



OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INC.

# RAMBLER

VOLUME 42

NUMBER 7

FEBRUARY, 1998

## Sharing Capabilities

The 1998 Ice Storm will be recorded as the most destructive to ever hit Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. The weight of the accumulated ice on hydro lines buckled poles and toppled steel towers literally destroying complete hydro transmission and feeder lines causing endless disruptions to hydro service to both domestic and commercial customers.

Closer to home, the ice storm effected local amateurs operators by toppling and/or bending towers and ripping down wire antennas. The damage was devastating for a number of amateurs who, because of age or physical disability or other reasons, are not able to climb towers or do the work necessary to install/repair their antennas.

In keeping with the spirit of amateur radio of helping fellow amateurs who require assistance, the OVMRC executive would like to form work groups of amateurs who are willing and able to help their fellow amateurs whose outdoor antennas suffered damage during the ice storm.

Needless to point out, any costs associated with repairs or replacement of antennas, clamps, rope, etc. must be bourne by the home owner and not the OVMRC or any member of the work group. Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to contact Jake, VE2TQX.

## A New Vertical Antenna For VE3JW

The ice storm took its toll at the Museum of Science and Technology in general, and VE3JW in particular. The R7 vertical antenna on the rook of the museum was buckled by the weight of ice accumulation. As a result Doug Carswell, Chairman of demonstration station, VE3JW, has been busily engaged researching available data and the experience of other amateurs to determine which type of antenna would be the best replacement for the R7.

Doug is also exploring the possibility of financial assistance to help pay for the new antenna, i.e. the Museum, our insurance, etc.

A major problem, explains Ernie Jury, the Club's Treasurer, is that our insurance policy has a "deductible" clause which could result in our having to pay the first \$500. Regardless, our Bylaws state that any expenditure over \$100 which is not budgeted must be approved prior to commitment by the Club's membership at a regular meeting. Doug has assured the executive that he seek the memberships' approval before he commits any funds for a new antenna.

## Planning Ahead

While the calendar is set at February, OVMRC members are invited to start thinking about Club events upcoming in the next few months.

### MARCH

Our March meeting is "Home Brew" Night. This is a fun event at which members can demonstrate their ingenuity in building amateur radio related items. Get busy and build those "thing-am-jings" and "gizmos" and be ready to compete for valuable prizes next month.

### MAY

The OVMRC Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Stittsville Arena. A number of tables have already been reserved by both commercial and private vendors. Better reserve your table soon by contacting Ken Barry. Remember, too, this year's flea market will feature the auction of several valuable items.

### JUNE

June is a big month for the OVMRC. The membership will be asked to nominate and elect a new executive for 1998-1999.

June will also see the awarding of the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award. Start thinking now of those amateurs deserving of nomination.. Also on tap for June, is Field Day. The Club is looking for a volunteer to accept the Chairmanship of this event.

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

# RAMBLER

The Rambler is published monthly by:

The OVMRC  
P.O. Box 5530, Station F  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada,  
K2C 3M1

*Opinions expressed in the Rambler are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC Inc., its officers or its members. Permission is granted to republish the contents in whole or in part, providing the source is acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited.*

## 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	Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, 829-7167
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VESUY, 737-9443 Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, 225-6785
Field Day	Open
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	Open
Technical	Phil St. Germain,
Radio Operations	Jake Guertin, VE2TQX, 721-9323
Novice	Joe Donnelly, VA3JJD, 488-3299

## OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron	VE3BBM
Doug Carswell	VE3ATY
Gerry King	VE3GK
Doreen Morgan	VE3CGO
Ed Morgan	VE3GX
Fred Noble	VE3BAJ
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](mailto:jrodger@takeone.com)

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

## Mark Your Calendar !

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

The OVMRC's February meeting will highlight "technical" matters. Bob Shaw will be presenting a feature on Propagation as well as a presentation of the "Evolution of Transceivers" Topping off the program will be a video presentation of the Club's repeater, VE3TWO. It shapes up as an interesting and informative meeting so plan on being there !

Deadline for the next Rambler:

Friday, February 27, 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  
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

# Rambollings

## Comments from our President, Dan Reardon, VE3GUU

Well, here we are into the second week of February, so let's keep our spirits up - spring is not too far off. I'm sure many of us will never forget this winter's mighty ice storm. Many people have had to do without a lot of things

we take for granted. This storm, I'm sure, has made us aware of how vulnerable we are to electricity. There, no doubt, will be many families who will prepare in case there is another such disaster.

I was really impressed of how many of our club members pitched in and helped the "Cumberland Emergency Operation ". This is one of the reasons I have mentioned many times at our meetings why our club should invest in some equipment and be prepared for such emergencies. Are we or are we not a Mobile Club ??? Or are we a club that just wants to chit chat ??? We have amongst our membership many qualified persons who could very easily step forward and help ! Maybe it's time?

As most of you are aware we lost all of our antennas at the museum, except the 20 meter antenna. I will be discussing this at our next meeting.

The next area I would like to discuss is antennas. Many of our club members need help in the repair or replacement of lost or damage antennas due to the severity of the ice storm. I would like to see one of our members step forward and volunteer to look after a work crew to help our club members who cannot climb towers or need help in repairing their antenna.

At our upcoming meeting, February 19th, for those of you who require help with their antennas, please approach anyone on the executive or our Vice President, Steve, VE3RUU, who will record your name and your requirements. We will then have a work party do what they can to assist you.

For those of you who are not sure what to do on Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and 22, you're invited to drop in at the museum (VE3JW) and help out and encourage the Girl Guides. It's the GOTTA weekend and it's fun for both Girl Guides and Amateur Radio Operators.(10am to 4pm). We are looking for a volunteer to look after Field Day. Tom Johnson who had volunteered to look

after Field Day was transferred to Winnipeg last month. As a result, we are looking for a replacement and if we do not have a volunteer to coordinate this event we will not have Field Day. It would be very disappointing to miss out on such a major event.

I would also like to remind you that we will be having a very special event at this meeting. The OVMRC will be presenting Ed & Doreen Morgan with life time membership in the club. Both these people have not only given many hours to the club but have devoted considerable energy in promoting amateur radio. Be sure to attend this meeting for this special event.

Rather than wait 'till the meeting, I thought I'd remind you that next month is home brew night.>MARCH < What interesting projects have you made ?? Who is going to be the most creative. Remember BABA is back from Florida VE3KX, and we can really on him to bring forth a few of his gems. As well, prizes will be awarded for projects judged to be the best !

Looking forward to see you all at this February's meeting.

## Ice Storm '98

# Quebec Hams Rush To Action

Written by Richard Desaulniers, VE2DX, Assistant Coordinator, Quebec Emergency Net

As you heard, at one point more than 3 million people were without power and communication during the worst ice storm in modern history. Here is some information on what Quebec amateur radio operators did during the storm. The ice storms (all 3 of them) that hit the Northern US, Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec on January 6-9 sent Quebec's emergency Amateur Radio Net into high gear! The VE2RUG Emergency Amateur Radio Communication Center, located at the Securite Civile headquarters in Montreal, was asked on January 6th at 1540 hours to get on the air. By 1700 hours the complete network was operational and hundreds of hams in Region 6 were ready. The area covered was from St-Hyacinthe to Mont Laurier which included Montreal. This area includes 70% of the population of the province. VE2RUG went into full time 24 hour operation on Wednesday January 7 and by the 10th we were running 12 nets on 12 repeaters, multiple simplex backup and also 80M.

During the storms we lost 12 repeaters, 4 of which were fixed by hams DURING the storms! Helicopters brought fuel to one site. Hiking teams pulled recharged batteries, an electrician and a ham RF tech to another. A snow blower had to be used on a third to bring a generator to a site and keep it going! A technical group (called Dream Team - VE2BMQ, VE2VK and VE2DJE) was asked to get repeaters on the air with; no power, no radio, no antennas, no filters and to do it so it could be set up without it being dangerous for the installer!

Within 20 minutes the answer came back! Requirements: two cars, which could use a road still accessible on a mountainside in the needed direction, and 2 dual-band radios. Procedure: park the 2 cars 100 feet from one another, set the first radio to listen on the input frequency of a known down repeater in VHF, do cross band repeat to relay on a UHF frequency. Set the second car to listen on that UHF frequency and cross-band repeat on the output VHF frequency of the downed repeater! My response was WOW!

The VE2RUG net was up for 13 days, 2 hours, and 20 minutes! Over 700 hams used the frequency and, in the largest part, 250 hams were on at one time! This from about 13 different clubs in and around Montreal. Hams from as far as Calgary and Windsor and the USA called to offer their help. Both English and French speaking hams were also involved. A message relay net

with over 100 hams was started called the "Hydro Wireless Net (joke is the power company here is called Hydro Quebec!).

As of January 20th at 18:20 hours most of the operations have stopped. In short - this was what I would qualify as an incredible effort which amateur radio in general and Quebec Amateurs in particular can be rightfully proud !

## RAC Wants Your Ideas

Last September, the IARU set up an Amateur Radio Outlook Committee to review the current and future state of the art in the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services in the light of the changing technology and the Internet; to focus on technology, techniques and future developments, and to make general recommendations as to the future growth and development of Amateur Radio. The committee has approached all member societies of the IARU around the world seeking input to the study. In response to the request from the IARU, RAC is preparing a paper on what we Canadian amateur think about: - changes in global telecommunications technology including; the Internet, APRS, digital communications and spread spectrum, and space communications, in the context of ever increasing world wide demand for access to the radio frequency spectrum.

RAC will collect and organize all ideas and comments submitted and send them to the International Amateur Radio Union on or before May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1998.

Please send your thoughts, comments and suggestions to RAC headquarters via e-mail at - rachq@rac.ca or via regular mail to;

AROC  
Radio Amateurs of Canada  
720 Belfast Road,  
Suite 217  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1G 0Z5

## Part 5

# A LOOK AT YESTERYEAR

Written by Larry, VE3WEH

The May 1987 Rambler notes you could see a vintage 1952 home built CW rig with an 807 in the final at the next general meeting. A volunteer publishing committee consisting of the Editor, Jerry VE3CDS, Doug VE3ATY, Clare VE3PDT, Jim Johnson, Leo VE3NVL, Chuck VE3PDK, Bob Herber VE3PUE (Neil's late Dad), and Fred VE3BAJ, was organized to assist with sharing the work load. The Rambler was being printed on the club's own printer and total run time was about 4.5 hours, due to having to shut down to allow the printer to cool off for a couple of hours!

For those familiar with the Jack Ravenscroft VE3SR case, the Rambler printed the exact wording received from the Solicitors in an offer from the Plaintiffs to settle the case. Jack was the Defendant and the offer to settle was so restrictive that he could not accept. Some of the conditions required: transmission at a reduced wattage, to be determined by DOC to ensure the 10% of "splash back" of power did not cause interference; his beam could only be pointed within an azimuth range of 260 deg. to 60 deg.

East to North and the beam would have to be left pointing 260 degrees East to North after each and every use; his small vertical aerial would have to be dismantled entirely and no other aerial or equipment could be installed, relocated or expanded upon; and he would have to

reimburse out of pocket and legal expenses incurred by the Plaintiffs in settling this matter. As an alternative to the foregoing, the Plaintiffs proposed to sell their home provided that Jack paid the sum of \$30,000, two weeks prior to closing date, for out-of-pocket expenses and legal fees and to off-set any loss incurred as a result of the effect of Jack's operation on the sale value of their home.

I checked with Ralph Cameron regarding the final outcome of this case. He informed me Jack was charged with being a nuisance so the case was tried as a Civil case. Jack was found to be a cause of nuisance and was fined \$7000.

One of the other conditions of the judgment against Jack was that he would have a permanent injunction against transmitting unless all the Plaintiff's appliances were suppressed. It was at this point that Ralph Cameron and John Simpson had permission from the Court to do this work. For about \$50 worth of suppression devices, all the susceptible appliances were suppressed and Jack was then able to transmit. In contrast, the total cost of legal fees and the fine, came to \$80,000. Although many factors came into play in this case, the question of Federal jurisdiction over an amateur's station and the question of who was responsible for RF immunity of the plaintiff's susceptible electronic equipment, were not and could not be considered by

the court. The old Radio Act did cover cases of interference but only to "Radio Apparatus" which was defined under the Act as being radio receiving or transmitting equipment, but any other home appliances were not covered by the Act and so could not be considered.

The May 1987 issue also contains a note about the City of Cote St-Luc which passed a by-law to allow 80 foot high Amateur Radio towers with a 5 foot setback to the perimeter of a beam antenna. And a draft copy of the DOC Discussion Paper, "Jurisdictional Issues in the Regulation of Antenna Structures" suggested that provinces and municipalities may be able to regulate the aesthetic and safety aspects of antenna structures as long as such regulations do not "sterilize" radio communications which is a federally-regulated undertaking. The CRRL sent a letter of concern regarding the matter to the Minister of Communications.

We end the year with the June 1987 Rambler which notes at the May meeting Technical Director Alan VE3LNY reported one of the clubs HW101's was sold for \$250 and he showed off the new TNC, MFJ model 1274 which was purchased for \$240 for use at VE3JW with the Apple computer. Membership Chairman Pat VE3KJQ attended the meeting of the  
Continued on next page

# Origin of the Term "Ham"

*There are a number of explanations of the origin of the term "ham". Here is one explanation from across the Atlantic from the January, 1998 issue of "RadCom", the magazine of RSGB - the Radio Society of Great Britain.*

**You can choose whether or not to believe this historical account**

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "hams" ? The word "ham" as applied to 1908 was the station call of the first amateur wireless station operated by some operators of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Poogie Murray. At first they called their station "Hyman-Almy-Murray". Tapping out such a long name in Morse code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HYALMU", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1910 some confusion resulted between signals from the amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named Hyalmo. They decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station call became "HAM". In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The

resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911 Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard University. His instructor insisted that a copy of his thesis be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the licence fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the Wireless Regulation Bill and the little station "HAM" became the symbol for all of the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. The bill finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "poor little station HAM". That is how it all started.

You will find the whole story in the U.S. Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time in radio, an amateur is a "HAM".

# Yesteryear

Continued previous page

Royal Astronomical Society in Toronto and showed photos of the recently discovered Supernova. Using the observatory at Las Campanas in Northern Chile, the Supernova was discovered by Ian Shelton. Guest speaker Wayne Getchell VE3CZ0 presented a very informative and well illustrated talk on the various aspects of fast scan television. He noted the standards for amateur fast scan TV are the same as for commercial TV.

Computer Tips for C-64 by Bob VE3KLC were included in June issue, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual OVMRC Amateur Radio Course was announced (the budget published in May shows revenue from the course as \$50), a WEATHER ALERT from the Windsor Amateur Radio Club Groundwaves gave Safety Precautions including tips on how to avoid being struck by Lightning. We hope you are enjoying this column and would appreciate comments directed to Larry by E-mail: [larry.wilcox@takeone.com](mailto:larry.wilcox@takeone.com)

# Correction

The Rambler erroneously reported last month that under special arrangements RAC was handling our QSL cards. RAC's Outgoing QSL Bureau handles the cards for any club station as a courtesy, provided that the club is affiliated with RAC. We apologize for any misunderstanding.

# VE3JW

## News

Written by  
Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

The sudden passing of Jerry Wells from our daily lives has been deeply felt by many of us. My personal acquaintance with Jerry started in the sixties and, for a number of years, he was my immediate boss while we were both employed at Leigh Instruments. Quite frankly, you couldn't ask for a better man to work for. He had the intuitive sense of what was right and encouraged me to do my work with little interference. In the last few months of his life Jerry asked me to assume responsibility for JW at the end of his term as Chairman of VE3JW. Little did we realize how soon that transition would take place. Hence, I have arrived at a job not having a full understanding of its requirements and ask that you bear with me as we work our way through the list of things that require attention.

During the last several weeks I have been picking up the threads of JW hoping that it continues to run smoothly while at the same time looking after a number of technical issues. Fortunately, I have the support of a number of well informed people and we have been chipping away at the chores.

As some will know, operation of JW resulted in RFI with the museum's PA system and its Asdic sound generator near the two periscopes. It appears that in all cases the RFI problems were generated as a result of using the R7 vertical.

With respect to the RFI, Ralph Cameron built and installed suitable filters (about 14 in total) for the output side of the PA system, as reported in the previous edition of the Rambler. Other RFI work remains to be done and Ralph has kindly consented to attack these problems when JW becomes fully operational on the 40 and 80 metre bands.

Further, we do not have effective antennas for the lower HF bands (namely 40, 80 and 160 metres). Jerry wanted to move the 80 metre dipole and our R7 vertical in the hope of alleviating the RFI. Hence, a fair amount of effort by a number of people was expended in trying to put 80 and 40 metre horizontal dipoles on the roof.

For several weeks prior to the ice storm of '98, a number of people worked on our behalf getting things into shape at JW. Richard Hagemeyer and Rick Furniss rerouted the coaxial cables to enable us to relocate the R7 vertical and horizontal dipole antennas. Rick came out with Ernie Jury and myself on Mondays, while the museum was closed to the public, to do a number of tasks.

Rick moved a capacitor, C2, from its location in the rotor controller to the cable tray at a point adjacent to the beam tower. This was done to help resolve the sluggish behavior of the beam rotor that manifested itself during winter months. Rick suggested that we do this in order to determine if moving the capacitor would be sufficient to resolve the problem. This is one of those "sore thumb" faults that is not noticed when it has gone away. So I would ask those that use the beam to advise me if it is still sluggish.

Dan Reardon kindly put together the 2-band HF dipole for us to use and he and Larry Wilcox subsequently installed it on the roof. Because of the metal roof, it was necessary to re-tune the antennas which Ernie Jury, Rick Furniss and I did on two separate Mondays. Unfortunately, the nearness of the metal roof resulted in a very selective antenna system. (Interestingly, someone by the name of Maxwell looked at this problem around 1885 and drew the same conclusion; i.e. an E-field can't exist parallel to the surface of perfect conductor.)

Because of the high cost of the coax used at the museum (60 cents a foot - and we don't have short cable runs), Jerry felt that it would be appropriate to install a remotely controlled coax switch on the roof. This switch was to be used to select either the vertical or the horizontal dipoles at their new locations on the roof.

A number of players were involved in this exercise, Richard Hagemeyer and Rick Furniss ran the control line out to the antenna site on the roof. Jake Guertin provided the coax switch. Ernie Jury built a 24-volt supply used to power the switch and made a suitable mount for it. Rick and Ernie installed the power supply and switch. When we left the museum, the new switch was performing quite well.

Unfortunately, the ice storm visited the museum and broke one of the insulators used to hold the dipoles in place and snapped the R7 vertical. This has resulted in a hiatus with respect to 40, 80 and 160 metre band operation. Hence Continued on next page



## VE3JW News

over the next several weeks we have to restore our 40 and 80 metre operating capability and look to solving our 160 metre problems.

Prior to the ice storm, JW's performance on the lower HF bands was marginal and I had asked Brice Wightman to examine the installation. Brice recommended that we consider an alternative site for the dipoles or take advantage of the R7 and install a conversion kit that would allow its use on the 80 metre band. Unfortunately, an R7 conversion kit does not exist and the manufacturer has discontinued the R7 product line.

After Brice's evaluation and the ice storm of '98, we are looking to add 80 metre capability to the vertical antenna and relocate the dipoles off the roof of the museum. This process has only started and as a consequence JW's capabilities will remain somewhat lacking in the lower HF bands for the time being. I will be busy over the next several weeks costing out these solutions. Hence I ask you to bear with us for the next few weeks.

To all those who have assisted with the work at JW, thank you very much.

For anyone wishing to operate JW, you must first receive approval as a Volunteer from the museum. If you are interested in operating JW please give me a call, Doug Carswell, 829-7167.

## Ice Storm Aftermath

Written By Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

I support VE3KET, Michael Baker who is a sightless amateur. In checking his installation last week after the ice storm I found that most of his G5RV antenna was laying on the roof embedded in ice and other part was frozen in the snow in Michael's back yard. One rope which was intended to hold the mid part of the antenna off the roof had broken but it is easily replaced. Since there was damage to the trees in the yard I decided to cut the rope support farthest from the house so things would not get tangled by workmen cutting limbs, etc. In an effort to save what was left of the antenna and place it out of harms way until all the dead limbs were removed, I coiled up over half of the antenna and placed it over the outdoor water tap at the side of the house. Later that evening I telephoned Michael to tell him what I had done and to tell him to refrain from transmitting for a couple of weeks. Michael replied that he had checked into the Quebec Radio Net that evening before I had called and no one of the Net said anything about his having a weak signal!

All of which leads me to the question - what is half a half wave dipole?

Editor's Note:

All kidding aside, the sharing of one's expertise and capabilities with a fellow amateur who lacks same is indeed the spirit upon which amateur radio is built and makes it such a worthwhile hobby.

## Gearing To Tap Out Final Morse Signal

Reprint from Ottawa Citizen

Not too long after Marconi was successful in receiving the first transatlantic Morse Code transmission, Canada entered the shore-based side of marine communications when the government of the day contracted the Marconi company to build and operate a network of radio stations in the east coast.

In one guise or another that Canadian coast radio station system, now administered by the marine communications and traffic services directorate of the Canadian Coast Guard, will have been in operation for nearly 100 years when they send their final Morse code signal, expected sometime early in 1999.

However, very little of the history of the Canadian marine radio system has been recorded.

In an attempt to remedy this, they have been employing a professional writing student to compile a history of marine radio in Canada.

It is hoped that the book, "Come Quick Danger," the CDQ sent by the Titanic, will be published within the next several months.

Interestingly, the original distress signal, CDQ, will be much better understood as the popularity of the movie, "The Titanic" attracts record numbers of people to theatres to see the most expensive movie ever made.



## Letter to the Editor:

I have just finished reading the Rambler immediately after receiving it and I must write to express how impressed I am with the December issue! The overall quality of this issue is outstanding to say the least! Speaking of the past year's issues, without a doubt, your writing and editorial abilities are outstanding. I congratulate you Dan for a job well done! A job you have done with little expectations of praise, except for the quiet inner feeling and knowledge you have that you are doing something very worthwhile. It seems we are all exposed to so much grief and bad news these days that we forget to express the positive side of our lives and to compliment each other for a job well done, either in writing or on the air. As we all know, compliments go a long way, especially in a volunteer organization. We are amateurs because we love to talk and communicate in our own way. However, sometimes we are too quick to criticize what others say or do and sometimes, we later regret our impulsive actions. In this day of instant personal gratification, it seems our need for attention and instant action is paramount and takes the place of calm patience, confidence and quiet perseverance. The media seems to be full of negatives. What with all the violence, degradation and bad news on TV and in the newspapers, amateur radio offers us an alternative. The Rambler is usually full of "good news", hope, and positive thoughts! For instance, the December issue

"Eulogy for Jerry Wells", dedication of the "Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award" to his memory, the proposed Life Memberships to Doreen and Ed Morgan founding members of our club, are all positive notes. In spite of the recent unilateral Industry Canada termination of the delegation of administration of the licencing function to Radio Amateur Canada, the efforts of many voluntary members of RAC continue to represent all Canadian amateurs' interests. You may ask what can I do that is positive. If nothing else, this coming year you should become a member of RAC. It costs just 11 cents a day to give them financial support and you get the very informative Canadian Amateur Magazine! RAC represents YOUR interests at the National and International level and is fighting to preserve YOUR individual access and use of the existing frequencies allocated to our amateur radio community. I can't help but think that Jerry Wells would want all of us to be positive, to look at the best side of life, to encourage our newly licenced amateurs by our actions, to continue with confidence in spite of the adversity and to be as positive about the future as he was. Let us retain a positive outlook on amateur radio and in our own lives in this New Year by helping each other as friends, and to promote, use, and retain amateur radio as a service to our community, ourselves and as a hobby. Congratulations to you Dan and keep up the good work! 73 de Larry VE3WEH

## For Sale

If you have picked up some old test equipment or other electronic devices but lack a manual for it, read on. Len Gelfand, VE3LGZ, is offering for sale manuals for a wide variety of test equipment and miscellaneous electronic devices for \$0.05 per page. Len also has available a wide variety of used nicads, all guaranteed to hold a charge, at \$0.75 each. All revenue from the sale of these items goes to our Club's treasury. For more information or to order manuals or nicads, telephone Len at (613) 749-5101, or e-mail him at ck297#freenet.carleton.ca.

## Add To Your Address Book

For those of you who have been wondering how Wil Warren is getting along in his new environment in California, a recent e-mail from Wil indicates he is really enjoying his new home. Wil has applied for and received his U.S. call sign, KF6OWQ. He will be taking his 20 wpm code test as well as three more technical tests for his Extra Class ticket. If you would like to "chat" with Wil his e-mail address is wwarren@ibm.net

# POTPOURRI

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

AMSAT - Mir's attitude computer had a temporary shut-down and thus, the crew turned off the Amateur Radio station for a few days. It is not known when the crew plans turning on the 70cm repeater (up 435.750, down 437.950, CTCSS 141.3). MIREX has an Internet site ([www.ik1sld.org/mirex](http://www.ik1sld.org/mirex)) containing information on Mir amateur radio experiments.

ARRL (WRC-97) - Two issues failed to make the list for consideration at WRC-99. One was the 40M band changes and the other was regulations re Morse code. These were put back to WRC-2001. The LEOS also failed to get support for new frequencies.

Ottawa ARC - AMSAT reports that ham equipment for the International Space Station will be certified this June. ISS crews will have a station in their service module with gear to be delivered on STS-96. In 2002, microsat/repeater gear will be put aboard to further expand ham capabilities.

Ottawa Pioneers - TAPR is doing work on a 902-928 MHz data transceiver, capable of mobile use at hundred of kilobits/sec, with an Ethernet connection to the user's computer. This will give amateurs faster speeds on wireless links.

Calgary Key Klix - The Royal Yacht Britannia sent its last message on Dec 6/97. It was also part of a 100 year

celebration since Marconi had set up a wireless station on the Isle of Wight. The plan was to contact aircraft, ships and amateurs all on the same frequency. Special permission was given to hams since they are not allowed to transmit on air, marine or defense bands.

Hamradio Online - Rebecca Rich, KB0VVT recently earned her Extra Class amateur license. The extraordinary part is that she is only 8 years old! Recently someone stole her FT-50R handheld. When the Yeasu Company heard about it they donated a brand new FT-50R to the girl as a replacement.

AMSAT - Phase 3D leader and AMSAT-DL President Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, met with European Space Agency officials to "express a strong desire" for a Phase 3D launch aboard Ariane 503, sometime in May. Phase 3D is the amateur satellite that has been delayed being put into orbit due to various technical and launch difficulties.

Internet - Tragic news from South Korea is that all hands aboard a research raft carrying ham radio station HL0JQT/mm were lost January 24 in heavy seas off the coast of Japan. Bodies of three of the crew members have been recovered, but a fourth was presumed drowned in the frigid waters. The 23-foot research raft, which had a sail but no engine, was attempting a voyage from Vladivostok,

Russia, to Pusan, South Korea.

Dec/97 '73 - Elkhart Journal and Courier had a story about a local repeater being jammed by beach balls. Seems that a creative ham was somehow insulted by the local repeater group. He was irritated enough to start building small transmitters, putting them in beach balls and leaving them on the shore of a river.

Ronald Ross KE6JAB - He reports that his trip to the Antarctic with a portable satellite station was a huge success. Ronald's station (at 80S/81W) consisted of 2 eggbeaters on 7-foot bamboo poles 20 feet apart, on each side of their tent, a 70 cm SSB preamp, an IC-821, a KPC9612 TNC and a laptop. KE6JAB sent 70 messages of which 16 were JPEG images, using initially UO-22 and then KO-25. These messages and images were posted on his web site, which got over 700 hits during the operating period. Ronald states that "The station generated a lot of interest amongst other people at the base camp. They were amazed at the ability of an amateur "network" to provide such communications on a voluntary basis especially when the official communications at the camp were having problems at 2400 baud over Inmarsat". The results of Ronald's trip can be viewed at [www.thistle.org](http://www.thistle.org).