
: THE GROUNDWAVE - OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - NOVEMBER 1977 :
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MATERIAL PUBLISHED HEREIN does not necessarily represent the official OARC viewpoint. Items may be reprinted by Amateur Radio or similar publications provided that proper credit is given.

DEADLINE FOR COPY for the December issue will be November 19 for articles of length and November 26 for short paragraphs and announcements.

THE OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB is an association of Radio Amateurs devoted to the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications in the Ottawa regional area, and to promote the advancement of the technical competence and achievement of Club members.

THE CAPITAL CITY NET meets every Monday evening at 2000 hours on the Club repeater, VE2CRA (146.34/146.94), to pass traffic and make announcements of interest to Amateurs in the Ottawa regional area. THE SWAP NET, a service of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc., and conducted by Ed, VE3GX, is also repeated at this time. To list items or make enquiries, call Ed at 733-1721.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club will be held at the National Research Laboratories on Montreal Road (NOTE change of location!), Ottawa at 2000 hours on Wednesday November 2, 1977 (See map on page 4). The Ottawa Computer Group have been invited to share this meeting with us. The main item on the program will be a talk and demonstration on computer graphics, music and practical applications of man-computer communications.

THE OARC EXECUTIVE meets regularly in the Board Room of CFRA, 150 Isabella St., Ottawa at 2000 hours on the second Monday following the regular Club meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HANK, VE3BR, on being elected to the office of Director of on the national executive of the Quarter Century Wireless Association at the convention held at Seattle this past summer.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23 was a beautiful day for a 'Foxhunt' but it ended in frustration and defeat for many 'hunters'. Located on a hill in the Kanata Municipal Capngrounds, the 'Shy Fox' put a good signal into all parts of Ottawa and managed to elude all hunters for an hour and 33 minutes when VE3HYS, Harry, showed up using a soathanger arrangement of loop and sense antenna. Six minutes later Koith, VE3GPI, showed up using a rotatable quad on his car. Various other hunters were rewarded with success until the hunt was called off at 1600 hours and all wended their way hom ward to contemplate the lessons learned and vow to do things differently next time.

AUCTION - NOVEMBER 5 -- see page 5

RESPONSE FROM THE INTRUDER WATCH Has been very disappointing. We hear all kinds of reports of intruders into our bands but when we get a chance to do something about it, the result is next to nil. Do we not care? Remember to turn in logs for time spent monitoring for intruders even if none are heard. See the July/August issue of THE GROUND-WAVE for full details or contact the President, Penny, VE3ERO.

MAUREEN NEILL, VE3FZY, has offered to visit any Amateur confined to the Civic Hospital. If you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit, call Maureen at 725-4581 (233-9941 after 5:30) and let her know.

YOU CAN'T TELL BY THE HONK OF THE HORN how much gas is in the tank!

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A regular meeting of the OARC was held in the National Research Auditorium, Sussex St., Ottawa on Wednesday October 5, 1977.

The meeting was opened at 8:10 pm by the President, Penny, VE3ERO, and the 8 visitors who identified themselves were warmly welcomed.

An error was noted in the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in THE GROUNDWAVE to the effect that the vote to host the 1979 RSO Convention, while carried, was not unanimous. The minutes as printed, with this correction, were adopted on a motion by VE3CIJ, seconded by VE3IHW.

Joan McLaughlin, chief organizer of the University of Ottawa Shinerama Campaign addressed the meeting and thanked all those who had helped with communications for the event. \$21,000 was raised, up \$1,000 from last year, and with 50 less shiners in the field.

A request was made for volunteers to operate the Museum station, VE3JW, on weekends. Interested parties please contact Bruce Spanton, VE3BRS, at 733-2327.

Croft Taylor, VE3OR, reported on the recent RSO Annual Meeting which elected Marvin Nash, VE3FON, as president. The 1978 Convention will be held in London. The OARC is hosting the 1979 Convention - two dates were discussed and left with Croft to discuss further with the Skyline Hotel. Croft reported the concern of the RSO that deceased amateur's motor vehicles may be accidentally transferred while still bearing call-sign license plates (this has happened!) and asked members to be alert to this infraction. He also reported the need for delegates and directors from the Ottawa area.

Membership Chairman, Bert, VE3GCK, reported 78 members already paid up for 1978.

EMI Committee Chairman, Bill, VE3EKA, reported his committee members, Sandy, VE3AAC, Ralph, VE3BBM, Mike, VE3TP, Fred, VE3IO and Ray, VE3CUA have been busy with a number of tasks. Their Fourth Tune-up and Clean-up clinic is scheduled for November 12, the location to be confirmed later. They have averaged two calls a week through the summer.

Volunteers were called for to act on the Nominating Committee to assist Gord, VE3DY, who has already volunteered.

Synthesizer returns (of surplus money) are available tonight from the Treasurer.

Nominations for the Amateur of the Year award will remain open until after the OVMRC meeting, approximately two weeks. Judges selected are Jim Swail, VE3KF, John Morton, VE3ALK and Hugh Lines, VE3DWL.

The QSL Bureau reports that Thelma, VE3CLT, has received SASE's from the Ottawa area with no name or call. If anyone can remember forgetting to put identification on their SASE's, please get in touch with the Bureau about it.

The November meeting will be a joint meeting with the Ottawa Computer Group and will take place at the Montreal Road site of the National Research Council, further details to appear in the November issue of THE GROUNDWAVE.

Members were asked to turn in their intruder watch reports to Barry, VE3CRX.

Members were reminded of the annual Foxhunt set for Sunday October 23.

Members were reminded of the annual Ham Auction to be held this year at Canterbury High School on Saturday November 5. Sellers will be limited to 10 items each but Flea-Market tables will be available at \$5.00 for the over-flow and small items.

Members were reminded of the Car Rally on October 16 for which members of the PARC will be using the repeater for communications.

Suggestions were called for regarding a Christmas party this year.

Members were informed of an Amateur Radio display being staged at a west-end high school on October 24 and that the loan of HF gear would be appreciated.

Doug Burrill, VE3GDC, spoke on behalf of CARF and reported that CARF, along with other interested groups will be attending a National Symposium on Amateur Radio being held in the Conference Centre on November 26. Topics touched upon will be EMI, tower restrictions, new certificates, changes to the regulations, new regulations, etc.

Rick, VE3HVA, reported on bulk-buying activities.

Larry, VE3CRX, reported on Public Service activities and that there will be an experimental exercise of public service patrols on October 13.

The main item on the program was a display and very knowledgeable talk on Radio Controlled Models by Lynda Reed, VE3..., Bill Reed, VE3JCQ and Ken Kendall, VE3IHX.

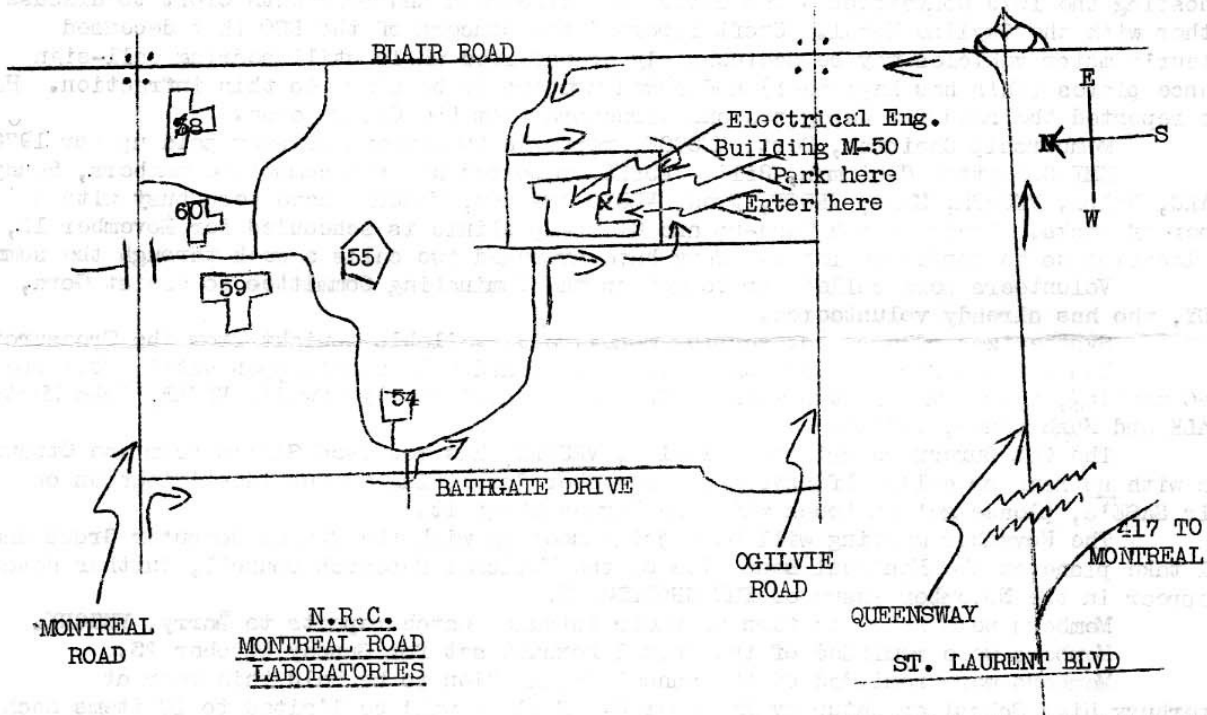
(Continued on page 4)

MINUTES (Continued from page 3) Equipment on display included two planes, a glider, a helicopter and a sailboat. The talk touched on pulsed-carrier type of trans missions and the newer FSK type from the 600 milliwatt control units and was accompanied with excellent slides of models, and people, in action.

The meeting was adjourned for coffee and ragchew at 10:10 pm on a motion by VE2DZT, seconded by VE3CV. Carl Everson, Acting Secretary, VE3BYX

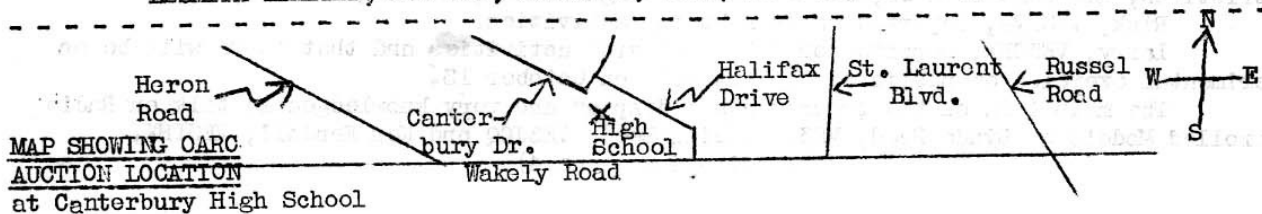
CAN YOU COMMUNICATE WITH A COMPUTER? For nearly 15 years, a group at the National Research Council have been studying man-computer communications problems, and the related fields of computer graphics and image processing. At the November meeting of the OARC, which will be held at the Electrical Engineering Laboratory on Montreal Road, they plan to review some of the developments which have taken place during the past 15 years. Live demonstrations of real time computer graphics, music and animated films as well as of practical applications in problem areas of concern to us all, will be given.

Use the following map to find your way to the Electrical Engineering Building.



A NOTE FROM LESMITH, recently received by Grant, VE3JBF, provides the following information: '...we usually try to stock standard simplex and repeater pairs for the HW202, Hw2021, HT220, TR22 & TR72 by Drake (TR2200 & TR7200 by Kenwood are the same), IC20, IC21, IC22, IC215 and, to a lesser degree, GE Progress. We usually can come up with System Commander II pretty quickly but don't systematically stock for it because of the many variations that hams employ. There are a lot more that we stock less completely, for example, we run a full batch of Multi-7 whenever we get an order so there are lots of others in stock but not kept separate like the list above...'

LESMITH LIMITED, Box 703, Oakville, Ont., is a popular supplier of crystals.



PENNY'S TWO CENTS WORTH

Did you ever stop to think of what all goes into running a club? For example, what is involved with an executive meeting? Why is there business at club meetings rather than purely social activities? Executive meetings are not just the 'clique' getting together for a brief chat before going drinking -- far from it! The secretary must have the minutes of the previous regular meeting ready for checking and turning over for printing in THE GROUNDWAVE, and be prepared to also take the exec. meeting minutes. The treasurer should be able to report on the monetary situation, amounts spent over and under budgets, be prepared to write cheques for necessary expenses, etc. The directors are involved in amateur activities of all sorts and have their reports and recommendations to make. Committee chairmen are encouraged to attend and report on their committee activities past, present and future. The membership chairman picks up the mail and distributes it to the persons involved, processes the memberships and ensures that the membership and mailing lists are up-to-date. The editor usually attends to exchange and receive information in preparation for the next issue of THE GROUNDWAVE. As for myself, exec. meetings usually involve up to a full day's planning getting an agenda ready, making sure that all my information is current and accurate, preparing this column for THE GROUNDWAVE, and performing the many other odds and ends that crop up at the last minute. The executive then sorts through all the assembled information, decides what should be thrown out, what should be followed up and what should, or must, be brought before the club as a whole at a general meeting.

As volunteers virtually don't exist when we need them, the executive suggests names of people who might arrange the Christmas party, act on the nominating committee, etc., and it is usually my job then to phone around and follow up these leads. It is not always a pleasant task but is guaranteed to be time-consuming.

Am I complaining? No - not really. I accepted the office with all that went with it. But please don't underestimate the time and effort some people are putting in to make the OARC a going concern. I realize that not everyone is interested in all aspects of club activity be it picnic, Field Day, foxhunt, auction, Christmas party, repeater, net, Groundwave, guest speakers, coffee, bulk purchasing, EMI, public service, Childres's Hospital, RSO Convention, or whatever. But surely we must all be interested in at least one thing the club has to offer - or else why are we members? Our 'Shy Fox' and our auction arranger have both warned us that this is the last time, at least for a while, it's someone else's turn. Have you ever thought of volunteering? What better way to say 'thank you' to those who are working so hard to maintain our frequencies, and good position in the eyes of the public and government, than to put a little time and effort back into our hobby that has so much going for it? It's also a great way to air your beefs and get to do things your way - from within. Have you even asked your wife to save Dominion Store tapes yet? Or do you even know where she shops?

I guess you got a nickle's worth this time around. 73 & 88

Penny, VE3ERO, OARC President

OARC AUCTION 77

Just to bring you up to date on the forthcoming auction and fleamarket: PLACE: Canterbury High School Cafeteria

DATE ; Saturday November 5, 1977

TIME : 9:00 am (and not before!) Doors open for registration of goods for auction. Remember to pick up registration order number first!

Rental of flea market tables at \$5.00 per table.

10:30 am Flea market opens for business

12:30 pm Auction gets under way

5:00 pm Auction and flea market closes

5:30 pm Building to be empty and 'CLEAN'

RULES: Any disputed bid will be reopened at the last firm offer.

All sales are cash except where the owner will accept a cheque from the purchaser and the sales fee paid to the Club in cash.

The Club retains ten percent of the selling price of auctioned items.

A limit of ten items per person has been set for the auction.

See the opposite page (page 4) for a map showing the location of Canterbury High School. See you all there on the fourth. Jim Hatch, VE3CIJ, Auction Chairman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear OM: Just a short line to ask you to run the attached FOR SALE ad and to say how much I enjoy reading about the present members and those who were Club members when I was in Ottawa.

I understand that 3CEZ, 3BEB and 3CNT are now silent keys. I knew them all and offer my sincere condolences to their families.

I still work 20 M both from home (VE4AI) and at the local Community College (VE4RRG) and many of my ex-students with 2nd class tickets go through the MOT training school out on Heron Road. I still treasure and carry the OARC card I received which made me an honorary member signed by Bob Knapp. My best wishes for the future.

Vy 75, Steve, VE4AI, ex-VE3ATU

FOR SALE: Two Marconi Ch 25 SSB transceivers c/w ant. tuners suitable for Amateur or commercial licencing, 4 channels.

Racal frequency meter model 803 R--500 MHz with model 806 R--32 c/w manuals.

Stoddard field strength meter model NM 20B c/w A.C. PSU, connectors, black shipping cases, remote reading meter, manual and tripod.

Eddystone 770R VHF receiver, 19 to 165 MHz c/w manual.

Dumont Oscilloscope model 304 A c/w manual.

CONTACT: VE4AI, 551 Bruce Ave., Winnipeg Man., R3J OW3

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Gentlemen: We would appreciate your running the following announcement in your bulletin as a service to your readers. Thanks and best regards, Jerry Vogt, Pres.

NEW HAMTRONICS CATALOG: Hamtronics Inc., announces publication of a new expanded 1978 catalog crammed with goodies for vhf/uhf and OSCAR enthusiasts and two-way radio shops.

The 40 page catalog features a new line of vhf and uhf receiver converters, new vhf and uhf fm receiver kits, receiver preamps, fm transmitter kits, power amplifiers for vhf and uhf, test probe kits, power supplies, tone pads and tone encoder microphones, antennas and many more items of interest to the active ham. For your copy of the new 4 x 5 1/2 inch catalog, send a SASE to: Hamtronics, Inc., 182 Belmont Rd., Rochester, NY,

-14612-

IF YOU CHANGE CARS and have Call-Letter licence plates, you should follow one of the following procedures: (Own Choice means Call Letter)

OLD VEHICLE - Visit your local Motor Vehicle Licence office and (1) complete form JLL3 for replacement of registration plates; (2) attach your Own Choice vehicle permit to form JLL3; (3) pay the replacement plate set fee of \$2.00. The Licence Office will then issue a replacement permit and set of plates. These plates are to be placed on the old vehicle after removal of your Own Choice plates. The new permit may then be transferred to the new owner of the vehicle. Be sure to retain your Own Choice licence plates.

NEW VEHICLE (NOT YET REGISTERED) - (1) mount your Own Choice plates on the new vehicle. (2) send to the address below (a) the application for registration of the vehicle (JLL); (b) the Certificate of Sale (issued by the dealer); (c) the registration fee as per the cylinder rating of the vehicle (4/\$25; 6/\$32; 8/\$40 - reduced by one-half on or after Sept 1); (d) the re-issuing fee of \$3.00; (e) a note giving your Own Choice plate number. On receipt of the above items, a new permit will be issued showing the Own Choice plate number and describing the new vehicle.

NEW USED VEHICLE (ALREADY REGISTERED) - (1) have the vehicle permit transferred at your local issuing office; (2) place your Own Choice plates on the vehicle; (3) send, to the address noted below (a) the vehicle permit; (b) the completed JLL3 form; (c) the regular series plates which were on the vehicle; (d) the fee of \$5.00 (\$2.00 replacement, \$3.00 re-issuing); (e) a note giving your Own Choice plate number. On receipt of the above items, a new permit will be issued showing the Own Choice plate number and describing the new used vehicle.

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE - Department of Transportation and Communications, MacDonald Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont., M7A 2A2, ATTN: Miss G.E. Graham.

SOME THOUGHTS AND REMINISCENCES - PART II by Brian Summers, VE3JKZ

The renewed interest in ham radio was a result of obtaining a job with the Federal Government and moving from Montreal to Ottawa. The biggest impact of this move was the transition from over 12 years of direct involvement in the electronics industry to a desk-bound engineering job with DND. With little chance to get ones hands in the equipment at work, the urge to re-enter the world of ham radio started to stir.

The prime mover in this was a good friend, now licenced as VE3JQG, who located the venue of the OARC. The first meeting attended was in December '76, and the first person met was our illustrious editor, Carl, who cheerfully handed out copies of THE GROUNDWAVE. This provided information about the 80m swap shop and within a few days, an SB-300 receiver had been purchased from VE3IX in Manotick.

It wasn't long before the glowing embers of interest turned into a roaring fire! The DOC circulars TRC-24 and 25 were rapidly obtained, and a dog-eared copy of the ARRL Handbook circa 1959 retrieved from a rarely visited corner of your scribe's bookshelf. The WIAW schedules were monitored as often as possible and the code soon brought up to the 13 wpm level. It was on a cool and windy day in February that your scribe presented himself at the DOC office downtown for the test. Suffice to say the test was passed - no sweat; and, incidentally, considered scrupulously fair for all attendees. No need to worry if you'd done your homework, and the informal friendly attitude of the DOC staff soon dispelled the inevitable "shaky fist".

The swap shop on 80 again came through and a rather ancient Heathkit "Cheyenne" transmitter obtained. Courtesy of Graham, VE3BYT, a copy of the manual was also obtained. Not having anything in the way of a transmatch or VSWR indicator, and desiring to work all bands, a G5RV antenna fed with a mixture of 300 ohm TV lead and 75 ohm coax was erected. This was found to load very well except on 40 where one "ran out" of loading control and was limited to about 40 watts input at the plate current dip vice the usual 75 watts. Since then, the feeder has been replaced with open line and a transmatch with VSWR indicator added to the rig.

One fine day in June the moment came to make that first QSO. I suppose every ham remembers that first one and this was no exception. It was Sunday June 5th at 1000 hours local, and your scribe was lying in wait around 3650 kHz for some victim to put out a CQ. Soon one came, rather shakey, and being a VE3J.., obviously a beginner. Now, I don't wish to embarass the gentleman (or lady) by writing his (or her) call down - all I'll say is - OM (or YL), your code that day was so darn awful that no way could I copy the continual stream of dits and dahs without a discernible break between them! Still, I did send you a QSL via the CARF Bureau, so if you reciprocate I'll even get to know who you are...

Confidence soon started to appear of course, and numerous QSOs made in the US N Novice sections of 40 and 15. The QRM there is so bad at times that your scribe soon moved out to other frequencies. Now, most operation is on 20 and 40, with spells on 80 and 15 when the QRM clogs the other bands. A spell of DX hunting has been attempted, and QSOs made with CX, PT, YU, YV, UQ2, VK and similar. Well, it may not be real DX to some of you but with my 75 watts and what is basically a dipole, it sure is fine DX to me,

Having returned to ham radio after an absence of many years, there are two things that most impress your scribe. One is the (apparent) complete absence of AM signals on the HF bands, and the other is the superb performance of receivers such as the SB-300. One gripe though - would you gentlemen (or ladies) using electronic keyers (or bugs) please gain some proficiency before you key your transmitter on the air. It is said that electronic keyers permit either perfect code or perfect gibberish - alas, too many users fall into the latter category.

Well, VE3JKZ is on the air and experiencing a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction. Now if only the rig was replaced with a modern transceiver and linear, a monitorscope added of course, and a decent beam with a rotator put up on a 75 foot tower
.....73 ES GUD DX BCNU SK.....DE VE3JKZ

CARS TODAY ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY AUTOMATIC-----

-----this leaves your mind free to worry about how to make
the payments!!!

OTTAWA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE by Larry Bradley, VE3CRX

On Thursday October 13, about 6:00 pm, a construction crew "accidentally cut" a Bell Canada cable and 3000 subscribers in Nepean Township were "without" telephone service. Bell immediately contacted EMO coordinator Fred Holcombe asking that Operation TIES (Telephone Interruption Emergency Service) be put into effect.

At 6:10, VE3CRX received a call from EMO asking the Amateurs to stand by for instructions. VE3CRX activated the emergency telephone tree and soon had 13 Amateurs standing by on repeater VE2CRA awaiting further instructions. At 6:35, EMO phoned again, outlined the extent of the problem, and asked the Amateurs to proceed to the Merivale Fire Hall.

The Amateurs were immediately dispatched through VE2CRA, the first one arriving at the Fire Hall at 6:40 pm. By 7:00 pm, all Amateurs were at the site and ready to go on patrol.

EMO had also alerted the XM49ers Emergency Radio Squadron, a local GRS group, and they too were on site with their communications trailer which was used as site headquarters. Amateur VHF, EMO commercial VHF, 49ers commercial VHF and 49ers GRS stations were all set up in the trailer.

EMO staff had divided the affected area into 20 sections (patrols) and soon 10 Amateur and 10 49er mobiles were cruising the streets, ready to provide emergency communications for residents. Forty incidents, ranging from car accidents to prowlers to heart attacks were handled until phone service was "restored" at 9:30 pm.

Fortunately, the above was only an exercise - the cable was not really cut, and the "incidents" were manufactured. But the rest is true. The people for whom the exercise was staged - EMO, Bell Canada, police and fire departments - were favourably impressed.

Such activities are not only interesting for the Amateurs involved, but are excellent public relations for the Amateur Experimental Service. We need more people who could help in exercises such as this one in preparation for the real thing. Amateur Radio is a privilege, not a right. Help to earn your licence by helping the public. Fill out the registration form found on page in this issue and either mail it to me or hand it to me at the next OARC meeting. If you previously filled out a similar form (a couple of years ago) please fill out another one so I can update my records.

Many thanks to those who participated in Operation TIES and congratulations on a job well done.

Emergency Coordinator
 Larry Bradley, VE3CRX,
 9 Chartrand Ave., Orleans, K1E 1H9

THE EAST OTTAWA REPEATER ASSOCIATION has recently made operational an autopatch repeater on an Ottawa core-area telephone exchange, and runs under the call of VE3OEA.

VE3OEA operates in conventional repeater fashion when not in the autopatch mode, however, since the repeater is basically for autopatch and the 'dial-in' feature, QSOs should be kept as short as possible. The 'dial-in' feature allows someone to telephone into the autopatch and cause it to 'ring' over the air. Another station wishing to answer simply accesses the autopatch in the normal manner and only then does the telephone audio become available.

The three-minute 'time-out' timer is reset by dropping the input signal, thus you don't need to wait for the repeater 'tail' to drop every time. This timer does not operate when in the autopatch mode, however, if no signal is received for a period of more than two minutes while in the autopatch mode, the patch will automatically disconnect itself and revert to normal repeater operation.

There are two levels of membership in EORA - Basic and Full. Basic membership is a lifetime membership which entitles the member to the use of the repeater's dial-in feature. The basic membership fee, currently set at \$5.00, is paid only once. Full membership entitles the member to all privileges of the repeater's autopatch. The full membership fee, currently set at \$5.00, is yearly and basic membership is a requirement to obtain full membership. It is hoped that this full membership fee can be lowered on the next renewal date. Further information and membership forms may be obtained from Adrian Brookes, VE3G0J, (licencee VE3OEA), 292 Bathgate Dr., Ottawa, Ont., K1K 3Y2 (749-9010)

YES, THERE ARE BIGGER THINGS IN LIFE THAN MONEY - - - - - bills!!!

OTTAWA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:

CALL:

ADDRESS:

PHONE - home:

business:

How active can you be? very () moderate () low ()

Can you get off work for a communications emergency? yes () no ()

Do you have an HF station at home? yes () no ()

If so, do you have emergency power? yes () no ()

Do you have a phone patch? yes () no ()

Do you have an HF mobile station? yes () no ()

Do you have a 2-metre base station? yes () no ()

-with emergency power? yes () no ()

-with a phone patch? yes () no ()

Do you have a 2-metre mobile? yes () no ()

-with autopatch? yes () no ()

Do you have a 2-metre hand-portable? yes () no ()

Do you have a 2-metre radio which
can be used portably? (ie. a mobile
radio with batteries and antenna) yes () no ()

List anything else you have which might be useful in emergency activities,
e.g. a boat, snowmobile, motor home, 4-wheel drive vehicle, other vhf gear, etc.

MAIL TO: Larry Bradley, VE3CRX, Emergency Coordinator,
9 Chartrand Ave., Orleans, Ontario, K1E 1H9

OR: Hand in at the next
regular OARC meeting.

THE OLD LADY OF KUCHING by Sid Gould, VE2AXQ via Montreal ARC Marcogram

The 'Old Lady' referred to in the title was not an elderly female but the code-name given to, perhaps, one of the most remarkable bits of home-brew radio equipment ever made.

The incidents related here occurred in the town of Kuching on the tropical island of Borneo which the Japanese over-ran after Pearl Harbour.

They established a group of camps for Allied POW's and civilian internees under conditions which were utterly appalling. Everybody suffered from near starvation, no medical supplies were available, malaria and other diseases were rife. Prisoners were beaten, tortured and humiliated, and made to work long hours in the fields, while they were scarcely able to stand up because of weakness and malaria.

One day an elderly civilian died and, at the burial site, a British sergeant Beckett took possession of the dead man's hearing aid which he smuggled back to his hut. Sgt. Beckett had been a radio mechanic before the war back in the UK and after a lot of thought considered that it might be possible to convert the hearing aid or use some of the parts to make a radio receiver which would enable them to pick up broadcasts from nearby Australia. He realized that being caught meant instant death.

There were no Payettes around in those days which could supply the components he needed, so he had to improvise with what could be scrounged and salvaged. Wire was obtained from ignition coils stolen from abandoned trucks and cars, shaving soap containers made coil forms, bits of broken glass were used for insulation, and old biscuit tins were converted to variable capacitors.

In order to maintain the greatest secrecy during the construction and eventual operation of the set, only a few POW's were let in on the secret. An elaborate system of warning signals - songs, whistles, etc. - was used and above all the set was referred to only by the code name of "The Old Lady".

Power supply was not a great problem as the huts were fitted with electricity which was easily tapped. An antenna was made from a length of coil wire and covered with articles of clothing and then hung between the real washing lines outside one of the huts. It all worked well and soon daily broadcasts were being received from Australia.

Then one day the chopper struck! Power was cut off to all the huts. This was a real problem for the Old Lady's guardians. Again, Sgt. Beckett came to the rescue. The only solution was to make a hand driven generator. And so they went to work. Parts of old bicycles, car steering wheels, and what-have-you were collected by POW'S working in the fields and on the small airstrip.

Generators supplied sufficient wire, and a large flywheel - an essential requirement - was made from scrap iron and disguised as a barrel top. The generator was hand driven and small enough to be hidden with the Old Lady when not in use. Soon the broadcasts were again being heard daily and the resumes sent to the senior officers at all camps.

The Japanese eventually came to suspect the existence of a clandestine radio as there was always a notable increase in the spirit and demeanour of the POW's when good news was picked up by the Old Lady. But they never found her and today she probably rests in some British back room.

To Sgt. Beckett, should he by chance ever read these words, I say: FB OM, FB!
 Sid Gould, VE2AXQ

THE GENTLE ART OF 'TURNING IT OVER' by WLPO via Worldradio News

Well, that's about it from here for this time fellows. Let's see, whose turn is it? I've kinda lost track. My memory isn't what it used to be I guess.

Oh, incidentally fellows, did I tell you about my antenna falling down? Well, it did, and it took me a long time to get it back up again. I went out and put it up again in all the rain. Seems to be working but I'd like some signal reports when I turn it over. Okay Joe, over to you, OM - incidentally, I must QRT now, the XYL just came in and I must go. She has a job at the local library, you know, and likes it very much. Brings in a little more dough for me to spend, hi! Go ahead Joe - or is it Jim's turn? I kinda forget. There are so many in here I kinda lost track. By the way, I was talking to Bill on this band the other night - or was it 40? Anyhow he's fine. I'll tell you more about him when I have more time. That's about it from here except to say.....

THE OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
 BOX 8873, OTTAWA, ONTARIO,
 CANADA, K1G 3J2

F I R S T CLASS MAIL



THE OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB		P.O. BOX 8873	OTTAWA	ONT.	CAN. K1G 3J2:
President	Ponny Robinson	1228 Agincourt Road,	Ottawa,	Ont.	225-1276
	VE3ERO	K2C 2J2			
V/President	Rick Van Gastel	3160 Stockton Dr.,	Ottawa,	Ont.	737-0782
	VE3HVA	K1T 1S1		993-3800 Ext. 126	
Secretary	Maureen Neill	148 Fentiman Avenue,	Ottawa,	Ont.	233-8941
	VE3FZY	KLS 0T8			
Treasurer	Cy Chapman	2244 Kipling Street,	Ottawa,	Ont.	731-6172
	VE3CVK	K1H 6T5			
Directors	Bud Punchard	3193 Riverside Drive,	Ottawa,	Ont.	733-3990
	VE3UD	K1V 8N8			
	Jim Dean	1752 Iaxton Cresc.,	Ottawa,	Ont.	225-6288
	VE3CMV	K2C 2N3			992-9701
	Zyg Skrobanski				729-9819
	VE3GZS			238-2030 Ext. 234	
Membership	Bert Bray	Box 147, RR #2,	Orleans,	Ont.	824-7844
	VE3GCK	K1C 1T1			
Net Manager &	Larry Bradley	9 Chartrand Ave.,	Orleans,	Ont.	824-3753
Emerg. Comm.	VE3CRX	K0A 2V0			993-3238
Custodian &	Gerry Martin	1771 Hutton Ave.,	Ottawa,	Ont.	731-3220
Archivist	VE3CNJ	K1G 1M1			
Electro-Mag.	Bill Westbrook	1494 Ridgebrook Dr.,	Ottawa,	Ont.	749-3373
Interference	VE3EKA	K1B 4K7			239-2685
Coffee	Sean Huntley	109 Clearview Ave.,	Ottawa,	Ont.	722-9467
	VE3HXP	K1Y 2L1			224-8636