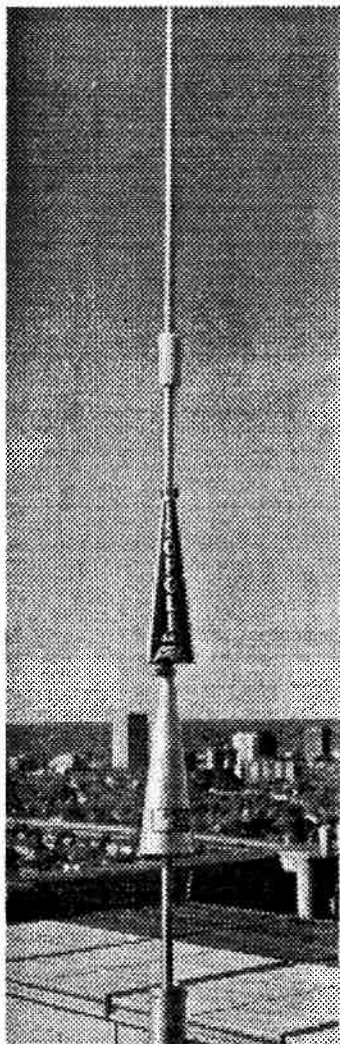


RAMBLER

VOLUME 42

NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER, 1997



Close to 30 stories above the ground, is the new recently installed 75 cm "Isopole" antenna. The new antenna, atop of 580 Booth Street, is linked to the 2 meter side of the OVMRC's VE3TWO repeater. The two antenna system will now offer users much wider coverage.

How Low Can You Go...?

Just how low can you go...in wattage output that is? This should make for interesting "bragging rights" as QRT will be the major subject of discussion at this month's regular OVMRC meeting. Transmitting with milli-watts of power and being heard on the other side of the world is not fantasy- it is fact - but come out and hear all about QRT at the November meeting.

O V M R C Christmas Icon

It has happened every Christmas morning for the past number of years and this year will be no exception! We're referring to the special Christmas morning Wise Owl Net with Net Controller Sidney, VE3VGI. The OVMRC commends Sidney who gives up precious family time every Christmas morning to act as Net Controller of this ever popular Net. The Net gives local amateurs the opportunity of testing their special Christmas gift or extending season's greetings to all their local amateur friends. The Net usually runs for an hour, from 10 to 11 AM, or as long as there are amateur wishing to access the Net for their turn on air.

Club Insurance

Negotiations and ongoing analysis have been underway for the past several months to ascertain where and with which company the OVMRC should purchase insurance to cover its equipment, etc. It has been finally determined to remain with our present insurer who is offering a more comprehensive package at \$80 a year cheaper than the neatest competitor.

One of the basic reasons the executive ordered a general review of available tenders is the result of a question asked about the availability of insurance from RAC during the presentation of the Club's budget last June.

Special Events Stations

Various local organizations are being approached to ascertain whether acceptable arrangements can be made for the OVMRC to establish a special events station during or at their respective events. Organizations being approached are the organizers of Canada Day, the Tulip Festival, boat flotilla on the canal and the steam train to Wakefield. It is hoped that both HF and VHF modes will be used. Volunteers to operate either HF or VHF are needed. Please contact Operations Chairman, Jake, VE3TQX

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

RAMBLER

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The OVMRC
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The 1997-1998 OVMRC Executive

President	Dan Reardon, VE3GUU, 836-2633
Vice-President	Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749
Treasurer	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, 728-3666
Secretary	Earl Andrews, VE3AB, 828-5955

Standing Committee Chairpersons

(First named member is Committee Chairperson)

Amateur Radio Exhibit	Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 828-3839
	Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, 839-5854
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VESUY, 737-9443
	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, 225-6785
Field Day	Tom Johnson, VA3WTJ, 225-3791
Historical	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565
Flea Market	Ken Barry, VE3KJB, 746-4823
	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV, 521-8910
Membership	Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, 747-9577
Newsletter	Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214
	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG, 833-2766
Publicity & Programs	Dan Johnston, VA3JAR, 523-8411
Technical	Phil St. Germain,
Radio Operations	Jake Guertin, VE2TQX, 721-9324
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

Practise your CW with the OVMRC Code phone -
737- 0197

Check the OVMRC Web page:

<http://www.takeone.com/public/ovmrc.htm>

Webmaster - John Rodger, VE3JR

Jrodger@takeone.com

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

Mark Your Calendar !

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, November 20th, 1997

This months meeting will feature QRT operations. QRT is the interesting practice of transmitting with the lowest possible wattage and still be heard. Thursday, November 20th meeting will be for "bragging rights" in the Club. Be there and enjoy the tall tales of short wattage transmissions.

Deadline for the next Rambler:

Friday, November 28th, 1997

OVMRC's Repeaters:

VE3TWO: 147.300MHz (+)
444.200MHz (+)

Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC is pleased to exchange newsletters with the following Amateur Radio Clubs across Canada and the U.S.A.

Algoma ARC, Sault Ste Marie, ON
Augusta ARA, Augusta, ME, USA
Border City ARA, Windsor, ON
Chatham-Kent ARC, Chatham, ON
Calgary ARC, Calgary, AB
Comox Valley ARC, Comox, BC
Halifax ARC, Halifax, NS
Heritage ARC, Coburg, ON
Kingston ARC, Kingston, ON
Lambton County ARC, Sarnia, ON
London ARC, London, ON
Metroplex ACA, New York, NY, USA
Ottawa ARC, Ottawa, ON
Pioneer ARC, Nepean, ON
RAC, Ottawa, ON
Rideau Lakes ARC, Smiths Falls, ON
Scarborough ARC, Scarborough, ON
Seaway Valley ARC, Cornwall, ON
Sudbury ARC, Sudbury, ON
Surey ARC, Surey, BC
Saskatoon ARC, Saskatoon, SK
Thousand Island ARC, Brockville, ON
West Island ARC, Dorval, PQ
Winnipeg ARC, Winnipeg, MAN

Sponsors

The OVMRC acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities by providing them with courtesy copies of the Rambler:

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON
Corel Corporation, Ottawa, ON
Information Gateway Services
TakeOne Info System

Ramblings

Comments from our President, Dan Reardon, VE3GUU

I am tempted to title this issue of Ramblings as "Reflections". It is natural to interpret this as a recount of accomplishments or good times. In this instance, however, the very opposite is the case.

Let me explain.

Last year the executive received complaints that the Club's regular meeting programs were not meeting members' wants. This was a legitimate complaint and we responded by asking the membership what topics they would like to have presented at meetings.

I was really disappointed with the number of members who took the time to respond to such a simple request. However, the suggestions we received have been included in this year's program. It was the executive who came to the Club's rescue and came up with additional suggestions to round out the program.

After having to work all of last year without a Vice President to share the work load, I pushed the Nominating Committee to come up with a full slate of officers for this year's executive. You will recall we went to the wire before we were able to complete the roster of four executive officers. Be that as it may, the position of Field Day Chairperson remained open. We have been pleading for someone to come forward and volunteer for the Chairmanship of this very

important club event - to no avail. No avail that is until just recently when a relatively new member, Tom Johnson stepped forward and volunteered for the job. And we thank you Tom for offering to take on this job !

We have also been pleading for a volunteer to help out our Secretary by taking minutes when he is not able to make it into the city to attend meetings. This could happen two or three times a year. And we are still waiting for someone to shake the cloak of indifference and stand and say, "sure I'll help out !"

We have proposed that the OVMRC sponsor what could be several fun filled special event stations. Why this should be any different than any other proposals I do not know, but again, our membership while agreeing these are good ideas sit and wait for the executive to do all the work - to organize and operate the events. Well, my friends it is not going to happen. If you enjoy special event stations you had better volunteer to organize one because it is the only way it is going to happen.

Within our membership the OVMRC is, indeed honored and fortunate to have members who are considered "experts" in their field. And yet, how many of these members have volunteered to share some of their expertise in a presentation of the Club ?

In the past two years I can only recall Ralph Cameron sharing his expertise by making a presentation to the Club.

This is my second and last term as President of the OVMRC. It is and has been a real privilege to have had such dedicated colleagues working with me on the executive. It is particularly fortunate that this is the case because our membership has resigned most of its responsibilities which means the executive must do and decide everything.

Need I say, This process is all wrong !

The OVMRC is not the executive's Club - it is your Club ! But you must understand it is your Club only if you participate, assume some responsibilities, show some initiative and come out of the "closet" and be an active member. Paying dues, coming to meetings and just sitting there without being a "part of it" is a waste of time.

We have a good Club but we can make it great if we all do our share. Remember, we are all volunteers, none of are paid except with satisfaction and experience. Join us, work with us in making the OVMRC a worthwhile experience.

Can we count on you ?

MINUTES

OVMRC Regular Meeting, October 16th, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 1935 hours by the Vice President, Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, in the absence of President Dan. VP Steve called for a volunteer to take minutes of the meeting as the secretary was relocating his residence and was unable to attend the meeting. The Treasurer, Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, volunteered to assist and take minutes.

Peter, VA3PPV, was welcomed as a guest. (It is worthy of note that Peter raised an interesting point with RAC about the internet and third party traffic - this matter is reported on page 9 of the October, 1997, issue of TCA). Andre, VE3CLW, requested assistance with the log-on procedure for packet. He also experienced difficulty in finding the location at which the junk in the trunk sale was held. It was reported that the sale was quite successful - there being good weather with about 40 vendors offering "items" for sale.

A corrected date was announced for the spring OVMRC Flea Market, contrary to the date previously announced in the Rambler. A contract has been signed and a deposit made with the Stittsville Arena to reserve it was our flea market on Saturday, May 2nd, 1998.

A stolen equipment advisory was given on equipment and a

licence stolen from the car of a visiting amateur.

Members were advised to use only the 2 metre repeater input until the 70 cm antenna is installed and levels adjusted. The antenna is now in our possession and will be installed as soon as the Technical Committee can get a work crew together.

Mailes, VE3MD, mentioned that the Longueuil, Quebec, Flea Market, a really big one, would be taking place on October 25th, at Longueuil.

Steve then turned the program on hidden antennas over to Larry, VE3WEH. Larry introduced the topic by asked the members for a definition of an antenna. Several rather amusing definitions were forthcoming. Larry then introduced Jim, VE3NVJ, who spoke of successfully using a fine wire weighted with a golf ball into a tree at a condo where he lived. Jim described the anxiety he experienced when a tree trimming contractor arrived on site. He also spoke of his experience of installing an antenna in the attic of his condo, its success and the problems it created.

Larry then introduced Jacques, VE3TSC, who showed a "bird cage" 80 metre antenna. It is known commercially as an Isotron, made by the Bilal Company in the U.S.A. It is essentially two V shaped plates separated by a coil, the whole affair being

about the size of the lower half of a chair. It only has about a 150 kHz bandwidth, but this can be moved around within the band by re-positioning small arms located on either side of the cage (parasitic elements perhaps ?).

Ernie, VE3EJJ, mentioned having recently monitored a Vancouver ham on 80 metres who was using a vertical wire weighted with a golf ball from a short horizontal pole affixed to his apartment balcony railing as an antenna.

Sources of antenna information mentioned were; W1FB's antenna notebook, the ARRL antenna book, and the internet. Baba, VE3XK, spoke briefly about baluns.

Peter, VA3PPV, indicated that he had built many "covert" antennas, and indicated he would be prepared to make a presentation on antennas at a future meeting.

Larry thanked all the participants for a very interesting and information program.

Tom, VA3WTJ, volunteered to assume the chairmanship of our Field Day event next June.

Ernie asked members to observe the honour system used for the coffee and cookies, not making a meal out of cookies and the payment of \$1.

Steve adjourned the meeting to the social hour.

A Home Brew Project...

Recycling Tin Cans

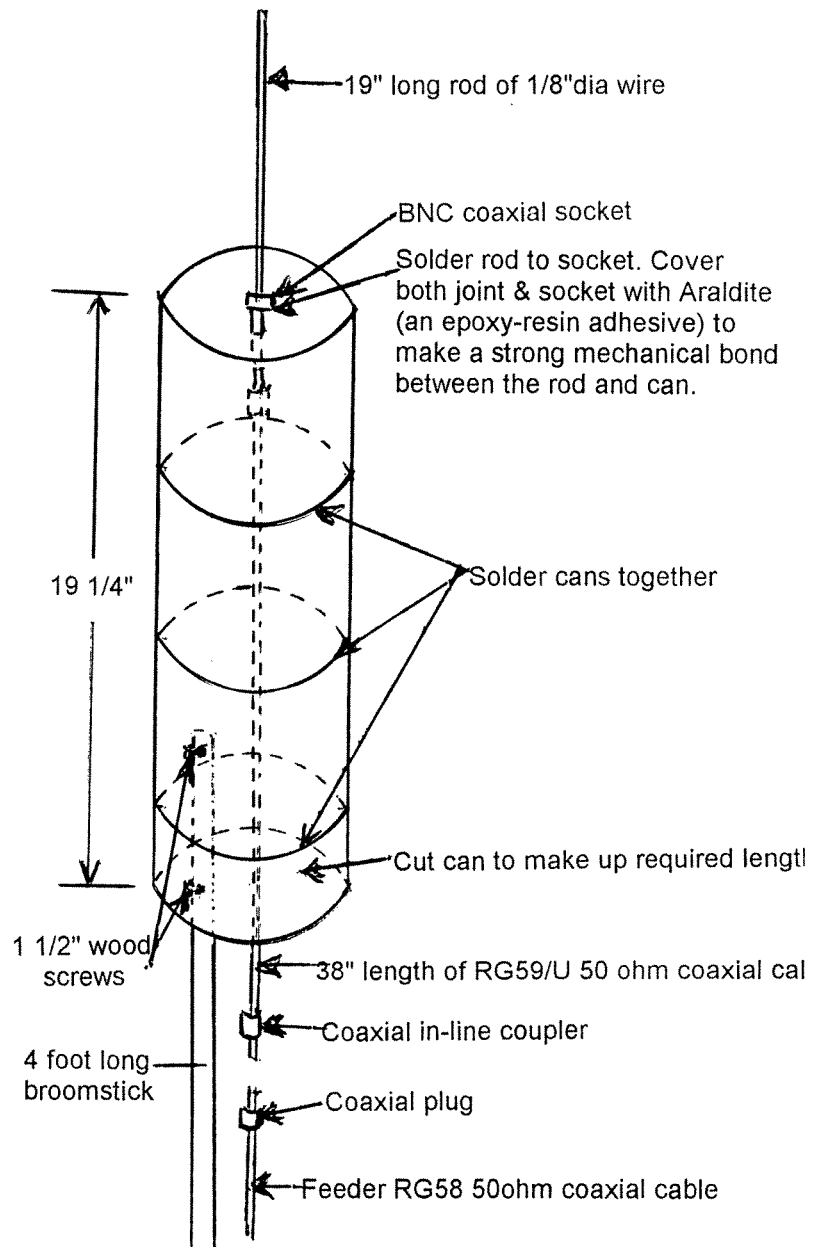
Thanks to the Comox ARC's May, 1997 Newsletter

Save those empty tin cans - any size - because they can serve a useful second purpose - become a major component of a dandy home brew 144MHz sleeve dipole antenna.

This antenna is simple to build with few parts and when installed at approximately 20 to 30 feet above ground level will give you excellent coverage with a swr reading of about 1.1 : 1 on transmission.

However, before starting this project here is a tip about soldering tin can together. The inside of tin cans used for various foods, juices, etc., are treated so they will not contaminate their contents. Be sure to use either course steel wool, sand paper or emery cloth to remove the filament on the curled ring at the ends of the cans BEFORE tinning the rims or soldering the cans together. You will find the solder adheres much easier and with less heat to the cleaned rings.

This is an excellent home brew project to either develop or perfect your soldering skill !



IT'S AN OVMRC GALA

VARIETY & SOCIAL NIGHT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 1997

The OVMRC's regular December meeting in the auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology will be our GALA Variety and Social Night. The evening will feature the internationally renowned award winning Ladies Babershop, the Capital City Cordettes as well as other local star entertainers.

Plan now to attend ... bring your wife ... bring your family ...bring your neighbors and friends... Enjoy an all star evening of entertainment.

Light refreshments will be served after the gala.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 1997

CQ - DX

CQ - DX

It is always of interest to find out what other amateurs accomplishing in their DX efforts. Have you noticed the only time amateurs acknowledge having made DX contacts is when they've been able to contact some exotic place. We hope to show those amateurs in this column that exotic contacts are fine but so are others.

Mike Parris, VA3TJP, provided the following list of contacts on 160 meters.
VA3RP 50W cw 1.816 03:00 Dec 3, 1996. This was the first 160 contact Mike ever made.
W1BCG 50W cw 1.813 22:00 Dec. 9, 1996. I heard this warbly station belting away and called him intending to tell him his signal quality was minus five. Turned out he was celebrating the 75th

anniversary transmission of 1BCG, using a replica transmitter, and that I was #4 in his special events log.

It seems that everyone knows everyone else on 160 and they're quite to say hello to newcomers. Here are more of Mike's 160 QSOs.

G3PQA 50W cw 1.825 05:15 8 Oct. 1997

DK6WL 80W cw 1.831 05:32 5 March, 1997

9A2VR 80W cw 1.831 0:5:50 20 Feb. 1997

N6TR 80W cw 1.825 05:58 7 Feb. 1997

DL1RWN 80W cw 1.826 07:00 23 Jan. 1997

AA0RS 50pep 1sb 1.847 06:10 17 Jan. 1997

SM5AQD 80W cw 1.825 05:45 4 Jan. 1997.

Mike moved off the 160 band and reports the following contacts:-

KC7THU/8 50W cw 3.7 03:30 7 Oct. 1997. The memorable thing about this contact was

that he was using a g5rv strung up in the hotel's parking lot.

W1AW 10pep 1sb 7.244 18:24 20 Sept. 1997. This was the first time I spoke with ARRL; N8YDH was the operator.

Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, has also been busy on 160. Bob sends along a few of his contacts.

SM4CAN 100W cw 03:46 8 Oct.

OH1XX 100W cw 04:23 8 Oct.
DK6WL 100W cw 04:31 8 Oct.

F5NTV 100W cw 05:26 8 Oct.
HB9ATA 100W cw 05:37 15 Oct.

GM3POI 100W cw 05:24 17 Oct.

Bob also reports a couple of 80 meter contacts

C56/DL9GFB 100W cw 01:44 22 Sept.

ON8RD 100W cw 02:26 7 Oct.

Scouts Jamboree-On-The-Air

Written by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Many local area amateurs assisted with the JOTA to celebrate 40 years of worldwide communication between scouts around the world. Many radio stations were set up at scout camps to facilitate local scouts, both boys and girls, to chat with their counterparts across Canada or other parts of the world. Six area hams provided local VHF and worldwide HF communications for about 70 Chaudiere Scouts at Camp Echon/Ossossone, Quyon, Quebec.

Operators assisting the scouts are shown in the photo to the right. Left to right they are Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, Scouter Brent Craig, VA3BSC (recently licenced and had his first contact on 146.520 with me !), Bill Balke, VE3NPG, Mike Parris, VA3TJP, Richard Bourcier, VA3BIX, and Arthur Smith, VA3BIT. Scouter Brent informed the scouts about the radio program before they visited each of the five radio station on site. In addition to radio, the program included morse code, phonetic alphabet, semaphore, secret signs, code breaking, basic amateur radio regulations, and line radio contacts. Larry operated 2m simplex and on repeater VE3STP to demonstrate local VHF, using a 5 element portable beam. Bill operated on 20m using his mobile TS-50 and vertical mag mount on the front of his car. Mike, who organized the radio event, operated on HF on 40m and 80m with his TS-440 and two dipole antennas about 40 feet high, mounted side-by-side and supported by birch poles which had been cut down by some local beavers. Richard set up his mobile 6m station but



Mike Parris catches up on paper work as an admiring group of scouts look on.

unfortunately, there was very little 6m activity. Arthur operated his mobile Icom with an autotuner into a long random wire about 35 feet high.

The scouts enjoyed many contacts with their counterparts as they learned about amateur radio first hand from each of the radio operators. It was also an opportunity for us to test our equipment, knowledge and our ability to promote amateur radio. We responded to many tough questions from a group of keen and intelligent scouts. Questions such as how much do these radios cost? How far

can we talk? Where can I get my licence? What do I have to do to get my licence? How do you know who you are talking to?

We were treated like visiting dignitaries and provided with hot meals, compliments of the Camp Director, Adrian Camfield. While we receive many thanks for being there and providing the medium, special thanks to several other amateurs who assisted in this event.

For the latest information about JOTA, check the World Organization of the Scout Movement on the Internet: <http://www.scout.org>

RAC Bulletin... Operating Privileges On 10 Meters

RAC has been receiving questions concerning the operating privileges available to amateurs having only a Basic Certificate. These questions and their answers have been added to the "Frequently Asked Questions" on the RAC web site at <http://www.rac.ca>. The answers have been verified with Industry Canada. Amateurs are reminded that while RAC endeavors to help with questions, the regulatory authority is Industry Canada, and not RAC.

Radio Amateurs should note :

- Amateur radio operators having only the Basic Certificate cannot operate on 10 meters on any mode. To transmit on 10 meters, an amateur must have both Basic and 12wpm certificates. This includes the FM repeaters between 29.5 and 29.7 MHz;
- Amateur radio operators having only the Basic Certificate can operate on a voice repeater which inputs on 2 meters and outputs on 10 meters. The 2 meter voice repeater which outputs on 10 meters would be licenced to an amateur who also would have the qualifications necessary to transmit on 10 meters, and who would be in control of the repeater.

It should be noted that the installer/operator of the 10 meter repeater plays a key role in this type of operation. In order to install and operate a repeater on 10 meters, the repeater licensee must be the holder of the Basic, 12 wpm

and Advanced certificates. The licensee is permitted to link with a repeater which is operating on other bands, i.e. 2m or 70 cm. However, the licensee of the 10 meter repeater is forbidden to retransmit radiotelephone signals on the amateur allocations below 29.5 MHz of another station that is not similarly qualified. In other words, if someone wishes to repeat another station's radiotelephone transmissions on a frequency below 29.5 MHz, the person doing the repeating has the responsibility to ensure that the operator of the originating station is similarly qualified to operate on that band. Thus, in a round about way, the regulations permit the retransmission of Basic-only signals within the generally accepted amateur 10 meter repeater sub band (29.5 to 29.7 MHz; and

- Amateur radio operators having only the Basic Certificate can be the licensee for a digital repeater on the VHF and higher bands. The Radio Regulations stipulate that only for a radiotelephone (voice) repeater must the licensee be an amateur with an Advanced Certificate. Because of the shortage of repeater frequency pairs, RAC requests that amateurs wishing to set up a repeater coordinate their requirements with their local repeater frequency coordinating council

Needle In A Haystack Sale

If you have been searching high and low for manuals for various test equipment and miscellaneous electronic devices - you may have found that "needle in the hay stack". Len Gelfand, VE3LGZ, has accumulated a wide range of these manuals and is offering them for sale at \$0.05 a page. Len also has various sizes of used nicad, all hold a charge, and is offering these cells at \$0.75 each. All revenue from the sale of these items goes to our Club's treasury. Local and out-of-town enquiries are invited. You can telephone Len at (613) 749-5101 or e-mail him at ck297@freenet.carleton.ca.

You're In For A Treat

Ken Barry, VE3KJB, is organizing the OVMRC's December gala Variety and Social Night. The OVMRC is, indeed, fortunate to have been able to arrange for an appearance of the internationally acclaimed prize winning Ladies Barbershop - the Capital City Cordettes. The Cordettes have proven to be excellent Canadian musical ambassadors having performed to sold out audiences across Canada and the U.S.A.

If you play a musical instrument, sing, dance, etc. and would like to participate in the Variety Night, contact Ken Barry.

A Look At Yesteryear

Written by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

This is the second of a series of articles which provide a review of OVMRC historical documents from the Club's archives written by the Club's Historical Chairman Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH.

VE3STP-UHF LINK

The October 28, 1982 minutes note that Russ Pastuch, VE3FSN had sent a letter of intent to Tom regarding their installation of a UHF link at the VE3STP site to link Ottawa with Toronto. Russ had discussed this with Norm VE3UE for some time and offered the BARF (Boat Anchor Radio Federation)/OVMRC system for use in the link. Russ VE3FSN, Co-President BARF, wrote in March, 1982 issue of the Rambler, BARF was an Ottawa based amateur radio club with 50 members, formed three years earlier by amateurs interested in 70 cm fm operation. They had no meetings, dues were 1 cent, had no publications but were a growing and active concern. The name of the club arose due to the type of equipment in use by the members at the time, obsolete commercial gear, full of tubes and should have been scraped long ago. BARF owned and operated a 70cm repeater on 449.1 MHZ input,

Russ VE3FSN wrote a lengthy description of the repeater in the March 1982 issue of the Rambler. It is too lengthy to reproduce here, but noteworthy to mention the repeater consisted of a Marconi DT-65 mobile radio transmitter and receiver, a controller was in place and the transmitter was loafing along at 15 watts output, with coverage over a 20-25 mile radius, which may seem meagre, compared to other repeaters in the area but one must realize that VE3TWO had been designed to be a local coverage, rag-chew repeater.

Interference with the repeater was getting worse in November 1982 and Ray VE3FN wrote a letter to the Minister of Transport. Russ would be installing the 400Mhz repeater in the spring. Jan. 1983 minutes note that President Russ would be buying new batteries for the repeater and the 70cm repeater was almost ready to go, waiting for permission from EMR to go up and install it.

No pertinent information regarding the repeater appears in the minutes until Aug 30, 1984 when it was reported that the repeater exciter was being worked on by Russ VE3FN, who would try to reactivate the repeater on Sept 4. Consideration of a 20 Amp supply to allow a boost in output power to 50 watts as well as purchasing a squirrel cage fan to cool the repeater during heavy duty

cycle (Code practice) use. The club was deeply involved with the RSO Convention at this point and no mention was made of the repeater until the Jan 26, 1985 Executive meeting. It was reported the repeater was in good condition and operating on a full 30 watts. The new power supply was almost ready for installation and establishment of a club repeater committee was discussed.

Sept. 1985, President, Bob VE3KLLK expressed concern about the sound of the repeater. Kathy VE3OWY said Russ VE3FSN had repaired the board and she would go to the site to replace it. Formation of a Repeater Group was considered again. Russ had great ideas and contributed a great deal but had not had time to keep the repeater functioning properly (does this sound familiar? Russ was also deeply involved with the OVMRC training course at this time!).

Nov. 1985, the President informed the Executive of a complaint that our repeater was causing interference to repeater VE2CSO following the move of their repeater location and this would be resolved in discussion with John Bertrand VE2DZY of the Quebec club. It was also decided to limit access to the repeater site by submitting a letter to the security personnel with the names of a few people authorized to have access.

Jan. 1986, the President, Bob VE3KLLK, mentioned the sound of the identifier on the repeater. Russ was aware of it and the President will speak with Russ later. In Feb, there was a problem with the repeater going up and down during the net. There are no minutes for March, May or June 1986 but the April minutes report that Russ VE3FSN, wanted to purchase a controller for the repeater. Russ provided a description of the added capabilities for the repeater including the possibility of an auto patch, muted tones for security and full backup. The price was \$500. The Club had the money so this matter would be brought to the membership. During this year, the Club was also quite involved with six projects at the Museum Station VE3JW (just to wet your interest, this will be covered later!)

Part three in this series will appear in next months edition of the Rambler.

POTPOURRI

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

Internet - The following sites have good info for various communication activities (SW, utility, scanning, propagation, etc.):

Popular Communications ->
www.popcomm.com, Ontario DX Association ->
www.grove.net/~odxa.

Winnipeg - A teenage ham who had sabotaged security was sentenced to 2 years probation and 100 hours of community service. He had been caught using modified radio gear to make repeated hang-up phone calls on a shopping center security frequency. About \$3000 worth of radio equipment was also seized.

Calgary - A new Web site has appeared where you can predict each satellite's position (including amateur) live. You input your position and a graphic image will appear with the info. A Java capable browser is required. Site is "liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/realtimed/jpass/jpass/html".

Internet ham radio chat - There are some new Ham Radio IRC Channels on the Internet. The channels are available for use 24 hours daily on both the IceNet and DALnet IRC networks. These are accessible worldwide via the global Internet.

AMSAT - Starting on Oct 4/97, a mini-Sputnik launched from the Mir space station, is transmitting a continuous series of beeps on 2M. During any given month, the signal will be heard in some part of the world. This mini was built by French/Russian/US university students to mark the

40th anniversary of the the 1957 Sputnik launch. This idea was to interest youth in space projects and possibly consider careers in space related fields.

Toronto - Canada's Northern Telecom and Britain's Norweb Communications announced new technology to bring the Internet into homes over electric lines at speeds 10 times faster than on telephone lines. This technology will transform the power lines to carry data. The new technology will be first in Britain, Europe and Asia - areas that could use it the most because of the high cost (\$100/mthly) of surfing the Net over conventional phone lines. North American users are charged a flat rate approx. \$20 to \$50 US a month. Demand is strong for the Net all over the world and some solutions were cable and satellite access. This plan is to deliver the Net through the electrical outlet. Since electrical systems were built long ago the new product is expected to be much cheaper to implement than the other newer technologies. Nortel notes there are technical issues to resolve before they bring the technology to North America.

West Island (Montreal) - Before the ground freezes up hard, do not forget your antenna system ground stakes. Though this is a low-tech component, this connection to the "RF ground" plays a major role in TVI/RFI suppression, in preventing "RF hot" station components and

gives you a good quality signal.

TelePARC (Ottawa) - The president's message has some info that could be applied to all of us.

"The summer has once again brought out the inconsiderate/uninformed or whatever you may wish to describe those individuals who misuse our repeaters. In particular are those who have nothing better to do with their time than to call 911. The consequences here could be disastrous if one considers that tying up the 911 lines could occur when a real emergency happens and it is required. One must wonder at the mentality of the type of person who gets their kicks out of misusing any repeater in this manner".

Pioneers - This group can boast of having one of the oldest running nets in Canada. Their Sunday night 80M net on 3740 started in 1957!

RAC - On August 9 in Vernon, B.C., a balloon experiment was launched with great success. A package consisting of a 4.5 kg styrofoam cooler encasing a portable TX/RX, repeater controller and 10 D cells for power was carried aloft by 3 weather balloons. At a climb of 300 feet/minute, stations as far away as Utah were worked. Sixty-two contacts were made, some with people from inside buildings using only 300 mw. Ottawa - The Monday night Packet Net has been discontinued VE2CRA. Enquiries should be directed to Norm.