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The Official Bulletin of the
OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.
Box 8873, Ottawa, Ont. K1G 3J2

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THE OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
is an association of Radio Amateurs devoted to the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications in the Ottawa regional area and to 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 to make announcements of interest to Amateurs in the Ottawa regional area.

THE SWAP NET, a service to the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc., is repeated on the Capital City Net and is conducted by Ed Morgan VE3GX. To list items or make enquiries, call Ed at 733-1271.

An ENGRAVING PENCIL is available to Club members to mark their valuables for positive identification in case of loss or theft. For further information, contact Penny Robinson VE3ERO at 225-1276.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS to any Amateur confined to the Civic Hospital will be made by Maureen Neill VE3FZY. If you know of any amateur confined there who would appreciate a visit, call Maureen at 725-4748 during the day or 233-9941 after 1730 hours.

SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!! -- in National and International publications. Write an article for the GROUNDWAVE and watch it travel! Many local articles have been reprinted in Club bulletins across North America. DEADLINE FOR COPY for all articles and announcements is the second Wednesday of each month.

REGULAR MEETINGS of the OARC, Inc. are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at the National Research Council Auditorium, 100 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, at 2000 hours. A bulletin board is available for posting notices of interest to other members about 1915 h. For further details on the next meeting, see page 5.

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 to the OARC.

THE OARC EXECUTIVE normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Board Room of CFRA, 150 Isabella St., Ottawa at 2000 hours. Contact the president to confirm the date of the next meeting.

RENEW YOUR CARF AND ARRL MEMBERSHIP through the OARC to save money order and postal charges, and to help your Club. Contact the Treasurer for further details (see back cover).

SAFETY BELTS AND TWO METRE RIG are available for loan to club members. The two metre rig may be borrowed by members who must be hospitalized, and the safety belts and pole straps by any member (a \$100 refundable deposit is required for the latter). For the belts, contact Paul VE3ICV at 820-6643 if you live in the west end or Brian VE3JKZ at 523-1535 in the east end of town. Contact Brian for 2m rig. RADIO AMATEUR CALL BOOKS are available for use at the Orleans, Nepean, downtown and other city libraries. Enquire at the information desks of your local library for further information.

MINUTES OF THE OTTAWAAMATEUR RADIO CLUB, Inc.

March 4th 1981

Brian VE3JKZ, President, called the meeting to order at 2000 hours with about 65 members and visitors in attendance. VE3LNH Allan, VE3MJY Bill, VE3MJX Ron, Ferdy VE3JLH, John VE7CPY and Dennis VE3HWG, visitors to the meeting were welcomed by Brian. Brian announced that a "bug" had been found in the computer program used to generate the mailing labels for the GROUNDWAVE which resulted in several members being dropped from the list. This has now been corrected.

Several errors in the Minutes of the February meeting were noted: The reference to "Bill Laird" should have been "Laird Gordon"; the budget details referred to in the minutes were inadvertently missed, and will appear in the May issue (see page 5); Garry is VE1BCU, not VE3BCU as reported; and VE3UD is Bud Punchard, not Doug Punchard. Subject to the above corrections, the minutes were adopted as published on a motion by VE3MJH seconded by VE3NR. The only business arising from the minutes was a reminder by Paul VE3JKZ that the Executive is seeking suggestions for the capital budget item.

Fred VE3IO, Chairman EMI Committee, announced that he had torroids for several members, and that he wished them to be picked up. There will be an EMI Clinic at the CJOH garage at Merivale and Clyde on May 9th from 0900-1200. This will be a good opportunity to check your rig for harmonic or spurious emissions. Fred also reported on rfi problems experienced with a burglar alarm system operating on 10.5 GHz. The rf system is completely unshielded, and the "fix" was to wrap the offending plastic box in foil.

There are now 241 members, about 80 fewer than this time last year. Reminders will be sent to members who have not renewed.

1981 is "The Year of the Handicapped and Geoff VE3KID reported on plans to present a demonstration at the Multiple Sclerosis Convention to be held at the Chateau Laurier Hotel on April 4th. Both HF and VHF stations will be set up.

June 27th and 28th are the dates for Field Day this year. Bob VE3MPG is organizing the Club's entry. Most of the station managers have been named, but many more volunteers are needed to help with the set-up, taking down and operating. A sign-up sheet was made available for those interested.

Brian VE3JKZ talked about the "buddy System" for new and aspiring amateurs which is now being taken on by Laird Gordon, while Bill VE3ARZ is away. He reported that there are now fourteen "buddies", and that more are needed, especially one in Manotick and one (preferably francophone) near Vanier.

Brian VE3JKZ announced that the Executive was proposing to nominate Mr. J. P. Henderson VE3AF as an Honorary (Lifetime) Member. Brian read the section of the Club Bylaws regarding the procedures to be followed for approving such an honour and George VE3DMC made the following motion. He moved that Mr. J. P. (Judson Pulford) Henderson VE3AF be enrolled as an Honorary Life Member of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc. in recognition of his long service to amateur radio and his particular contribution to the development of the Canadian radio time signal. The motion was seconded* and was carried by more than the seventy-five per cent required. (Details on Mr. Henderson's contributions appear elsewhere in this issue. *by Bud VE3UD

Paul VE3ICV proposed that the Club sponsor a National Capitol Region Award. He suggested that to obtain the award, those outside North America would require confirmed QSO's with at least ten stations within the official boundaries of the National Capitol region, while those in North America would require contacts with

at least twenty stations in the region. Suggestions are needed for a certificate design. It was moved by Paul VE3ICV and seconded by Joe VE2DZT that the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc. sponsor the National Capitol Region Award for contacts made with any amateur station within the official boundaries of the National Capitol Region. George VE3BNO suggested that the Executive contact Penny VE3ERO for information on the award given for contacts with VE3NCR in connection with the RSO Convention held recently in Ottawa. The motion was passed.

Brian VE3JKZ informed the members present that Doug VE3CDC is recovering well at home from his recent heart surgery. He also reminded members of the two metre rig available for loan to members who might be hospitalized (at no charge) and of the linesman's belts which can be borrowed for tower work. One is kept by Brian VE3JKZ (east end) and the other by Paul VE3ICV (west end). There is no charge for their use, but a refundable \$100 deposit is required.

Brian also reminded members of the Annual Spring Banquet and Dance to be held April 24th at the RA Centre. Contact George VE3DMC or any other member of the Executive for tickets.

Bill VE3NR reported on the next National Symposium to be held in Winnipeg May 22-23 and to be hosted by the Amateur Radio League of Manitoba. He expressed the hope that some local amateurs would be able to attend. There will be four workshops.

1. Research and Development, which will focus on improved usage of the higher frequency bands.
2. Amateur Training, for which it is hoped there will be a new draft of DOC's TRC-24 regulations.
3. Emergency Planning.
4. Enforcement.

Also to be discussed is a proposal to permit repeater operation on the ten metre band. (Details of this proposal appear elsewhere in this issue--Ed.)

Brian VE3JKZ reminded the members present of recent discussions aimed at amalgamation of the two Canadian Amateur Organizations--Canadian Amateur Radio Federation and Canadian Radio Relay League. He then asked Bill VE3NR, President of CARF and Ray VE3FN, Assistant Director of CRRL to stand while he announced that in a bulletin soon to be published that agreement had been reached on an amalgamation of the two societies and that henceforth, there would be one Canadian National society to be called the Federation of Amateur Radio Communicators and Experimenters and he asked the members to show their approval by a round of applause for the two representatives. The applause was enthusiastic. Unfortunately, Brian then had to remind the Members that this was April 1st, and that this was his APRIL FOOL joke!! Perhaps the members were so easily taken because most sincerely wish that such an amalgamation could become a reality.

Merv VE3CV, a Director of the Radio Society of Ontario, talked about that organization and some of the benefits of membership. He reminded members that the RSO sponsors the ONTARS Net which operates daily on eighty metres, sponsors the annual RSO Convention to be held in Waterloo in October of this year, and publishes the bi-monthly Journal of the RSO.

Laird Gordon was the winner of the monthly draw. Fred VE3IO asked for a Volunteer in the Bronson area to assist a blind person who wishes to have a ham contact. Joe VE2DZT reported that a Club Crest is being designed and that a sample will be available for view at a future meeting. Also, in cooperation with Penny VE3ERO, Joe is developing a slide show with English and French narration suitable for showing to students. Murray VE3J50 gave a brief report on the status of the Club 40 m QRP rig design project. One VFO-Buffer stage has been built and is reported to be very stable.

--Continued on p. 5

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held on Wednesday May 6th 1981 in the auditorium of the National Research Council, 100 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, at 2000 hours.

The featured speaker will be Larry Kaiser VE3QB who is one of the two Canadian Amateurs who have been licenced to operate on the new 30 m band (10.10-10.15 MHz). For this purpose, Larry has been issued the call VE9LFZ. He has been conducting experiments in coherent CW communication. He will be bringing along his equipment in order to provide members with an on-the-air demonstration.

Remember to come early to make use of the bulletin board and to meet other Club Members.

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MINUTES -- Cont'd.

The guest speaker of the evening was Garry Morrison VE3MSM (formerly VE1BCU) who talked about the hidden transmitter hunt which he is organizing on Sunday May 10th at 1400 hrs. He demonstrated some of his techniques for finding hidden transmitters and gave several hints as to how to go about it.

Paul VE3ICV moved that the meeting adjourn at 2140 hours. The motion was seconded by Merv VE3CV, and was passed.

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HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNT

Garry VE3MSM is organizing a Hidden Transmitter Hunt for Sunday May 10th at 1400 hours. The transmitter will transmit continuously with a CW identification, probably VE3RC. Everyone will be welcome to participate, and prizes will be awarded. Come out and try your skill in finding a Hidden 2 metre transmitter.

OARC BUDGET 1981

(Due to an oversight by the editor this item was inadvertently omitted from the April issue of the GROUND-WAVE-Ed.)

ITEM	1981 est'd	1980 Act.	notes
<u>Revenue</u>			
Membership	\$1500	\$1442	(a)
ARRL Membership	30	-	
Bank Interest	150	335	
Auction	250	278	
Accts Receivable	110	158	
TOTAL	\$2213	\$2040	
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Groundwave	\$1290	\$1181	(b)
Directory	100	194	
EMI Committee	50	47	
Picnic	30	18	
Field Day	50	33	
Admin., General	530	478	(c)
Admin., PR	200	-	
Banquet	75	62	
AMSAT	100	215	
Trilliums	30	25	
Equipment Purchase	1500	440	(d)
TOTAL	\$3955	\$2693	
DEFICIT	\$1915	\$480	

Notes:

- (a) 300 x \$5.00
- (b) \$700 postage, \$540 supplies \$50.00 repairs
- (c) up 10%; Stationary, Postage, Licences, P.O. Box, L.D.CA
- (d) Repeater, EMI, Projects

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DRILLS FOR PC BOARDS

With more hams making their own PC boards, finding the proper drills for the holes can be an expensive proposition. Not so, if you visit your friendly dentist and ask him to put aside his old drills for you. Some may be carbonized, but will still work and they will fit nicely in your drill. --- Joe, VE2DZT

SOME THOUGHTS ON JAMMING

Every now and then we will hear malicious interference on the air, particularly on popular repeaters with wide coverage like VE3TTY or VE3RPT with bells and whistles to play with. By and large, the response by amateurs has been inappropriate and I feel that this is partly due to a mistaken idea as to what sort of person would do such a thing. Remarks like "get yourself a licence" or "refugee from the chicken band" or names like "idiot" or "turkey" serve only to make the problem worse and are probably incorrect to boot. The average jammer is licensed, possibly for many years, and is likely to be as smart as anyone else on the air.

Jammers come in two packages: one is a short-lived type who has had some quarrel with someone and takes it out on them on the air, but as tempers cool down, this stops. The other is a real problem: an individual with personal problems, not necessarily connected with amateur radio, who derives some satisfaction from distressing the rest of us, and who needs attention. Usually socially timid or awkward, such a person can be bold and say things in this anonymous way which he could never do face to face. If we appreciate this, we can see that the appropriate response is to ignore him, however difficult that is: no attention means no satisfaction. Calling him names just makes him even more upset and aggravates the problem. You can help by listening on the repeater input frequency and privately letting the group executive or whatever know your observations. If you manage to figure out his identity in some way, please don't call him and scare him off or take action on your own, as one gentleman did in October to our then-active jammer, (WB2JAM (whose real call starts with VE3)). We have a good DF team in Toronto that works quietly and at that time we had already known the identity of

WB2JAM since August (he also used the name Fred and the call sign VE3ARS which belongs to a legitimate ham in Ottawa). The DOC, which tends to move slowly, was all set for prosecution but still demanded more readings and observations by inspectors when the jammer was scared into hiding by one individual who thinks himself smarter than everyone else on the air. I have subsequently listened to this ham telling his cronies on VE3TOR of the inefficiency of DF work and how simple it was to finish the WB2JAM business on his own. He does not know how frustrating his actions were, nor how stupid he sounded to those of us who knew what was happening.

Be that as it may, I only tell this tale to discourage uncoordinated effort in future, and to illustrate the pitfalls of such action. In this particular example, I am told that vigilante action was taken by unknown individuals which have effectively solved the problem for now (until he comes back). If you have suspicions please call one of the executive of the repeater group which runs the machine on which the problem exists and let them know. DF work is done in secret and unless you are involved you cannot predict the trouble you may cause by acting on your own. Sometimes it seems as if nothing is being done, but you would be surprised at how much is known about jamming in this area and the amount of evidence needed to convict in court.

A final point: If you come across a persistent jammer try to listen on the input and provide us with the following information:

- 1-Whether you could hear him or not (please report even if you couldn't hear him).
- 2-The repeater, time, date and your location at the time as accurately as possible.
- 3-If you can try to estimate how far away the jammer would be from you if he were running a 10-watt station. This estimate

is helpful but not essential.

4-If you have a beam or other DF equipment, then your estimate of his direction would also be helpful but again not essential.

This data is collected and fed to a statistical computer program (based on an atomic physics idea) which can find the location of a fixed jammer or even the route of a mobile jammer is using. The key to its success is the number of observations: the more, the better. So please don't think that someone else will do it. We need your observations.

de N8AJK, Toronto FM Commx Soc.

BATAVIA HAMFEST

The first annual hamfest will be held by the Genesee Radio Amateurs Inc. (GRAM) at Alexander Firemen's Grounds in Alexander NY, July 12, 1981, 7 am to 6 pm. Registration fee is \$2 before July 1, \$3 at the gate, under 12 free, flea market \$1. Talk-in to hamfest on 52 simplex, 6.04/6.64, 4.71/5.31, only W2RCX club call. Mobile check-in contest, 52 simplex. Door prize - IC-2AT synthesized 2m hand-held transceiver. For information and advance tickets, write to: GRAM, Inc., Box 572, Batavia NY 14020. Emergency phone, (day of hamfest only): (716) 591-9935.

MORE ON NICAD CARE

The most common Nicad fault is a battery that will not take a charge and electrically looks like a short. This will happen after a period of non-usage. The cure is simple. Using a healthy power supply, force enough current through the battery to bring the terminal voltage up to 1.5 volts. You may have to force as much as ten times the normal charging current. As the battery begins to take a charge, you will see the current start to go down as the battery voltage rises. This process usually takes about ten seconds. When the voltage reaches 1.5 volts, charge as per the manufacturer's

specs. Another typical problem is a cell that won't accept a charge and looks like an open cell. The cure for this (sometimes) is to charge in the reverse direction for five minutes at no more than 100 mA. After this, try to charge the cell as normal. If it still won't take a charge, use as a paperweight, coil-winding form or circle drawing aid.

How about a battery pack that won't take a charge or will not charge up to the proper voltage? Regardless of the pack voltage, it is made up of individual cells that are rated at 1.25 volts each. What happens is that one or more of the cells becomes discharged more than the rest. When charging is attempted, the low cell or cells is reverse charged with respect to all of the other cells. This makes the entire pack look bad. The solution is simple:

1. Use a sharp knife and cut off the jacket from the battery pack to expose the individual cells. Do not cut the wire straps that interconnect the cells.

2. Measure the voltage of each cell. You will find one or more cells lower than the rest.

3. Discharge all of the good cells one at a time with a one-ohm resistor until each of the good cells' voltage drops to 0.9 volts.

4. Charge all of the cells one at a time at 50 mA for one hour.

5. Tape the cell pack back together with masking tape or electricianstape. Charge battery pack per manufacturer's instructions on battery pack. Normal charge is ten percent of the discharge current/hour rate printed on the battery for 16 hours. An example is: if a cell rating printed is 500 mA hour, charge at 50 mA for 16 hours.

You can charge any Nicad with a constant current p.s. for four hours at 3.5 times normal charge rate.

Normal rates: AA, 50 mA; C, 100 mA; D, same as C.

de KB6MT, Worldradio

LETTER TO THE EDITORROOM 19

1427 Cavendish Rd
Ottawa, Ont. K1H 6C1
April 6th 1981

Dear Sir:

I was pleased to see the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club honour Mr. J. P. Henderson VE3AF by making him an Honorary Lifetime Member at our last meeting.

In 1935, when I built my first one tube Amateur receiver, one of the first signals I heard was CHU on 3330 kHz. One day, a year or so later, I biked over to the Dominion Observatory on Carling Avenue to see what was behind those time signals. I was met by Mr. Henderson who kindly showed me the meridian telescope, the various pendulum clocks, the time signal generator (it was an electro-mechanical device then) and the transmitters. He explained them all to me, answering all my questions about how they worked and spending at least two hours with me. To top it off, he introduced me to the Dominion Astronomer, Dr. Meldrum Stewart, who was just as hospitable. All this for a young boy! It was a visit I shall never forget.

Years later, I found myself Deputy-Head of the Canadian Delegation to the ITU's WARC '59, arguing in Geneva about bands for the standard frequency and time signal service. The U.S. and the U.K. wanted us to shut down CHU as it was in the Fixed Service bands. The U.S. already had the bands at 2.5, 5.0, 10.0 etc. sewn up with WWV. My interests in that problem ran a little deeper than usual, and I was very glad when we won our point to have CHU continue operation on 3330, 7335 and 14670 kHz.

I think that the club did a good thing in honouring Mr. Henderson.

73,
Bill Wilson VE3NR

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Some fifty-five years ago, when the Vancouver School Board established a Radio Communications Centre in Room 19 of a commerce high school building, it approved the appointment as director of a remarkable educator who, in almost forty years "at the helm", profoundly influenced the lives of thousands of young, aspiring radio operators. Graduates of the Centre in the thousands became licenced commercial radio operators in the marine and aeronautical services and at coast stations and radio ranges, usually inside, but also outside Canada, wherever capable and reliable men were needed. Many achieved distinction in industry, the Public Service and the Armed Forces. Those who emerged from Room 19 were, in a real sense, a special breed, having been exposed to the dynamic temperament, stern discipline and high ideals of their teacher and mentor, Walter H. Lambert.

On Walter Lambert's retirement in 1954, the Radio Electronics Centre, as it was then known, came under the direction of John E. Duke, a man of quiet mien and the same devotion to excellence that had characterized his friend and predecessor. Through a period of profound change, the Centre contued to be known affectionately as "Room 19", even when it moved to new premises. Ultimately, the changing needs of government and the communications industry resulted in the absorption of the Centre into the electronics program of the Vancouver Vocational Institute.

Many Room 19-ers were or became radio amateurs, and when alumni get together on the ham bands, the occasion usually inspires nostalgic recollections of the "good old days" under the beneficent despot, Walter Lambert, or the patient, understanding John Duke.

Room 19 earned its place in the history of Canadian radio communica-

-Continued on p. 10

tions, but its record has never been suitably chronicled. Now, some of the Centre's Old Boys are attempting to pull together all available information before it is irretrievably lost. In this regard, all Room 19-ers are invited to help out: in Ottawa, George, VE3DMC, is a point of contact.

-George Schuthe VE3DMC

vice Centre and Headquarters, Albion Road at Kitchener (just off Walkley Road). Ottawa Hydro is holding an Open House at the same time, so there should be lots of interest for Radio Amateurs. A parade of electrical vehicles will start off the show at about 1000 hours on Saturday, June 6th; travelling from Ottawa Hydro to Landsdowne Park, and returning to the Albion Road site.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CONVENTION

The camaraderie among radio amateurs and the excitement of distant radio contacts were elements of an active hobby display provided by members of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc. during the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ontario Annual Convention held at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa on April 5th, 1981.

The display, which consisted of an FT-101ZD operating on 20 metres with an indoor dipole, a CPU-2500 mobile transceiver and a 2D7R handheld on two metres, an FRG-7 general purpose receiver and a large selection of amateur radio literature and publications, generated a lot of interest among the representatives of the local MS Chapters across Ontario. Geoff VE3KID, Ian VE3CZ, Rod VE3MHD and Michael VE3MJC established QSO's using the Club call VE3RC and answered questions about the equipment, amateur activities and courses. Details about licencing were provided by Steve Vowles, a radio inspector from the D.O.C., Ottawa District Office.

Many of the visitors took copies of the literature describing the hobby and how to get started. It is hoped that, as a result, more handicapped persons in Ontario will soon be licensed amateurs.

-- Michael Caplan VE3MJC

ELECTRICAL VEHICLE EXPOSITION

Ottawa's first ELECTRICAL VEHICLE Exposition and Display will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 6th and 7th, at Ottawa Hydro's Ser-

Ottawa Valley Chapter, Electrical Vehicle Assoc. of Canada

TEN METRE REPEATERS

The following letter was sent to CARF by the D.O.C. requesting comments on a recommendation that repeater operation should be permitted on the ten metre band. Please make your views known to your Club Executive, so that a response may be sent to CARF on behalf of your Club.

Dept. of Communications
March 23rd, 1981

Mr. W. J. Wilson, Pres.
CARF

Dear Bill:

The VHF Repeater Advisory Committee has recommended that repeater operations should be established in the top portion of the ten metre band as follows:

- 29.52-29.58 MHz Rptr Inputs
- 29.60 Simplex Operation
- 29.62-29.68 MHz Rptr Outputs

There is no repeater operation proposed below 29.5 MHz to protect the OSCAR satellite output at 29.4-29.5 MHz, and the Radio Sport Satellite sub-band at 29.3-29.4 MHz.

This ten metre band plan has been implemented in the United States, and we have been asked if we would amend our policy on amateur repeaters to permit this proposed operation.

Our policy concerning amateur repeater operation is that they may be

operated in frequency bands above 50 MHz. This policy was originally developed in conjunction with the Amateur Associations. Therefore, as a first step in our review of this matter, we are consulting the Canadian amateurs, through their National Associations, to determine if there is general support for the proposal to permit the use of repeaters in the ten metre band. Would you therefore, please provide us with an indication of the degree of support that this proposal enjoys with your membership.

I look forward to hearing from you again on this matter.

Yours truly,
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Prior to a recent name change, our hobby was known as the Amateur Experimental Service. One has to wonder, in this age of factory built gear and hard-to-get parts, if the word "experimental" has any meaning anymore. Recent events have convinced me otherwise.

I am pleasantly surprised to be meeting large numbers of amateurs who are constantly experimenting. What with home built rigs, antennas, Slow Scan TV, RTTY, OSCAR and more recently computers, the list seems endless. There is more opportunity for experimenting now than there ever was.

The U.K. amateurs in particular, seem to do a lot of work on antennas - probably because of their miniscule sized lots and general prohibitions concerning towers. Sound familiar? It seems to me that this is a field wide open for experimental activities on both sides of the Atlantic.

Experimenting also means the investigation of natural phenomena and using the resulting knowledge to your best advantage. A business trip to the U.K. last year left me dumbfound-

ed after a visit to G3AAE. John is high up on the DXCC Honour Roll with 358 countries confirmed. He also has a five band DXCC Award. The antenna system consists of a three element tribander at 30 feet for 10/15/20 and a ground-mounted trap vertical with four radials for 40/80. It was apparent that a good knowledge of propagation gained through experience and experiment was needed; as well as being a good operator!

Anyone who operates CW on the HF bands is aware that many amateurs in Eastern Bloc countries are using home-built rigs. In many cases, the signals are an absolute disgrace, and I will not argue the point that it is as easy to produce a T9 signal as it is a T3. However, they are building and experimenting. Presumably, the "State" ensures that components are available. I wonder if our political leaders are aware of this vast pool of skilled operator/technicians being developed, or if amateur radio is considered a sport rather than a hobby.

Parts not available here, you say? Nonsense! Let's run a club contest for the best rig put together from a junked TV set. Other experimental activities (Europe and Australia especially) concern ducting and other long distance propagation effects in the VHF, UHF and microwave regions. Look through recent issues of QST for reports on outstanding distances achieved. And so it goes, from an absolute beginner carefully measuring the length of his first dipole to multiple arrays for moon-bounce, the opportunities are unlimited. Little more than imagination, ingenuity and lots of patience is required.

Closer to home, yours truly has been experimenting with a 48' tower with a TH3 on top, gamma matched for use as an 80 metre vertical. After some disappointments at first, a QSO with VK7AE in Tasmania with 59 reports in both directions leads me to suspect I am getting somewhere! More experiments are needed!

Even closer to home, be sure to attend the next meeting to learn of VE3QB's experiments with coherent CW.

73, Brian VE3JKZ

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: Repeater	George Roach	104 Strathcona Avenue, OTTAWA	234-0885
: Chairman	VE3BNO	Ontario K1S 1X6	233-6241
: Custodian &	Gerry Martin	1771 Hutton Avenue, OTTAWA	731-3220
: Archivist	VE3CNJ	Ontario K1G 1M1	:
: Net Mgr. &	Ken Kendall	777B Springland Drive, OTTAWA	731-0892
: Emrg Coord	VE3IHX	Ontario K1V 6L9	:
: EMI Cmttee	Fred Green	118 Riverdale Avenue, OTTAWA	232-5920
: Chairman	VE3IO	Ontario K1S 1R2	596-9359
: Membership	Jack Garrett	3011 Rankin Street, OTTAWA	521-6528
: Chairman	VE3HJI	Ontario K1V 8L2	993-9740