



OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INC.

RAMBLER

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Is Morse Code A Dying Art ?

This is an edited version of an article which appeared in the Ottawa Citizen, December 20, 1997, written by Graham Hughes as well as input from "Morse To The Rescue" an article which appeared in the January, 1998, TeleParc newsletter.

British coast guard authorities have hammered one of the final nails into the Morse Code's coffin, announcing it will not be used off the British coast as of midnight New Year's Eve, 1997, after almost a century aiding seamen in trouble. The coded system had an inauspicious beginning when it failed its first test - to save 1500 lives when the Titanic sank on April 15, 1912.

The regulation international call for help, "CQD" was sent out by operators using the relatively new Marconi radio equipment, but it was more than four hours before the nearest ship could come to the aid of the sinking liner.

Morse Code's importance as a method of sending maritime distress signals followed the sinking. One result of the massive inquiry that followed the disaster was that liners were instructed to have three radio operators on board to ensure round-the-clock safety cover and adopt SOS as the international distress signal.

New technology has made SOS obsolete. The code will finally die on Feb. 1, 1999 - the date picked by the International Maritime

Organization (IMO) for maritime nations to stop using it.

The move to scrap Morse - which has saved thousands of lives at sea - originated in the 1980's when the IMO decided to phase it out. Instead, mariners will be covered by the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), which uses improved land-based and satellite technology in conjunction with improved radio systems.

All cargo ships of more than 300 tonnes and all passenger vessels on international voyages must comply with GMDSS regulations by 1999. And the new safety system will be available to vessels of all sizes, wherever they are, thanks to the miniaturization of the high-tech signaling devices.

And while marine traffic is abandoning the use of Morse Code, and the United States with its multi-billion dollar formation of communications satellites, is spending large sums of money each year teaching some 2800 members of its armed forces Morse Code as a back-up should their high technology break down, be attacked by enemies or be jammed during war.

If sophisticated high tech systems

fail, a portable, battery powered Morse transmitter would be invaluable. "We see the Morse Code as a dying art, but we refuse to let it die completely," said Major General Leo M. Childs, the U.S. Army's chief signal officer. "Newer isn't always better. Even though it's old and slow, Morse Code is still the most reliable in difficult conditions," the General said. Morse Code signals can get through because they require much less power to transmit than voice messages. In addition, even a distorted Morse signal can be interpreted, whereas a distorted voice transmission is virtually useless.

Nonetheless, the United States abandoned Morse Code watch keeping on the emergency 500kHz wavelength in 1993. Canada dropped its 500kHz service on the West Coast on June 30, 1997, although the frequency is remotely monitored by a commercial radio station in San Francisco engaged in the business of communicating with ships at sea.

"This is something that has been in the works for some time," said Jerry Peters, duty supervisor at the Maritime Communications and
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The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

RAMBLER

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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

Mark Your Calendar !

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, January 15th, 1998

The first meeting of the new year, 1998. This is going to be a rather special meeting as a rare honor is going to be given to two members for their outstanding work in amateur radio, Life Membership for Ed and Doreen Morgan in the OVMRC. It will also be video night with a video showing VE3TWO repeater and a second video of the 1997 OVMRC participation in Field Day. And please remember, the check-in desk closes at 7:25PM.

Deadline for the next Rambler:

Friday, January 23, 1998.

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
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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

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

Rambollings

Comments from our President, Dan Reardon, VE3GUU

I hope that you and your family had a great holiday season. I sincerely hope that 1998 brings you happiness, prosperity and, above all else, health!

I must congratulate Ken Barry who convened an excellent Variety Night at our December meeting. For those members who were not able to attend, you missed out on a terrific evening of great entertainment! I am amazed how Ken always manages to produce such talented entertainers every year. On behalf of the OVMRC, many thanks Ken for a delightful evening.

A reminder to all OVMRC members. The Wise Owl qualifying series of nets start this month. Details about this popular annual event can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Rambler. By the way, the founder and Head Net Controller of this net, Leo Desjardin, now has tones in his radio. However, to accommodate any amateur who does not have tones in their radio, Leo has made special arrangements to have the requirement to have tones turned off to access our repeater during

the Friday night Wise Owl Nets. I fully anticipate that this "open" net will attract record numbers of check-ins.

I would like to see as many members as possible attend our January meeting. We will be making a rather special presentation to Ed and Doreen Morgan in recognition of their many years of hard work for amateur radio in general and the OVMRC in particular. Both Ed and Doreen will be invested as Life Members of the OVMRC, a rare honor granted to a very select few.

I would like to remind everyone that we are still looking for a logging system for our special events stations. If anyone has a simple logging program we could use on a portable laptop computer it would be greatly appreciated if you contacted any member of the executive. Speaking of special events, we have two members who have offered to organize an event. I certainly thank them for volunteering to help us but I am still looking for further assistance and

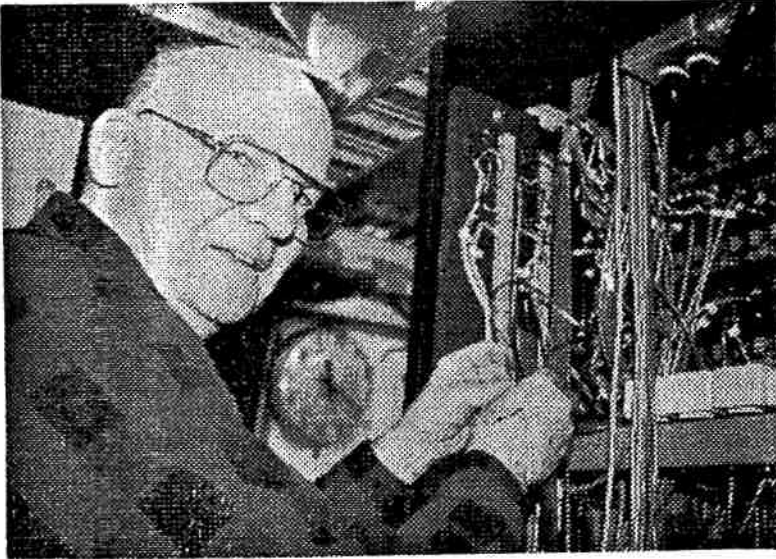
more volunteers. Remember, only those who help out will have the opportunity to operate on that day. We are planning to operate VHF - UHF - and HF if we have the required personnel.

Dan Johnston, our Program and Publicity Chairman has advised me that due to work commitments it is not possible for him to continue as Chairman of this committee. We are looking for a volunteer to undertake the chairmanship this committee for the balance of the year. The executive members help this chairman in finding speakers so that it is not as arduous a task as some may think. For the remaining months of the year, we have scheduled a technical night, home brew night, meet the new graduates from the OVMRC course, and election of officers. Volunteers, please speak to any member of the executive.

We were saddened recently to learn of the sudden passing of long time OVMRC member, Bill Carr, VE3HCW. Our condolences go to his family.

Suppressing RF At The Museum

Written by Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM



Ralph Cameron at work installing toroidal chokes in the audio system at the Museum of Science and Technology.

The Museum of Science and Technology has eighteen separate 100 watt output audio amplifiers, of which thirteen are in daily uses. The first stage of suppressing them is to isolate all output leads with common mode chokes. There is also a floating microphone lead that runs from the foyer to the audio room - some 125 feet away ! Any time personnel use the microphone while VE3JW is in operation - there is an audio calamity and danger of blowing speakers.

Seven double wound toroidal chokes were installed to effectively remove RF from the active audio channels. It may be necessary to splice in more chokes at the amplifier inputs but since this is driven from a common source a more conventional filter low pass filter can be used.

One problem of suppressing such systems is the physical distribution of the components. The audio amps reside in one seven foot rack while some of the intermediate drivers are located on an adjacent wall. Only further tests will establish how effective the present measures will be. Other potential ground loops can be broken by brute force filtering of the AC lines connected to the audio amplifiers. Hammond makes an excellent filter for this purpose and it will handle 14 amps of AC current. It's called ZAP TRAPPER and is currently available at at least one outlet locally for an introductory price of \$74. Its a good investment to keep RF out of the line and out of your equipment.

As time progresses, a summary report will be made as to effectiveness of the filtering. At HF, common mode currents predominate and eliminating them resolves the problem associated with nearby operation.

Wise Owl Qualifying Nets

It all starts Friday evening, January 23rd as the first of the eleven qualifying Wise Owl Nets begin its annual run for Class "A" and Class "B" Certificates on the Club's repeater, VE3TWO.

The Wise Owl, Leo Desjardin, VE3NVL, has provided the qualifying rules to earn a colourful certificate. Amateurs must check-in to the Wise Owl Net a minimum of ten times during the eleven week qualifying period to receive a Class "A" Certificate. For those who may be vacationing, working shifts or just unable to check-in to the net ten times, a Class "B" Certificate will be awarded to amateurs who check-in to the net a minimum of seven times during the eleven week qualifying period.

Again, the first qualifying Wise Owl Net starts Friday evening January 23rd and runs for eleven weeks to April 3rd. Join your colleagues and check-in to the Wise Owl Net and earn yourself a decorative Wise Owl Certificate. They are distinctive and a real talking piece hanging on the wall of your shack!

Morse Code

Continued from page one

wavelength in 1993. Canada dropped its 500kHz service on the West Coast on June 30, 1997, although the frequency is remotely monitored by a commercial radio station in San Francisco engaged in the business of communicating with ships at sea.

"This is something that has been in the works for some time," said Jerry Peters, duty supervisor at the Maritime Communications and Traffic Service in Vancouver, which monitors vessel traffic off Canada's West Coast. "The shipboard radio officer is a dying breed, and there is little need for Morse code any more."

However, on the East Coast, several coast guard stations still monitor the frequency and expect to do so until 1999.

Ironically, the U.S. Navy does not agree with the maritime service. The Navy considers Morse Code capability to be of critical importance, owing to atmospheric disturbances that sometime block radio voice transmissions.

Britain had planned to scrap the code in 1999, but the coast guard has instructed its 540 officers and 3,500 auxiliaries to stop scanning for SOS signals.

Mariners now use a variety of new methods to call for help. Some use Channel 16, a VHF band dedicated to mariners, or relay calls to land bases using satellites.

Some craft are equipped with Emergency Position Indicating Radio beacons which are launched by hand,

or automatically, as soon as they come into contact with water. The beacons transmit details, by satellite, of where the distressed craft is to be found. These signals, unique to a particular craft, are relayed to ground stations that then alert nearby vessels and send them to the rescue. Another device, a Search and Rescue Transponder that registers on ships' radar, helps guide rescuers to those in distress.

Sailors even use cell phones. When a trio of single-handed sailboat racers got into trouble in the frigid Southern Ocean during a round the world race a year ago, they didn't hammer out Morse Code calls for help. Satellite communications systems brought rescuers to their remote locations, near Antarctica within days.

According to British Telecom, the last recorded SOS distress signal off the British coast was made June 28, 1996, when a Russian passenger ship ran into trouble off the Scottish coast.

The code was invented in 1838 by Samuel Morse, an American portrait painter and university art instructor. Building on the electronic telegraph he developed about 1935, he installed the first telegraph line, from Baltimore to Washington, and transmitted his first message, "What hath GOD wrought;" in 1939.

Morse Code was also used to send messages and news bulletins until the 1940s, when it was replaced by the teleprinter. During the Second World War, the BBC transmitted news bulletins in "slow Morse."

Member Roster Update

Listed below are some additions/corrections to the Club's Member Roster list which was recently issued. Keep your copy of the roster up to date by making the following entries/corrections :

VE3NPD, Paul Duguay,
Home Phone (613)241-8171
e - m a i l -
pduguay@sympatico.ca

VE3ZQH, George Steeves
Home Phone (613)741-3215
Work (613) 954-4157
e-mail- gsteeves@archives.ca

VE3EMO, Dan Danielson
Home Phone (613)731-6551

VE3III - formerly VE3HEX
Gord Charland

VE2JHT, Joe Tondreau
e-mail-joseph.t@sympatico.ca

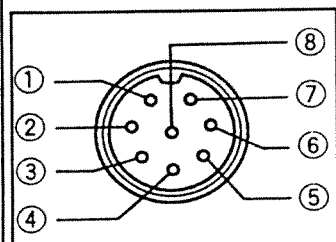
VE3ATY, Doug Carswell
Home Phone (613)829-7167

VE3IET, Gaetan Piette
e-mail - gpiette@nrca.ca

If there is any change in your listing in the Member Roster list, i.e. change of telephone number or call sign, or if you acquire an e-mail address, please be sure to notify the Membership Chairman, Tom St. Julien, VE3OFD, so that Club records, your Rambler mailing label, and the Member Roster can be corrected. Your help and cooperation in this matter would be appreciated.

Five Most Popular Connections

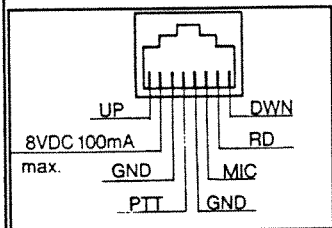
The following diagrams demonstrate different types of connections for microphones, packet data and amplifiers. These diagrams will help answer some of the most commonly asked questions received by the Kenwood Service Centre regarding connections to Kenwood radios. This information is reprinted from the September/October 1997 Kenwood Report, the company's newsletter for amateur radio clubs.



Microphone connection diagram

8 Pin Round Microphone Connection

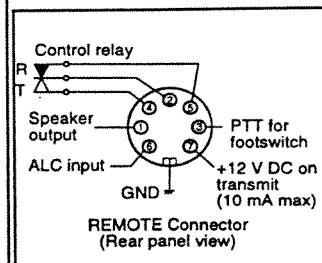
- Pin 1 Microphone
- Pin 2 Push To Talk
- Pin 3 Down
- Pin 4 Up
- Pin 5 8vdc (150ma Max)
- Pin 6 RX Audio (Some Models)
- Pin 7 Mic Ground
- Pin 8 Ground



Modular microphone plug

Modular Microphone Plug

- Pin 1 Up
- Pin 2 8vdc (100ma Max)
- Pin 3 Ground
- Pin 4 Push To Talk
- Pin 5 Ground
- Pin 6 Microphone
- Pin 7 RX Audio (Some Models)
- Pin 8 Down



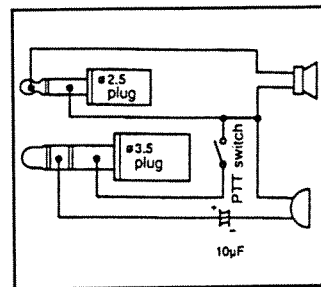
Amplifier connection (most HF radios)

Amplifier Connection (Most HF Radios)

- Pin 2 Ground (Shield)
- Pin 4 Relay
- Pin 6 ALC

Speaker Microphone Connection

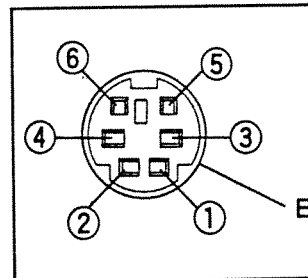
- 2.5mm Plug
 - Tip Speaker
 - Sleeve Speaker Ground & PTT
- 3.5mm Plug
 - Tip No Connection
 - Center Ring Microphone
 - Sleeve PTT



Speaker microphone connection

Data Connection

- Pin 1 Packet Data Input (Microphone)
- Pin 2 Ground (Microphone Ground)
- Pin 3 Packet Standby (Push To Talk)
- Pin 4 9600bps Rx Audio Output
- Pin 5 1200bps Rx Audio Output
- Pin 6 Squelch Control Output
- Shell Earth (GND)



Data connection

High Horizons - Volunteers Needed

Three or four volunteers are required from 9:30am until about 2:00pm on Tuesdays to assist moving members of the High Horizons in

Association which is the umbrella group for High Horizons. Members of High Horizons are from several faiths, including United, Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and others. You will receive a free lunch and a lot of comradeship. Some notable members and volunteers are June Wells, Paul Duguay, VE3NPD and his wife, Peter Hafichuk, VE3LBW and his wife Wanda, and a recent volunteer Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH.

The next gathering at MacKay United Church is on Tuesday, January 13th. If you would like to volunteer or want additional information, telephone Lila Lipscombe, 746-4267 or Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, at 747-5565.

A LOOK AT YESTERYEAR

Written by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

At the December, 1986 General Meeting, Bill Wilson gave a brief description of the results of DOC tests of field strength from his 100 watt transmitter. It was surprisingly high at 10 volts per metre on the 80 metre band. The DOC mobile transmitter produced an RF voltage of 10 volts at the AC outlets in his home. The Radio Advisory Board forwarded their report on EMI to the DOC in February and it was expected to recommend changes to the Radio Act to require manufacturers to correct susceptibility problems. Public Relations Director, Bob VE3JDB also reported there would be a special Santa Claus program for young visitors to the Museum and arrangements had been made to let them speak with Santa via 2m radio. This is the first reference to this worthy project which I promised Jerry Wells VE3CDS, while he was in hospital, that I would ensure was carried out by our club. During the January, 1987 General Meeting, Fred Green VE3IO, gave a very informative talk on electric transportation technology and the progress being made with new aluminum/air cell batteries and new designs of vehicles. Interestingly, the meeting adjourned at 2155hrs (9.55pm and you think our present meetings end late!) The February 1987 Rambler notes the Amateur Radio course was completed

February 9th and Pat Brewer VE3KJQ gave thanks to Jim VE3AHN and Brice VE3EDR for conducting the code portion of the course. "Foreign Correspondent" Dave VE3KLX, reported on various ham activities in the North Bay area. He noted Packet radio is starting to catch on in the Bay with work on linking up with Sudbury and Barrie and other places in the North. Ralph Cameron VE3BBM wrote an article, entitled AMATEUR COMPATIBILITY on the subject of radio interference with susceptible electronic appliances. Although more than 10 years old, his article is still timely, contains very good and sensible advice and is reprinted with Ralph's agreement in this edition of the Rambler.

The Rambler for April, 1987 notes the DOC might be starting a volunteer examiner program in Canada starting in June following a trial amateur exam conducted in London, Ontario. Pat Brewer VE3KJQ reported club membership had reached a record 148 members. Bill Westbrook VE3EKA was the guest speaker and he provided a very colourful demonstration of Slow Scan TV (SSTV) using video cameras and computer interfaces to allow sophisticated image processing to transmit colour pictures around the world. SSTV was developed by Cophorne MacDonald

WA2BCW, VE1BFL while an engineering student at the University of Kentucky. He solved the problem of compressing a 3Mhz TV signal to a KHz voiceband signal.

When I first started this column, I expected it would be possible to condense about 6 months of interesting high lights from the Executive Minutes and the Rambler into one page. There are just too many interesting articles that can't be skipped! We hope you are enjoying this look at our Club's past history. It would be helpful and very much appreciate if you have any comments about this column if you directed them to me by E-mail: My e-mail address is :-
larry.wilcox@takeone.com

VE3HCW - Silent Key

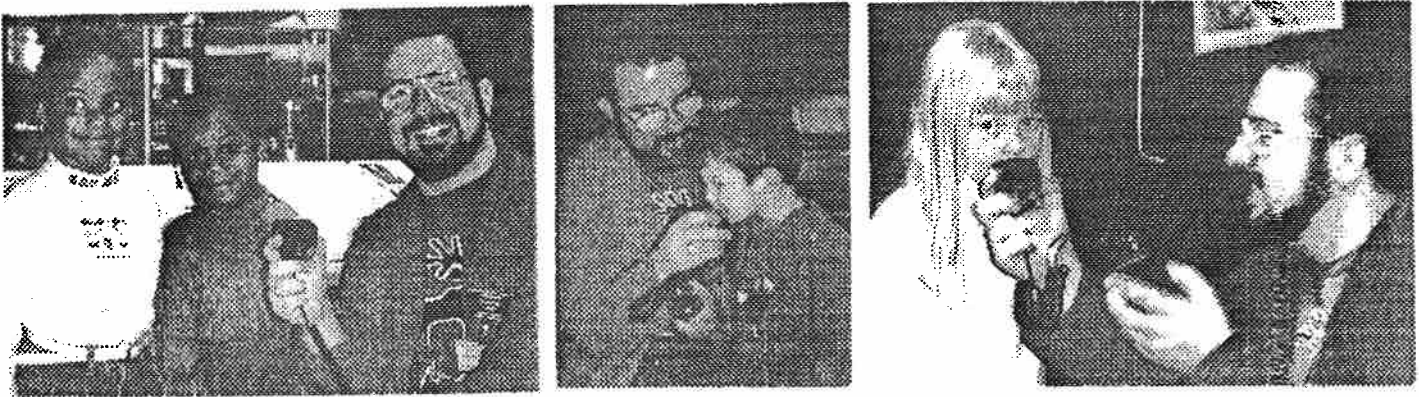
Long time and popular OVMRC member Bill Carr, VE3HCW, died suddenly at his home on Saturday, January 3rd. Bill was a WW 2 RCAF veteran, a graduate Civil Engineer and a retired department head of Technology and Trades, Algonquin College. Bill was an avid bridge player and a long standing member of the Britannia Yacht Club. Bill was buried in a family plot at Georgetown, Ontario.

Talk To Santa

The "Talk To Santa" Sunday, December 14th at the Museum of Science and Technology was a huge success as 83 youngsters told Santa what they wanted for Christmas.

Secluded and out of sight, Ho Ho Ho Don Raymond, VE3DRO, enthralled the children with who he chatted with his "down-home: North Pole conversations and sound effects. Santa's helpers, Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, Dan Johnston, VA3JAR and John Barnhard, VE3ZOV, circulated throughtout the museum searching out members of the "younger generation" who wanted to place their order for Xmas gifts with the "Jolly Ole Gent". Helper Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, monitored all conversations and prepared decorative certificates for each child verifying that they had talked with Santa Claus on amateur radio while they visited at the museum.

Pictures are worth a thousand words...



One of Santa's Helpers, Dan Johnston, is shown above, facilitating some children's talk with Santa.



All tired out after a three hour on and off conversation with 83 youngsters is the Jolly Ole Gent, himself, Don Raymond, VE3DRO.



The Talk To Santa Gang pictured above, left to right are Dan Doctor, Cindy Teevers, Larry Wilcox, Don Raymond, Jake Guertin, Mrs. Barnhard, John Barnhard and Dan Johnston.

AMATEUR COMPATIBILITY

The following article, written by Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM, appeared in the February, 1987, issue of the Rambler. While this article is over ten years old, its principles are as true today as they were in 1987.

The past year has brought to light many solveable cases of appliance electromagnetic incompatibility. While many of these cases relate to amateur transmissions, almost as many do not. Data for these statistics are difficult to find. Again, the problem does not exist if it is not discussed openly. It will not be discussed openly until reasonable options are available to assist the resolution of the problem. Amateurs are not alone. All licensed transmitter services are prone to interact with electronic appliances in the immediate area of the antenna. Amateurs as well as the General Radio Service users are more intimately placed in the environment and in fact, are often but a few feet front susceptible appliances. The closer one examines the enigma of lack of immunity and its alter ego susceptibility; the more one appreciates the frustration a newcomer to Amateur Radio must accept. Operation in an urban environment is a fact of life most of us have grown with the expansion of subdivisions and high-rises. A reality, apparent today, is the close proximity of neighbours. Real estate is expensive, housing lots are smaller, condominiums and apartments are the accommodations of a transient city workforce. The proliferation of entertainment devices is the choice of today - they're also big business, in

spite of the fact they are made in the Far East and carry Canadian labels. CSA labeling is probably one of the most stringent requirements an off shore manufacturer can meet, if he is going to guarantee the best safety. Where safety is concerned most manufacturers understand legal liability. It is difficult to rationalize that almost all electronic appliances lack any form of built in immunity. At the present time transmitter owners and owners of nonappliances have a conflict-how serious that conflict is depends on proximity. Is relief in sight? Amateurs have a legal responsibility as well as a moral one to respect the electromagnetic environment just as much as any other user who shares the spectrum. To assist in the resolution of the problem caused by lack of immunity perhaps, the time has come to reduce the maximum power permitted the Amateur Service. The notion of using less power is not an unreasonable one when the advances in communication technology are considered. Whatever happened to the Amateur credo of, "Minimum power required to maintain communication"? In this day and age of close neighbours there is no reasonable excuse to "boil the paint off his roof" with excessive power levels. We may soon find such practice is indeed detrimental to one's health. Studies are

presently being undertaken to this effect in the United States. I for one, subscribe to sensible operating practices and keeping peace with one's neighbours. Many, many Amateurs similarly accept this aspect of our hobby. As responsible Amateurs, we should be sensitive to the needs of other spectrum users and this includes neighbours. This concern should be paramount above any selfish interest high power might engender. The concern is that those not privileged to use transmitting equipment should be guaranteed safety from its effects. To expect any less is to not be a compatible Amateur. By following judicious use of the spectrum and with reasonable power levels we can expect to earn the respect of those who are attempting to resolve this electronic blight called susceptibility. The argument is often made that we need kilowatts to battle kilowatts, south of the border. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we decided collectively to put some skill back into this challenging and changing, all consuming endeavour and limit our power to the antenna to normal transceiver outputs. Think of how it would help the spectral pollution we now experience. It's time to overhaul our approach to practical problems, with practical solutions. I'm for being compatible and I hope you are too.

POTPOURRI

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

Portland FCC Newsletter - Devices that generate RFI well beyond Part 15 limits, appear to be proliferating. FCC was informed of an air purifier which generates high voltage sparks at 25-30 kHz and which then radiates every imaginable harmonic up to about 400 MHz. The FCC wrote that that particular device is obviously an intentional radiator and, as such, the manufacturer should have sought FCC approval prior to marketing the device.

FCC - The 1996 Telecom Act is finally doing good things. It was used to overturn four homeowners restrictions in various cities that are against satellite dishes. Precisely "it prohibited gov't/private restrictions that impair the ability of users to install/maintain/use over the air reception devices".

Portland Newsletter - A FCC rep is apparently under the impression that cross-modulation and other products of a transmitter site are solely the fault of the transmitting stations. When asked about the use of such remedies as circulators, band-pass filters and RF chokes, she reportedly paused a bit and continued to argue that transmitters are putting out way too much power and interfering with everything.

ARRL - QEX, the ARRL Forum for Communications Experimenters, has become a

bi-monthly and expanded in size to compensate for the new publication schedule. The QEX editor says that the issues will be 48 to 64 pages depending on available material.

Monitoring Times Dec 97 - Seems Uniden and Radio Shack have discontinued the sale of scanner service manuals/schematics at the request of the FCC. The reasoning is that keeping this technical data from the public will decrease the advance of scanner cellular frequency restoration.

Amateur Radio Newsline - The number of FCC amateur radio examinations has dropped dramatically. A total decline of 2.7 percent has occurred in the past twelve months. The majority of No-Code Technicians are not bothering to learn the Morse code and are not upgrading.

Via press release - The special event call sign 4G50N has been issued to the Amateur Communications and Emergency Service Club of Naga City, Philippines. This in use from January 1st to March 31st, to celebrate Naga City's 50th charter anniversary.

ARRL - World reports appear to confirm that the Sputnik mini-satellite launched in mid-October has stopped transmitting. The beacon signal from the working model of the original Sputnik 1 satellite was last monitored on December 29th.

"Buck" Rogers Sr, K4ABT - The Southeastern Emergency Digital Association Network have put together an excellent collection of information, including construction articles, on all aspects of packet radio communications at www.packetradio.com.

Space News - MIREX president Dr. Dave Larsen, N6CO, reports that the Mir crossband frequency experiment has been abandoned because of problems with the amateur radio antenna on Mir. The crossband test was to have started on December 1, 1997 and last three months.

FCC - K3OQR of DeBary, Florida has been ordered to pay a \$500 fine. Irwin had failed to identify his station and had caused willful and repeated interference while operating under the name of "Raincoat Charlie" for several months during 1992-1993 on the 20-meter frequency of 14.313 MHz.

W5YI - The ARRL has asked the FCC to strengthen PRB-1. Asked is that an antenna height of 60-70 feet be declared as "reasonable" accommodation for amateurs and that burdensome conditions for land use be removed. Made clear is that a municipality must make a reasonable accommodation for amateur communications even if it has denied a permit to an amateur.