

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club, Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 43, Issue No. 7
February 1999



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GOTA is Your Opportunity to Introduce Guides to Amateur Radio!

by Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

The annual Guides On The Air (GOTA) event is scheduled for February 20 and 21, 1999, at VE3JW and at other Amateur Radio stations.



During this event, the Guides use the Amateur Radio facilities to talk to other Guides across the country and around the world. We expect to have several groups visit VE3JW.

If you would like to take part in this event as a station operator, please contact Ernie, VE3EJJ, at 728-3666. ✦

Zed-el-nine Bug is Going Around

by Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG

Campbell Island, ZL9, as you might know, emerged from volcanic eruptions somewhere near the Antarctic, or, as one might say, near Ottawa's antipode.

This island evolved to the point of being a small paradise for hundreds of bird species such as the royal albatross, the godwit, the giant petrel, the pukebo, the skua, the pipit, the redpoll, the chaffinch, the mollymawk, the gentoo penguin and also for seals, sea lions, and elephant whales.

The vegetation, we are told, that can be found on the upper reaches of the tidal flats is such as *Puccinellia chathamica*, *Cotula plumosa*, and *Tillaea moschata*.

The first to lay eyes on this island was Captain Frederik Hasselburg, in 1810, on a sealing brig called *Perseverance*. He worked for the Campbell Co. of Sydney, Australia.

What has this got to do with Amateur Radio?

(continued on page ⑧)

Rambler

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.
P.O. Box 5530, Stn. F
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K2C 3M1



OVMRC Executive (1998-99)

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Treasurer	Peter Hafichuk, VE3LBW 745-0608
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Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VE3SUY 737-9443, lycott@fox.nstn.ca Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca
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Flea Market	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV 521-8910, ve3zov@rac.ca
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OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM	Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO
Doug Carswell, VE3ATY	Ed Morgan, VE3GX
Gerry King, VE3GK	Fred Noble, VE3BAJ
Bill Wilson, VE3NR	

Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC is pleased to exchange newsletters with the following Amateur Radio Clubs across Canada and the United States.

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
Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)	Ottawa, ON
Rideau Lakes ARC	Smiths Falls, ON
Scarborough ARC	Scarborough, ON
Seaway Valley ARC	Cornwall, ON
Sudbury ARC	Sudbury, ON
Surrey ARC	Surrey, BC
Saskatoon ARC	Saskatoon, SK
Thousand Island ARC	Brockville, ON
Truro ARC	Truro, NS
West Island ARC	Dorval, QC
Winnipeg ARC	Winnipeg, MB

Sponsors

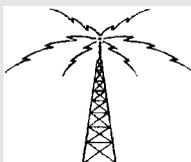
The OVMRC acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities by providing them with courtesy copies of the *Rambler*.

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON
TakeOne Info System, Ottawa, ON



OVMRC code phone:

Practise your CW!
737-0197



OVMRC Repeater:

147.300 MHz (+)
444.200 MHz (+)



OVMRC web page:

<http://www.takeone.com/public/ovmrc.htm>
Webmaster - John Rodger, VE3JR
jrodger@takeone.com



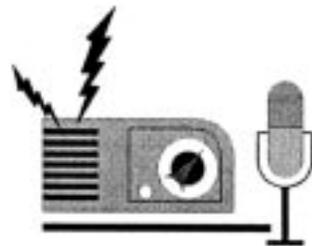
Next Meeting:

Feb. 18, 1999
Rambler Deadline:
Feb. 26, 1999

The *Rambler* is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. and is published 11 times a year (monthly, except for July). 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. Submit articles to the editor by e-mail to: <ve3mog@igs.net>.

Strays

Comments by OVMRC President,
Doug Carswell, VE3ATY



Some members of the club and executive attended the Jerry Wells Award criteria meeting and were able to hammer out the proposed requirements which hopefully will appear in the next issue of the *Rambler*.

Jerry Wells Award criteria near completion

Ernie Jury was assigned the task of putting the final words to paper and that takes time. When this is done, it will be published for your consideration.

It is proposed to amend the bylaws to include the criteria and process by which the winner of the award is selected. This will provide meaning to the award as well as stability which leads to making it an award worth receiving.

It was a somewhat interesting process that was followed in hammering out these words as there are strong feelings aimed at making it right; much huffing and puffing as well as the odd ejection of steam. So, when you see the proposed terms, take time to read it and make sure that it makes sense.

Thank you, Gerry King!

On other matters, Gerry King, VE3GK, made an interesting presentation dealing on antennas, operating practices, and sundry other topics. Thanks, Gerry, for your talk. I am sure that some new Amateurs and some of the students in attendance at the meeting found it worth their time and also identified a resource when they look to putting up their own antennas.

Ken Halcrow on deck for February meeting

Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS, had hoped to make a presentation at the January meeting regarding our emergency preparedness and it looked like it would take more time than was available and so I asked Ken present his material at the February meeting.

As we know from very recent experience, it behooves us to be ready as a group to help our community in emergency situations. So please come out and see what Ken has to say.

Survey says . . .

Incidentally, did you complete and return the survey form printed in the January issue of the *Rambler*? Please, if you did not already do so, take time and send the completed form into the club. One never knows what will result from you ensuring that the club knows about your capabilities.

Next year, as the membership list is assembled, the information acquired by Ken will be rolled into the membership data base. This will avoid duplicate work.

If you would prefer to obtain the Rambler from the web, then we could consider reducing your membership fee.

Rambler on the web

I was pleased to hear from our editor, Susan, VE3MOG, who has indicated that the *Rambler* is now available on the net. See page ② for our club's web page address and have a look.

I would like to hear from you as we propose to make this an alternative vehicle for delivery of the club's *Rambler*. If you would prefer to obtain

the *Rambler* from the web, then we could consider reducing your membership fee.

We could start this new process next year. Placing the *Rambler* on the net makes it available to anyone in the world as well as just our members.

Should we include the membership list?

A thought about the club's web page: do you think it would be worthwhile to include our membership list on the web? Those club members who also use the Internet could also keep their vital stats current, should there be a change. Let me know. ❖

Minutes

January 21, 1999 general meeting
taken by Patricia Rowan, VA3PUR



Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, welcomed the membership. He called on Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, to bring us up-to-date on the voice activation unit which gives an audible report of the frequency. Ernie is in the process of acquiring and installing this unit.

John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV, announced the May 1 Stittsville Fleamarket, and asked for volunteers.

Donations were asked for the club table. Ernie, VE3EJJ, was to collect the donations, and suggestions are welcomed.

Our guests were Hans, VE3REL; Howard Lesiuk, Graham Bennet and Paul Donnelly.

Our door prize was won by Brice, VE3EDR, and the 50/50 draw, worth \$32.50, went to Russ Lowe VE3LOW.

Our star of the evening was "Golden Kilowatt," Gerry King, VE3GK, who gave a great presentation on antennas. ✦

Take Note of Membership List Changes

✍ **Ziggy Bernhof** has a new call sign. Formerly VE3JDA, Ziggy is now known as VE3RY.

✍ Add **Mike Parris, VA3TJP**, to your membership phone list. To reach Mike, dial 237-7000, wait for the dial tone, then dial 623-2697.

✍ Be sure to include **Joan Yanofsky, VE3OSE**, on your membership phone list as well. Her phone number is 567-2294. ✦

Next Club Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 18, 1999

Time: 7:30 p.m. sharp!

Place: Museum of Science & Technology

Featured Speaker: Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS

Topic: Emergency Preparedness

OVMRC Flea Market and Vintage Radio Auction set for Saturday, May 1, 1999

Date: Saturday, May 1, 1999

Location: Stittsville Arena

Vendor admission: 7:00 a.m.

General admission: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Vintage Radio

Auction: 10:30 a.m.

Private Table: \$10.00

Commercial Table: \$20.00

Admission: \$ 3.00

Talk-In Frequency: VE3TWO, 147.300 (+)
(Back-up repeater: VE3TEL,
147.030 (-), only if above
repeater fails)

Contact: John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV

Phone: 613-521-8910

Fax: 613-523-7889

E-Mail: <ve3zov@rac.ca>

Brownsburg Hamfest

Date: Saturday, March 13, 1999

Place: Le club sportif, 416 Route
Ste. Phillippe

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Auction: 11:00 am

Talk-In: 146.805 (-)

Admission: \$3.00

First Region 2 ARDF Championships Organized for August 10-14

RAC Bulletin, January 22, 1999

The Friendship Amateur Radio Society (FARS) and the Region 2 ARDF Organizing Committee will host the first IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships on August 10-14, 1999 in Portland, Oregon, USA.

ARDF involves locating several transmitters in a large wooded area, using direction finding equipment along with a map and compass. Because ARDF is not as well developed in Region 2 as it is in the other Regions, training sessions will be provided prior to the competition.

The event will be held in conjunction with the 6th biennial Friendship Radiosport Games (FRG-99), in which teams from FARS affiliates in Russia, Canada, Japan, and the United States compete in Amateur Radio events including CW sending and receiving, HF contesting, and ARDF. Further information about FRG-99 is available on the FARS website.

<http://web3.pacifier.com/~fars/>

The Region 2 National ARDF Coordinator for Canada is: Perry Creighton, VE7WWP, E-mail: <ve7wwp@rac.ca>, tel.: (250) 721-0592, Address: 3018 Spring Bay Road, Victoria, BC, Canada V8N 1Z3 ❖



Daniel Lavoie, VE3DCL (left), congratulates Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, on winning the January 9, 1999 bunny hunt while Mike Kelly, VE3FFK, looks on.

Participate in the International Maritime Coastal Stations (IMCS) Special Event

by Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG

In order to celebrate the 100 years of service by coastal stations to ships at sea, the Radio Officers Amateur Radio Society (ROARS) is sponsoring a worldwide Amateur Radio Special Event.

The network of coastal stations was originally set up by G. Marconi in the UK in 1898 and is about to be closed down starting in June 1999.

This special event is meant to pay homage to the many Radio Officers and personnel who have staffed these stations during the centenary.

The selected date for the event is the weekend of April 10-11, 1999 and it is hoped to have 100 coastal stations around the world participate. ROARS will issue a special award to Amateurs contacting the stations during the event.

Here in Canada, a Vancouver coastal station has been registered and will be on air using the special callsign CF7QRT. The CFH Halifax coastal station is also expected to register.

The OVMRC will also be on air representing the VBR St. Lawrence Seaway station at Prescott.

We have applied for a special event call sign and CF3QRT has been authorized for us.

The full list of participating coastal stations will be published soon. Please put these dates aside for a fun time in early spring. If you wish to join the group that will be operating the VE3JW station at the National Museum of Science and Technology, send your name and call sign, with preferred operating times to Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG, <ve3vig@rac.ca>, tel.: 749-9010 or packet at VE3VIG@VE3KYT. ❖

Contests, who needs 'em!

by Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG

You'll never see me taking part in a radio contest, plugging the airwaves, preventing normal QSOs, with ridiculous exchanges of anonymous numbers. Besides, big guns don't listen to weak stations. Just listening to it gives you a headache, let alone having to work your way through it. No, not for me. I prefer having contacts that include an exchange of ideas rather than numbers.

Sound like a familiar train of thought to you? It certainly was to me until Saturday, December 26, 1998, at 8 p.m. The Canada Winter Contest had already been under way for an hour when I turned my HF rig on and heard VA3RAC identifying himself in the CW part of the 80 m band. I called him up and got a "599 Ontario" return.

Bonus points a good beginning

I then realized that the RAC contest was on and that with RAC stations worth 20 points I might be ahead right from the beginning. That was my kick-start. The RAC operator was someone I knew and he provided the live contact that spurred me on to join in a common exercise.

After a few more contacts on CW and SSB, to my surprise, I was starting to enjoy it! How can I explain that? Although after each logged contact I was saying to myself "that's not for me," I found myself eagerly going back to the radio for yet another one! Propagation was very good and the contestants orderly, sticking to narrow portions of the contest bands.

Multipliers the key to success

After a while, I realized that multipliers (in this contest, Canadian provinces and territories) were also very important. So, I started looking for them on four different bands and in both allowed modes. My limited conditions and situation did not allow for more although I overlooked the possibility of four more multipliers on 2 m as I am located on the Quebec/Ontario border (worth over 4000 points to me). It was fun to cover all of Canada on one band,

Newfoundland to British Columbia, and then trying it on another band.

As you can see, I was already trapped. Contest fever! Something had to happen to get me out of it. It did when I looked up at the EST clock and saw that it was past 2 a.m. I had stopped to relax, have a snack and listen to the news, but I had to find out who else was on the bands before going to bed.

The following morning, after a good rest, I thought I had shaken the fever and could resume playing radio in a more relaxed way. My first contact was at 9:38 a.m. and the day went along smoothly as I was taking time out for my daily things.

I also took time out to chat with DX stations in Cuba, the Cayman Islands, Martinique, Slovenia, and France. I was able to log my first-ever Japanese station. My last contact was at 7:48 p.m., after which I closed down and started tallying up.

Learn more about your station's capabilities

More than a different way to have fun on the bands, I found that contesting is a great way to analyze your station and antenna setup. Looking at my log, I have an idea as to how my system propagates, what angle and direction my antennas radiate, which bands work better for me at different times of the day, etc. All this was a result of the valuable information gathered over a short period of time.

35,630 points is not an awful lot for the RAC Winter Contest. But for a first-timer at contesting, it's more than enough to make me say "I'll be back." I also found out that you don't need highly sophisticated stations to have fun. My station consists of a middle-of-the-line HF transceiver, a basic antenna tuner, and an inverted V on 10 m, Hamsticks on 20 m and 80 m, and a poke at 40 m by tuning the 20 m stick . . . all installed on the balcony of an apartment building.

Cheers! And pick your own fun! ❖

Helping Others: The True Spirit of Amateur Radio

by Ken Barry, VE3KJB

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, called me before Christmas and asked if I would build a base for a J-pole to be installed on the roof of the residence where Graham Bennet is living.

Graham is a sight-impaired fellow who has been studying for some time and is on the brink of getting his Amateur certificate. At the moment, he is doing a lot of listening on 2 metres.

Springing to action

I gathered some materials together and managed to construct a suitable base to fit the antenna which Larry had made, and on the appointed day, Larry, Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, and myself went to Graham's residence and carried out the installation.

Tom supplied the coax cable and connectors, which we strung from the roof down the outside wall to Graham's room on the second floor.

Help from the powers that be

I think the Lord helped us because the temperature was very tolerable and there was no wind.

Thankfully, we accomplished all this with the permission of the building superintendent.

When we left Graham's place, he was happily listening to some chatter on two metres and having the time of his life.

When he gets his licence, he will only have to connect his radio and start operating.

It's always nice to get a little help from your friends

To get together to help a fellow radio enthusiast was certainly a great idea.

I would urge people to follow this example and strive to do everything to help new Amateurs or "wannabe" Amateurs in their endeavours to become part of the Amateur Radio community. ❖



From left to right: the J-pole; Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD; Graham Bennet, self-proclaimed "wannabe" ham; and Ken Barry, VE3KJB.



Graham's new J-pole safely installed on the roof of his apartment building.



"Hello, Test, Test 1, 2, 3."

Graham dreams of the day he obtains his Amateur Radio licence and gets on the air!

Campbell Island: An Invasion from Inner Space

by Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG

You've heard about this world invasion taking place? Not from outer space but from inner space. I mean from within our planet's ionospheric boundaries. It's from a terrific bug, worse than the Asian flu bug. It's called the "zedelnine bug" and it is carried by a rare bird called the "radama bird". This bird has no wings but carries around a large amount of sensors of a metallic-like structure.

Now, the first radama birds to be infected were found on this sub-Antarctic island called Campbell Island. And it is known that among them are species originating from Canada such as the VE3XA species and the ex-VE3CDX species commonly called Brian and Lee.

This group of radamas connived together to extend their fever to the rest of the world by irradiating energy from their sensors. This energy, captured unbeknownst by other sensors, widely dispersed around the world at the moment a switch is turned on, infected thousands of individuals on the planet. That's what happened to me!

Just what the doctor ordered

As the fever grew, I realized the only way to tame it was to tune my sensor, looking for a blast emanating from the other side of the world. Information came to me on the local 2 m repeater that it would be possible to capture this soothing energy at 3 a.m. Ottawa time as the originating beam would be pointing this way.

What was I to do with only a mobile vertical on my balcony versus well-endowed towers with 1000 watts of intimidation. I decided I would try to sleep it off that night and wait for the next day where I could use the sensors at the NMST.

Medicine takes effect

I got the first blast at around 3:30 p.m. on 15 m SSB. I felt so light that I still think I jumped to the ceiling.

I told Ernie that I had to leave for coffee. Upon my return I got a second blast on 15 m CW. I told Ernie that this was worth all the many hours I had volunteered at the Museum.

You may experience some side effects

I related my story to Tom and he said that he had been infected too! He suggested that I not give up because it's a lot more fun on a home station. Was I to stay up all night trying to tune in this much-needed panacea? What kind of a nut would spend the night chasing a beam?

Ken said he saw one of those nuts when he looked in the mirror. Ken is known to have received 17 blasts out of a possible 18 (all bands/all mode).

What kind of a nut would spend the night chasing a beam? Ken said he saw one of those nuts when he looked in the mirror.

So be it, I had to try it and I'm glad I did. Although it turned my nights into days and my days into nights I was able to log five more contacts on the 10 m, 20 m and 30 m bands.

When I got that first blast from my less-than-adequate station, I was so happy that I was jumping for joy and made my way to the balcony for fresh air.

It's a good thing that the temperature was freezing cold, otherwise, with my jumping I might have found myself 150 feet below the balcony. It was almost uncontrollable ecstasy.

Coming to a shack near you . . . ?

Now if you see me walking around with a proud look on my face and carrying plenty of sensors, be it known that I have now become a radama bird and my aim is to infect you with the same bug until we conquer this whole planet. Already we have established a world all-time record for a DXpedition with more than 96,000 QSOs. ✚

Yesteryear

A look at *Ramblers* past,
by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH



It is interesting to read the names and call signs of members in past issues of the *Rambler* and to realize how many of them are still involved with club activities, living in the area or are still members of the OVMRC.

Any names sound familiar?

The September 1988 *Rambler* lists those elected for club year 1988-1989 as: President, Alan Boyce, VE3LNH; Vice-President, Doug Carswell, VE3ATY; Past-President, Bill Seyler, VE3OAI; Treasurer, George Dew, VE2OWW; Secretary, Archie McKenzie, VE3NJY; Editor, Bob Baillargeon, VE3MPG; Technical Advisor, Ed Leblanc, VE3VLF; Public Relations, Leo Desjardins, VE3NVL; and Membership, Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ.

The President extolled the virtues of Amateur Radio, requested members to get involved in club activities, and encouraged their friends, relatives, and other guests to attend the September meeting for an "Introduction to Amateur Radio."

The Editor noted after six years of teaching the club's Amateur Radio Course, Russ Pastuch, VE3FSN, was stepping down due to work commitments. A full-page announcement appeared in this issue about the 7th Annual Amateur Radio Course with instructors Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ; Doug Carswell, VE3ATY; and Alan Boyce, VE3LNH. The cost of \$90 included all books and materials.

President Alan Boyce's October 1988 *Ramblings* mentioned that 90 people attended the September meeting. The "Introduction to Amateur Radio" was a resounding success as one of the speakers, Alan, explained Amateur Radio and its requirements and answered commonly asked questions.

Great ideas encourage interest

Various displays were prepared by members and covered general information about Amateur Radio, offered Amateur Radio course applications, and also

information about technical subjects such as packet radio and "homebrew" projects.

A straight key and oscillator were on hand for visitors to try their hand at Morse code. There were also QSL cards, map displays, charts and illustrations from the club station, VE3JW, which was on the air during this meeting. A 50-minute break allowed everyone to view all displays and enjoy free refreshments.

How about those Amigas?

A new *Rambler* column by Bob Baillargeon, VE3MPG, entitled: "Press (return) to continue..." – all about computers and ham radio – made its debut. He gave a rundown of specific HF Amiga nets and covered the use of Amiga computers by more than 300 Amateurs in the US and several Canadian Amateurs and an explanation of the Amiga's ability at multitasking.

FCC reallocates frequencies

Paul Smith, VE3PS, had an extensive Special Report from ARRL about the USA Federal Communications Commission which reallocated the 220-222 MHz from the Amateur Service to private land mobile use on August 4, 1988.

The FCC attracted strong criticism from 435,000 Radio Amateurs, many disaster-relief organizations, dozens of Congressmen and the Department of Defence and the National Communications System.

Despite all this objection, it was not until United Parcel Service filed comments, six months late, that a significant user of the proposed new land-mobile band went on record as desiring the reallocation.

ARRL President Larry Price boasted: "We've lost a battle, but not the war. The League will continue to pursue every available administrative, judicial, and legislative remedy to ensure that Radio Amateurs have access to the spectrum they need to serve the public." ❖



All cellular telephones, by the year 2001, are required to give their location to within 125 metres whenever they dial 911. This will help emergency workers to find lost or incoherent callers. (*FCC*)

Bob, ZL2CA, might have found a loophole that can make it legal to use your computer for a Morse exam. ITU regulations require Morse of Amateurs be by hand but don't specify the Morse TX/RX rate or that it be done by the operator's memory.

Bob suggests that a candidate could use a PC with keyboard, Morse software and speech synthesizer. This would comply with sending by hand and receiving by ear. (*Q-News*)

The 3rd Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships will be in Korea from June 21-26. For any inquiries and information, contact The Korean Amateur Radio League, Inc. C.P.O. Box 162, Seoul, 100-601 Korea. (*KARL*)

The FCC has issued strong warning letters to three Amateurs who are on the Top 10 list of alleged major Amateur offenders. Field Office monitors will make a special effort to listen for further violations by stations on the Alert List.

The illegal activities not only put the hams' licences in jeopardy but open them up to possible fines and seizure of transmitting equipment. (*ARRL*)

The Space Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) is distressed by the actions of individuals trying to circumvent the rules of conduct. SAREX's ire is aimed at a group of hams who went around the international space community to put slow scan television on the Russian Mir space station.

They violated international convention by putting the station on 2 m and continuing to keep it there in direct violation of an international agreement that

assigned all MIR SSTV activity to the UHF band.

SAREX freely admits that the recent Mir slow scan operation has enjoyed success but these actions are also endangering the future of ham radio in manned space flight. Anyone is welcome to the future of ham radio in space, but they have to play by the established set of international rules. (*SAREX*)

Hams are getting ahead in the tower installation hassles. In Texas, two tower and antenna bills are on their way to the state legislature to allow Amateurs the right to put up towers.

Anthony, AB2CJ, from New York, received the right to install a 55-foot tower after a group of area hams testified on his behalf at a public forum. (*VHF Reflector/Hudson Loop*)

International Marconi Day on April 24 celebrates the birth of inventor, Guglielmo Marconi, and is being organized by the UK Cornish Radio Amateurs Club. (*RGSB*)

Dutch Amateurs worked 136 kHz, resulting in QSOs between PA2NJV and United Kingdom and Europe stations. They accomplished this feat with 150 W using a kite-attached, 900-foot wire antenna.

Reports were received from France, Germany, Sweden, Scotland, and Italy. The best contact was a listener report from IK5ZPV in Italy, a distance of 1095 km away. (*Q-News*)

A company has developed a micro-fuel cell and used it to power a cellular phone. The goal is to create a long-lasting power supply for small, portable electronics.

The current model runs about two weeks on a "shot" of alcohol but plans are to extend that to 6 months. The unit can be refuelled by adding alcohol. (*Ham Radio Online*) ❖