



George “Joe” Ernest Blanchett, VE3BAD 1921-2009 (SK)

Joe passed away suddenly at the age of 87, on May 11, 2009. Joe was a long time member of the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club. Throughout his life, he generously worked as a volunteer to improve the quality of life for the deaf and blind. He repaired the CNIB's "talking machines" for the visually impaired and repaired their white canes for many years. One of his biggest contributions to Amateur Radio was through teaching Amateur radio to many visually impaired and blind Amateurs for over 10 years in the Ottawa area. He taught Ian Martin VE3PSK, Roger Gervais VE3NPO, Bob LaRose VE3EKK, Bob Boudreaux VE3AAB and also Graham Bennett VE3GBD.

“Patience strengthens the spirit, sweetens the temper, stifles anger, extinguishes envy, subdues pride, bridles the tongue, restrains the hand and tramples upon temptations.” Quote by George Horne. Joe fit this description to a “T”. Joe developed a unique program for teaching to the visually impaired. Joe was very competent, humorous, caring and understanding on top of being a super instructor.

Joe volunteered at the Canada Science and Technology Museum and the War Museum for many years providing advice and help with communications exhibits. He served at Camp X during World War II, was a radio broadcaster, telecommunications genius and Amateur Radio operator for more than 60 years.

Joe's son Gary VA3BAD, wrote this moving Eulogy to pay tribute to his father.

Joe's Eulogy
by: Gary Blanchett son
15th May, 2009

Hi, I'm Gary, VA3BAD – two out of three are BAD! A few weeks ago, I was invited to spend the day at my grandson Emmet's school. The occasion was Grandparents day. One of Emmet's assigned tasks was to interview me. One of the questions being, “who was your favorite teacher”. My immediate answer was my Dad. When Joe taught you something, you did not forget. When I was about three, we lived in Oshawa, just across from the city dump and just down the street from Oshawa Harbour. There was a constant flow of garbage and coal trucks. Realizing that he couldn't always keep an eye on me, Dad brought out an old orange crate, lifted me onto it and challenged me to break it. As hard as I stomped on it, and kicked it, it would not break. Dad asked me to stand aside for a moment. He placed the orange crate under the rear wheels of his model A Ford and backed over it. The orange crate was immediately reduced to kindling. Never again did I play by the road.

Later in life, I was helping Dad build a Ham Shack in our new home in Scarborough. We got talking physics; I believe Boyle's law, the properties of the atmosphere. When we got to the compressibility of a gas, Dad wanted to demonstrate this phenomenon and did so by dropping a sheet of drywall onto a flat surface. The sheet accelerated until it came close to the floor when it started to slow, but instead of a gentle whoosh, there was a rather sharp pop as the image of a hammer appeared on the top side of said sheet of drywall. Not only did I learn a new aspect of physics that day, but I also got a crash course in the vernacular. Dad similarly taught me independence, self assurance, and honor, which there sadly seems too little of these days. Dad nurtured my natural strengths such as mechanics and photography.

Dad was fearless. One weekend we were traveling to a Ham Field Day. The purpose of the field day was for a group of Hams to set up mobile transmitters in remote areas to simulate emergency readiness. Today the equivalent transmitting power can be carried in your pocket in the guise of a cell phone; however, on this particular day, Dad had the rear seat of his '36 Chrysler (a real boat of a car) removed to accommodate the equipment we were transmitting with while moving. Additional equipment such as batteries, antennae, generators, gas cans, and so on was in the trunk. Suddenly we both smelled something burning. Dad pulled the car over, checked the trunk and found one of the gas cans had a hole worn in it's side and had a beautiful plume of fire roaring from it. Without hesitation, Dad reached into the trunk, grabbed the gas can and with a mighty toss, threw it into the field beside the road. After a mushroom shaped flash of flame, and a short but hot fire, we drove on unfazed.

From the Gospel According to Joe

- On Work Ethic:
If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well.
- On Eating:
While on the Road: It's hard to hurt a hot dog.
- On Children:
Children is God's way of getting even.

My presence here brings to mind a story I once read about Herbert Hoover, President of the United States. During the Great Depression he was touring a cemetery in the mid western U.S. and came across a gravestone with the following epitaph “he done his damdest”. Dad, you too, did your damdest. Your job is done. May you enjoy your rest. -- -- ❖



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OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)

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www.ovmrc.on.ca

Amateur Radio Exhibit

VE3JW

Web site:

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada Science & Technology
Museum

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ve3cuz@gmail.com.

MINUTES — OVMRC GENERAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in the main parking lot of the Canada Science and Technology Museum. There were 23 people in attendance.

2. GUESTS AND VISITING AMATEURS

Gord VE3OSM, Gabriel VA2DMI

3. PROGRAM

3.1 Mobile Radio Show and Tell Contest

Seven vehicles were entered into the mobile radio show and tell contest, namely that of Bernie VA3BMZ and Stan VA3SMM, Darin VE3OIJ, Dave VA3AE, Ed VE3GX and Doreen VE3CGO, Ernie VE3EJJ, Larry VE3WEH, and that of Maurice-André VE3VIG.

For almost two hours, members had the opportunity to discuss the technical aspects of the equipment installed in the vehicles on display. Afterwards, a committee of three judges was appointed to determine the winning entry. This committee consisted of Gabriel VA2DMI, Gord VE3OSM and Michel VE2BPM.

The committee met to determine the criteria by which the entries would be judged. The judges considered the number of bands on which the equipment could operate as well as the degree to which homebrew equipment was incorporated. Exhibitors were allowed five minutes to explain the merits of their entry and to answer questions posed by the judges.

The judges then retired to deliberate their findings. As a result of these deliberations, the judges announced the rig exhibited by Dave VA3AE to be the winner. That verdict was unanimous. Prizes will be awarded at the next meeting of the Club.

4. STANDING COMMITTEES

4.1 Historical

Larry VE3WEH reported with sadness that George "Joe" Ernest Blanchett VE3BAD had become a silent key on May 11, 2009. Joe was widely known in the amateur radio community for his contributions to the

hobby among which was the mentoring of blind operators. Many will remember that Joe served at Camp X in southern Ontario during World War II.

Amateur radio operators from the Club were among those who attended a memorial service held in Joe's honor on May 15. At that service, Larry VE3WEH gave a eulogy that reflected Joe's contribution to amateur radio.

5. UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Club executive will be held on Thursday, May 28 at 19:00.

The next general meeting of the Club will be held on Thursday, June 18 at 19:30.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Darkness and mosquitoes having appeared, the meeting was adjourned at which time many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio.

7. SIGNED

Joe VE3EUS, Secretary ❖

Eulogy GEORGE "JOE" ERNEST BLANCHETT VE3BAD (Silent Key) 1921-2009

May 15, 2009

Thank you. My name is Larry Wilcox and I'd like to thank Joe's daughter Nancy who invited me to speak about Joe's life from an Amateur radio perspective. Joe had many hobbies, interests and loves in his life. Certainly, his attention, devotion and love for his whole family came first.

I know that he really enjoyed the electronic and technical side of repairing radios and building all sorts of electronic devices as a young man. By the age of 15, he had his own radio shop in Hamilton. Joe was licenced as an Amateur Radio Operator with call sign VE3BAD in May, 1939. He worked for CKOC radio station as a Transmitter and Studio technician from 1940-1942. In April 1942, he was recruited to serve Canada in his Majesty's Service. He

wasn't told where he was going but left Hamilton by train. Joe and a few others were picked up from Toronto Union Station by a military station wagon with blacked out windows. After about an hours drive east of Toronto, he and other men arrived at a strange establishment on lake Ontario. They were shown into a large room and informed of rules they were going to live by. They could not leave the establishment, could only use first names and their families must not know where they were located. They didn't know exactly where they were themselves but it was Camp X near Oshawa. Camp X was a Top Secret World War II Spy Training School which played a very important role in handling messages and training spies who infiltrated Europe. The communications component was code named 'Hydra' after the mythical nine-headed beast from a marsh near Lerna, Greece. "Hydra" was in constant communications with England during the war years at Bletchley Park, the Historic site of the secret British code breaking activities during WWII and the birthplace of the modern computer.

Early in their training, they learned that there were three fellas named George in the group. So they were named George one, George two and and George Blanchett, became "Joe." He joined three other technicians assembling and maintaining the radio transmitters. Joe was responsible for the maintenance of the receiving equipment and the operating positions. The first transmitter was originally an Amateur built voice transmitter which they modified into a 3 KW Morse Code transmitter. About a year ago, Joe donated this transmitter to the Canada Museum of Science and Technology and spent many years as a volunteer at the Museum. Later, a radio broadcast transmitter was imported from the United States and they modified it for high speed Morse Code (CW). In 1943 - 1944, two 15 KW commercial RCA CW transmitters were installed.

Joe was a member of the Telephone Pioneers Amateur Radio Club here in Ottawa for many years. He served as one of their technicians repairing the Club's radio repeater transmitters and receivers. Joe was well known and respected by the many members of the club and by many other Amateurs who knew him. He will certainly be missed by many members.

I learned later that Joe was teaching Amateur Radio to the visually impaired and the blind. He taught many people who obtained their licence including a friend of mine, Graham Bennett VE3GBD. Joe would phone Graham and spend more than an hour or two each time over a period of about 9 months.

Graham obtained 93 percent when he took the oral test and only missed two questions. Joe was especially proud of Graham and regarded him as one of his best and easiest to teach students. Graham would have been here today but he is home with his mother in Cobden and asked me to extend his greetings and sympathies to the family. For many years, Joe also repaired braille machines and talking book machines for the CNIB and also repaired white canes.

On behalf of the Amateur radio community, the Telephone Pioneers Amateur Radio Club, many of whom could not be here today, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Blanchett family over the loss of such a great member of your family.

We have an expression when we sign off our radio and say goodbye to a fellow Amateur and friend. We sign off the air, when using morse code or by voice, with "73" which means "Best Regards" and we also send or say "88" which means "Love and Kisses." So Joe, "73" from me, all your many Amateur radio friends and from your family, many "88's" from all of them.

73 Joe
Larry Wilcox
VE3WEH ❖

WHEN VANDALS STRIKE INFRASTRUCTURE, HAMS PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

Courtesy of: The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 15 April 17, 2009

Just after midnight on April 9, someone climbed down four manholes in the San Jose, California area and cut underground fiber optic cables. The sabotage led to widespread disruption of phone service -- including tens of thousands of land lines, an undetermined number of cell phones, Internet access and 911 emergency service -- in southern Santa Clara County, as well as in Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. San Jose is the county seat of Santa Clara County. With the infrastructure disabled, local Emergency Management officials called on ham radio operators in their communities to provide back-up communications. According to the "San Jose Mercury News," Santa Clara County called a local state of emergency, "but worst-case scenarios were successfully avoided through use of ham radios, door-to-door checks and extra-vigilant patrols" < [article link](#)>.

In Santa Cruz County, just over the Santa Cruz Mountains from San Jose, Santa Cruz County District Emergency Coordinator Cap Pennell, KE6AFE, was awoken just after 5 AM on April 9 by uniformed police at his door. Sent by Dominican Hospital President Nanette Mickiewicz, the police officers escorted Pennell to the hospital for a brief on this situation: The fiber optic lines that had been cut in San Jose had affected the Santa Cruz hospital's communications infrastructure, cutting off communications from the hospital to the outside world. Santa Cruz is located on the northern edge of the Monterey Bay, about 70 miles south of San Francisco.

"While I was meeting with hospital department heads, Bob Wolbert, K6XX, had started our ARES Resource Net on the W6WLS/W6MOW linked repeaters," Pennell told the ARRL. "During the briefing, the hospital determined to implement HICS/SEMS for this emergency. There hadn't been telephones or Internet anywhere since about 2:30 AM. The hospital's phone system did work, but only within the hospital. Their internal computer local area network wasn't working either, so they were instantly on a 'paper system.'"

By 6:15, Pennell said they had established tactical radio links on the K6BJ/KI6EH linked repeaters between the Dominican Hospital Emergency Operations Center in Santa Cruz and the Watsonville Community Hospital emergency room; Watsonville is about 15 miles south of Santa Cruz via the Pacific Coast Highway. "We established HEARNET 155.385 simplex between both hospital ERs and County 911; HEARNET is the Hospital Emergency Administrative Radio Network. Once HEARNET (ER staff) and K6BJ repeater (hams) were staffed and operating at both hospitals, I left the hospital to become our initial ham operator at the County Emergency Operations Center and operated as ARES/ACS shift supervisor from there for the rest of the day," Pennell reported.

Throughout the day, Pennell said that hams -- including some in Monterey County who had been working telephones -- helped dispatch ambulances, conferred with the Poison Center on a children's poisoning case, ordered replacement blood supplies for two hospitals from San Jose Red Cross, relayed a complex major "whole hospital" day's food order to the supplier out of county, tracked down various doctors for emergency consultations and shared status updates from our area. "We did all this while in unity with the County government, public safety agencies and California Emergency Management Agency's Coastal Region," he said. "Greg Smith of Cal-EMA < [web site](#) spent the day in the Santa Cruz EOC with us." All service was restored by 12:15 AM on Friday, April 10.

NETCOM, the dispatch center for most police and fire agencies in Santa Cruz County, was able to receive 911 calls placed from land lines, but could not receive calls placed from cell phones, said Santa Cruz County Senior Dispatcher Stephanie Zube. "Because the only phone number many land line phone owners could call was 911," she said the center received "countless calls" regarding the blackout: "At least several people attempted to call 911 before driving themselves to the emergency room. A lady in Gilroy fled her home when a robber broke in, and couldn't call 911 before fleeing to a nearby firehouse."

Vandalism Takes Out System

San Jose and San Carlos police are joined in their investigation of the cut fiber optic cables -- now considered by authorities to be a coordinated act of sabotage -- by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and the FBI. The investigation also includes members of AT&T's security force, a handful of trained investigators working for the company. Authorities said on April 10 that evidence collection was complete, but would not elaborate on what exactly what they are examining or whether new security measures are in place to prevent similar acts of destruction.

San Jose police reported receiving about 10 tips concerning the sabotage; San Carlos police told the "Mercury News" that they were examining video surveillance of a major intersection near one of the four locations where AT&T's underground fiber-optic cables were sliced early Thursday morning.

On April 11, AT&T issued a \$100,000 reward for information, but bumped up the reward to \$250,000 the next day when it discovered that the damage was more serious than originally thought. According to the Daily Tech, some banks in the area were forced to close temporarily, while all service was disabled and hand-written receipts were offered to customers. Many businesses also were forced to either accept cash or close for a few hours, since credit card and ATM transactions were unavailable < [article](#)>.

Authorities say the communications sabotage occurred in two separate incidents, one at 1:30 AM in south San Jose and the other two hours later in San Carlos. Several companies, such as Verizon, "piggy back" on the AT&T-owned cables. AT&T spokesman John Britton told the "Mercury News" < [article](#)> that it appears vandals opened a manhole and climbed down at least 8 feet to cut four or five fiber optic cables along Monterey Road just north of the Blossom Hill Road exit. The second vandalism was along Old County Road near Bing Street in San Carlos. San Jose police spokesman Sergeant Ronnie Lopez said the manhole cov-

ers are heavy and would take quite an effort to lift, perhaps even requiring a tool. Investigators do not have a suspect yet, he said, but have learned "to expect the unexpected. We have some obvious clues and can assume some things," but a motive remains elusive < [article](#)>.

Community Leaders Praise Hams

Gilroy, the southernmost city in Santa Clara County, was also affected. City Administrator/Director of Emergency Services Thomas J. Haglund expressed his thanks to the Amateur Radio operators who assisted with communications support, saying, "This particular emergency situation underscores that our reliance on technology should be balanced with maintaining the very types of capabilities that you provided to us. Communication is an obvious key to adequately responding to any emergency and the efforts of the Mutual Aid Communicators and the Gilroy Police VIP's provided the necessary communication and public visibility in this instance and demonstrated just how important your training and skill is to our community. Thank you very much for your dedication and expertise."

Gilroy Police Chief Denise Turner echoed Haglund's comments: "We truly appreciated all of your help during this challenging event! Each of you played a key role in a successful operation. I feel better knowing we have dedicated volunteers like you that will come to our aid in time of need! Thank you!"

-- Some information provided by "The San Jose Mercury News" and "The Daily Tech" ❖

RAC Bulletin 2009-021E RAC members at CITEL Ottawa meeting.

2009-06-15

From June 2nd to 5th, there was a CITEL PCC.II meeting held in Ottawa. Well over 100 delegates from countries of the Americas gathered for a meeting preparatory to the next World Radio Conference that is to be held in Geneva late in 2011. Almost every item on the WRC Agenda were discussed with a goal to find common ground that would be supported by the CITEL countries. Amateurs were represented by Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, and Dario Jurado, HP1DJ for the IARU Region 2. Jon Siverling, WB3ERA was on the USA delegation and Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN and Jim Dean, VE3IQ were on the Canadian delegation.

Some subjects of interest to Amateur Radio were discussed.

On BPL, a drafting group was formed, headed by Canada and tasked to present BPL standards for adoption at the next PCC.II meeting in November at Washington, USA. Canada and the USA presented Preliminary Views on Agenda Item 1.23.

A common paper was produced and adopted by the plenary that most probably will be the basis of a joint Region 2 proposal at an upcoming meeting. Also, we kept an eye on Agenda Items 1.14, 1.15 and 1.22 that, although not of direct interest to Amateur Radio, could affect us depending on the positions adopted.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA
Vice-President International Affairs - Radio Amateurs of Canada

RAC Bulletin 2009-018E Canadian Hams in Geneva.

2009-05-27

Canadian Hams in Geneva.

Two Canadian Hams, Ken Pulfer, VE3PU and Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN are presently in their second week attending a WRC preparatory meeting in Geneva. Ken is there representing the IARU while Bryan represents RAC on the Industry Canada delegation.

In today's Plenary session, Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, representing the ARRL on the US Delegation, announced his retirement after 19 years as a Working Group Chairman. Subsequently, Canada nominated and the Plenary approved Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, as Paul's replacement.

RAC wants to congratulate Ken and wish him the best in this new important position.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA
Vice President International Affairs,
Radio Amateurs of Canada

RAC Blog on Bill 118

The following link is a comprehensive overview of a Bill to be introduced by the Ontario Government. Please read the articles as they pertain directly on YOUR ability to operate your mobile radio.

<http://racblog.wordpress.com/>

73
Chris, VE3CUZ

**HAVE A
PLEASANT
AND
SAFE
SUMMER**

**RENEW
YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
NOW!**



MEMBERSHIP FORM

- *The Membership year starts in September and runs to August of the following year.*
- *Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.*
- *Associate membership is open to all radio enthusiasts.*
- *One form per member.*

RENEWAL NEW CHANGE OVMRC NAME TAG (COST \$7.00) YES NO

Call Sign	Surname	Preferred First Name
Mailing Address		Apartment Number
City	Province	Postal Code
Home Phone	Work Phone	E-mail Address

Date

BBN

For Office use only

- One year regular membership. \$20.00/year**
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Amount Enclosed

\$

Cheque Cash

My Interests are:

<input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF Digital	<input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF CW
<input type="checkbox"/> Satellite	<input type="checkbox"/> HF Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> HF CW

Current Occupation:

If Retired, Former Occupation:

Skills: *(Please list them all)*

COMMENTS

OVMRC NAME TAG – ORDER DETAILS

First Name:

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