

( Club Activities - continued )

The *Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club* hold their meetings on the second Thursday of every month. Place is the Canadian Legion Hall, and a welcome mat is out for visitors who are in the city on this day. Prexy 5OM, VP 5AV, Sec'y-Treasurer, 5JJ or Activities Manager 5WM are the boys to contact for any further information.

Late flash from the *Kingston A.R.C.* about meeting place and date. On the first and third Wednesday of every month, at H.M.C.S. Cataraqui !!

The *Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club of St. John N.B.* is moving ahead rapidly with its club publication. Thanks Murray for the copies. Does the club meet in the YMCA on a regular nite each month, and will you drop us a line in advance, so out of towners can attend ?

\* The *Ottawa Amateur Radio Club* holders of the call VE3CCE have a new Exec. President is Doc Vermander 3BOC, with Ernie Tierney 3ACX the V.P., Marc Vermander, 3AWW is Sec'y and Harry 3EEB, Hayes is Treasurer, Sid Sheard 3BCL is Technical Adviser. How about some technical articles from the Capitol City, Sid ? And club meeting dates, too, Marc ??

The *Trenton Club, publishers of the Quinte QIM*, reported that they presented a brand new receiver as a door prize to Ed Dafeo of Trenton. In the report to the local paper, facts got lost someplace, and it now comes to light that this fine receiver, incorporating all the latest features is of the white porcelain finish variety and works best when operated on WC. We wonder about those recent features it had - no receiver is complete without a Noise Silencer!

The *Radio Club of Quebec* is to be congratulated on the further improvement in the new club publication - C.A.R. Printed entirely in French - it may be of interest to a large number of hams in the Prairie Region and perhaps in South-West Ontario. VE2NK is the Editor. Write him!

The *Kirkland Lake Amateur Radio League book - Break In* arrived, indicating Alex Snider, 3PA as President. Alex is the man mentioned in Traffic Lights last month for handling some good emergency traffic for the Arctic. As all members are notified of meetings by phone, the date of this event has not been included in the publication. If the Sec'y will send this along, it will be included in this Column for the benefit of those who may be travelling through.

Any *Canadian Club* - is cordially invited to send along data on club meetings and activities for inclusion - without any charge - in these pages. Today, more than ever before, many hams are travelling throughout the country, and publicizing your meetings dates and locations may mean the difference to some of these boys, between spending a slow night in a hotel, and being among friends at an amateur club meeting. When possible, include the phone numbers of a representative cross section of your Executive, in order that travellers may contact them at home between meeting dates. At your next Executive meeting arrange for the Secretary to put Skywire on the regular monthly mailing list. Keep us informed and we'll spread the info. to all call areas in Canada. Good publicity can make your club better and more appreciated.

While on the subject of club activities - a reminder that Skywire is constantly in need of good technical material for which payment is made on publication. There are scores of good articles lying unwritten in shacks in every Province, because of the fear they might not be accepted, or because the time for writing them has not yet been found. If the Executives of the clubs will contact the men known among their club members as the technical whizzes who do the best work, and suggest on a personal level that this or that piece of equipment be given the treatment in writing, it can bring your club further good publicity. Which part of Canada has the best ham group - and the most precise workers ?? We don't know at the minute, but we want to in the immediate future. Go to work on it, and prove your point !!!!!

# TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Bert Altherr, VE2GM

The holiday season traffic load was something terrific, to say the least. Tuning around, on 3.5 megacycles, there seemed to be nets, other stations and the like, busily moving traffic, at every five kilocycles on the band. There was no let up until the small hours of these mornings. About a week before Christmas, conditions were so good on 80 that DX stations of excellent signal strength were coming through right across the band. The tremendous increase in QRM from the DX hounds made it all the more difficult for the traffic men. But QRM or not the traffic went through just the same. Those traffic men who had a few minutes between the skeds joined the picnic and worked some nicer pieces of 80 meter DX.

From down East, we got word that the Maritime Net, operating Fone on 3790 kcs, is in full swing again. As many as 23 stations have reported in on a signal night, and as many as 4 channels were used simultaneously to fan the traffic. Sounds like a very active net. Let's hear more about these activities in the near future.

There is no sign of activity from an 80 C.W. net in the Maritimes at this writing. This is a badly felt void in Quebec as the VE2's are continually asked by VE3's and the U.S. nets to QSP traffic to VE1-land. It becomes a major problem when there is not a net at the destination. Traffic from Quebec and the Ontario area for the Maritimes, may be relayed to the 13th Regional Net (TRN) on 3675 kcs, at 7 45 p.m. and 9.15 p.m. EST. From the U.S.A. the Maritimes traffic comes through the Eastern Area Net (or EAN) on 3705 kcs at 8.30 p.m. & is brought to TRN at 9.15 p.m. by the TRN relay stations. As soon as a Maritime CW net is activated, it should send a representative to TRN to give and receive traffic. TRN is an integral part of the new A.R.R.L. traffic System.

We received a message from Reub, VE3ATR, who is Manager of QON on 7267 kcs. He says that they have regular outlets for Kincadine, Burlington, Toronto, Timmins, North Bay, Ft. Wm. Iroquois Falls, Sudbury, Stevens, Goderich -

and to Hamilton and Lachine, P.Q. Since receiving this information, we have learned that Doc, VE1VJ, is also a regular on the QON. Doc lately has been QNI the 10 p.m. sked of 01\*, a Quebec CW net on 3570 kcs.

A very nice letter from Ralph, VE3BBM, who is a regular member of QON gives lots of dope about this and that, as well as the latest NCS skeds for QON. Here they are. Monday, 3BVR, Tuesday, 3BBM, Wednesday, 3WK, Thursday, 3IA, Friday is EBM. Saturday is either open or handled by 3ATR and Sundays 3AZZ is in the drivers seat. If you have any traffic for the destinations listed in this column, report your traffic to QON on 7267 kcs any day of the week. Incidentally, QON must be one of the very few nets active for the entire seven days of the week. ←

Ralph, VE3BBM also comments on the incorrectly used Q signal - QRX, on nets and by others. No longer does this mean - wait - because it was recently changed. Now it means - When will you call me again, when sent by the receiving ham, and I will call you again, at such and such a time, when used by yourself in traffic. Ralph also points out that QSZ is getting him down. Traffic men should NOT QSZ unless requested to do so by the receiving station. It seems quite likely that many stations just QSZ through habit when sending a message and this slows the handling of messages very considerably when an operator is having no trouble receiving.

In a Post Script to his letter BBM asks - Hey, what about a Canadian BPL with lower requirements ??? Well, what about it fellows. Let's get your opinion on this as soon as possible.

Two nice letters were also received from a pair of real Old Timers. One of these was from 3HK, Fred, and the other from Bill, 3IL. Both letter writers have given the dope on the Phone Nets, in Ontario. Quoting from Fred's letter (3HK) -- At present there are three organized channels for traffic. Two are Nets, and one is a club. The Ontario Phone Net operates on 3815 kcs and starts at 7.00 p.m. EST. Monday through Thursday.

He says further - The Air Force Net operates

on 3815 kcs, Monday through Thursday too. It starts at 8.30 p.m. EST. The Ontario Phone Net concludes business at 8.30 p.m. at which time the Controller (NCS) of the Ontario Phone Net makes way for the Controller of the Air Force Net. The Ontario Phone Club commences at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday mornings on the same frequency. This club is primarily intended to give an opportunity to the 75 meter fraternity to promote friendship, and to extend this friendship to hams in need, both abroad and here.

Over and above all this activity on these 3 nets, Fred is on the air himself EVERY day, at 9.45 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. EST on 3815 kcs just in case there is any emergency or normal traffic to be handled.

Bill, 3IL, gave us similar dope about these phone nets. He is also a regular, and an OT who started his hamming back in 1920. Here is wishing you many more happy years of hamming, Bill.

The Mauricie Net is active on 146.8 mcs and to date there are eleven stations all crystal controlled on this frequency. They are VE2's AT ZG ABI EC ABB - all in Grand'Mere, ABJ KJ AIM at Shawinigan Falls, OD and VE at Three Rivers and AFU at St. Etienne-des-Gres. In addition to this, ZG and VE have mobiles in their cars. This net is available for an emergency, or traffic as all receivers and transmitters are xtal controlled on the operating channel. All use three element, horizontally polarized beams, according to ZG in the C.A.R. Bulletin, Quebec City Club.

In Quebec City, an emergency drill took place on December 26th with the objective of handling traffic re the flooding of Champlain Basin on the North Side of the city. The drill lasted 2½ hours and was a great success due to the teamwork of all concerned. Some 15 members took part either as operators or with their own equipment. All types of gear was used... low power fixed, portable and portable-mobile installed in cars. The R.C.C.S. supplied a truck and two stations were specifically for Red Cross Services. Congratulations to the leader of this emergency net - VE2QN who is the ARRL-EC for Quebec City.

And talking about emergency work, here's an

item worth mentioning, because its traffic.

A young Canadian pilot on Deception Island, in the South Antarctic swapped New Years greetings with his Ottawa Dad not long ago. On January 2nd, A.R. St. Louis spoke with his son for more than an hour, through a rig operated by Commander J.M. Doull, a ham operator whose call we haven't been able to determine. Doull, who operates CW worked the son on a phone CW contact since the Deception Island rig was a phone job. In case you're wondering, Deception is a little more than two thousand miles from the South Pole, and nearly eight thousand away from Ottawa.

The son Peter was able to chat without interference for the entire period, and in fact USA hams stood by all during the contact to make a sure thing of the QSO in case of fade, offering a relay of messages if needed. Needless to say Mr. St. Louis Sr. from now on is going to be an ardent booster of ham radio.

The Kingston ham club has organized a new CW net on 7180 kcs and 3CAZ is NCS. The net was given its first test late in November at 8.00 peeyem and is slated to function on the Wednesday evenings on which there are no club meeting interruptions. The net has invited participation by all the active Kingston boys who can get on the frequency, and has also suggested that outside stations looking for Kingston contacts will now be able to make them.

The Northern Ontario gang have proposed a network of phone stations from Timmins, Iroquois Falls, Twin Falls, Sudbury, North Bay, Kirkland Lake and Abitibi, to operate on 75 meters and keep traffic moving from those districts. As of this writing, the scheduled times and channels of operation are not known, and we would like, in the near future to hear from this group, and publish details of when and where the net is.

Most of the news this month has been about the traffic and emergency activity in the Eastern part of Canada, not because the column is restricted to any one part of the country, but, at deadline, there has been no arrival of news from the Western Sections. We'd like to hear about ALL the nets in Canada, in every province in order to bring out into the light the fine traffic job being done in this country by VE's. We want your ideas on net operation too, so get your news in the mail to Skywire, Longueuil, PQ.