

# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 41, Number 9

May, 1997

## VE3TWO To Have Permanent Tone

It appears that more and more repeaters are being equipped with a permanent sub-audible CTCSS tone to eliminate electrical interference. The executive at its April meeting reviewed the operation of our Club's repeater during the past few weeks (since the CTCSS tone was added to it) and agreed the addition of the encoding has eliminated electrical interference triggering the repeater. Inasmuch as the repeater will be completely realigned during the next few weeks, the executive decided that starting July 1st the repeater will have a permanent 100 Hz CTCSS sub-audible tone. What this means is that the tone will not be turned off for our various nets on VE3TWO.

For those amateurs who have rigs with a CTCSS capability built-in this will not pose any problem. However, those amateurs with older rigs which do not have a CTCSS capability, you may wish to consider purchasing one of the available boards or kits which will add this capability to your rig. Boards and kits are available from the transceiver manufacturers, from the local amateur radio supply outlet, or several other companies.

If you wish to use the VE3TWO repeater you had better ensure your rig has a 100 Hz. sub-audible CTCSS tone in memory. Fact is the tone is required now to activate many repeaters throughout southern Ontario and the northern U.S.A., so why wait and be disappointed - install your CTCSS tone now.

## OVMRC Amateur Of The Year

The OVMRC Amateur of the Year will be chosen by those members attending the May Club meeting. As each member enters the Museum's auditorium they will be given a ballot which lists the candidates for this prestigious recognition.

It should be pointed out that while it was previously stated that the ballot would have the top three candidates, the ballot in fact will have five names. In tabulating nominations, three amateurs were tied for third place and as such all three names will appear on the ballot.

Members will be asked to vote for ONLY ONE of the candidates listed on the ballot. President Dan will only cast a vote to break a tie to decide a winner. And the winner will be decided at the Club's executive meeting, Thursday, May 22, when the ballots will be tallied. The winner will be announced and recognized at our June meeting with the presentation of a suitable engraved plaque.

## Flea Market A Success

The OVMRC's flea market held on Saturday, April 26th at the Stittsville Arena is refuted to be one of the largest and best to be held in the Ottawa Valley in several years. Sixty some tables of the "best junk" seen anywhere was available to shopper. Congratulations to its organizer, Ken Barry.

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 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, (819) 684-5669  
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.takeone.com/public/ovmrc.htm>

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

## Mark Your Calendar !

### Next general meeting:

Thursday, May 15th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. Come on out and enjoy Rig Night ! There will be a display of members' old and Bytown Marine's new rigs. As well, the students from the radio course will attend. Plan now to attend this meeting and meet the "new amateurs".

### Deadline for next Rambler:

Thursday, May 22th, 1997.

### 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  
Surrey 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*

I want to extend a "thank you" to Bill Westbrook for a very interesting presentation at our meeting in April on his ATV project. I am sure everyone was impressed by the ATV's group methods of erecting their antennas ! Many thanks Bill.

## AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

As you come into the auditorium at our May meeting you will be given a ballot which will list the candidates who have been nominated for the OVMRC Amateur of the Year. While we have previously stated that the top three candidates would be on the ballot, a three-way tie for the third nomination will result in five very worthy names appearing on the ballot. Please vote for only one of the candidates and deposit your ballot in the box. We will then count the votes and recognize the amateur who received the most votes at our meeting in June. The Amateur of the Year recognition is the membership's award to an outstanding member of our Club.

## JUNE ELECTION

Again, I want to stress the importance of having a full compliment of executive officers to run the Club. We are the largest club in the area, let us start being more professional and the most proficient

in our hobby. If you are approached by the Nominations Committee to serve on the executive, please say YES ! The Committee has come up with an innovative approach in which you can serve as a Vice Chairperson and thus learn the in's and out's of your committee for a year without having the full responsibility for the committee.

## MAY MEETING

A reminder to everyone . Our May meeting will be Rig Night. The graduating students from our radio course will be attending and will be introduced. Each of these students will be interested in speaking with "experienced " hams to gain insights. We will be showing approximately 24 transceivers dating from 1960 to 1997, in VHF, UHF and HF. Also Graham Walker of Bytown Marine will be there displaying the latest in amateur equipment. So if you want to see or are considering purchasing new equipment, plan now to attend our May meeting and see the display of old and new rigs - it should be an interesting meeting.

By the way, those of you who are bringing in equipment for display, please try to be at the Museum by 6:45pm so that you can have easy access to the stage in setting up your equipment.

# Minutes

## OVMRC Regular Meeting, April 17, 1997.

The meeting was called to order 1935 hours by President Dan, VE3GUU.

The membership welcomed a group of students from Samuel de Genest school who were attending the meeting as guests.

President Dan reminded the membership that the June meeting will be the election of officers and the announcement of the OVMRC Amateur of the Year. A ballot box was available for members to place their nomination forms. Ballots will be tallied at the Club's executive meeting next week. The top three nominees will have their names placed on a ballot which will be distributed at our May meeting. The Amateur of the Year will be announced at the June meeting.

Dan, VE3XDD, Chairperson of the Nomination Committee, spoke about the June election pointing out that the OVMRC is the biggest radio club in the area and it is important that it have a full compliment of officer so that duties and responsibilities can be divided among those elected. He invited members to volunteer for consideration for the executive.

President Dan announced that the Club's repeater now is operating with a CTCSS sub-audible 100 Hz. tone. The tone is turned off during the Club's various nets. However, later in the year the tone will be continuously left on.

The meeting was then turned over to Steve, VE3RUU, Chairperson, Programs and Publicity. He introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Bill Westbrook, VE3EKA.

Bill's audio video presentation was an insight into the methods used to erect the ATV antennas at the CJOH-TV studios; and the interior shots of the receiver and transmitter. He then provided a detailed briefing on the history and construction of the equipment. He also provided his audience with information on how to either build (home brew) or purchase the necessary items to either transmit or receive ATV transmissions.

Larry, VE3WEH, announced he had several copies of the schematic to build the 2 meter SWR power meter which is named "Wink". The unit does not use a meter but rather a set of L.E. D.'s.

Jake, VE2TQX, brought the membership up-to-date on arrangements for field day. He asked for volunteers to help out with various chores, i.e. set-up, teardown, gophers, etc.

It was announced that the upcoming International Air Show is recruiting volunteers to help provide communications for the two-day event.

The meeting was adjourned for the social hour - tea, coffee and cookies and ragchew.

### CORRECTION

It was inadvertently recorded in last months minutes that Len, VE3LGZ, had seconded the motion authorizing the Club to purchase a new Pentium computer. The seconder should have been listed as Steve, VE3RUU. We apologize for any inconvenience our error may have caused.

## A Word From The Wise Owler

In it's annual qualifying round for CLASS A and CLASS B Wise Owl Certificates, from January 18th to March 28th, the Wise Owl Net broadcast each Friday evening from 8:00 to 9:00pm, is pleased to announce that a total of twenty Certificates are being awarded this year. Eight amateurs earned a CLASS A and 12 others earned a CLASS B Certificate.

The recipients of a Class A certificate are: Jake, VE2TQX; Ernie, VE3EJJ; John, VE3ZOV; Ben, VE3ZUO; Pat, VE3KJQ; Dan, VE3XDD Garry, VE3VFH; and Paul, VA3PCN.

The recipients of a Class B certificate are: Susan, VE3MOG; Don, VE3DRO; Herb, VE3HRB; Guy, VE3WGL; Chuck, VA3CAB; John, VE3IAO, Gord, VE2HEX; Larry, VE3WEH; Rose, VA3RIS; Joe, VE2JHT; Steve, VE2CYV; and George, VE3XS.

(NOTE: The following certificates for 1996 can be picked up at any regular OVMRC monthly meetings - VE3VIG, VA3VKK, VE3VLF, VE3ZTU, VE3IAO).

The Wise "Ole" Owler wishes to acknowledge and thank the following amateurs for acting as net controller during 1996/97 Larry, VE3WEH; Leonard, VE3LPH; Ian, VE3IJJ; Ernie, VE3EJJ; Jacques, VE3TSC; Ed, VE3VLF and Jake, VA2TQX.

## The High Cost of Jamming

Reprint from April, 1997 QST Magazine

As a relatively new ham, I have not heard much of anything bad on the local 2M repeater - until now. I am referring to the idiots who seem to take pleasure in jamming the QSO's of other amateurs.

Several weeks ago I was enjoying a conversation on one of the local repeaters when an operator with a Brazilian prefix (PT7) broke in. I acknowledged his break, and was in the process of speaking with him, when someone else broke in saying "He's bogus."

What the heck did that mean? Stunned, I

still tried to talk to the PT7 ( whose full call sign I will keep confidential) to determine who he was. I was curious to know how it was possible to contact a Brazilian station through a 2M repeater. As it turned out, he was a visitor to our country. This was his first attempt to use an American repeater.

Fascination turned to embarrassment as the jammer proceeded to make various noises. The interference was so severe I could not continue the conversation. The noises continued while the PT7 tried in vain to make another contact. The jamming kept up for so long that one of the repeater-trustees shut down the machine. It remained off the air for more than an hour.

An isolated incident? Nope, sorry! The very next night I was listening on another repeater to a conversation between 2 women concerning the CW testing requirement. Suddenly, a jammer appeared, transmitting obscene comments, burps and other garbage. Again the repeater was shut down.

Don't these idiots realize that they are playing right into the hands of those who wish to appropriate our bands for commercial use? We are a pen stroke away from losing an incredible valuable resource thanks to a small group of sociopaths.

## Hamming It Up

You may be a ham if....

You have used coat hangers and duct tape for something other than hanging coats and taping ducts.

At Xmas, it goes without saying you will be the one to find the burnt out bulb.

Your ideal evening consists of fast forwarding the latest science fiction movie looking for technical errors.

You modified a can opener to be microprocessor driven.

You have taken the back off your TV set to see what's inside.

You thought the contraption ET used to call home was stupid.

You save the power cord from a broken appliance.

You have a habit of destroying things in order to see how they work.

# Amateur Radio at Scouts Canada Jamboree '97

The LARC (Lakehead Amateur Radio Club) will be operating a special event station in conjunction with the Scouts Canada Jamboree in Thunder Bay, Ontario, July 12, to July 20, 1997 . The station is expected to be located in the Thunder Dome, which will give all interested Scouts the opportunity to view the station in operation. The station supervisors will let as many Scouts as possible, operate the radio station during the jamboree. The station call will be CJ3FW and will operate primarily on the JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) frequencies. The jamboree station will have HF, VHF capabilities, operating modes being voice (SSB) , FM on 146 Mhz to 148 Mhz and various digital modes.

The HF frequencies are as follows :

BAND (CW)	SSB (PHONE)
80 meters	3.740 or 3.940 Mhz
40 meters	7.090 or 7.289 Mhz
20 meters	14.290 Mhz
	14.070 Mhz
17 meters	18.140 Mhz
	18.180 Mhz
15 meters	21.360 Mhz
	21. 140 Mhz
12 meters	24.960 Mhz
	24.910 Mhz
10 meters	28.360 Mhz
	28.990 Mhz



The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club will be issuing a special QSL card to all stations contacting the Jamboree station CJ3FW. QSL address is as follows:

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club,  
Suite 184, 1100 C Memorial Avenue,  
Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 4A3

The stations primary operating hours will be 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM with extended hours should band conditions and participation warrant it. Scouts wishing to set up schedules to communicate with their home communities during the jamboree will be contacting local amateur operators prior to leaving for the jamboree. Schedule frequencies and times will depend on the location of the home amateur station and , of course, propagation. Local hams should contact Terry Stewardson, VE3TKA, email <tsteward@tbayel.net>, or by mail at T. & S Radio Electronics, 2052 Dawson Road, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 5E3. .

The Lakehead ARC will also be conducting an amateur radio program activity in the Scoutship Enterprise entitled "Hamming It Up". This is the first time an amateur radio teaching activity has been held at a Canadian Jamboree. Scoutship Enterprise will have its own radio station. Those attending these classes will have a hands on experience in radio theory and operations. They will get an overview of the hobby above and beyond what they would get from just visiting the radio station at the Thunder Dome. Hopefully some will develop enough of an interest in amateur radio to go on and become a "ham".



# RAC Report

Pat Doherty, VA3GD  
Director - Ontario North

Just returned home from the Radio Amateurs of Canada meetings in Ottawa. Trying to compress a years activities into three days makes for some pretty intense meetings. While the Executive and Directors exchange email during the year, face to face meetings are the ultimate solution.

A lot of issues were covered. One being why the new delegation process, ARAS/SARA did not go to completion? After 3½ years of effort by dedicated amateurs Industry Canada decided not to proceed. Industry Canada was not prepared at this time to go ahead with the funding needed for the project. They are still looking at it and hopefully within the next couple of years it will get back on track. It would have been very beneficial to RAC. We would have been able to recover some of the costs we now incur representing the interests of Canadian amateurs who are not members of RAC. Trying to operate an organization on subscription fees is marginal at best. Speaking of fees, membership is going up to \$39.95 effective September 1, 1997. If you want to save a \$1.95, get your renewal in early.

Little LEO's were discussed. They are looking at our VHF/UHF bands as possible targets. Did we come to a conclusion? Not yet. While they are asking for the frequencies, or sharing of frequencies, this is not yet a reality. Their idea of sharing frequencies, is to start out sharing and then to demand exclusive use as sharing is not satisfactory. When they file for divorce they want the house plus all the furniture. We are helping to organize the opposition to these frequency hungry satellites, with presentations being prepared for Industry Canada and WRC 97. Is it possible we could lose some of these frequencies? Yes. Look at what happened in the US with UPS and 220 MHZ. We hope to cut them off at the pass, but you can bet they will try an end run.

Amateur Radio Emergency Services was another subject that took up a fair amount of time. While ARES is a part of RAC a lot of

discussion was directed to how RAC could benefit ARES members and groups. There are clubs and groups who are operating under the ARES banner that are not really members of ARES. Getting them into the fold is a prime concern. Expertise and assistance from a national organization can benefit the grass roots organizations.

Your club should have received the mailing from The Insurance Centre Inc. Equipment and liability insurance is available, at a reasonable cost, for RAC affiliated clubs. There is no cost to affiliation, all you have to do is call RAC headquarters and receive an affiliation number. While some clubs carry liability insurance, it is quite expensive. This new insurance could save a few dollars. The lawyers are waiting to pounce, make sure your covered. Another point, are your incorporation papers up to date? Clubs incorporate and then fail to keep up with yearly filings. Make sure any club you belong to is incorporated. It is your major protection against losing everything you own should a liability situation occur.

## Last Call For Nominations

The Club's election of officers for the 1997-1998 season will take place at our June meeting. As such, our May meeting will be members last opportunity to nominate prospective candidates.

Nominations Committee Chairperson, Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, will open nominations for all offices from the "floor" at our May meeting. Following the close of nominations, those candidates contesting the four executive offices, President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will be asked to introduce themselves and explain their reasons for standing for election. It will give members an opportunity of hearing prospective executive members express themselves and provide reasons for voting for them.

## Blackburn Hamlet

# Tour and Duathlon

Written by Evelyne Brien, VE3ECW

Over 200 participants, aged 5 to 65 years, ran, jogged, line skated or strolled a 6K tour through the streets of Blackburn Hamlet on Sunday, April 20th. Eighty of the more athletic participants took part in the duathlon which involved running 6K around the Hamlet and then cycling to a point on Navan Road which was 10K from the starting point, circling the bypass back to Hamlet's arena.

Members of the OVMRC were strategically located along the route to provide communication.. Because the event did not have enough volunteers, some of the OVMRC members performed double duty as communicators and traffic controllers.

A number of firms acted as sponsors for the event; Sunoco provided T-Shirts, Subway provided food and drinks and Corel provided CDs.

Evelyne, VE3ECW, acted as Net Control. She advised the Rambler that this was the first time she had done Net Control of an event and really enjoyed the experience. She maintains she learned a lot "controlling the guys."

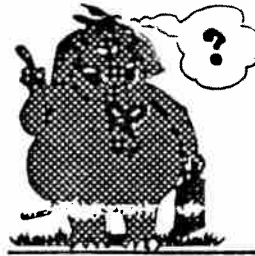
The event organizers were very happy with the job done by the amateurs and thanked them. Providing communications were Bernie, VA3JBB; Paul, VA3HOE; Jim, VE3SPK; Larry, VE3WEH and Evelyne, VE3ECW.

## Grins

"When I was kidnapped, my parents snapped into action. They rented out my room." (Woody Allen)

"I told the doctor I broke my leg in two places. He told me to quit going to those [laces]." (Henny Youngman)

"There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot."  
( Stephen Wright)



# DUES??

*Oh, my gosh ? ! ? Did I pay those darn membership dues for the OVMRC ?*

*Oh, no ? Oh, yes ! Now which one is it ? Yes or no ?*

*Maaartha ? Did I pay those darn membership dues for the OVMRC ?*

*What d'ya mean, you don't know ?*

*Martha, you're suppose to keep on top of all these very important details. Now - - if I didn't pay, we won't receive the Rambler anymore, we'll loose contact with all of great friends, we'll miss all those wonderful treats Ann prepares for us after each meeting - all gone, fini, disparu, done like dinner ... Martha - where's that darn cheque book ? It's pay up membership renewal time !*

Exaggerated somewhat but it is membership renewal time. You will find a newly designed renewal form in this issue of the Rambler which you may complete and turn in at the next regular meeting or, if you prefer, you can avoid the hassle at the check-in desk by mailing your renewal to the address at the top of the form.

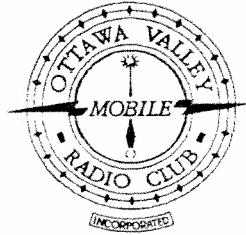
Please note that this year's renewal form asks for your e-mail address, if you have one. These addresses will be included in the next membership roster list we will be distributing, probably, in November.

If you refer to the Club's Bylaws, you will find that our Club year runs from July 1 to June 30. This means, of course, that membership renewals should be forthcoming in May, or June. It would be of considerable help if you renewed early so that Club records can be maintained up to date.

As you know, work has been going on for the past few month organizing interesting programs for our meetings next year. Some of which has already been suggested by Club members. However, there is still time and room for you to suggest topics you would like to see included in next year's programs. Needless to point out, suggested topic should have some relation to amateur radio. Suggestions should be given to Dan Reardon, VE3GUU, or any member of the executive.



# Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club



Box 5530, Station F  
Ottawa Ontario K2C 3M1

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- The Membership year starts in July and runs to June 30th 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	BBN  <small>For OMBL use only</small>
City	Province	Postal Code	
Home Phone	Work Phone	Email Address	

<input type="checkbox"/> One year membership, Regular or Associate. Includes mailed Rambler - \$25/year	Amount Enclosed \$
<input type="checkbox"/> One year membership, Regular or Associate. Without mailed Rambler - \$20/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family rate. For family of current members. No mailed Rambler - \$5/year	

**My interests are:**

<input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF	<input type="checkbox"/> Packet	<input type="checkbox"/> HF Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque
<input type="checkbox"/> Satellite	<input type="checkbox"/> HF CW	<input type="checkbox"/> AMTOR/RTTY	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="checkbox"/> SSTV/FSTV			

Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

If Retired, Former Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

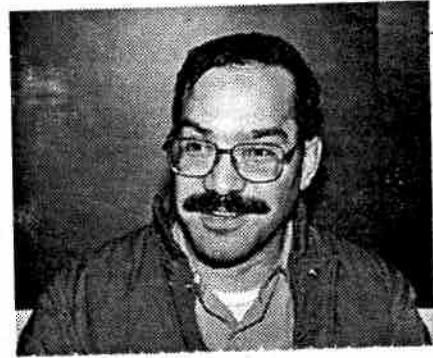
Skills: (Please list them all) \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMENTS

<b>Order OVMRC Name Tag</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>First Name</td> <td>Call sign</td> </tr> </table>	First Name	Call sign	Cost: \$6.00
First Name	Call sign			

# Potpourri

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



W5YI - Guatemala has recently passed a new law abolishing the 2M and 6M amateur radio bands. In fact, the UHF bands are now available for commercial use. (Look out! Our 2M here are next -VE3TSC)

Monitoring Times Apr/97 - Children in Springfield, Missouri recently had a new look at a "mature" episode of the Flinstones. A local cable company somehow kept the program's audio but instead of the cartoon characters, showed an XXX video of a couple involved in sex.. The station, testing a future pornography channel, had their signals mixed. The show got a good eyeful as schools were closed that day due to bad weather.

Kingston - (Feb 1 Globe and Mail) Another sign that the era of CW is ending. Jan 31 was the last day of a 93 year old system used by the French maritime radio authorities. Their communications centre had sent only 100 CW messages and receive even less. Their last received SOS was in 1990.

Winnipeg (VE4CPU) - Instead of purchasing those portables with all the fancy and confusing options that are hard to program, one could look at those whose goodies are enabled by computer. Example was given of the Yaesu handhelds. The computer does all the work vice the strain of using the HT's keypad. Also the configuration can be saved for future use..

Ottawa ARC - The Iroquois club offers the "Golden Triangle Award" (Ottawa-Kingston-Cornwall) to amateurs with 100 HF contacts or 75 VHF and 25 HF contacts. All contacts must be confirmed. Send \$5 along with a SASE (for material to be returned) to: I.A.R.C. Awards, PO Box 388, Iroquois, Ont. KOE1K0.

Pioneers, Ottawa - With the introduction of an APRS repeater in Ottawa (144.39 simplex) here are some Internet sites for those who would like to pick up the latest software and

maps ->[www.tapr.org/tapr/html/sigs.html](http://www.tapr.org/tapr/html/sigs.html) or [www.peel.com](http://www.peel.com).

Halifax - From the club "Humour List": Buy a Pentium so you can reboot faster; Computers make very fast, very accurate mistakes; Definition of an upgrade - take old bugs out, put new bugs in; All computers wait at the same speed; Computer - a device designed to speed and automate errors; Computers are not intelligent, they only think they are; My software never has bugs, it just develops random features.

Monitoring Times Mar/97 - Evidence is growing that electromagnetic fields may be linked to Alzheimer's disease. According to a South Calif U. report, you are more likely to come down with a broad variety of neurodegenerative diseases if you work in a occupation where you are exposed to EMF fields.

Amateur Radio Newsline - Ham radio operators are providing essential emergency communications in western Minnesota and the Dakotas as rising waters along the Red River threaten towns along its banks. A spring snowstorm had knocked out public utilities, communications and closed some roads.

ARRL - Ham radio is slumping in the US. Growth is at a lull and the number of operators is on a decline. Profit margins are less and many smaller operations are out of business.

AMSAT - You will not be hearing much activity from MIR. The crew has been ordered to minimum activity 'till repairs can be made. A recent fire has caused a partial failure of the lab's oxygen generating systems.

Ham Radio Online - This Web site ([www.hamradio-online.com](http://www.hamradio-online.com)) now has a classroom page to aid old and new in a variety of hobby related topics. I.e. - general, propagation, safety, etc.