

MARCH 1997



GROUNDWAVE

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1997



Club Call VE3RC

Repeater VE2CRA

VE3RC

Official Bulletin of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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 National Capital Area; and to the advancement and achievement of club members.

REGULAR MEETINGS of the OARC, Inc., are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) in the Keefer Room (2nd floor of the Old Teacher's College) of the RMOC HQ complex on Lisgar St., Ottawa, at 1915 hours. Further details about each meeting is elsewhere in this publication.

THE OARC EXECUTIVE normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1930 hours. Contact the President to confirm the date of the next meeting.

PACKET RADIO MEETINGS will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of every 2nd month, starting September 1993, at the Museum of Science and Technology. This is an OARC technical meeting open to all who have an interest in packet radio.

DEADLINE FOR COPY is the second Wednesday of each month. Make yourself better known to fellow members and other amateurs, too, by giving us an article, technical or otherwise, relative to our hobby.

MATERIAL PUBLISHED herein does not necessarily represent the official OARC viewpoint. Items may be reprinted by Amateur Radio or other publications provided that proper credit is given to the author and to the OARC, Inc.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIPS - To encourage young people to join the club and to participate in amateur radio, the club is opening a junior class of membership. Dues will be at a 50% discount but the junior member must pick up his/her copy of the Groundwave (preferably at the meeting).

RADIO AMATEUR CALL BOOKS are available at many local libraries. Ask at the information desk.

SAFETY BELTS AND AN ENGRAVING PENCIL are available for loan to club members. The engraving pencil (to mark valuables for identification in case of loss or theft) and the safety belts with pole straps are available to any members. For the belts, a refundable deposit

consisting of a cheque equal to the replacement value of the belts is required. Contact the President for the engraving pencil; and Paul, VE3ICV, at 820-6643 (West End) for the belts.

THE CAPITAL CITY NET meets every Monday at 2000 hours on the Club Repeater VE2CRA (146.34/.94) to pass traffic and to make announcements of interest to amateurs in the National Capital Region.

PACKET RADIO VOICE NET meets following the Capital City Net on VE2CRA at 2040 hours. This is an informal net to answer questions about packet radio, pass along operating hints and provide information for future packet operators.

THE SWAP NET is a service provided and conducted by Dan Reardon, VE3GUU. This feature appears on the Capital City Net, noted in the foregoing paragraph. To list items and make inquiries, call Dan Reardon at 836-2633.

POT-HOLE NET is a SSB/HF net sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, and conducted every Sunday at 1000 hours on 3.760 Mhz. All amateurs are welcome to check in. The Swap-Net is a regular feature.

POT-LID CW NET is an informal slow-speed CW net sponsored and conducted by Ed, VE3GX, and meeting every Sunday, except during July and August, at 1100 hours on 3.620 Mhz, to promote interest in CW and CW procedures.

REPEATERS

| | | |
|---------|--------|-----------------------------|
| VE2CRA | Voice | 146.94/34 |
| | | 443.300/448.300 |
| VE3OCR | Packet | 145.01(sx) Inter city links |
| VE3OCR | Packet | 145.07(sx) Local Area net |
| | | for QSO and Packet BBS. |
| 56 kbps | Packet | 220.55/433.55 |
| VE3DX | Packet | 145.11(SX) |

For further information, please contact repeater chairman.

OARC WWW Home Page:

<http://www.worldlink.ca/oarc>.

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ONTARS CELEBRATES 25th BIRTHDAY

ONTARS celebrated its 25th Anniversary on the air January 8, 1997.

Congratulations go to the men and women who participated and kept the net going.

Special acknowledgement go to Doreen (VE3CGO) who started the mobile net in 1992, Bruce (VE3BC) who was the net's first manager and Ralph (VE3RJD) who is the present net manager. About 1060 hams checked in to receive a commemorative QSL card.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- February - ENIGMA - speaker Richard Brisson
- March - OCRI/TRIO
- April - Homebrew Night
- May - Volunteer Recognition
- June - Elections

WHO'S LISTENING?

I was in my trailer in an RV park in Big Spring, Texas, when there was a knock on the door and a fellow handed me a jug of bottled water and apologized "for the poor quality of our city water."

Nothing was unusual about that, as we have travelled about the country in Airstream Caravans and have frequently been visited by chamber of commerce types or even the welcome wagon lady.

YAESU WARNS ABOUT NiMH BATTERIES

Yaesu is advising customers not to use nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries in any of its Amateur Radio hand-held transceivers, and warns that such use could invalidate the warranty. Yaesu says the NiMH batteries--while they look the same as NiCd batteries on the outside--are "completely different" internally. Yaesu says the NiMH batteries "cannot be charged by any Yaesu wall or desk chargers, since these chargers do not prevent overcharging, and nickel-metal hydride batteries become very unstable." Yaesu also says NiMH batteries do not perform well when they are repeatedly discharged at high current rates.

But this fellow knew me - he really did. It seems he is an SWL (short wave listener) and he had heard me say on the air that morning that I was in Big Spring and in what trailer park I was staying. It turned out that he had been listening to our bunch on 3.860 every morning for the past three years. He even bought a *Callbook*TM so he would know our names and where we were from! He of course had heard all of our stories ten times over and was just a joy to talk and visit with.

Now every morning, when I reflect back on this story, I say, "and good morning to John Robertson in Big Spring Texas!"

THIS WARNING APPLIES TO ANY HANDHELD. ed.

ONE HAM'S MISFORTUNE OR THE CASE OF THE
TALL DARK STRANGER

by Jack Kinch VE3AMV
SKYWIDE Amateur Radio Club

How many times has fame and fortune slipped through your grasp like soap in the shower? Well, here's how the fickle finger of fate handled that for me, some years ago.

Back in 1938, yours truly had advanced from building one-tube regenerative receivers to tackling the design and construction of a 'pocket-sized' broadcast receiver. The incentive for this endeavour was the debut of radio station CKSO in Sudbury and the thought of having a small portable radio bolstered my ego. Whilst this was during the depression, I had a job as delivery boy for a general store, salary \$25 per month. Thus I was able to send away for the necessary parts.

At that time it was possible to buy miniature radio components that made the idea feasible. After much sketching and scribbling I came up with a size I thought would accommodate all the parts without bulging at the seams. It was built around four of the fairly new miniature tubes that were designed to run off low filament voltages.

Bending a strip of sheet metal around a wooden block gave me a case measuring 9"x3"x4" and a piece of aluminium bent in a 'step' fashion gave me the chassis. A week later I had it working.

I took it everywhere, but nobody believed that I had built it as I had painted it in that new crackle-finish enamel that was available.

So I ignored these crass individuals and went my way, which found me one night at the Sudbury railway station waiting, of all things, for the evening train to come in. (I'm a railway buff too.) While listening to some kid singing *It's a sin to tell a lie* I noticed a tall dark

stranger watching me with his eyes on the set.

Finally he came up to me and asked where I had procured the radio, since he had never seen that small a set before. I indignantly replied that I had invented and built it. Whereupon he plied me with many questions and asked to see the inside. Being a bit damp behind the ears, I opened it up and his eyes positively glittered as he scanned the interior with what I believe now were camera eyes. We were still deep in the innards when the evening train arrived and we parted company.

A few months later, RCA Victor came out with a new 'personal' portable radio. It was the model BP-10, identical in every way with mine, same size but with a loop antenna in the lid rather than a collapsible whip.

The 'mystery' was solved later when I was hired to run the control room at CKSO and I explained my adventure to the chief engineer. It was he who told me that the tall dark stranger was an engineer from RCA Victor who had supervised the installation of equipment at CKSO!

via SKYWIDE ARC's "SKYHOOK"

VOLUNTEERS

Several OARC club positions are still vacant. Anyone wishing to volunteer for one of these positions should contact a member of the Executive listed on page 2 of the Groundwave.

YOU TOO CAN HOMEBREW!

by Mike Greenfield N9JIY

Years ago, frying a tube would cost a homebrewer a week's wages. Today, most transistors are less than a quarter, and other components are just as cheap. So, homebrewing should be really popular - but it's not. Why?

Well, components were more manageable in those days. Transformers had big brackets, and big air variables were used for tuning. Tubes like salt shakers were mounted in sockets the size of fifty-cent pieces. Part numbers were large with things mounted on a chassis, like a car or truck.

Today's cheap components are tiny, bracket-less, label-less wonders designed for PC boards. They don't mount in sockets for easy change when you fry one! There is no chassis! How's a guy (even with trifocals) going to relate to these things? Well, it's simple. Restore components to their former bracketed, leaded, labelled, socketed, chassied glory. It's ugly, but it works, and you can use the same components over and over. Want to do a homebrew project? Here's how.

Cut out and burn that picture showing the finished project with components gorgeously installed on a tiny custom PC board. It will just make you depressed.

Round up all the components on your project shopping list. A project with a couple of transistors and a small IC won't cost ten bucks!

Get a bunch of plain perfboard, a bottle of clear nail polish, some fine-insulated-tinned hook-up wire, a couple of spring clip clothes pins, a 6" chunk of 4x4 lumber, a 15W pencil soldering iron, some very fine rosin core solder, and a lighted desk magnifier. You'll also need small needle nosed pliers, and small side cutters. A small wire

stripper is handy. Glue the clothes pins to the 4x4 chunk at a couple of angles that will let you use them as soldering vises.

Components with skinny leads - pull the leads down through some perfboard, then push them back up a couple of holes away. Clip off any little metal hold-downs on the transformer. Pull the leads snug. Use nail polish to glue everything in place.

For components with NO leads, tape these to perfboard with the solder pins extending through. Cut a 3-inch piece of hookup wire for each "electrically active" pin. Many trimmer caps have 3 pins, but only two need connections. Strip 1/2" of insulation from the hookup wire ends. Push these through holes near the component pins, and solder in place. Clip your wires neat on the bottom to avoid shorts. Use more nail polish!

Sockets for transistors, changeable caps, coils and similar things, get 8-pin IC dip sockets and split them into 4-pin halves with side cutters. Mount them like your lead-less caps and pots. Transistors use just 3 of the 4 connections. A single dip socket gives two transistor sockets for fifteen cents each. Now use side cutters and trim away perfboard you don't need to handle the component. Leave extra perfboard to drill a mounting hole! An inch square, with component and leads on one side and a mounting hole on the other is about as small as you should go.

For a chassis, use clear 1x6 pine board sized to fit the project without crowding. Perfboard-mounted components are held in place with 3/8" long, #4 round-head Phillips sheet metal screws. Small resistors and caps are just slung by their leads between other components. Electrical connections are by Fahnestock clips I get from Mouser at fifteen cents each. Screws and brass washers would work fine!

Lay your components out of the "chassis" board in a way that makes sense. Screw them down. Wire them up. Fiddle with your project until it works right for you. Replace the stuff you fry. Add something or take it apart. Put it together again. Now you can enjoy homebrewing!

via World Radio

GOLDEN TRIANGLE AWARD

The Iroquois Amateur Radio Club, VE3IRO, has committed itself to attempt to increase contacts especially on the repeaters in the "Golden Triangle Area" by creating a special award, the "Golden Triangle Award". The Iroquois Amateur Radio Club, therefore, invites all amateurs in Eastern Ontario and in the rest of the Country (and also in Northern N.Y.) to contact stations within the Golden Triangle on VHF or HF in an effort to promote more activity on the repeaters and in the HF modes.

Award Requirements

- Contact 100 stations on VHF, or;
- Contact 75 stations on VHF and 25 stations on HF on any band in any more
- Contacts must be confirmed
- Entries must have a SASE included for material to be returned
- Contacts must be with stations located in the Golden Triangle (Ottawa-Kingston-Cornwall)
- Participants must be willing to contact some of the best Amateur stations in the country, and must have a good sense of fellowship
- a \$5.00 fee is required to cover handling material and postage expenses

Entries (and \$5.00) are to be sent to:

I.A.R.C. Awards
P.O. Box 388]
Iroquois, Ontario
K0E 1K0

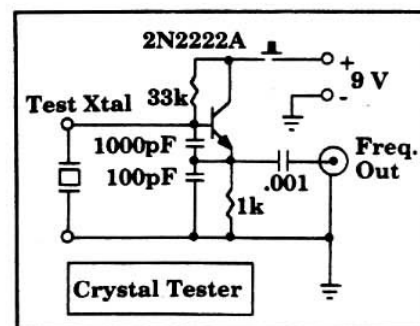
CRYSTAL TESTER

Dave Edison, W7DE ex N6HKV

A very handy item for the experimenter - especially the QRP homebrewer - is a simple crystal tester. The little tester described will test crystals from 1 MHz to over 15 MHz, and it may be also used as a signal source for checking dial calibration.

As with any design, there are trade-offs. In order to be able to test a wide frequency range, low frequency crystals, such as 100 kHz, cannot be tested with this circuit. Also, the exact oscillating frequency of a crystal cannot be determined since it is dependent upon the circuit values of the specific oscillator in which it will be used. However, the oscillator will test activity and frequency close enough to identify, sort, and match crystals. Frequency is measured by either using a frequency counter or by listening on a calibrated receiver.

Since the oscillator only operates when the pushbutton switch is pushed, the battery will last for years. The prototype is several years old and is still using its original alkaline battery.



de World Radio

INTERNATIONAL CEPT LICENSE

The new reciprocal "CEPT" License

For Canadians, the "CEPT amateur radio license" will take a form similar to a Canadian license or a special document issued by Industry Canada (or its delegated authority), and will be drafted in English, French and German; it will be valid outside Canada only, for the duration of their temporary stays in countries having adopted the Recommendation, and within the limit of validity of the Canadian license. Radio amateurs holding a temporary license issued in a foreign country

may not benefit from the provisions of the Recommendation.

In Canada, it is not expected that the CEPT wording will be incorporated into the amateur radio license until 1998. In the interim, a separate CEPT Permit will be available from RAC, which when accompanied by the valid amateur radio license of the holder, will be authorize the holder to operate an amateur radio station in any of the CEPT countries listed below.

Countries as of Nov 1996 that recognize the CEPT License

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|---------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|----------------|---------|
| Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Croatia | Cyprus | Czech Republic | Denmark |
| Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Hungary | Iceland | Ireland | Israel |
| Italy | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Monaco | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway |
| Peru | Portugal | Romania | Slovak Republic | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Turkey |
| United Kingdom | | | | | | | |

International CEPT License Classes

Class 1

This class will be available to Canadian applicants holding a Basic certificate and 12 words per minute Morse Code, and permits utilization of all frequency bands allocated to the Amateur service and Amateur Satellite service and authorized in the country where the amateur station is to be operated. It will be open only to those amateurs who have proved their competence with Morse Code to their own administrations.

Class 2

This class will be available to Canadian applicants who hold a Basic Certificate, and permits utilization of all frequency bands allocated to the Amateur service and Amateur Satellite service above 30 MHz and authorized in the country where the amateur station is to be operated.

How to Apply for a CEPT Permit (licensed Canadian amateurs only)

To apply for a CEPT permit, fill out the information on the form below, and send it along with a photocopy of your certificate, (Basic or Advanced) and a cheque for \$10 to cover the cost of administration, postage and handling to:

Radio Amateurs of Canada
 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217
 Ottawa Ontario
 K1G 0Z5

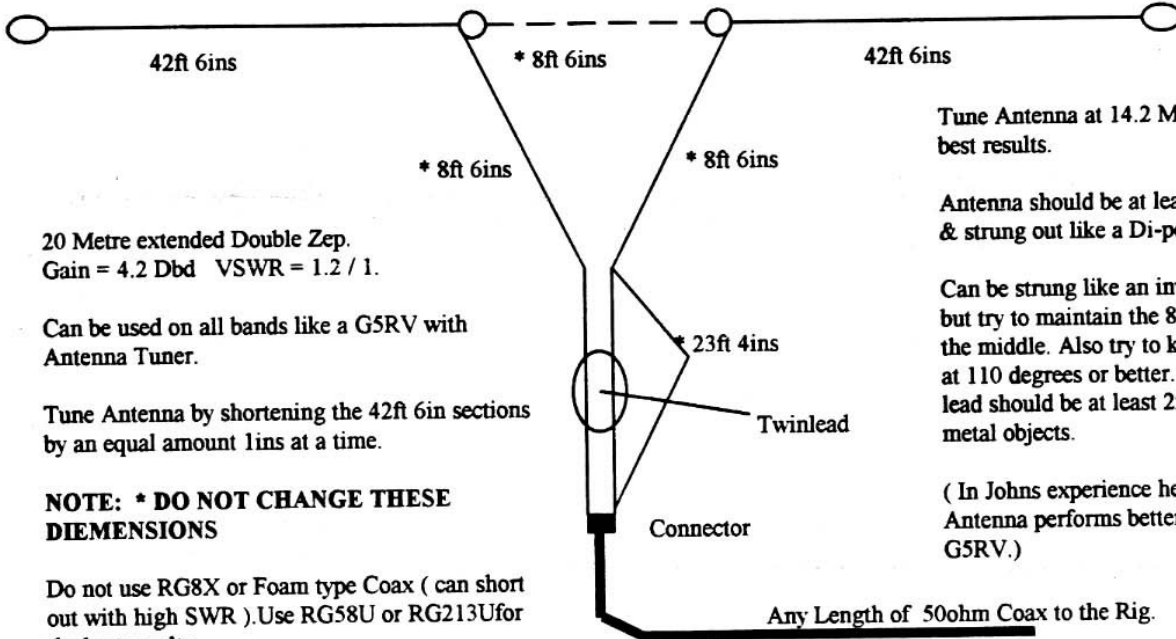
Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address (in Canada) _____

_____ Your Class. Basic or Advanced) _____

Constructors Corner

From the Notebook of John VE3POS.
John has the Delta Feed (DC8AZ- Helmut Bensch)



20 Metre extended Double Zep.
Gain = 4.2 Dbd VSWR = 1.2 / 1.

Can be used on all bands like a G5RV with Antenna Tuner.

Tune Antenna by shortening the 42ft 6in sections by an equal amount 1ins at a time.

NOTE: * DO NOT CHANGE THESE DIMENSIONS

Do not use RG8X or Foam type Coax (can short out with high SWR). Use RG58U or RG213U for the best results.

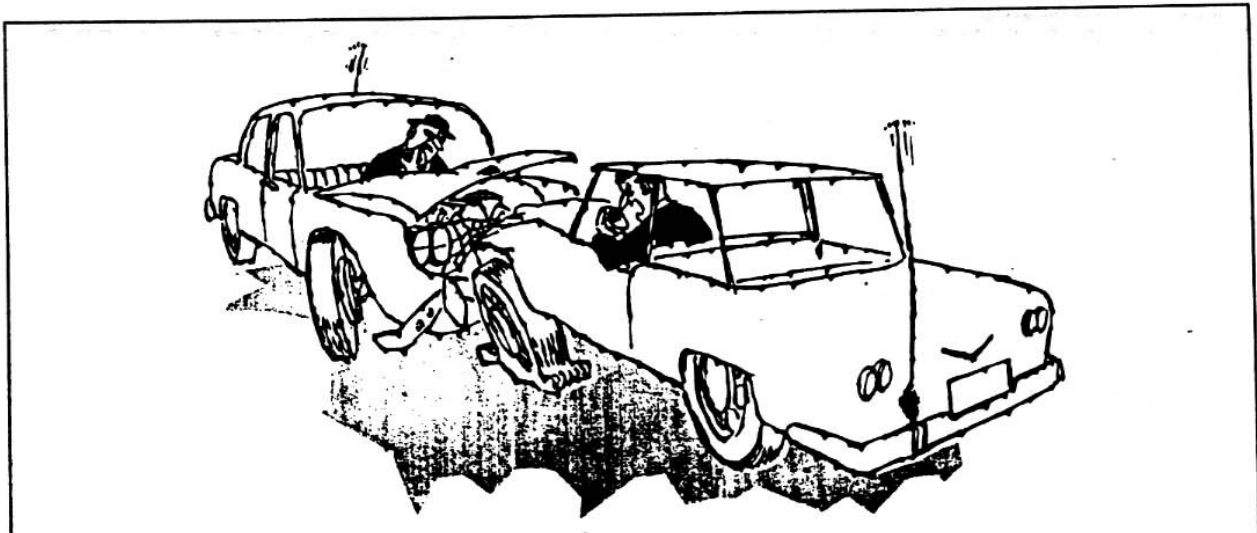
Tune Antenna at 14.2 Mhz for the best results.

Antenna should be at least 30 ft high & strung out like a Di-pole.

Can be strung like an inverted "V" but try to maintain the 8ft 6in space in the middle. Also try to keep the angle at 110 degrees or better. The Twinlead should be at least 2ft from any metal objects.

(In Johns experience he feels this Antenna performs better than a G5RV.)

SPARC Gap



970224: INDUSTRY CANADA SHELVES DELEGATION PROJECT

February 18th was truly Black Tuesday for the joint RAC - Industry Canada Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) when senior Industry Canada officials abruptly shelved the program for the delegation of the administration of the Amateur Radio Service on the eve of final approval of the project. In a letter to RAC President Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD, Mr. Jan Skora, Director General Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch, advised that the Department had decided not to commit to long term funding of the Delegation Project at present, saying that the risk associated with making a long term commitment was currently deemed too great. Mr. Skora added that a decision on the options for the long term funding is scheduled to be rendered only later this year. In this context RAC understands that "a decision on options for long term funding" means approval of a mechanism which would permit retention of a portion of collected licence fees by the service company, ARAS-SARA, enabling it to be completely self-supporting in the second phase of the program, which would be full service operations a year after startup. Contrary to its previous position, Industry Canada apparently has decided that until it has that decision, it is now unwilling to provide support in next fiscal year for the first phase of the project, which is the startup and test of the new service concept. Therefore, until Industry Canada takes its decision there is little more that RAC can do. RAC and ARAS-SARA were ready to begin the program. RAC will continue to monitor the situation and will consider opportunities to cooperate with the Department in this regard.

The Delegation Project was initiated by Industry Canada at the first Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting in September, 1993. RAC was asked to participate in the project, and the joint RAC - Industry Canada ADWG was formed in early December that year. Since then, the ADWG has proven the feasibility of Delegation, developed and costed a concept to implement it, and developed the tools that would be necessary for effective administration of the Amateur Radio Service by a service company. Radio amateurs have been kept informed of the ADWG's activities and progress. Said RAC Vice-President, Government Affairs and Co-Chairman of the ADWG, Jim Dean, VE3IQ, "The plan and virtually all the work that the ADWG could do were completed in September, 1996. The ball was clearly in Industry Canada's court to finalize the funding and secure Government approval. Industry Canada members of the ADWG indicated that the approval process was in place and proceeding satisfactorily. This eleventh hour decision very significantly jeopardizes the project."

RAC very much regrets the Department's decision. The Delegation Project has the potential to significantly improve the provision of various examination, licensing and callsign selection services to Canadian radio amateurs, as well as to benefit Industry Canada. RAC moved its headquarters to Ottawa and committed funds to the project development in anticipation of the project's approval. Given the circumstances of the Officials' decision, RAC had no alternative but to minimize its financial risk by withdrawing from active participation in the project until the Department sorts out its priority and funding approval.

A full report will be included in an upcoming issue of The Canadian Amateur.

970220: Little LEOS Court Clubs - RAC Special News Bulletin

RAC has learned that representatives of large Telecom corporations are approaching amateur radio clubs seeking to explain to their members why commercial Little Leo operations are compatible with amateur radio operations and why and how amateurs could share their bands with proposed Little Leo satellites. Some of the Little Leo players are amateurs who launched the amateur microsat program and are now associated with large powerful telecommunications corporations. Low earth orbit (LEO) satellites would circle the earth providing non-voice data services using the spread spectrum technique.

970124: Morse via Internet???

Douglas K. Rhodes VE7DFZ from Victoria, British Columbia reports: "I was trying to explain my internet connection and the initial screech from the modem to my five year old daughter. She said, "is it code?" (She has heard me working on 18 WPM code practice with my computer.) I had to think about that one. I answered, "yes - sort of." She is almost five, and just on the verge of being able to recognize her own name (Sasha) in code. That's where we all started, isn't it?" 73, Doug Rhodes - VE7DFZ

970128: RAC - Red Cross Agreement

The Radio Amateurs of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross have joined together to provide assistance to individuals and families affected by disasters in Canada and around the world. Local radio clubs and Red Cross offices are encouraged to work together to plan for disasters that might affect their community. In response to many requests, a copy of the agreement between the two organizations is now available on the RAC web site, <http://www.rac.ca/redcross.htm> At the same time, the RAC public service page has been reorganized and expanded with many new links, <http://www.rac.ca/pubserv2.htm>

For further information contact RAC Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario Canada

TEL: 613-244-4367

FAX: 613-244-4369

E-MAIL: rachq@rac.ca

Minutes of the OARC Meeting - February 5, 1997

Next Meeting: March 5th, 1997 at 19:30 in the Keefer room at the RMOC HQ building, 111 Lisgar St.

Topic: OCRI, TRIO The next leap forward for the Internet.

The Meeting was called to order by the President, Richard (VE3UNW), at 7:30 pm and the guest presentation began almost immediately, as the speaker had other commitments for this evening.

Guest Presentation

- Richard Brisson, began his fascinating presentation on the Enigma cypher machine, used by the German military during the Second World War. Richard explained to Members present the history and operation of the machine and he stressed the importance of randomness in effective encryption. In demonstrating the operation of Enigma, Richard used his own machine (manufactured in 1944 and found in Denmark) which he had brought to the meeting. Members were able to have a close look at it during the break.

- Richard referred Members to the following sources of additional information on the Internet:

<http://www.cse.dnd.ca> -- Communications Security Establishment
<http://www.nsa.gov.8080/museum> -- National Cryptologic Museum
<http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/ccc/bpark> -- Bletchley Park
<http://www.debbs.ndhq.dnd.ca/commelec/museum.htm> -- Military Communications & Electronics Museum
<http://www.maritime.org/ecm2.html> -- USS Pampanito Cipher Site
 - A super presentation on materials and subject that was as recently as only 2-3 years ago still held as "Top Secret" by many nations.

Normal Business

At 8:40 the Meeting reconvened with Richard (VE3UNW) resuming as Chair.

- A visitor and new Member (Roger Smith, VA3BIT) presented himself to hearty applause.
 - Richard reminded the Membership that an Editor and Secretary are still needed.
 - Mark (VA3DRV) expressed interest and was appointed new net manager of the Capital City Net with the Swap Net Monday nights at 8:00 pm on /A2CRA. After welcoming Mark to the position, Members also expressed their appreciation to Jake (VE2TQX) for his fine management of the net for the last year.
 - Richard advised the Membership that two Coffee Guys had stepped forward. Members were very appreciative and complimented the Coffee Guys for their excellent debut. Perhaps the inside front cover page of the news letter will change to reflect these new names.
 - Rick (VE3IH) reported that all available ski marathon positions (plus 3 reserves) were filled. An excellent turn out from the Montreal people this year as well means that some people won't get spots...sorry, try earlier next year.
 - Fred Green, (VE3IO) asked Members if anyone had a schematic of a Zenith colour TV available. Ed (VA3MPY) indicated in reply that Teleservice has schematics available.
 - Ed Strange, (VA3MPY) also indicated that the next meeting of the Emergency Measures Radio Group was to be on 15 February at the RMOC Building.
- New photo ID pictures will be taken at this meeting.
- Richard reminded everyone that Home Brew Night will be in April.
 - The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10.
 - Minutes thanks to Greg (VE3YTZ)

Mike's Words - Feb 25/ 1997

Ski marathon is over again for another year. It seemed like it was even easier this year. I guess that means everyone is getting better at it. After 30 odd years maybe its time it started to work smoothly. It wasn't until I went to pin this years patch up with the others that I realized that the skier on last years patch was going backwards (as were the real skiers).

This past weekend I added about 19dB of fun to my two metre set up. It should have been done long ago, but the usual excuses apply. Does this sound like a typical antenna project at your place?

- Step 1 do the dishes, laundry and other chores so you can go out and play.
- Step 2 shoot a few pictures of the site, so you can figure out how to attach the antenna.
- Step 3 Look at the pictures, scribble over several pages of notepaper, look at the pictures again. Go back and shoot more pictures while the sun moves around so it is in your eyes. Use up the rest of the notepad.
- Step 4 scrounge around for the wood and other hardware you discover will be needed for the steps to follow.
- Step 5 while it is still warm and bright outside, cut and assemble the mounting hardware in the basement
- Step 6 disassemble the above so you can get it out of the basement.
- Step 7 now that the sun and snow are both falling at a great rate, get yourself up to the roof.
- Step 8 modify the whole thing so it will go where you thought it would go when you were at Step2.
- Step 9 Stick the darn thing to the house.
- Step 10 drill a hole in the house to let in the coax (and water and anything else)
- Step 11 replace the coax on the antenna, making sure it is at least long enough to get inside the house without a splice. Then plug the space around the coax where it comes through the wall.
- Step 12 connect the antenna to the radio.
- Step 13 (the fun part) wake somebody up in the middle of the night to get a signal report from them. (in real life, I was done by 10 PM, so I didn't have to wake anyone up, but then, something HAS to go right somewhere in each project.)

All I did was to move my J pole from the porch roof up to the peak of the roof of the house. The view is much better up there. The 19dB figure comes from this: My signal with 5W out is now 2 s units better across town now that it was before with 25 W. If each s unit is 6 dB like it is supposed to be (didn't you know that.. neither do most radio manufacturers, it seems) Then I am up $7+6+6=19$ dB from what I was before. Now for the first time the rig hears a bit of intermod. Not so much that I can't work around it, but unlike many of you, I'm not used to hearing that stuff everyone else seems to complain about. I wonder if I can get a bandpass filter built by home brew night.

The other home brew projects are coming along slowly, but still moving forward. I will settle for that. Now that I think of it, if they moved any faster, I would start to notice the money they cost, so maybe the pace is about right.

It might be May before I have another "toy of the month" to show at the meeting - so why don't you bring in something you got for the shack recently?

I hear there might be another transmitter hunt coming up.. Keep an ear on the OVMRC nets for more info on that one.

Congrats to 'DRV for taking on the Net Manager spot, on short notice. -TNX

Congrats also to '2JHT for a receiving a QSL from the shuttle Atlantis, and in only 14 months - A bit slower than walking speed from Cape Canaveral to Gatineau.

Take heart, spring WILL arrive some day. Meanwhile, throw another log(book) on the rig.