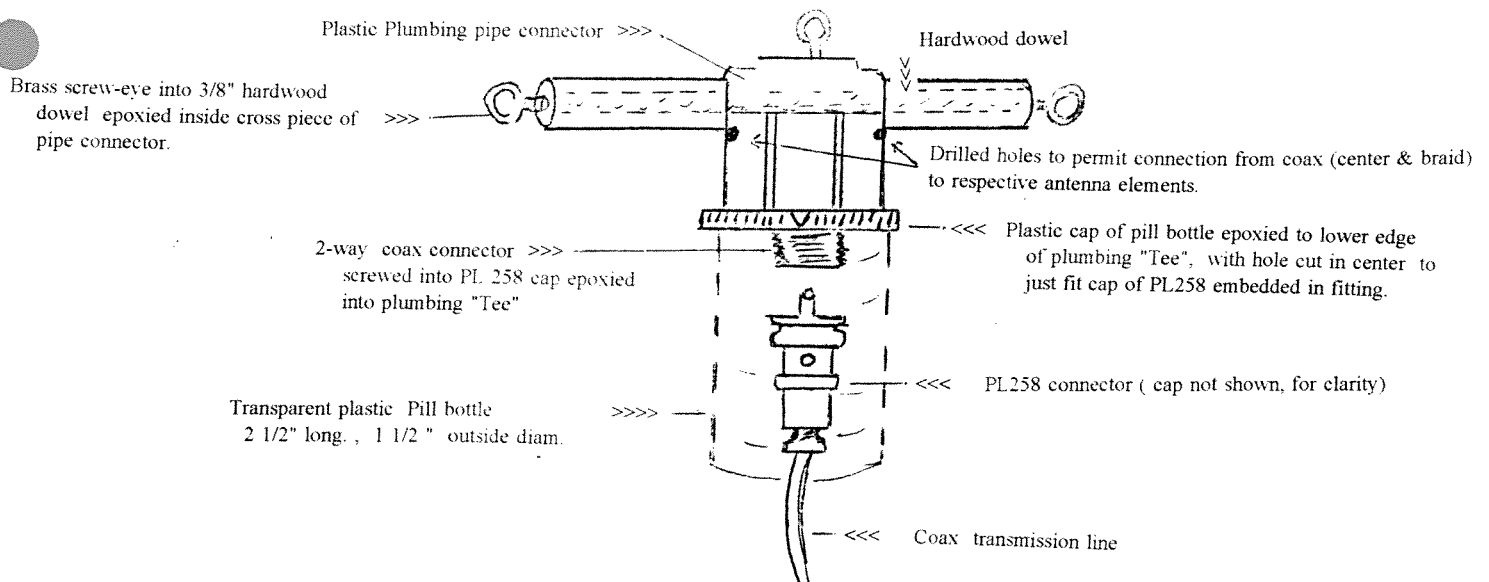
Written by Bob Campbell, VE3KLG

I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of interest shown by those present at the Club's last meeting in the project I described and exhibited at our Home Brew Antenna Night. In view of the foregoing, I thought it may be of some assistance to anyone who wanted to construct a similar "gizmo" if I provided a diagram of it. I highly recommend this centre-connector as I have found it to be reliable and very effective.

The intent of the centre-connector, in addition to its electronic purpose, is to ensure no moisture enters the top of the coax transmission line, a fault that frequently requires the replacement of some or all of the coax. It also provides a simple way of detaching the coax from the antenna, if necessary. The shield provided by the "bottomless" plastic pill vial accomplishes this quite nicely. I am still using the first one I built; it has given me excellent performance with no need for maintenance for the past eleven years. It is not difficult to construct, most parts being available locally from Canadian Tire (the plumbing "tee" connector), Radio Shack (the coax connectors).

Inevitably, di-poles create an unbalanced, or "third" current in a coax transmission line, which needs to be removed to ensure maximum performance from the antenna. There are ways of doing this that can be very expensive. But there is a simple and inexpensive method of doing so - the installation of ten ferrite beads on the coax, as close as possible to the centre-connector. Quite simply, the beads choke off any radiation of that "third" current from the transmission line.

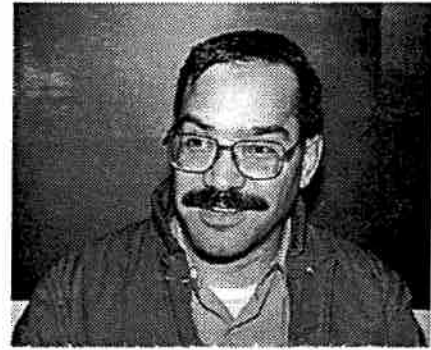
The necessary ferrite beads are available locally from Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM, or from Amidon Associates Inc., 2216 East Gladwick Street, Dominguez Hills, California, 90220. The beads we found satisfactory are Type FT50B-77, interior diameter 0.312", length 0.05" with a permeability of 2000



AMIDON ferrite beads (10 required)

Potpourri

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



Ottawa - Industry Canada will publish early next year the results of a study reference liability for content on the Internet. It's not clear whether the government will enact new laws or regulations. Comments are welcome via e-mail at internet.liability@ic.gc.ca. (Had not the US failed miserably in an attempt to censor this mode? VE3TSC)

ARRL - US hams will soon lose another 5 MHz of their spectrum. FCC in their eagerness for even more money has put to auction 2305-2310 MHz. The UK also has taken some 10 GHz frequencies from their hams. (I looked around the Industry Canada site but found nothing. Anyone know if the same is happening here? VE3TSC)

Ham Radio Outline - On July 26 a fierce lightning storm struck a rural area on the Oregon/California border. The site was miles from support and the rural residents used ham radio to warn each other and fight a forest fire. Lightning also took out their radio telephone system and other electronics thus requiring the use of ham gear to organize the fire fighting. A lesson learned was to have proper lightning protection to protect various sensitive equipment.

Internet - After reading Internet newsgroups and confirming it with our local amateur store, the sad news is that the company Advanced Electronics Applications (manufacturer of the PK-232 TNC, IsoLoop, etc) is going out of business. For sale is its 3 divisions: analyst, antenna, TNC. Seems that they came out with too many new products and could not keep up the required support.

Industry Canada - Special prefixes have been authorized to be used on our callsigns from 0000 UTC Oct 26 to 2400 Dec 29/96 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Canadian Broadcasting Company. i.e. - VA2=XM2, VA3=CJ3, VE2=CI2, VE3=CI3.

European Space Agency - It has been confirmed that Ariane 502 due to launch mid Apr/97 will have on board the amateur radio

satellite AMSAT Phase 3-D. It is completing construction in Orlando, Florida with help from AMSAT groups from five continents. This is the largest, and most complex/expensive satellite built.

TelePARC (Ottawa) - Special event station VA1S has been set up to celebrate 94 years since the first radio transmission by Marconi from England to Glace Bay, NS. For a QSL card/certificate send a SASE to Alan Leith VE1AL, 846 George St., Sydney, NS B1P1L9. W5YI (USA) - For you jealous types, Microsoft's Bill Gates riches keep increasing. Last year he added \$20 million PER BUSINESS DAY to his personal fortune of greater than \$18 billion. (So folks keep buying his software! <hi hi> VE3TSC)

Monitoring Times - The Cleveland Plain Dealer carried an article titled "A Solar Storm Warning". It mentioned "a billion ton wave of super hot, electrically charged gas particles from the sun will crash into the earth's magnetic field at 620 mph. By the time people in Florida notice a spectacular display of Northern Lights, it will be too late. The Storm of the Millenium may well be under way." Believe it or not, the subject of all that hype is no more than the coming of the next peak of the solar cycle!!

The Canadian Top Ten 1996 Field Day Results for 3A (3 stations) are as follows: Listed are the Club name, their call sign, number of QSO's, number of people who worked at their station, and their total score

- 1) Groupe HF de Outaouais, VE2SEX, 2090, 29, 5028

- 2) Regina, VE5NN, 1447, 17, 5176
- 3) Brownsburg, VE2CWB, 1586, 19,5132
- 4) Peel, VE3XR, 1286, 33, 4444
- 5) RAC, VE6NQ, 989, 3, 4080
- 6) Victoria-Haliburton, VE3LNZ, 982, 30, 2982
- 7) Fredericton, VE9ND, 816, 25, 2908
- 8) OVMRC, VE3RAM, 697, 20, 2860 <--- ***
- 9) Parry Sound, VE3PSH, 767, 24, 2708
- 10) Surrey Seniors, VE7DK, 813, 16, 2592