

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club, Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 43, Issue No. 8
March 1999



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Notice of Motion

Criteria for Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award

A motion will be moved at the Thursday, March 18, 1999 OVMRC general meeting to adopt the following criteria for the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award.

The submission of nominees and selection of the award winner will be based on the following criteria.

1) Each nominee for the award must have been a fully paid-up member of the OVMRC and a licensed Radio Amateur during the most recently completed club fiscal year starting July 1, and ending June 30, (Award Year).

2) Nominations must be received in writing, in the required format as shown, prior to, or during, the regular September meeting.

Each nomination must be supported by not less than two Full Members who were in good standing during the Award Year, and must include a short narrative description of the nominee's contribution to Amateur Radio as specified in criterion 3, which follows.

3) To be eligible, nominees must have made a significant contribution during the Award Year to further any of the objectives of the OVMRC by:

a) contributing to the interest, study and progress of the science and art of Amateur Radio with particular emphasis on mobile operations;

b) cooperating with and assisting the civil authorities to the fullest extent possible in any emergency; or by

c) fostering good will and understanding among Radio Amateurs.

4) The eligibility of nominees will be verified by the Executive.

5) The names of the nominees and the short narrative descriptions provided by the nominators will be published in the October issue of the *Rambler*.

(Notice of Motion, continued on page ⑤)

Rambler

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



OVMRC Executive (1998-99)

President	Doug Carswell, VE3ATY 829-7167, ve3aty@takeone.com
Vice-President	Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC 748-6597, chinook@takeone.com
Treasurer	Peter Hafichuk, VE3LBW 745-0608
Secretary	Patricia Rowan, VA3PUR 521-2014, patricia.rowan@takeone.com

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666, ve3ejj@cyberus.ca
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VE3SUY 737-9443, lycott@fox.nstn.ca Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca
Delegated Examiner	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ (see above)
Emergency Response	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, kenh@intranet.ca
Field Day	Charles Morrison, VE3TCM 228-3480
Flea Market	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV 521-8910, ve3zov@rac.ca
Historical	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, larry.wilcox@takeone.com
Membership	Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD 747-9577, tom.st.julien@takeone.com
Newsletter	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG 833-2766, ve3mog@rac.ca
Publicity & Programs	Open
Radio Operations	Evan DeCorte, VE3DEC 722-8929, pebd@cyberus.ca
Technical	John Pope, VE3ACI 989-3629, pope@sce.carleton.ca

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 ARA	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

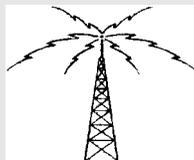
The OVMRC acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities by providing them with courtesy copies of the *Rambler*.

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.ovmrc.on.ca/ovmrc/>
Webmaster - John Rodger, VE3JR
jrodger@takeone.com



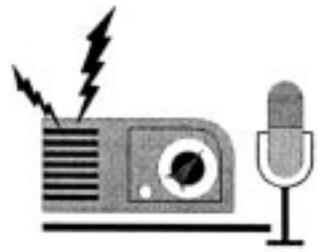
Next Meeting:

☞ March 18, 1999
Rambler Deadline:
☞ March 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



As I indicated previously, each issue of the *Rambler* is now available at our web site. For those that make use of the Internet, please have a look and let me know if you have any problems reading the electronic version of our newsletter.

We want to start this fall by offering a lower membership fee for those who would prefer to have the *Rambler* delivered to them in electronic form. I am not sure the amount by which the membership fee can be reduced, however, as a first step in this determination, we need to know how many would prefer receiving the *Rambler* off our web page.

We need to have this information prior to our May meeting so that we can adjust our forecasted revenues for the coming year's budget. Please contact Tom, VA3OFD, using his e-mail address published on the inside cover page.

I would like to thank Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS, for his most interesting presentation at our last meeting, in which he described possible emergency scenarios and how a radio group such as ours needs to be able to deal with them. Ken started with a video which was about five minutes long, reviewing many events that occurred during the infamous Ice Storm. I found it rather traumatic and took a few minutes to recover. Hans Van den Berg, VE3REL, who was sitting in front of me at the time, said "Listen, you can hear a pin drop."

The video was indeed a powerful statement as to why we need to make sure the OVMRC can respond to calls for emergency service. As Ken obviously understands the emergency response structure needed within our club, I have taken the liberty of asking Ken to chair an ad hoc "Emergency Response" committee. This committee's mandate is to organize and set up the structure needed to for the OVMRC to respond to future "emergency" calls for radio assis-

tance in an effective manner. If you want to get involved, give Ken a call and indicate to him your willingness to help as a member of this committee.

Also if you have not yet taken the time, please complete and return to us Ken's inventory form. (So far, Ken has only received about 20%.) And one last item in this area, please think about being involved in this year's Field Day, as preparedness is what the Field Day is all about.

Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, is going to our next speaker, dealing with the topic of DXing on 160 m. I think this presentation will be most interesting so be sure to come to the meeting!

For those who are wondering about "Homebrew Night," it has been scheduled for the April meeting.

On another item: now is the time to form the Nominations Committee. The role of this committee is to find members of the club willing to serve on the executive. Please contact me if you would like to help find members to stand for office.

Some members have indicated that they are ready to take up the challenge so that the task of finding executive members should not be inordinately difficult to perform. It simply requires someone willing to call members of the club.

With three members forming the Nominating Committee, that should not take too much of your time. Also, if you would like a crack at working on the executive, please let me know.

Lastly, you will find a Notice of Motion in this issue of the *Rambler*, dealing with that much-talked-about Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award. Please have a look at what is proposed and come out to the March meeting prepared to discuss and to cast your vote. ❖



CANWARN Training Session to be held March 21

CANWARN, the Canadian weather watch using Amateur Radio operators, will be holding a training session and interested Radio Amateurs are invited to attend.

Date & Time: Sunday, March 21,
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Perth or Smith Falls (tba)
Cost: \$5.00 (to help defray costs)
Note: Lunch will not be provided
but there are many restaurants nearby.
Contact: If you are interested please
call Ric, VE3XL at 821-0445, or Rob, VE3SJK, at
(613) 646-2775.

Gliding for Radio Amateurs

Amateurs who want to watch or participate in gliding will have a day reserved for them at the Gatineau Gliding Club's Pendleton gliderport May 10 - 14. Introductory flights will be at the special rate of \$30 as you will be Len's guest.

Anyone interested should contact Len Gelfand, VE3LGZ, at 749-5101 or Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, at 747-5565. Let us know whether you want a ride, or want to watch, or aren't sure. We need to know so we have the appropriate resources available. ✦



Remember to Join the Welcome Mat Net!

Schedule: Wednesdays, 19:00 local time
Where: VE3TWO, 147.300 + or 444.420 +
Format: Novice training, ragchew, info
Managers: Steve, VE3RUU; Larry, VE3WEH

Next Club Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 18, 1999
Time: 7:30 p.m. sharp!
Place: Museum of Science & Technology
Featured Speaker: Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ
Topic: DXing on 160 m

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>

With a Smile and a Song

Capital City Chorus, featured at the OVMRC Christmas Variety Show, is holding their annual show titled, "With a Smile and a Song." Tickets are available now (\$15.00 for balcony and \$17.50 for orchestra seating) for their Friday, March 26 and Saturday March 27 engagement at the Centrepointhe Theatre. Showtime is 8:00 p.m. For more information, contact Ken Barry, VE3KJB. ✦

Notice of Motion, continued from page ①

6) The Award winner will be determined by *secret ballot* by all members attending the regular meeting held in October. Two Full Members in good standing who are not nominees or nominators will be appointed by the President to scrutinize and tabulate the ballots.

7) The “Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award,” consisting of a suitably engraved plaque and an engraved chrome-plated iambic paddle keyer, or equivalent, will be presented to the winner at the November regular meeting. ❖

Update on the April 10 - 11 International Maritime Coast Station (IMCS) Special Event

This event promises to be one of the largest radio-related special events ever attempted. It seems that up to 100 stations will be on air worldwide. Twenty-eight stations have registered in the UK and Eire alone, and there could be well over 50 DXCC countries involved.

An award will be available to any person logging 10 or more stations. Information regarding the address to contact and the cost of the award will be made available at a later date. The main beneficiaries of the proceeds from the awards will be The Royal National Lifeboat Institution and The Missions to Seamen.

The IMCS event is seen as an SSB event, with CW bands in use where operators and time permit. It is envisaged that 40 and 80 metre bands will be prominent but with a possible 100 stations on air 20, 15 and 10 will also be in use. It is impossible under these circumstances to give suggested frequencies.

The hours of operation will be at the discretion of the station managers and will depend on manpower, equipment available and site availability.

For more information contact Maurice-André, at 749-9010, by e-mail at <ve3vig@rac.ca>. ❖

Sample OVMRC Nomination Form Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award

_____, 19__ - 19__
(Or 20__ - 20__ , as applicable)

The OVMRC Inc. established the Jerry Wells Award in 1997 in recognition of Jerry Wells VE3CDS, 1928-1997, a life member and Silent Key. Jerry received the “Amateur of the Year Award” in June 1997 for his contribution of time, effort and devotion throughout the year to the Amateur Radio Course, his work as Delegated Examiner and his management of Amateur Radio Station VE3JW at the National Museum of Science and Technology. The Executive subsequently renamed the “Amateur of the Year Award” to the “Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award” in his honour.

Please read the criteria [to be printed on the reverse side of form] before completing your nomination.

We wish to nominate: _____,

Call Sign: _____, for the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award. We believe the above named Amateur deserves to be honoured with this award for the following reasons:

Nomination submitted by:

Signed: _____

Print Name & Call Sign: _____

Signed: _____

Print Name & Call Sign: _____

Industry Canada to Verify Amateur Radio Database Information

RAC Bulletin, February 18, 1999

Industry Canada utilizes multiple databases to manage the authorization of Amateur Radio operators. As a result, there currently is no automated method for matching the qualifications of an Amateur operator with a specific call sign assignment. Part of the enhancement work being done by RAC in the ongoing maintenance of the official Amateur Call Sign Database on the Internet, consists of electronically merging the records from the Industry Canada databases to obtain as great a match as possible between call signs and certificate qualifications. RAC has completed their work on this task. However, due to variations in the initial entry of names of Amateurs in the current databases, approximately 29% of the records remain unmatched.

In order to complete this matching process and ensure that the database will accurately reflect Amateur qualifications, Industry Canada is requesting information from Amateurs. This will be done as a mailout to these Amateurs whose records could not be electronically matched. Industry Canada will be requesting the confirmation of vital information, such as date of birth and telephone number. In respect of individuals' privacy, it is important to point out that this type of personal information is strictly for facilitating the matching process. It will be treated as confidential and will not be made available when the new data base is released on the Internet.

When completed, this new information will be made available to Amateurs via the RAC Call Sign Database web page. The availability of a public database for Amateurs that accurately reflects call sign and certificate qualification information is of significant value to the Amateur Radio community. Therefore, Industry Canada and RAC ask those Amateurs who receive a letter to respond quickly and positively to this request for matching information in order to facilitate the process. ❖

Letters

Dear Editor,

Regarding Doug Carswell's *Strays* column, February 1999, I agree with Doug that it would be a good idea to publish the *Rambler* on the Internet and give a credit for non-delivery of the *Rambler*, however I don't like the idea of having my name, address, and telephone number on the Internet.

I'm afraid we would be flooded with telemarketing calls. A few years ago, someone in the club suggested that we sell the membership list to a telemarketing firm and it was shouted down.

Ken Barry, VE3KJB

Have some feedback for the club, the executive, or the Rambler? Send your thoughts to Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG, Rambler Editor, 1010 Bosque Crescent, Cumberland, ON, K4C 1C3, or via e-mail (preferred!) at <ve3mog@igs.net>. ❖

Submissions to the *Rambler*

Do you have an article you wish to have considered for inclusion in the *Rambler*? Send your submission to the *Rambler* editor by e-mail (much preferred!) to <ve3mog@igs.net> or via Canada Post to Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG, *Rambler* Editor, 1010 Bosque Crescent, Cumberland, ON K4C 1C3.

Of course, we can't make any assurances that your article will be printed in the *Rambler*, but we can offer this 100% guarantee: if you don't send it in, it won't be published!

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
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April/99	March 26/99
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May/99	April 30/99
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June/99	May 28/99
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Join the Party!

Complete Contest Rules for the April 24-25 Ontario QSO Party

The 3rd Annual Ontario QSO Party is set to go for April 24, 1999 18:00 UTC - April 25, 1999 18:00 UTC; see rules printed below.

Frequencies: Phone/CW - All HF bands 160-10 meters with the exception of the WARC bands (12, 17 and 30 meters) which by IARU agreement are contest-free. All VHF/UHF bands.

Mobiles/QRP: 1.870, 3.735, 3.860, 7.070, 7.260, 14.130, 14.265, 21.260, 28.360 on SSB, 1.820, 3.520, 3.720, 7.020, 7.120, 14.020, 21.020, 21.120, 28.020 on CW, 52.540, 146.550, 446.100 on FM.

Suggested manner of operation: Work HF SSB on the hour, work HF CW on the half hour, work VHF/UHF (either FM simplex, SSB or CW) at 15 minutes after the hour.

Use of FM: Operators may not use repeaters for the purpose of the contest. Operators should keep the 2 meter FM simplex calling frequency of 146.520 MHz clear. Operators may not use repeaters for the purpose of soliciting contacts.

Categories: Multi-Operator, Single Operator Low Power (up to 150 watts on HF, up to 50 watts on VHF/UHF), Single Operator High Power (over 150 watts on HF, and over 50 watts on VHF/UHF), Single Operator Single Band, Mobile/Rover, HF QRP (5 watts and under), VHF/UHF FM QRP, CW, SSB or mixed mode. Also short-wave listener (SWL) category.

Exchange: Ontario stations send signal report and Ontario county, district, regional municipality, or city in the case of the amalgamated City of Toronto. Other stations send signal report and Canadian province/territory, U.S. state or DXCC country.

Scoring: Ontario stations work everyone. Stations outside Ontario work only Ontario stations. Score 1 QSO point for every station worked on SSB per HF band. Score 2 QSO points for every station worked on CW per HF band. Work each station only once per band whether CW or SSB. Score 5 QSO points for each contact per band made on amateur bands from 50 MHz. up. Score 10 QSO points for working VE3ODX and VA3RAC per band. Shortwave Listeners log only Ontario stations.

Multiplier Points: Ontario stations earn 1 multiplier point for each Ontario county, district, regional municipality and the amalgamated City of Toronto worked on each band (see multiplier list), each Canadian province/territory (excluding Ontario), each U.S. state and DXCC country. Stations outside Ontario earn 1 multiplier point for each Ontario county, district, regional municipality and for the amalgamated City of Toronto worked on each band. Shortwave Listeners

use the same formula for multiplier points as stations outside Ontario.

Total Score: Total QSO points x Total multiplier points = Your score.

Mobile/Rover Bonus: Mobile/Rover stations add 300 points for each Ontario multiplier activated. To earn the mobile/rover bonus a mobile/rover station must make at least three contacts with three different stations from the multiplier.

Mobile/Rover Stations: Mobile/Rover stations may be worked once per band from each Ontario county, district or regional municipality (city in the case of City of Toronto) they operate.

Awards: Certificates to the top scorers in each category and to top scorers in each Ontario county, district, regional municipality, amalgamated City of Toronto, Canadian province/territory, U.S.A. state, and DXCC country. Other certificates may be awarded based on activity.

Buttons: Each station making over 50 QSOs will qualify for an "Ontario QSO Party" button bearing your call sign. Operators at multi-operator stations making over 50 QSOs will also qualify. Please submit \$2.00 per button with your log to help defray costs. (Shortwave Listeners logging at least 50 stations also qualify).

T-Shirts: Each station making over 100 QSOs will qualify for an "Ontario QSO Party" t-shirt. Operators at multioperator stations making over 100 QSO's will also qualify. Please submit \$15.00 per t-shirt with your log entry to help defray costs. Also please specify t-shirt size (S, M, L, XL, XXL). Shortwave Listeners logging at least 100 stations also qualify. Other awards to be announced!

Logs: Entries should be postmarked no later than May 31, 1999. Send your logs to: Ontario QSO Party, Ontario DX Association, P.O. Box 161, Stn. A, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5S8. Entries can be sent on disk or via the Internet in standard textfile format. (Please do not send logs in a word processing format). E-mail logs should be sent to: ve3sre@rac.ca. Please include your snail mail address with any electronic logs. Please ensure that your entry includes the class you are entering in and the multiplier area(s) that you operated from. Feel free to submit your comments or photographs etc. Donations are appreciated. Entry forms may be downloaded from the ODXA website, send an e-mail note to ve3sre@rac.ca or by sending an SASE to the ODXA. An entry is not invalid if you don't use the official forms but we would prefer that you do so.

Results: Raw results will be posted on the ODXA website at <http://www.durhamradio.ca/odxa>. Results will also be published in the Sept. issue of "DX Ontario." If you'd like a snail-mailed copy of the results, please send an SASE or outside Canada an SAE with sufficient IRCs or greenstamps to cover postage. Please do not fix non-Canadian postage stamps to SAEs. For a copy of the Sept. issue of "DX Ontario" please send \$5.00 Canadian or equivalent. ♣

Multiplier List - Contest Abbreviation

Algoma District - ALG	Hamilton-Wentworth R.M. - HAM	Oxford County - OXF	City of Toronto - TOR
Brant County - BRA	Hastings County - HAS	Ottawa-Carleton R.M.- OTT	Victoria County - VIC
Bruce County - BRU	Huron County - HUR	Parry Sound District - PSD	Waterloo R.M. - WAT
Cochrane District - COC	Kenora District - KEN	Peel R.M. - PEL	Wellington County - WEL
Dufferin County - DUF	Kent County - KNT	Perth County - PER	York R.M. - YRK
Durham R.M. - DUR	Lambton County - LAM	Peterborough County - PET	*Sudbury Regional Municipality
Elgin County - ELG	Lanark County - LAN	Prescott-Russell County - PRU	counts as Sudbury District for the
Essex County - ESX	Leeds-Grenville County - LGR	Prince Edward County - PED	purpose of the contest. If you plan to
Frontenac County - FRO	Lennox-Addington County - LXA	Rainy River District - RAI	activate one of the above counties,
Grey County - GRY	Manitoulin District - MAN	Renfrew County - REN	districts or regional municipalities
Haldimand-Norfolk R.M. - HNO	Middlesex County - MSX	Simcoe County - SIM	please drop us a note via packet at
Haliburton District - HLB	Muskoka District - MUS	Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry - SDG	ve3odx@va3bbs or via e-mail
Halton R.M. - HTN	Niagara Regional Municipality - NIA	*Sudbury District - SUD	ve3sre@rac.ca. Watch the ODXA
	Nipissing District - NIP	Thunder Bay - District - TBY	website for updates at
	Northumberland County - NOR	Timiskaming District - TIM	< http://www.durhamradio.ca/odxa >.

Ham Radio Helps at the Keskinada Ski Race

by Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA / VE3VIG

Keskinada! Does anyone know what this is? It's the new name of the old Gatineau 55 ski marathon, now in use for the second year, where the course trails are all within the boundaries of the Gatineau Park, some as long as 50 kilometres.

This international competition, part of the world ski circuit, the Worldloppet, has become the top ski event in Canada due to the large number of participants and took place this year on the February 20 - 21 weekend.

You might say: "Skiing is not my hobby. Amateur Radio is." It is also mine. That's why the Keskinada organization has called upon us again to help run the event by providing communication links and a control station. This job is taken on by the Club de Radioamateur de l'Outaouais, but Amateurs from as far as Montréal came, with great enthusiasm, to take part in this fun weekend.

The responsibility of setting up and organizing the Amateurs' contribution was handled by Eric, VE2PYE, whose patient and friendly approach was the key to the success of this project.

At some control points there were no roads to bring equipment and antennas so all materiel and personnel were transported by snowmobiles. The main channel of communication was repeater VE2RAO, and control point crews used simplex frequencies on 2 m.

I was assigned to set up a radio station inside a Red Cross vehicle used to transport Red Cross volunteers and to evacuate skiers from different control points to a main area which they called the "combat centre."

The first casualty was a skier who had just come back from Europe and had not recuperated from the six-hour time difference, thinking that he could nevertheless take on the race. He suffered a torn muscle in his right leg.

Amongst the thousands of skiers coming from all

over the world, there was an Asian skier who had to be brought back to a control point and was put in our care. We tried to speak to him in English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, but he could not understand.

On the way to the Red Cross post we even used sign language. We found out later, from the nurse at the post, that he was totally exhausted and wanted out of the race. There was the odd frozen face, frozen feet, and hyperventilation cases, but no serious injuries. Radio dispatch allowed us to quickly respond to the calls.

A seven-year-old boy was running the course in reverse direction looking for his lost father who had been taken out after giving up. A snowmobile patrol found him and brought him safely back to his father, all with the help of radio communications.

It certainly was interesting watching the marathon from this different angle at various stages. I was able to appreciate the tremendous effort deployed by the more than 600 volunteers involved in looking over a group of nearly 3000 skiers and numerous spectators.

You've probably seen, in the newspaper or on television, the 30-metre (30 metres!) pair of skis used to publicize the event. These skis can accommodate 32 people. A local Amateur's son built them for a special presentation to the Norwegian Team. Max, VE2XAM, is proud of that. Max, now 76, has participated about a dozen times in this particular marathon, besides many others. His last time out was 1997, at age 74.

Communications were carried out very smoothly and no problems were encountered. The Radio Amateurs involved knew exactly what had to be done and cooperation was foremost. Even the weather cooperated!

If you ever get a call to assist at one of these events, don't hesitate, do yourself a favor and join in a very rewarding aspect of the Amateur Radio hobby. ❖

Yesteryear

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



President Alan Boyce, VE3LNH, wrote in the November 1988 *Ramblings* about the difficulty in attracting new people to Amateur Radio. He noted we are too cliquish, too technical, with too many rules and procedures to learn, all of which discourages people. He also noted that he had been discouraged many times because he felt like an intruder.

Bill Lane, VE3CFL, gave him help and encouragement. Bob Baillargeon, VE3MPG, showed Alan how to operate at Field Day and spent hours coaching him, helping him with his antennas and with his code. Following the very successful Introduction to Amateur Radio to a large group of people at the September General Meeting, Alan posed the question, "What are you doing to make our guests feel welcome?" The question is still a very good one!

In the October 1988 General Meeting minutes, Secretary Archie McKenzie, VE3NJY, wrote about speaker, Dr. Gerry Kambites, a physician, priest and Radio Amateur with the call signs 5X5GK and VE3ZFZ. Gerry returned to Canada from Uganda after five years spent on the Sese Islands in Lake Victoria.

With no newspapers, radio was his only source of information four times a week for four years during which time he made over 40,000 contacts! He even delivered a baby while consulting a doctor in the USA by radio!

Other items of note include: Jack Ravenscroft, VE3SR, was a Silent Key; Vice-President Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, reported 24 people were taking the radio course; and T-shirts and hats with the club insignia were still available from the President.

Have you ever wondered when Amateurs started transmissions from space to earth? AMSAT reported Amateur Radio operators on board Soviet space station Mir would commence transmissions in November 1988 using call sign U1MIR. A 2-watt 2

metre FM transceiver was used with a 1/4 wavelength ground-plane antenna placed on the outer surface of the space station by the Mir crew.

Want to know who was active in the club in 1988? A weekend schedule for Amateur Radio Station VE3JW, covering November 19, 1988 to December 18, 1988, showed the following 21 operators: Ted, VE3PDA; Otto, VE3HCD; Tom, VE3OFM; Serge, VE3SLS; J.P., VE3PXZ; Norm, VE3NDU; Leo, VE3NVL; Doug, VE3ATY; Ed, VE3VLF; Norm, VE3LNH; Fred, VE3PAA; Judy, VE3PAB; Archie, VE3NJY; Jim, VE3GJY; Fred, VE3BAJ; Bob, VE3JDB; Lee, VE3OWD; Kris, VE3OWE; Chuck, VE3PDK; Don, VE3ATJ; with Leo Desjardins, VE3NVL in charge of the station. How many of them do you know?

The December 1988 *Rambler* featured an article written by Leo Desjardins, VE3NVL, on Amateur Radio Station, VE3JW. The station was officially opened at the National Museum of Science and Technology on Tuesday evening, March 19, 1974, under call sign, VE3JW.

The station is dedicated to the memory of Jim W. Cotter, VE3JW (SK), a blind radio operator, and many Amateurs who pioneered in radio communication. As of March 19, 1999, it will be 25 years since it first opened. We will have to make plans to celebrate the 25th Anniversary!

The station has not been in continuous use during this period because of the extensive renovation of the Museum and building the "Connexions" Exhibit over a period of about three years. However, through the efforts and dedication of Ernie DeCoste, VE3RIM; Jerry Wells, VE3CDS (SK), and others, we have a well-equipped, "open" to the public Amateur Radio Demonstration Station which is available to any volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact: Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, Amateur Radio Exhibit, 728-3666 or via email at: <ve3ejj@cyberus.ca>. ✚



Intel and Netscape have invested in Red Hat software, a company that supports Linux, a free PC operating system. Microsoft has taken note and is carefully watching Linux's growth. Intel's action could widen the rift between the two. Linux is used by about eight million people worldwide. (*TelePARC - W5YI*)

Pioneering Amateur Radio operator, Al Gross, W8PAL, invented the first "walkie-talkie" in the mid-1930s and did early pioneering work that led to today's cellular phone, pagers, and cordless phone. If he had not been so far ahead of his time, his patents would have made him very wealthy, he says. He's still busy, now working for a satellite communications company. (*IEEE Spectrum*)

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who is the new FCC legal advisor on enforcement, says that the commission is out to clean up the ham bands. He understands the frustration faced by many Amateurs over a lack of enforcement and why they are frustrated.

He knows that they saw no presence from the FCC and they think that they are helping to police the bands. He states, "We need them to back off and let us take the hard core riff-raff out. We are talking about fines, and revocations." (*FCC*)

The United States Postal Service is investigating some U.S. ham DXers for postal fraud. The hams allegedly deliberately misplaced postal stamps in such a way as to avoid being automatically cancelled, making the stamps reusable at a later date. (*Amateur Radio Newslines*)

Amateur Radio helped to staff a Miami telephone call centre for those seeking to get in touch with family and friends in the earthquake-stricken region of Colombia. A quake measuring 6.0 struck January 25 in west-central Colombia's mountainous region. (*ARRL Audio News*)

South African hams set up an emergency net in Durban. This measure was taken due to serious flooding after more than seven inches of rain fell in less than an hour. (*SARL*)

South Africa's ZS150LL, with a special QSL card, will have a special event station from February 27 - March 1 to celebrate the 150th birthday of the L'Agulhas Lighthouse. (*Q-News*)

Hackers have their own employment agency and even the FBI, Secret Service and the Department of Justice has been known to use them! One of their specialities is Encryption & Decryption implementation. Check out: <www.rent.a.hacker.com>. (*W5YI*)

SUNSAT, an Amateur Radio satellite built by engineering students at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, finally lifted off February 23 on a Delta II rocket. There had been several liftoff delays since December. (*Ham Radio Online*)

Major companies are promoting products that modulate home network signals on existing unshielded home telephone and power line wiring using the entire spectrum from two to 30 MHz.

Tests have demonstrated high susceptibility to Amateur Radio transmissions and unfortunately, it is likely that these noisemakers will be widely deployed in two to three years. (*Ed Mitchell, KF7VY*)

CW is *not* dead! The Green Berets train their radio operators at 15 wpm. Special Forces, along with Britains's Special Air Services, are "elite" troops and these still use CW. (*World Radio*)

The Land Mobile Comm. Council is backing off from its request for FCC reallocation of Amateur spectrum to them. It seems there is very strong support for the continued Amateur presence. (*AAA*) ♣