

SEPTEMBER-1968

the Groundwave

PHIL PITMAN
EDITOR



OTTAWA SEPTEMBER 1968

Well, here it is again. Another summer has slipped by before we really knew it. Nice warm days of hamming almost over, days at the beach are limited, as is everything so dear to our hearts during the warm summer months. Now, after all that, let us come back, kick yourself to thoughts of the furthering months ahead. The first meeting of the club is coming, and will be held at the QTH of:

NRC building... Sussex Drive, in the AUDITORIUM.

SEP - 4 1968

TIME will be 8:00 PM (2000 hours) SHARP.. SHARP.

There will be and is, a general welcome to all to come. A complete report on the club activities will be presented, with LOTS of time left for the eyeball QSO's after the session. So come one and all.

EXECUTIVE

Pres:	Bob Knapp	VE3CDG	1314 Ferguson Street	722-8808
V.P.:	George Roach	VE3BNO	150 Isabella Street	234-0885
Sec.:	Larry Emmerson	VE3GGA	883 Dunlevie Ave.	728-7307
Tres:	Gord Grant	VE3DY	2050 Balharrie Ave.	733-4892

DIRECTORS

Guy Eon	VE3LM	2262 Highway 16	825-1707
Charlie Grove	VE3CT	2507 Regina Ave.	828-8419
Ray James	VE3CUA	43 Ashburn Ave.	224-7243

HONOURARY LIFE MEMBERS

Steve Chisholm
Peter Mahoney
Bruce Spanton

The Prez Sez

Since the executive has been elected to office, we have met every two weeks in July and weekly during the month of August, in an attempt to provide the club members with the best decisions possible for a good year to come.

Some of the things accomplished to date are:

- 1) the writing of the constitution in legal language and meeting the approval of the executive. Copies will be sent to the members at large who will be called upon to approve it at the October meeting.
- 2) An "INCORPORATION" report, submitted by Guy Eon, VE3LM, has met the approval of the executive, and will be discussed at length with the club body at the September meeting.
- 3) the discovery of 600 licensed amateur radio operators in the Ottawa area, and your executive decided to approach these people with the view of possibly adding them to the membership list. At the moment, the club represents only 20% of these HAMS.
- 4) the forming of a number of committees, and the terms of reference has been approved and members appointed. The following committees have been formed and are now active:

Crown Assets Purchase & Disposal;
Interference; Membership; Program; Publicity;
& Publishing committee.

The purpose of these committees is to implement the policy determined by your executive, and the functions and composition of each committee will be provided in the next issue of the Groundwave. As the committees take over the implementation of their responsibilities, your executive will be more free to plan further interesting activities.

See you all at the September meeting.

The housewife was having her second cup of coffee in the breakfast nook. She heard the back door open and thinking it was her young son, called out, "Here I am, darling."

After a moment, a rather embarrassed voice replied, "This is not the regular ice-man, Ma'am."

EDITORS COMMENTS

Greetings..... Fellow Amateurs,

First of all, I wish to thank, most sincerely, the person, or persons, who nominated me as Editor of the Groundwave. I am most grateful, and consider it an honour to serve in the organization. It will be a large task to undertake, since Gord Grant, 3DY, your previous Editor, has done such a wonderful job, and to take over his position will be a difficult one indeed. However, I'll try my best.

You will notice some changes in your bulletin this year, which will prove interesting to everyone. Some new articles appearing now will be Slow Scan TV, The New Image, TOPSTAR..... only to mention a few. There will be a section titled "Letters to the Editor", which you may send in your comments to the Editor to be printed. I am giving everyone, right now, an open invitation to send in their comments on any topic to be printed in the "Letters to the Editor" section; for any gossip about your neighbour; for the Arcovers section, or even a completely new section for the paper. This is your paper, and without you, your executive cannot function as efficiently as they should. Some concrete form of feedback should be evident in an organization this large. So come on fellas, here is your chance to be able to see your willy wit in pringy, dingy, pringy print. (wow)

One last comment.... let us ALL, that is EVERYBODY, make this the biggest and best year the club has ever had, OK? How about a really big convention; let us WIN Field Day, not just a section, etc and etc. Yes, I know that all this will require a little work on your part, but if everyone will share the load, it will make it easier in the long run for us all. Can we call on you?? Thanks.

In closing, I would like to paraphrase J.F. Kennedy...
"Don't ask what my club can do for me..... instead ask...what can I do for my club." It is a worthwhile motto, and maybe it could be the motto for the club for the year 1968-1969.
Anyway.. it is something to think about, isn't it?

Our Field Day 1968!

Although interest was slow in starting, participation for Field Day was substantial with 25 operators on hand. About 20 visitors came on the weekend. Our operation this year is the three transmitter class. The new rules this year made it a bit more interesting which pointed out some deficiencies in our planning. The location..GREAT!!! There were a lack of mosquitos due to a fogging by George, 3BNO.

Jerry Dillon, VE3AVI, kept us well fed with the ample supply of varied foods.

Murphy was not entirely missing. A bad bearing in a generator necessitated getting another shortly after the start. Even the kite flying contest ended in failure due to lack of wind. However, some flights were successful. The 20 meter beam rotator became tempermental and had to be aided by means of a halyard part of the time.

Our operation was on 80 fone and CW, 40 fone and CW, 20 fone and CW, and 15 CW. Total contacts was about 1100, using SB-100 and SB-101 Rigs.

There were a number of memorable incidents such as working "The Real McCoy", W1ICP on 80 fone, the W8---, a yl, who missed a report and asked the W9--- if he "--would give it to me again",.. to which he replied promptly "- sure will".

A great hand should go to George Roach, VE3BNO, for co-ordinating the whole thing, and to the band leaders, Bob, VE3CDG, Steve, VE3GLD, Fern, VE3GNF, and to Roy VE3ADM, our power chief, "Chef" Horizontal Jerry, and all the others who loaned beams, antennas, gear, power supplies, tents and their time. Notwithstanding, the rain on Saturday and the sunburn on Sunday... All in all, we had a real great weekend.

However, there is one sad note about Field Day. Someone has lost a blue pull-over sweater at the site, and if you are the one who lost it, please contact Gord, VE3DY, and everyone will be happy again.

How many of you saw the sun come up this year?????

The Trading Post

by

Jack Whittingham

VE3YC

Articles for inclusion in this column must be sent directly to 'The Trading Post' at 512 Sherbourne Road, Ottawa 13, or if a single item, by telephone at 722-7076 anytime after 5:00PM local time. In addition to this column, the items will be read over the air on 3760 Kc each Saturday morning throughout the year. All items will be deleted after each edition of the Groundwave, and you must re-submit if you wish the item to remain in the announcements.

"PLEASE NOTE"...Items listed are obtained by direct contact with the individual offering them, and the Editor and Staffs of the Groundwave are not responsible in any way for the condition of these items. Each 'deal' is the responsibility of the two persons concerned.

FOR SALE

Collins KWM2 with well designed 2KW linear, separate VFO & power supplies. Must be sold as a package. Call Jerry, VE3LX at 728-8544.
SB-200 Heath Linear in mint condition, call Mac, VE3VI at 825-2102.
Eico 753 solid state VFO, cal., Mic, power supply and set of extra tubes. Call Doc VE3BDO at 722-1057.
Senaca Heath 6&2 meter Xmtr, call Gord, VE3GKH in Kingston at 389-2690.
Colling speaker, hybrid phone patch, both in mint condition, VOM with 5" meter, 8 ohm single headset and dynamic mic. Call Jack..722-7076.
Audio Osc. 5" Heath Scope(OML), Sig. Gen., Grid Dipper, VTVM, bridge and a VOM, call Al Kapros at 733-4323.
Variable capacitors, transformers, tubes, tools, meters, relays, 250 watt AM rig for parts, 1500 volt power supply at 500 mils, etc.
Come and make an offer for what you may need. Cal Syd at 722-7995.

FOR TRADE

3000 volt at 500 mil commercial power supply. Call Jack at 722-7076.

WANTED

SB-10 adaptor, call Fran in Laval P.Q.
All band vertical antenna, call VE3ABC in Ottawa.
Tri band beam, TA-33 etc., Call VE3GDB at 1+ 826-2534.

SLOW SCAN TV

by

Syd Horne

VE3EGO

(This section would have normally been in this edition of the bulletin, however, Syd was involved in a serious automobile accident, and therefore was unable to submit an article for this month. I have been talking to Syd, and he states that he will most likely have an article next month and thereafter.... Editor)

RECOVERS Cary Honeywell, VE3EBH, was in the big city of Toronto this summer, taking a Radio Arts Course. Wonder how many

Phil Pitman is now an owner of an SB-101, and will soon be mobile on all bands (he hopes)....

How many towers and antennae came down during the windstorm in July?? Al Parry, VE3BZP, will be on his way to "G" land by the time this will be printed. Good luck Al.

Charter Flights cheaper than Air Canada and sight seeing tours can be arranged through Phil Pitman..

Anyone interested in a hidden transmitter hunt?hmmmmmmmm.....

Jim Strain's new phone number is 749-7433, and Burt Coy's new number is 692-3135. Anybody else that has their number wrong in the list?

WANTED.....News for this paper...should be some dirt around that you can think up about someone....

VE3BST is now VE3LX, and VE3CEB is now VE3PW...

Bob Knapp, VE3CDG, lost part of the 10 meter reflector on his beam during the windstorm in July. After finding out that he had an SWR of 4:1, which the SB-100 did not like, he took down his tri-band beam only to find that inside one of the traps was some water. Now he is complaining that he can't hear the ocean....

ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE IS SEPTEMBER 18, 1968. (WEDNESDAY)

C.A.R.F.

by

Jim Strain

VE3BSG

The Canadian Amateur Radio Federation (CARF) was organized in the Fall of 1967 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and at present consists of the provincial societies of Newfoundland, P.E.I., Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. It is hoped to have all the provincial Amateur societies in CARF shortly.

I have been appointed Chairman National DOT liaison committee for CARF, and work very closely with the Chief Radio Regulations of Telecommunications Bureau, DOT.

Problems dealing with regulations, TVI, BCI, etc., are normally referred by the provincial society to the Regional Director of Radio Regulations for resolution. In the majority of cases, these are resolved at this level. In fact most problems affecting the Amateur are being solved directly between the local Radio Inspector and himself.

Problems that cannot be solved at the provincial/Regional level are forwarded to the CARF liaison committee who then takes the matter up with DOT HQ. It should be emphasized the DOT insist that all proposed changes by provincial associations to the radio act respecting the amateur, must have the majority approval of the Canadian Amateurs.

In future editions of the Groundwave, I will endeavour to keep you informed of any developments in CARF and of any proposed changes to the Radio Act, as it affects the amateur.

DOUBLE CONVERSION: A complicated financial transaction completed after exchanging left over American money to Canadian money, after a trip to the States to buy radio parts and gear.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You are unable to live long enough to make them all yourself.

How to be Portable and Happy

The big weekend was fast approaching. Three days of the good old out-door life on an island in the Ottawa River, with fishing, maybe some bikini clad scenery, fifteen congenial spirits, lots of food and drink, sunshine, fish and a chance to do some hamming. With the assistance of a friend of mine, we finally got the car loaded with fishing tackle, essence, food, 807's (liquid), spirits, spare tubes, test meter, antenna, essence, some clothes, tools, 807's for the rig, spirits, essence and what have you.

The plan was not to work mobile as it is known, but to set up the rig at the camp with a mobile power supply hooked up to a few car batteries in parallel for power, an an all band dipole for an antenna. Away we went, dust flying gaily behind us, happy that that weekend was on the way and we had just a matter of a few miles to go before we loaded everything into a 28 foot cabin cruiser that a very generous friend gave us for the weekend. As we wound around a well banked turn, some distance from the home QTH, we queried, "who brought the transceiver?"...There was a deathly hush and we knew before looking what the answer was going to be. Back we went and managed to find room for the rig which was smugly sitting where it had been carefully laid out.

Setting out the second time, we sped without further incident to the hargour; loaded the boat and went to the island, where big fish and DX? awaited.

Before dark, we had the antenna erected over the bungalow we were to occupy with two other very sweet, and friendly companions. We left the rest of the assembly to await daylight. Next morning, we got the rig working properly. For the next two days, we amused our two friends by calling beautiful CQ's to the world at large and listening to some choice DX, but unfortunately, none directed our way. We ground our teeth when we heard one of the local Ottawa boys working a mobile out of Aylmer and then hooking a W7 something or other slant VE3, at Parliament Hill, and still we couldn't raise an answer.

The final day, after trying all the old and new ideas that came to us, we sadly lowered the sky hook and found one of the feeders flapping idly loose from the flat-top.

Well, that's our excuse anyway. And, we DID get some fish.

TOPSTAR

by

Guy Eon

VE3LM

The Ottawa Phonepatchers Serving The Arctic Region comprise a small group of regulars who provide phone-patching facilities for the men in the Arctic to their families in Ottawa and elsewhere.

The great bulk of the phone-patching is with Alert some 437 miles from the North Pole and with Resolute Bay. Normally, traffic flows at the rate of about 250 patches a month.

The requirements for satisfactory patching are good equipment; a three element yagi, preferably 1KW P.E.P. on SSB in the 20 meter band. Since the antenna must face North, South American interference is a problem since a 5/9 South American signal will appear, on an antenna with a 30 decibel back to front ratio, as an S4 signal, which is enough to interfere with a good patch, particularly when the Northern station may be only an S5 or an S6.

The TOPSTAR group is presently formed of VE3LM, VE3CT, VE3CDG, VE3YC, and VE3PY. Service is provided daily at 2030 hours GMT on or about 14165. Local amateurs have been very good in avoiding this frequency by at least 5 kilocycles, but there is still the occasional tuning or CQ from other stations in the midst of a phone-patch.

The TOPSTAR group of the OARC is a close knit group. It meets socially about once a month to discuss ways and means of improving its service. Occasionally the wives are asked to join in the social part of the gathering.

Future reports on TOPSTAR will discuss interesting episodes in this form of public service.

LIFE as defined by Shakespeare's Macbeth: "Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more: it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

R.S.O.

by

Philip Pitman

VE3DQK

There has been much discussion about regulations concerning Repeater operation. I have done some investigation on the subject, on behalf of the R.S.O., and have been authorised to print the general content of a Departmental letter regarding regulations that are being violated. The letter is classified at this time and cannot be quoted from directly. The arguments presented are here briefly outlined:

(1) The repeater stations are intended to be used only for mobile to mobile communication, not fixed station to fixed station, or repeater to repeater, as some are already doing. Excepting for a small percentage of the time, this area of the regulations have, and are being violated.

(2) There is no monitoring done at the repeater while it is active, nor is there any log of the operations of the repeater station proper. In most cases, the only proof of repeater operation is in the individual's log book, which is not worthwhile.

(3) The sponsor of the repeater should have the "keys" to the repeater, since he is the one that must be in 'physical control' of the station AT ALL TIMES. In some cases, the sponsor and the one holding the "keys" are two different individuals, which is a direct violation of the regulations. Also, there should be only one person in possession of the "keys".

(4) The original intention of the repeater stations was to increase the local coverage of a mobile station to another mobile station, and not in any other type of communication.

Nothing is really clear cut at DOT headquarters on repeater regulations as yet. Amateurs should, through their Provincial Societies work through CARF on a national basis, and work towards a firm foundation on repeater station rulings. To be effective, the approach should be consolidated.

The Department is aware that some groups are presently violating one or more of the above points. So, a word to the wise, check the regulations and your operating practice.

More on this topic Next Month. ---Maybe the letter...

The New Image

by

Jack Stauffer

VE3DF

As the title suggests, we are entering into the New Image in the present day realm of electronics. As we go into the "innards" of this new generation of equipment, we find that the old faithful tubes have disappeared, and in their place is a host of miniature components, including transistors. As amateurs, we are interested in what solid state circuitry offers, besides compactness, reliability, and cool operation. Fortunately, many of these solid state devices can be adapted to amateur usage.

Silicon diodes are excellent rectifiers for use in power supplies, giving less voltage drop, and an absence of heat. Zener diodes enable us to obtain very stable voltages, and they come in a wide range of voltage and current ratings. Several thousand types of bi-polar transistors are on the market, and some very useful types can be purchased for as little as fifty cents. We can build I.F., R.F. & A.F. amplifiers that equal or exceed the best vacuum tube counterpart.

The newer types of field effect transistors, which come for a dollar, can often be directly adapted to tube circuitry from UHF to the audio range. In a coming issue, I will describe a stable FET VFO that is comparable to the best in tube design.

I have been working on a solid state SSB generator, constructed in modular form, which will be presented in a later issue, and having conducted considerable experimentation for some years now, and for amateur use, the future projects will be written up from a practical point of view.

There are many sources of theoretical information available to anyone interested. These include all of the current ham literature, and a very fine transistor manual published by the GE company.

More next month.

(If anyone has talked with Jack on this subject, you will find that he is very knowledgeable in this area. This topic will be of great interest to all in the solid state art, and if you wish additional info, contact Jack..... Editor)

DX Topics

by

John Athey

VE3CTX

Looking over the membership list of the OARC, it appears we have a large percentage of new hams in our club. It is possible that at least a few may be interested in DX operating, and if so, they will want to know more about this aspect of the hobby.

DX is relative to the frequencies you work, but generally the 10, 15 and 20 meter bands are considered the domain of the transcontinental DX hunter, or DX hound, as he is sometimes called.

Contrary to popular belief, high power is not essential to hooking those rare ones, if you know where and when to find them. The purpose of this column is to give a few tips on how YOU can get them. Fortunately, we are at the peak of the sun spot cycle, and conditions are perfect for the beginner and old timer alike.

Let us take a look at 15 meter SSB.

One of the most difficult areas of the world to contact from North America is continental Asia. On 15, Asians complain about the lack of Canadian activity, and it is not uncommon to hear from the DX station, "you are my first VE3". The eastern Asian signals on the northern path occur between 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM local time. Usually the band becomes quiet prior to this opening. You can see that the time makes operating a must on the weekends if you wish to collect the DX, and are willing to forego a little of that suntan.

Some stations that have been worked are listed below: VU2LOK, VU2BK, 9M2NF, 9M2PO, 9M2BD, YALKO, 9V1CN, 9K2BV, 9K2BG, 9K2CC, and 9K2CB; MP4TCE, as well as many other 4X4, ZC4, 601 etc.

A person that may be serious in becoming involved with DX should have a good antenna, usually a quad or a beam, as well as an excellent receiver with a good front end. A Kilowatt will help at the other end when the going gets rough, and especially when working in the American portion of the bands.

In the next issue, there will be more information presented, and a breakdown of the 20 meter band as seen at this end. Any suggestions on any particular DX interests of the readers would be welcomed.

THE TRAFFIC MEAT

by
Burt Coy
VE3GI

Ever get blasé with the run-of-the-mill QSO's, or have a yen to work with the best operators on the band; want activity with some "meat" in it which also constitutes a useful public service within your available spare time? If so, traffic handling may be for you.

Most traffic handling takes place in "nets", which in its simplest form is a group of stations who meet at a specific time on a given frequency for the purpose of passing messages. A successful net requires a net control station to direct the activities, and stations who can act as connecting links to other nets for passing and receiving messages to destinations outside their own net area.

The more important nets available in the Ottawa area are:
The Ontario- Quebec Net (OQN). This net meets at 7:00 PM daily on 3535KHz. It consists of stations in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, with continent-wide interconnections.

The Ontario Phone Net This net meets Monday through Saturday on 3770 KHz at 7:00 PM local time. Coverage is mainly southern Ontario.

The simplest way to get started in traffic is to originate a few messages. Do this by checking into the appropriate net and, having done so, do not forget to continue to check in to pick up the answers.

Briefly the procedure is as follows:

Listen on the net frequency at the correct time and determine the net control station. The station will be calling the net call instead of the call of a station. Put your transmitter EXACTLY on the net frequency, and when there is a break, call the control station. When acknowledged, tell the net control station what traffic you have and await his instructions. Net control will call and instruct you to shift frequency to pass your message to a specific station. Do exactly what the controlling station tells you, and when you have passed your traffic, report back in on the net frequency. If there is nothing for you, you will probably be excused in a short time. Alternatively, you may be asked for your name, location and other pertinent data.

It is suggested that you listen to the net for a while to get the hang of procedures before entering a net in full force. In future issues, I will have further dope on how nets interconnect.