

QST CANADA

Devoted entirely to Canadian Amateur Radio
Entièrement consacré à la radio amateur canadienne

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QST CANADA

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ABOUT THE COVER



CRRL President Dana Shtun, VE3DSS (left), and CRRL International Affairs Vice President George Spencer, VE3AGS, are key members of the Canadian delegation at the IARU Region 2 Conference being held in Curaçao this month. ■

It Seems to Us.../Il nous semble...

To See Ourselves as Others See Us

British comedian Tony Hancock once did a hilarious spoof of an Amateur Radio operator that provoked plenty of laughs through some fairly wild exaggerations of the way some of us behave. It was good-natured fun, and despite the distortions, it must have given many people some notion of what Amateur Radio is about.

While lady amateurs have always been active in the hobby, until fairly recently Amateur Radio was widely perceived as primarily a male preserve. No longer!

The almost explosive growth in our ranks since the restructuring and the dropping of the Morse code requirement seems to have opened the way for many wives, sisters, and even grandmothers to qualify as radio amateurs.

But what does the average person outside the hobby think of us? They hear about ham operators briefly when normal communications are disrupted and we step into the breach. We get blamed, often unjustly, for spoiling our neighbours' television reception. Acquaintances sometimes think of us as crazy people who spend unconscionable amounts of time, even in the middle of the night, talking or banging away in Morse code to people we don't even know.

As a brother- and sister-hood, many of us spend time on community activities,

and yet many of these attract little attention. Marathons, bike races, fund raisers of all kinds are glad of the communications we can provide. These events are written up in our club papers and magazines, and sometimes in the local press. But often are we regarded as kind of a CB lot, talking our own peculiar jargon.

Even in circles where Amateur Radio ideals ought to provide common ground there is a surprising lack of interest. Take Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA), a long-established international event involving Scouts, Guides, and Amateur Radio all over the world. Year after year, despite repeated requests, some Scout groups in Ontario continue to schedule their annual Apple Day on the same weekend as JOTA. Not surprisingly, local Scout leaders, for whom Apple Day is the major fund-raising event of the year, may not enthuse about having their troops visit local amateurs to talk to Scouts in Holland, Namibia, St. Helena, or across Canada.

We need to do more, as individuals and as clubs, to tell our story. We need to conduct demonstrations in shopping malls and schools, and for service clubs. The range of activities covered by Amateur Radio is far wider than most members of the public realize. —David Adams, VE3HBF ■

THE QUEEN VISITS UoSAT UNIT

Her Majesty the Queen visited Guildford, UK, on 20 March 1992, during the 25th anniversary of the University of Surrey.

The Queen unveiled a hologram of UoSAT OSCAR 22, to mark the start of construction of a new £1.5-million home for the Centre of Satellite Engineering Research, which will house the UoSAT unit and satellite engineers from the University. This will have "clean rooms", laboratories, offices and a new satellite control room.

The Queen visited the UoSAT control room where Jacky Radbone, G1WJN, General Manager of Surrey Satellite Technology, and Neill Bean, G8NOB, described the UoSAT program. While she was there, UoSAT OSCAR 22 came into range, transmitting a digitized voice message of greeting which the Queen listened to on a handheld receiver. The UoSAT-3 PACSAT communication equipment also delivered a message to the Queen from President Chiluba of Zambia—a Commonwealth nation—and the Queen left a reply which was also carried on UoSAT-3.

WORLD ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

European direction-finding contests can be described as a combination of orienteering and Amateur Radio. Every two years, a world championship is organized using IARU rules. This year it will be held in Hungary on September 8–13.

There are four classes of team: old timers (over 40), seniors (18–40), juniors (under 18), and women.

In 1990, Geoffrey Foster, G8UKT, became the first entrant from the UK. The championship that year was in Czechoslovakia. Geoff declared that it was a very well-organized affair. For instance, there were 17 interpreters provided to translate for the teams!

The 144-MHz contest was held on a Wednesday in very wet conditions. Geoff was surprised at the variation in signal strength, and the number of false bearings due to terrain and wet trees. In the 3.5-MHz contest on Friday, he found his first transmitter quite quickly and used its next transmission to calibrate the attenuator on his receiver.

—News items courtesy of RSGB Radio Communications, July, 1992. ■

All letters are considered carefully. Letters are edited for clarity and may be condensed in order to have more information and readers' views presented. The publishers of *QST Canada* assume no responsibility for statements made by correspondents.

DX NETS, JAMMERS AND SUCH

Two years ago I decided to work DX and see how many countries I could get. I find that a lot of amateurs today are far from what they were twenty years ago. I think that many have the "easy come, easy go" spirit about their licence. I have never heard language, noises, etc, like the jammers are using on 15 and 20 metres. They seem to need to draw attention to themselves and this is the only way they can do it. There is just no pride in being a member of the Amateur Radio fraternity. The worse they act, the more those who hear them lose their pride. I don't know how to stop it. Perhaps your readers will

have some ideas.

As soon as a rare country appears on a band, it is only a matter of minutes before you are able to work it. Within minutes a team of "policemen" sit on the transmitting frequency of this DX. Their purpose is to chase off amateurs who don't know the DX is listening on another frequency. If asked where the DX is listening, many will not answer, or they give a wrong or smart answer. Their rudeness leads to several stations jamming the frequency by swearing, whistling, and blowing into the microphone, and even playing music. Anything so that the DX can't be heard.

On the DX nets the same thing occurs,

but there it is triggered by a belief that these nets are "spoon feeding" a bunch too lazy to look for DX. I think these nets are a blessing because they keep so much of the bands free for those who wish to ragchew. This is what happens: a DX station is transmitting on a frequency. The "police" keep two kHz plus on each side clear. That is five kHz taken. The DX says he's listening over a 30-kHz span. That is 35 kHz taken up by one DX station. On the other hand a DX net needs, but seldom gets, five kHz of the band to work a dozen DX stations, leaving room for those who don't care to work DX. The nets are also a place for those not equipped to work split-frequency or who don't have an amplifier.

Those jammers give their country a bad name. The US FCC says "Let amateurs police their own." That would be fine if we had any authority to take action. An amateur can only police him or herself, and it appears many will not do that without the threat of punishment. —*W. J. Bond, VE3BWX, New Liskeard, ON*

CFARS

Some ago I applied for membership in the Canadian Forces Amateur Radio Service (CFARS), and was informed that there were no vacancies at the time.

During the past few years, I have passed quite a few messages on various networks. However I have yet to see even one which originated with or was directed through CFARS.

I am aware, of course, that CFARS operates on special frequencies, and frequently use phone patches, but these are not available to many outlying localities which are reached only by regular traffic nets.

I have seen many MARS-originated messages, and am concerned that our forces are not getting the same quality of service.

I would like to see an article outlining the activities of CFARS in this magazine. —*Ron Martin, VE3ORN, Willowdale, ON*

MORE ABOUT CRRL/CARF

I was so disappointed and disgusted that CRRL and CARF could not agree on a suitable delegate to represent Canadian amateurs at WARC-92, that I decided not to renew my membership in either organization until things improved demonstrably, or the new organization, RAC was in full operation.

I have been a member of both CRRL and CARF since the early eighties,

The Canadian Radio Relay League, Inc La Ligue Canadienne de la Radio Amateur, Inc



The Canadian Radio Relay League (CRRL) is a noncommercial association of radio amateurs organized for the promotion of Amateur Radio communications and experimentation, for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for the advancement of the radio art and the public welfare, for the representation of radio amateurs in legislative and other matters, and for the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

CRRL is incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act. Its affairs are governed by a seven-member Board of Directors elected every two years by the CRRL general membership. CRRL is noncommercial, and no one who could gain financially by the shaping of its affairs is eligible for membership on its Board.

CRRL is the Canadian member-society of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). "Of, by and for the Canadian Radio Amateur", CRRL numbers within its ranks the vast majority of active amateurs in the nation and has a proud history of achievement in amateur affairs.

A bona fide interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential requirement for membership. An Amateur Radio licence is not required, although full voting membership is granted only to licensed amateurs in Canada.

Membership inquiries and general correspondence should be directed to CRRL Headquarters, Box 56, Arva, ON N0M 1C0 Tel (519) 660-1200.

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Major Geomagnetic Storms

Their patterns and effects...

By Paul M. Dunphy, VE1UK (ex-VE1PMD)
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Anyone who watches *Star Trek* has no doubt heard Mr Spock inform Captain Kirk that either communications are out or the transporter is inoperable due to a magnetic storm. In the science fiction world of the starship *Enterprise*, this is usually dramatized on the main viewscreen by distorted audio and video fading in and out. Crew members are often stranded on the surface of some remote planet and Scotty can't beam them up without scattering their molecules throughout the universe.

Until I became interested in Amateur Radio, I thought magnetic storms were simply the invention of science fiction writers, no less fictitious than phasers, photon torpedoes and warp drive engines. Even when I studied for my Amateur Radio licence, I didn't realize the true significance of these events and their effect on radio communications. It wasn't until I was bitten by the DX bug that I started listening to the WWV forecasts. After all, a true blue DXer has to be able to "quote the numbers" at a moment's notice. Throwing in a few phrases like "polar cap absorption" and "major geomagnetic storm" does wonders for one's stature on the local DX spotting repeater. The trouble was, I began to worry that someone would ask me what all these terms meant! So I spent some time researching the literature and talking to people whose background was in the world of geophysics.

The earth's magnetic field

The earth has a magnetic field that closely resembles the field of a dipole magnet. This type of magnetic field has been demonstrated many times in the classic high school experiment using a small bar magnet and iron filings. In this experiment a piece of paper is placed over the magnet. Iron filings are sprinkled on the paper. The filings form the pattern of the field and illustrate the lines of magnetic flux or force. With a bar magnet the lines of force move outward from the ends and connect at the centre. In the case of the earth, the magnetic field resembles a spherical shell with lines of force propagating outward from the poles and connecting over the equator.

This is a theoretical model of the earth's magnetic field and thus is not perfect. There are some internal magnetic anomalies that generate slight distortions

in the field, but this visualization is close enough. Scientists refer to the earth's magnetic field as the magnetosphere.

If the earth were the only object in the solar system, the magnetosphere would indeed exist as the spherical shell described above. However, the sun has a profound effect on the shape. The sun is constantly emitting energy in the form of cosmic rays, atomic particles, etc, collectively called the solar wind. This wind exerts pressure on all objects in the solar system, including the earth. The pressure from the solar wind distorts the earth's magnetic field from the ideal sphere and causes it to take on a teardrop- or comet-like appearance. Like a comet, the magnetosphere has a head and a tail. The head of this magnetic field surrounds the earth at a distance of about ten times the earth's radius. The outer boundary of the magnetosphere is called the magnetopause. When conditions are quiet, with no significant solar flares or coronal holes, the pressure from the solar wind is fairly constant and the shape of the earth's magnetosphere remains about the same.

Fluctuations in the magnetosphere

As I mentioned above, constant solar wind pressure results in a stable magnetosphere. The solar wind does not always remain steady. It is usually gusting and fluctuating to some degree in response to solar activity. Like all magnetic fields, the magnetosphere has flexible springlike properties. If the solar wind pressure increases, the magnetosphere compresses inward towards earth. When the solar wind pressure decreases, it rebounds and expands outwards. When the solar wind causes the magnetosphere to compress and expand, we have a moving magnetic field. This field is moving through the ionosphere, which, due to solar ultraviolet radiation, is composed of ionized gases.

Basic electrical theory tells us that a moving magnetic field (the magnetosphere) within a conductor (the ionosphere) will induce a current. It is these currents induced in the ionosphere, particularly in the auroral zones, that have the greatest effect on radio propagation and other phenomena associated with geomagnetic storms.

Short-lived fluctuations in the magnetosphere are called geomagnetic substorms. They usually last from thirty min-

utes to several hours and are most prevalent in the polar and auroral zones. Small numbers of geomagnetic substorms do not usually present a serious problem to radio communications.

How geomagnetic storms progress

When numerous geomagnetic substorms occur over a short time (within a day or two), the event is called a geomagnetic storm. Great magnetic storms last many days, but most occur over a period of 24-48 hours.

Geomagnetic storms usually progress through three phases. First, a shock wave is generated in the solar wind by a flare on the surface of the sun. This wave slams into the earth's magnetosphere and produces a large magnetic impulse. This impulse is called a sudden storm commencement (SSC) or sudden commencement (SC). It causes an instantaneous compression and distortion of the earth's magnetosphere. Once the initial shock wave has passed, the solar wind returns to normal pressure and the magnetosphere recovers. Over the next several hours, the magnetic field remains fairly stable with only minor fluctuations. It is important to note that not all geomagnetic storms begin with a SSC. SSC impulses are caused by flares—huge solar explosions. Many storms begin with the main phase, described below. These storms are usually caused by coronal holes that can eject solar material without the violent explosions associated with flares.

About three to six hours after the SSC, the second—usually the main—phase of the storm begins. At this time, particles that have been ejected from the solar flare or coronal hole begin to arrive at earth. The solar wind pressure begins to change rapidly. The magnetosphere responds with wild fluctuations. Each fluctuation—a substorm—induces heavy currents in the ionosphere, particularly within the auroral electrojet. The auroral electrojet is an oval shaped core of strong electrical current that travels through the ionosphere within the auroral zones. The earth takes from one to several days to pass through the cloud of solar debris.

The third stage of the geomagnetic storm is the recovery phase. This can take several days following the main phase, depending on the intensity of the storm. The earth's magnetic field slowly returns

to normal. During this phase there are usually some periods of substorms, but the overall activity decreases. After a few days, provided there are no further flares or coronal ejections, the geomagnetic field returns to normal.

Effects of a major geomagnetic storm

All magnetic storms produce terrestrial effects to some degree. Most are only of concern to those involved in HF communications, be it commercial, military or amateur. It is only the great storms that have a direct effect on the general public. In the past fifty years there have been seven major magnetic storms that have caused the geomagnetic Ap index to exceed 250. The largest ever recorded occurred in March 1989, just three months before the peak of Solar Cycle 22. This is likely a coincidence, because comparison of the number of days with high magnetic activity against annual sunspot numbers shows that peaks in magnetic storming do not necessarily occur during the years of maximum solar activity.

The 1989 storm was the result of a large and complex sunspot group identified as region 5395. This region produced eleven X-class and 48 M-class X-ray flares during March 6-19. As explained above, the magnetopause is typically located at about ten times the earth's radius. On 13 March 1989, the solar wind pressure pushed the magnetopause to an estimated distance of 4.7 times the earth's radius, more than a factor of two compression in linear size. To put this in perspective, it was estimated that the energy required to do so was equal to one sixth the average daily US electrical consumption in 1987. The Boulder Ap index rose to 279 on March 13.

During the geomagnetic storm of March 1989, I recall being on board an oceanographic research vessel in the north Atlantic. It was a daily occurrence to see the radio operator slowly shaking his head and saying that in his 35 years of experience he'd never seen anything like it. We were virtually without HF communications for days at a time.

There were a number of other consequences of this storm. Numerous LORAN navigation problems occurred, especially on March 6 and 13. This was exacerbated because land stations could not use HF radio to report the problems to users. The MARS HF service was out worldwide, while 144-148 MHz transceivers, normally used for short-range communications, were receiving powerful signals from remote locations. California Highway Patrol messages were overpowering local transmissions in Minnesota.

The Hydro Quebec Power company experienced a massive failure that left most of Quebec without power for up to nine hours. The magnetic storm induced a huge current in the power lines of the

James Bay generating station. As a result, overcurrent protection tripped circuit breakers province-wide. In central Sweden there was a simultaneous power loss on six different 130-kilovolt power distribution systems at about the same time as the Hydro Quebec failure.

Brilliant aurora was seen across the US on the nights of March 12-14. Backpackers in the remote mountains of North Carolina reported seeing static red aurora for about four to six hours. Red aurora was reported from the Florida Keys, Grand Cayman Island and Cancun, Mexico.

Concluding thoughts

I have described how fluctuations in the solar wind generate geomagnetic storms. I have also described some of the effects of the March 1989 magnetic storm as an example of how severe the terrestrial impact can be. As amateurs, we can see their effects on the Amateur Radio service. Most magnetic storms that we encounter will not have severe consequences of those described above. Nonetheless, there will be times when we will be trying to diagnose transceiver problems or looking for faulty coax because we are hearing little or nothing. Before dismantling the rig, check the WWV numbers!

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SYDNEY SESQUICENTENARY

The City of Sydney, Australia is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its elevation from town to city status. Celebrations of many kinds will continue throughout 1992. To commemorate the event, the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) is operating special-event station VI150SY on all HF bands.

RECIPROCAL LICENSING

Canada has concluded agreements or arrangements with the following countries to permit licensed Amateur Radio operators to operate radio stations while temporarily in the other country: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia. ■

New Products and Services

CUSHCRAFT VERTICAL

The Cushcraft AP8A eight-band quarter-wave vertical measures 26 feet tall, weighs only 9.5 pounds, and covers the 10-, 12-, 15-, 17-, 20-, 30-, 40- and 80-metre bands. Band switching is automatic. This antenna is constructed with double and triple-wall tubing, providing strength to withstand high winds. With low-loss design and high efficiency traps Cushcraft claims "maximum output".

CUSHCRAFT RADIAL KIT

The APR18A radial kit introduced by Cushcraft is designed for use with the AP8A or any quarter-wave vertical antenna. It consists of nine multiple- and single-conductor radials with a maximum length of 31 feet, much shorter than the usual home-installed radials. The radials can be used for permanent or portable operation, and comes complete, ready for installation at ground level or rooftop

with no measuring or cutting.

SINCLAIR BBS

Sinclair Radio Laboratories has launched a new computer bulletin board system (BBS) to provide on-line information about Sinclair antenna patterns, available software programs and new products. The service is designed to provide access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For the cost of a call to (416) 727-4746, individuals can obtain antenna information using a computer terminal and modem, at a speed of either 1200 or 2400 baud.

Users may view the information by logging on and calling up files from the main menus. To obtain specific information for personal use, users download the data onto their system using a password.

The Sinclair bulletin board is the first of its kind in the antenna industry in Canada. A similar system is in use by Sinclair in the United States. ■



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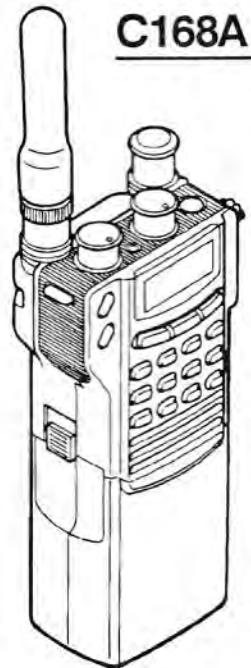
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The Cat that Learned CW

Part 2: Fluff gets her licence...

By Arnold Rivett, VE6AXB
52 Doverglan Crescent SE
Calgary, AB T2B 2P6

Fluff purred happily as she lay on the operating bench with the hot air stream from the linear blowing over her. Fluff was an orange tabby with long fluffy hair. Fluff had just worked her 278th CW country, and was the only cat in the world with an amateur licence.

It all started because Fluff's human had raised her in a garage where he constantly copied tapes used to teach other humans CW. Fluff had listened to the code tapes many times, had learned CW, and had begun to talk to her human, Army, by sending Morse code to him. (He had not learned to speak cat, although Fluff had patiently tried to teach him). Fluff then learned how to run the TS-940 and had begun working CW stations and chasing DX instead of birds and mice. Fluff remembered how she had worked to get her licence. First she had had to convince her human, Army.

"Flo", said Army, addressing his XYL, "Fluff has worked over 100 countries on her own, and wants me to read all the DX columns to her."

"I've been going to talk to you about that," Flo replied. "You are really going to have to teach her enough to get a licence. She wants a call of her own more than anything else in the world." Flo didn't have to learn CW to understand Fluff. Flo was born into a cat-people family.

"I was going to let her apply for a ten-metre DXCC with the cards she has received," said Army.

"I don't think that's going to be enough for her now," Flo explained. "She was talking to Ian when he was here the other night, and he told her that you are a volunteer examiner. Now she wants to take the licence exam."

Fluff came up and rubbed against Army's legs and started to purr. "So now you're going to butter me up, are you?" Army asked. This will require some thought, but I think that Fluff has the motivation.

Early in the development of Fluff's CW speech, Army had tried to teach her to count. Fluff had bogged down after "five" and they had gone on to more productive things like adding vocabulary about household and radio items. Army went to the two-metre rig and called Paul, a local who was a psychologist and had a two-letter call. Army talked to him for several

hours, and it came back to the same thing: repetition. "After all," Paul pointed out, "that's how she learned CW in the first place."

Army searched the magazines, and went to an elementary school teacher and talked about educational software. After two weeks of searching, he found a piece of software designed to teach number facts to elementary school students. It took ten days before the software arrived and was installed in the shack's logging computer. After that Fluff was on it ten hours a day, stopping only when she had to eat or sleep, and once in a while, to listen on her usual frequencies. Even so it took her almost a year to get up to a grade-six arithmetic level. The elementary school teacher explained it to Army. If a child goes to school for 200 days each year and actually does an hour of arithmetic each day, that makes 200 hours of instruction per year. Fluff, working about 60 hours a week, needed 20 weeks to reach the 1200 hours that the average child takes to learn arithmetic in six years of primary school. However, Fluff with her cat intelligence didn't learn the same way as humans did. Since she read more slowly, it took her longer. Flo was amazed that the cat managed to learn arithmetic at all, and the effort of learning six years of elementary school arithmetic in one school year seemed like a miracle. The whole thing was a tribute to what can be accomplished with the right motivation.

With arithmetic under her collar, Army gave Fluff a couple of months of elementary algebra and read her CRRL's *Talk To The World* and the CARF book, completely three times each. Finally Army and Flo felt that Fluff was ready. Army called several VEs and set up Fluff's exam.

The volunteer examiners (VEs) who came in to test Fluff were in a bit of a quandary. With her supersensitive cat hearing and lightning fast cat reflexes, Fluff could copy code at speeds far above what the best of them could handle. The examiners had all talked to Fluff using a keyer and sometimes had to ask her for a QRS when she got excited.

The paddle which Fluff used was examined in detail. It was two pressure pads mounted in a recess so they could be pressed when Fluff lay flat on the operating desk. Fluff could run a single-paddle



keyer

by holding it with one paw while she stood on three legs. But this was not a position that she could hold for the hours that she spent prowling up and down the bands, so George, a good Amateur Radio friend, came up with the idea of the lay-down keyer.

The problem for the test was that Fluff copied in her head, and could not hold a pencil to write out the copy for the examiners. Ian finally hit upon the idea which was accepted by all. The examiner sent code to Fluff for three minutes, and Fluff tried very hard to remember it exactly as it was sent. As soon as the test was finished, Fluff sent the text back word for word, and the examiner copied it down.

Two of the volunteer examiners then signed this statement: "We have examined Fluff Rivett who has a physical condition that prevents her from being able to write down her CW copy. She has demonstrated her ability to copy in her head by sending back a three-minute transmission sent to her at 12 wpm. The candidate's sending was timed and was letter perfect at 12 wpm plus. Additionally we have examined the proposed operating position and find that the candidate will be able to operate the equipment, and that due to its modern design, she will be able to operate it correctly within the ham bands. Further, the candidate understands the band limits and has demonstrated her ability to operate within the bands and modes (CW and RTTY) permitted. This candidate's physical condition will prevent her from operating speech modes." The volunteer examiners were happy, and all three signed the statement and countersigned the examination papers.

One VE who had come from northern Alberta for the test, said to Army and Fluff that he had heard of Fluff and her high-speed CW ability on two metres, but thought it was some kind of joke within Calgary Amateur Radio Association until he was asked to examine the cat. He complimented Fluff on her ability and said he hoped he could work her on 80 metres when she received her ticket.

The next day Army was having a crisis of conscience. Fluff had legitimately passed the advanced exam and the 12 wpm code test. She was definitely entitled to hold a licence. Army knew that DOC would issue a licence on the strength of the examination papers that the volunteer examiners were turning in. He also suspected that news of a cat with a licence would quickly get around, and he didn't want DOC to think that he and the others were playing a practical joke or trying to make some protest about the exam. Army called up the chief radio inspector of the DOC District Office.

After pleasant inquiries about each other's health, Army requested and was given an appointment for the next morning. "Well, Fluff," Army said, "now you get to find out about sweaty paws at the old Federal Building."

The radio inspector was intrigued. He had heard some stories and suspected that Army would either confirm or deny something that sounded pretty strange. He looked forward to the next morning and wondered what it would bring.

Army stayed home from work the next morning and took Fluff in the car after breakfast. Fluff was wearing a harness which contained a micro keyer with a detachable paddle. She lay on the car seat and talked to Army in CW. "Where are we going?" she wanted to know. "We are going to see the radio inspector" said Army. "Is this going to be like the university?" asked Fluff. "I hope not" said Army with a chuckle.

Army parked the car in Chinatown, and they started over to the federal building. Fluff wanted to walk since it was nice weather, and she watched the traffic as they crossed the street. Army held the door for her and they didn't attract any comment as they went up the stairs to the elevator in the modern stone faced building. The radio inspector's eyes widened as they entered the radio office together and he quickly took them into his office.

Fluff jumped up on to the radio inspector's desk and began sending at 35 wpm. "Hi, I'm Fluff. Army says you are in charge of radio licences. I want to get mine as soon as possible." The radio inspector's eyes popped, but he was good at CW and never missed a beat. He used a paddle on his desk and sent back to Fluff. "I'm pleased to meet you, Fluff. I've heard about you and wondered if I would ever talk to you." He was enthusiastic.

"You can talk to me in speech," sent Fluff, "but I have to use CW since you don't understand cat." The government man grinned, and began to speak to Fluff and ask her questions. "Army," he said "Would you mind leaving us alone for a few minutes? I've got to do something to prove to myself that this is not some kind of elaborate trick." Army and Fluff agreed, and Fluff took off her harness with the keyer, and she used the radio office keyer

to prove that hers was not some kind of gimmick.

After ten minutes Army was taken back into the office. The senior radio official spoke. "Army, you have done well in instructing this particular candidate. She has a very good knowledge of the regulations, and knows good operating procedure. We will pass her exam papers through as soon as we can. I am very glad you showed me that Fluff is a cat. There is nothing in the regulations that says a ham must be a human being. Officially, this office will take no notice of this candidate's species. Unofficially, thanks for being up front with me. I really wondered if this was an "in joke" or some elaborate hoax to baffle newcomers. I am pleased and amazed to meet Fluff."

Three days later, Fluff's licence arrived. DOC had done her proud and found an unassigned two letter call. "VE6FC," read Army. "Flo, Fluff is going to be VE6 Fluffy Cat."

You have never seen such enthusiasm in a new amateur. Fluff proved the truth of K4TWJ's statement in *CQ Magazine* a couple of years ago: it is possible to work DXCC in a good weekend. Fluff did it in two days flat. A month later she went into the CQ Worldwide CW DX contest and operated the full 48 hours. It just seemed natural for a cat to be up all night. She increased her DXCC country total from 124 to 247. The fact that she took the VE6 high-score certificate was only incidental. Fluff is now inching up to the 300 country mark, and her only regret was that she had worked 3Y5A as VE6AXB instead of with her own call.

Fluff is now scheming and trying to think up ways to get on SSB. She feels that she could increase her country total faster on SSB, but most of the VE6s who know the story are not at all certain that Fluff could increase her country total faster on any mode. Fluff also operates RTTY and is over 250 countries on that mode. Fluff is still looking for another cat who can learn CW. You will know if that happens if one year the Worldwide CW DX contest is taken by a multiop station from VE6.

Fluff now has an important position in the local Amateur Radio club. She encourages beginners to learn CW. When people realize that they can talk to a cat if only they learn to copy CW, they dig in. Fluff also believes that 12 wpm isn't enough, and encourages the class to learn at least 20 wpmr. After all, that is what you need to battle a CW pileup when the good DX is on. Fluff firmly believes that the greatest fun in the world is working CW DX.

If Fluff manages to get on SSB, here are two DX contests she might try:

ALL ASIA DX PHONE CONTEST

0000 UTC September 5 to 2400 UTC

September 6, 1992. Sponsored by the Japanese Amateur Radio League (JARL). All bands below 30 MHz except 10, 18 and 24 MHz. Contest Call: "CQ Asia". Exchange: (OMs) RS report plus two figures indicating operator's age. (YLs): RS report plus two figures. Send logs to JARL, Box 377, Tokyo Central, Japan.

EUROPEAN DX SSB CONTEST

1200 UTC, Saturday, September 12 to 2400 UTC, Sunday, September 13. Sponsored by Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC). Bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28 MHz. Exchange: RS report plus three-digit QSO number. Send logs to WAEDC Contest Committee, Box 1328, 8950 Kaufbeuren, FRG.

Finally, here's one for Fluff:

BULGARIAN CW CONTEST

The LZ DX CW contest is scheduled for 6 September 1992. Unfortunately, details were not available at press time.

Sorry, Fluff. ■

Calendar



Attention: Deadline for items is the 20th of the second month preceding month of publication. For example, information should reach *QST Canada* by January 20 to be included in a March issue.

Ancaster, ON: Fleamarket, 1992 September 12, at Marritt Hall, Ancaster Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Hamilton ARC. Opens at 0900, 0730 for vendors. Admission: \$4, children under 12 free. Wall tables: \$10, others: \$8. Outdoor tail-gaters: \$5. Free parking, food concession. Two huge rooms of vendors, free ham testing. Talk-in: VE3NCF, 146.76 MHz (-). Tables may be requested from Keith Johnson via Hamilton AR BBS at 416-575-4745 (modem or fax), or by packet to VE3DC @ VE3RD (Oakville). Requests will be cancelled unless payment is received by September 4.

Calgary, AB: Amateur Radio Fleamarket, 1992 September 19, at Parkhill Community Centre, 4013 Stanley Rd SW. Sponsored by Novatec ARC. Open at 0900-1200. Admission: \$3. Tables: \$3. All kinds of Amateur Radio, computer and test equipment, and other "electronic stuff". Coffee, pop and donuts available. Talk-in on VE6NRC, 146.76 MHz (-) and on 146.52-MHz simplex.

Cobble Hill, BC: Vancouver Island Ham Happenings, 1992 September 11-13 at Cobble Hill Hall. Friday: RVs welcome. Lots of parking, self contained units only. Saturday: opens 0930. Shop and Swap at 1000. Admission: \$3. Table rental: \$7. Rabbit Hunt at 1500. Bring your own DF gear. Sunday: Auction at 1000. Open to public: no charge. VIA Rail available from Johnson St Bridge, Victoria. Cost: \$17.17 return.

Greenwood, NS: Ham and Electronics Flea Market. 1992 October 24, at Greenwood Community Centre. Open at 0900-1400. Talk-in on VE1WN, 147.24 MHz (+). For more information, contact Jim Baskey, VE1APV, Box 63, Greenwood, NS B0P1N0, Tel (902) 765-6272, Fax (902) 765-5449.

London, ON: Annual Flea Market, Sunday, 1992 September 27 at Pot O'Gold Bingo Palace, Hamilton and Gore Roads. Sponsored by London ARC. Open 0900-1400, 0800 for vendors. Admission: \$5. Children under 14 free. Vendor tables: \$5. Large indoor sales area and paved parking area. Commercial snack bar. Talk-in on VE3LON 147.06 MHz (+). Send reservations and payment to Jim Hartford, VE3NFX, London ARC, Box 82, Station B, London, ON N6A 4V3, Tel (519) 672-7911. ■

Winnipeg's Great Duck Race

On June 14, 1992, shortly after 1 p.m., several thousand plastic ducks in the Fifth Annual Great Duck Race floated down the Assiniboine River. This race was sponsored by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba. Each person who purchased a ticket had a numbered rubber duck entered in the race. Prizes ranged from a Winnipeg Jets mini-pack to a luxury vacation to Mexico and a \$37,000 Dodge Stealth automobile. The Heart and Stroke Foundation sold over 26,000 ducks. All money raised went to heart and stroke research projects. Here is Dick Maguire, VE4HK's report:

"The start line was in the Assiniboine River, about 1.5 kilometres west of the footbridge at Assiniboine Park. The finish line was just west of the footbridge. The winning duck crossed the finish line in about twenty minutes.

"A gaggle of six amateurs flocked to the information tent for the Duck Race at 11:30 a.m. We had a short briefing, and were assigned to the official whom we were to accompany for the event. We then dispersed to our assigned locations. Dave, VE4DBK, was in charge of the information tent. Jack, VE4AJG, and Pat, VE4PLG, were located in the finish area. I assigned Yori, VE4ACX, to the finish line, since he is an expert at problem solving. I knew that he could solve any problem that occurred while installing the nets. Your reporter, Dick, VE4HK, took the start line.

Our main responsibility was to pass critical information between the start line, the finish line and the information tent. This would ensure that the ducks were not loaded into the water too early or that the race would not begin until everyone was ready. We also relayed strings of ticket numbers from the information tent to the finish line as ducks were sold.

The amateurs had no problems at all in carrying out their duties. The race started a few minutes late due to the problems in deploying the nets at the finish line, but this seems to happen every year and presented no real difficulty. Regrettably, none of the amateurs had a winning duck. Maybe next year!

"Thanks to Yori, VE4ACX, Pat, VE4PLG, Dave, VE4DBK, and Jack, VE4AJG, and myself, for providing communications for this year's Great Duck Race. I cannot think of any suggestions to improve this event!"

BAHAMAS COMMEMORATES COLUMBUS 500TH ANNIVERSARY

To commemorate the 500th anniversary

of the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus, Bahamas Amateur Radio Society (BARS) will operate special-event station C6A500 throughout October 1992. Operation will be continuous 0001-2400 UTC on Columbus Day, October 12, with intermittent operation throughout the rest of the month. Look for C6A500 on the following frequencies: 3590, 3740, 7030, 7090, 7290, 14,070, 14,135, 14,290, 18,150, 21,140, 21,204, 21,390, 24,950, 28,190, 28,350, and 28,990 MHz. C6A500 will operate 2-metre FM on 146.64 MHz (-). Also to commemorate the anniversary, all authorized BARS members may use /500 suffix throughout October. Awards are available for the following: 1) 3 different /500 contacts, and 2) 10 different /500 contacts, one of which must be C6A500. To QSL send a self-addressed envelope and three IRCs to BARS, Box SS 6004, Nassau, Bahamas, or to Bahamas QSL Bureau. For either of the two awards, send a copy of log and three IRCs. —*Tnx N2HOH*

ONTARIO PARLIAMENT 200TH ANNIVERSARY

To mark the 200th anniversary of the first sitting of Ontario's Parliament, Niagara Peninsula ARC will operate special event station XO3P on September 1-30, 1992. In 1792, the seat of government was at Newark, Upper Canada—now Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. It was soon transferred to the new capital at York, now Toronto. Also to commemorate this anniversary, all Ontario amateurs may use the special XO3 prefix throughout the month of September.

MACKENZIE BICENTENNIAL

To commemorate the bicentennial of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's crossing of North America by land and reaching the Pacific Ocean, members of Listowel District Secondary School Amateur Radio Club will operate special event station VA3200M from September 1 until September 14, 1992. The school has been participating in an exchange program with a high school in Peace River, Alberta, centre of celebrations for Mackenzie's historic crossing.

KNOWLTON, QUEBEC, SALUTES FESSENDEN

On August 12, members of Bell Pioneers Amateur Radio Group celebrated the 90th anniversary of Reginald Aubrey Fessenden's patent of the "heterodyne principle", with a special event station VE2FRV (Fessenden's Radio Voice). The event took place at the Knowlton, Que-

bec, Museum, which is now the permanent home of VE2FRV. Fessenden's heterodyne principle remains fundamental to radio technology to this day. His patent claim included a CW transmitter emitting two different frequencies at the same time, and a receiver combining the two RF signals into a single signal in the audio range.

Those who contacted VE2FRV can receive a special QSL card by sending an self-addressed stamped envelope to Box 207, Knowlton, PQ J0E 1V0.

GREENWOOD ANNIVERSARY

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Canadian Forces Base, Greenwood, Nova Scotia, Greenwood Amateur Radio Society is operating special-event station VE1RCAF throughout 1992. Anyone contacting VE1RCAF and wishing to receive a commemorative QSL and possible certificate, please send your QSL and a self-addressed stamped envelope, or a self-addressed envelope and one IRC to Greenwood ARS, Box 63, Greenwood, NS B0P 1N0.

IARU REGION 2 MEETS IN CURAÇAO

The 11th General Assembly of IARU Region 2 will be taking place in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, on August 31-September 4, 1992. The Canadian delegation is headed by CRRL International Affairs Vice-President George Spencer, VE3AGS. Other Canadian participants include CRRL President Dana Shtun, VE3DSS, and IARU Region 2 Secretary Tom Atkins, VE3CDM. *QST Canada* will carry a full report of the conference in an early issue. ■

Silent Keys

Conducted By Ray Staines, VE3ZJ

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of these amateurs:

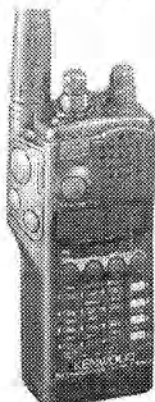
VE5SNM, Stanley Miner, Saskatoon, SK
VE6YK, Walter Potts, Valleyview, AB

Note: Silent Key reports sent to *QST Canada* must include name, address and call sign of the reporter. To avoid unfortunate errors, reports are confirmed only through acknowledgement from the family of the deceased. Thus, those who report a Silent key may not receive an acknowledgement from *QST Canada*. ■

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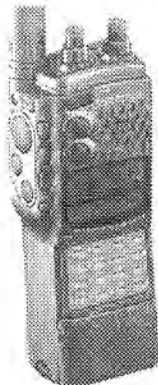
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- CTCSS encode & decode on both bands
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Breaking the Pileups

When a DXpedition from a rare or semi-rare country is aired, the resulting "pile-up" can be mind boggling. The question arises, how can you possibly log this much-needed new country? At this point reasoning, clear thinking, patience, and the art of listening will almost always prevail. This assumes, of course, good operating techniques, self-discipline, and a knowledge of propagation.

Remember, we must operate by the rules set by the DX operator. These rules are arbitrary. They can be subject to change and they are absolute. It is imperative that they be followed. Flexibility within those stated rules, however, can be exploited.

A pileup is a mirror of human passions. Excitement, anger, frustration, aggression, joy and triumph are played out on the air. Gathered are the good operators, the poor operators, and those who should never operate at all. Out of this mass of seemingly verbal chaos, your call must be heard, be it complete or partial. The contact must now be completed to the satisfaction of both the DX operator and the caller. Correct legal conduct when transmitting is the hallmark of a seasoned operator. One of the greatest assets of the DXer is the art of listening. Listen to the pileup. Determine who the DX is, and whether you need it. Get a handle on the situation. Is the DX working split frequency or simplex? Don't ask—listen. Information will be given out at regular intervals. Should it be determined that the DX is operating split, set your VFO carefully. Be sure not to transmit inadvertently on the DX station's transmit frequency.

Listen and develop a strategy. Make judgements as to what is possible. Study the window that the DX is listening in. How is the DX tuning that window? Are the participants bunched up or spread out? Use this information to your advantage. Perhaps the top or the bottom edge of the DX station's listening frequencies will provide an advantage. Is propagation in your favour? Will it improve? What is the urgency? Is this a short operation, or will other opportunities be available? Does the DX operator accept "tailenders" and should you try? Be very careful not to cause QRM when a station is being worked. "Do unto others, etc...." The QSO rate will increase and the pileup will be more agreeable. Don't forget that, if it is a large operation, check out other bands and modes. Every DX station must call CQ initially, so why not be waiting? If you don't work CW it's a disadvantage.

Should you not happen immediately to

be successful, consider that you have become more knowledgeable. In your next encounter with the DXpedition, the odds will be increased in your favour. Continue to gather pertinent information. Remember, information is power, and power translates into success.

It is desirable to log the rare DXpedition as early as possible, as many things can go wrong. Unless the operation is a lengthy one, many amateurs will not make the contact, and that is sad. Rise above the bad behaviour you will encounter. Keep cool and operate smart.

Let's talk about tailending. Tailending is the act of transmitting your callsign while the DX operator is working a station. The aim of this technique is to have your call heard by the DX station while the pileup is relatively quiet. The technique is risky, and if not executed properly, may well be considered disruptive QRM.

In tailending, you give your full call during a part of a QSO that the DX operator will likely consider superfluous. For example, if the station being worked should, unsolicited, proceed to give his name, location and the state of his great-aunt's health, give your call. That's when the DX station will be impatient.

Many DX operators will not accept tailending, and they will make this quite clear. The problem is that most tailending is initiated improperly. This encourages others in the pileup to call. The less experienced DX operators do not want to be put in the position of losing control, and will forbid the use of tailending.

The decision to initiate a tailend call is subjective. Having weighed all the factors, such as failing propagation, limited operating time, and the possible reaction of the DX operator, the decision is made to proceed. But success can be swift, and the joy of the ultimate DX pearl is sweet. On the other hand, the DX operator may single you out as being disruptive and blacklist your call. Remember, it's subjective for him also—a "two-edged sword!"

MOST WANTED COUNTRIES

The following, from April 1992 *Long Skip* published by CANAD-X, is based on information is from an OPDX/NODXA DX survey by KB8NW:

"Out of 112 countries, no one needs ZA! A year ago, Albania was the number one "most wanted DXCC country" but now it is not even in the top 100. The latest list shows that operation by Romeo, UB5JRR, from Myanmar (Burma, XY) and Afghanistan (YA), caused those two countries to drop out of the top ten. The

survey was taken before Bob, W5KNE, and Lanny, W5BOS, made their trip to Christmas Island (VK9), so Christmas Island will be much farther down the list next time. There will also be changes after the Clipperton and South Sandwich DXpeditions have completed their operations. We should keep in mind that the most wanted country really is (or *will be*, as it does not exist in strictest DXCC terms until it is first activated) North Korea (P5)."

Survey results are as follows:

Rank	DXCC Country	% Need
1	VP8 South Sandwich	59.4
2	A5 Bhutan	54.4
3	S2 Bangladesh	50.6
4	3Y/P Peter Island	49.3
5	5A Libya	43.0
6	EP Iran	31.6
7	VU4 Andaman	30.3
8	VK0 Heard Island	29.1
9	9G Ghana	26.5
10	1S Spratley Island	24.0
	5X Uganda	24.0
12	FO Clipperton	22.7
13	VU7 Laccadives	20.2
14	3V Tunisia	18.9
	5R Madagascar	18.9
	FR/T Tromelin	18.9
17	YA Afghanistan	17.7
18	XY Myanmar (Burma)	16.4
	VP8 South Georgia	16.4
	ZL8 Kermadec	16.4
21	TN Congo	15.1
	VK0 Macquarie Island	15.1
23	FR Glorioso	13.9
24	KH1 Baker	12.6
	SV Mount Athos	12.6

AMATEUR RADIO MUSEUM

Canada's first Amateur Radio Museum was officially opened to the public at 11 a.m. on 23 July 1992 in Austin, Manitoba. The building is located on the grounds of the Manitoba Agricultural Museum.

VK0 HEARD ISLAND

Jim Smith, VK9NS, is trying to put together a DXpedition to Heard Island. A cost of \$18,000 per person is contemplated. Duration of the DXpedition would be five weeks. Jim is looking for some funds up front. Support is needed now.

FATHER MORAN, 9N1MM

It was with deep regret the DX world learned that Father Michael Moran, 9N1MM, for many years the only amateur active in Nepal, had become a Silent Key. I am proud to have his QSL card in my album. ■

Region 2 Triennial Conference—Curaçao-92

As you read this issue of *QST Canada*, the 11th IARU Region 2 General Assembly of Delegates, also known as Curaçao-92, will be taking place in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles on August 31–September 4, 1992. Host society will be Vereniging voor Experimenteel Radio Onderzoek in de Nederlands Antillen (VERONA), under the leadership of its President and Region 2 Director, Willy Gravenhorst, PJ2WG.

It is the responsibility of all Region 2 member societies to participate in these triennial conferences, and it is expected that there will be representation from the majority of Region 2 member societies, either in person or by proxy. At the last conference, held in Orlando in 1989, 27 countries were represented. There were over than 120 delegates and observers, many from Regions 1 and 3.

Canadian amateurs will be represented by a delegation from the Canadian Radio Relay League, the Canadian member-society of IARU. The CRRL group will be headed by CRRL Vice President for International Affairs George Spencer, VE3AGS, a veteran of these international gatherings. He will be joined by CRRL President Dana Shtun, VE3DSS, former CRRL President Bruce Balla, VE2QO, Vice President and General Counsel Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Mal Hamon, VE3KXH, who is the Region 2 Monitoring Service Coordinator for Canada.

Curaçao-92 will deal with many important matters that will affect Canadian Amateur Radio. The conference will be addressing the needs of our Region 2 membership, dealing with regulatory matters in the use of the frequency spectrum, new modes and communications techniques, and band planning, and establishing the priorities for Region 2 activities for the next three years, including the promotion and protection of Amateur Radio.

Delegates will be carefully reviewing the outcome and effects of WARC-92 on the Amateur Service. There will also be special presentations on the IARU Beacon Plan as well as the Region 2 Monitoring Service.

One of the final acts of the Curaçao-92 will be the election of the Region 2 Executive Committee, which will serve for three years, and selection of a location for the 1995 conference.

Following the conclusion of the 11th General Assembly, there will be a meeting of the IARU Administrative Council, and participants will be able to meet and talk with leaders of Amateur Radio from Regions 1 and 3.

14 *QST Canada*



Site of the 1992 IARU Region 2 General Assembly to be held in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, August 31–September 4, 1992. At right, holding banner, is Willy Gravenhorst, PJ2WG, President of VERONA, host society for the conference. Flags of some of the nations attending are visible behind him. (VE3CDM Photo)

IARU Region 2 has two official languages: English and Spanish. All documentation for the delegates is provided in both languages, with simultaneous translation made available in the plenary sessions of the conference.

Past conferences have been well attended and most productive, providing participants with the opportunity to meet fellow amateurs in person from all over this hemisphere and the world. Apart from the important business sessions there are special social events on the agenda, as well as a program specifically arranged for non-amateurs.

A full report on the conference will appear in an upcoming issue of *QST Canada*. —Tom Atkins, VE3CDM

Tom Atkins, VE3CDM, presently Secretary of IARU Region 2, was a former CRRL President and Director, and the first Ontario Director of CARF. He is well known in the international amateur community, and has served on the Region 2 Executive Committee for the past nine years. Tom is one of nine radio amateurs on the IARU World Administrative Council, and most recently he was a member of the IARU Observer team which represented the interests of global amateur radio at WARC-92, the World Administrative Radio Conference held in Spain earlier this year. —Editor

KAMLOOPS EMERGENCY EXERCISE

"Yellowhead Exercise" was a mock evacuation staged by the Kamloops (BC) Amateur Radio Club on June 6, 1992. Purpose of the exercise was to test provincial emergency services. The scenario was for a tank truck full of gas to overturn, sending its contents through the streets and into the storm drains, with explosions occurring along the way.

The exercise lasted for five hours. The situation called for no commercial power and no telephones. At this point the Amateur Radio group took over, handling many written messages and a multitude of verbal ones. All told, there were twelve amateurs involved, using three two-metre simplex channels.

I was one of the participants. One of the main conclusions we reached from the exercise was that people in other services do not know how to write out a message in less than one page! All in all, it was a really good experience for our group, as well as for the other services who got a first-hand look at our capabilities.

Now, if and when a real emergency should strike our area, the experience we gained in "Yellowhead Exercise", in message handling and in working with other groups, will stand us in good stead. —Ken McEachern, VE7EFL

The CRRL Field Organization Forum

REPORTS FOR JUNE 1992

Alberta: SM: Don Wilcox, VE6CG; STM: VE6AKY; SEC/TC: VE6AFO; OO: VE6TY. The Calgary Club is as busy as ever. They participated in a car rally and two running races. Another running race, the K-100 takes place on June 18. Calgary is also in the process of setting up an ATV group for the Calgary Stampede Parade on July 3. At last count the group will have seven cameras on the Parade route. The system will be running on 432 MHz, 910 MHz and 1.2 GHz (rounded off frequencies). More on the outcome of the parade event to follow in the July report. From the Fort McMurray Club, as reported by club president Gordon Larsen, VE6GEL, in the *VE6 Quarterly Report* from ARLA (Amateur Radio League of Alberta), the club has 30 members in an active group, way up north "in their own little world". Mike, VE6MY, runs a code and theory class. The club looks after the TARC voice repeater, VE6TRC from Stoney Mountain, which is located about 20 miles south of town and has a coverage of about 120 km in all directions. VE6TRC has autopatch but it does not have 911 since it is not on the Fort McMurray exchange. They are also running a BBS on 145.01 MHz, so it looks as though packet is running in northern Alberta. Recently about 15 club members participated in the Engstrom Silver Dog Sled Races. This covered some 500 km. Communications for the race were provided from three sites along the route. The race ran over three days. During the same period a number of other club members worked HF band using a special event call sign and prefix assigned by the DOC for the occasion. The VA6 prefix attracted QSOs with over 500 amateurs from other parts of the world. Congratulations Gordon! It sounds as if your club is on the move. This covers the month of June. More to follow in July. 73 from Alberta.

British Columbia: Report for June: SM/SEC: Ernie Savage, VE7FB. British Columbia Public Service Net (BCPS, 3729 kHz, 0130 UTC daily) Manager Jim, VE7JN, reports check-ins: high—184, low—87, total—3948. British Columbia Emergency Net (BCEN, 3652 kHz, 1900 UTC daily) Manager Ray, VE7BCL has moved from Burnaby to Victoria. Check-ins for June will be missed. Summer holidays are starting with these days of sunshine. It is time to say thanks for your newsletters and keeping us informed about what is doing in the land of Amateur Radio. Please take care, and play and drive safely.

Manitoba: SM: Bill Crooks, VE4JR; ASM: VE4IX; STM: VE4STU, SEC: VE4PN; NMs: VE4AGH, VE4FP, VE4LB, VE4TE. Dick, VE4HK reports that a "gaggle" of hams flocked to the information booth for the Great Duck Race, held on June 14, in aid of the Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation. There were some 26,000 "ducks" sold, and the winning duck crossed the finish line 20 minutes after the start. There were five amateurs in various locations from the start to the finish line, and our thanks go to VE4s: AAI, AC, ACX, ADS, AIM, AJG, AJO, AOJ, BBB, CK, DAR, EF, GH, GT, GV, GZ, HAY, HX, JCM, JOA, JR, KAZ, KGB, KM, KV, KX, LA, MGL, MJM, NQ, PH, PLG, ROB, RY, SE, SF, SYG, TF, TM, VV, WDB, WK, WMR, WS, WTS, XT, YZ, ZH and ZO. Nice going, and good PR for amateurs. The following week the Winnipeg ARC set up operations for Field Day, held for a 24-hour period from 1300 local time until 1300 next day. They were operating 1-A under the call sign VE4BB,

Reports invited: CRRL Section Managers (SMs) and their Section-level assistants coordinate traffic handling, emergency communications and bulletin service across Canada. Your SM (name and address appears on page 2 of this *QST Canada*) welcomes reports of individual and club activities for publication in this column. Activities do not have to be related to the CRRL Field Organization or to CRRL.

and gave the TS-450S that the club recently acquired a good workout. Along with Field Day the club held its annual picnic. There were 16 operators manning VE4BB over the 24 hours. They also had ATV, and satellite tracking equipment. The ARES group also had a Field Day station set up at Dugald, using the call VE4ADS, also operating 1-A with five operators.

Maritimes-Newfoundland: Acting SM: Carl Anderson, VE1UU; STM: Bob Kirkpatrick, VE1VAR; BM: Brent Taylor, VE1JH. No report available. The Maritimes-Newfoundland Section needs a Section Manager. The duties are not onerous. The work can be rewarding. Contact the Acting Section Manager or CRRL for details.

Ontario: SM: Larry Thivierge, VE3GT @ VE3WQ; A/SM and BM: VE3AV @ VE3JF; A/SEC SEC: VE3GT @ VE3WQ; STM: VE3CYR @ VE3KRG. TC: VE3EGO. A very special welcome to our new editor David, VE3HBF. Hope we can meet his deadlines. And a very sincere thanks to Harry, VE3GRO, the outgoing editor, for all the time, energy and devotion he put into CRRL activities, and of course most of all, his baby—*QST Canada*. He made it what it is today. Special event station XJ3S from Niagara-on-the-Lake was a successful operation according to NPARC President VE3FCK. Some 50 amateurs participated in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of what was then Upper Canada and is now Ontario. Over 250 messages were solicited and passed into the National Traffic System. VE3OSQ's LAN on 144.97 is nice and busy and helping to ease the congestion on 145.01 MHz. Kieran has made some improvements to the OSQ BBS and boosted the power on .01. VE3ORN presented a talk on traffic handling to the North Shore ARC. VE3FXR is now VE3MS while VE3GSA is now VE3AV. In snooping through some of the amateur bands it's great to hear all the new calls on the air. It is, however, somewhat disconcerting to hear all the CB jargon. I can only suggest that if you come across any of it and you know the operator, perhaps a phone call to the person would be helpful if we wish to keep the frequencies as professional as possible within the Amateur framework. The long awaited Ontario connection to IPARN took place on June 14 during a special session of their monthly network-wide net. Prize winners at the 18th annual Ontario Hamfest in Milton were VE3KCG, VE3PMD and VE3MEM. Congratulations to VE3LVO and Burlington ARC for making the hamfest a huge success. VE3JLP has a new FT-1000D. SH/HAMCALL *International Callbook* database is now on line at DXTOR: VE3ZRB on 145.77 MHz in Toronto. This database has over 500,000 calls including Canada, the United States and 70 other DXCC countries. Officers of the Almonte Radio Repeater League (ARRL) are president—VE3AAT, vice-president—VE3XV, treasurer—VE3AAS, and secretary—VE3PAW. Ex-VE3ATU is alive and well and living in BC using the call VE7KZ. Look for him on the Trans-Canada Net. Lakehead ARC, in cooperation with the City of Thunder Bay, announces the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award to

any station working at least five Thunder Bay stations. The award is an attractive 8.5- x 11-inch parchment scroll. Send your list of contacts to the club at Box 2571, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5G1. Border City ARC has a membership of 150. It is with regret that I announce that VE3RO has become a Silent Key. Some new amateurs in the Section are VE3ETL, VE3KSU, VE3KUJ, VE3RRT, VE3RVA, VE3WAI, VE3WAZ, VE3XIC, VE3XLB, VE3XSX, VE3XTK, VE3ZGP VE3ZZA. VE3KKS has his Advanced. Congratulations to all. ECs reporting this month were VE3AGY, VE3LPM and VE3LVO. What happened to the rest? New ECs are VE3HKT, District of Parry Sound, and VE3ZDC, City of London.

Quebec: SM: Joe Unsworth, VE2ALE; STM: Jean, VE2ED; OBS: Garnett, VE2GOP. About 2000 persons attended the RAQI Hamfest at Tracy on May 24. Visitors to the Montreal area George, VO1EGH, Thomas Leblanc, DU6AJM Makati, Metro Manila. Call change: Stuart, former VE2FUT, is now VE2XX. Found on the VE2FKB BBS that, as of 1992 March 26, Stella Belanger is Silent Key. From Ken, VE2EXC: RCA VE2LZR and the following were on hand Sunday, June 7, for the equestrian event at St-Lazare: Joe, VE2ALE; Ken, VE2EXC; Jim, VE2KN; John, VE2PTZ; Ray, VE2SJA; Paul, VE2WED; Walter, VE2WLH, and Fred, VE2WWW, using the VE2RM repeater at Mont Rigaud. The event was a great success with only one rider down and no serious injuries. If medical aid had been needed Ray, VE2SJA, was with St. John Ambulance and was also member of the radio team. Lynda Townsend sent a letter of thanks to all the operators. Le conseil de l'UMS 1992-93 sera composé de président—François, VE2TLS; vice-président—Marc, VE2DSQ; secrétaire—VE2OST; trésorier—Laurent, VE2LCE; et directeurs—Mario, VE2GMD, François, VE2JZ, et Micheline, VE2MML. Des opérateurs de radio le CRA UMS sous la direction de Martin, VE2OFL, ont fourni des communications pour le Tour de l'île Montréal. Les, VE2DIT, is moving to Florida at the end of June. The VE2CWI ARC gang is planning another DXpedition some time in August. Merci and thanks to the following Field Day stations, on phone and packet: VE2BP, VE2CBS, VE2CWI and VE2CSQ.

Saskatchewan: SM: Joan Lloyd, VE5JML. Congratulations to new amateurs VE5CO, VE5LI, VE5DJM and VE5MD. A number of amateurs in the province have taken advantage of the good weather to put up towers and new antennas. Some of us, myself included, were forced to do this when windstorms wreaked havoc with our dipoles. Several clubs participated in Field Day: Last Mountain ARC was active from the Last Mountain area. Regina ARC was on the air from Burnside school site. Saskatoon ARC was also on from south of their city. Melfort ARC was at Wapiti Regional Park campground. Moose Jaw ARC was on the air from the Suukanner Museum south of Moose Jaw. A number of amateurs are planning their annual pilgrimages to the hamfest at Glacier-Waterton, the Peace Gardens and the Mini-Hamfest in Saskatoon July 24-25. Hope to see everyone there. ■

COMET

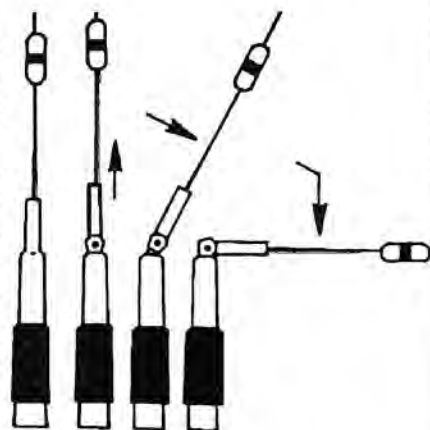
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Crisis in Samoa—Part 2

Last month, in Part 1 based on a report by Reg Hardman, VK4XH, we described the first three days of the impact of Cyclone Val on the archipelago of Samoa. We learned that the only communications with the outside world were from Ed and Utai at 5W1JL, in the city of Apia on the island of Upolu, in contact with members of the Mercury Amateur Radio Association of Australia (MARA). We pick up the story on Tuesday, the fourth day of the cyclone.

"Saturday: At 2000 UTC, Ed and Utai came through as usual with a good 57-58 signal. I wondered how their three-element beam antenna could stand such constant battering and still be intact. While it was rated at only 140 kph, it never missed a beat with the 190-240-kph winds. Cyclone Val was still stationary, pounding away at Samoa. This was the worst day so far. More roofs were disappearing. There was now real concern for Savai'i, the largest island, as nothing had been heard from it for some time. No one knew what was going on there except that Savai'i was getting the full brunt of the storm.

"Utai and Ed were now carefully rationing their diesel fuel as their sources of supply had dried up. The hospital in Apia was reported in desperate need of electricians as their emergency generator had failed.

At 0500 UTC, we again made contact with Utai and Ed at 5W1JL, but signals were down to 54. Ed's emergency generator was now inoperative due to rain damage and 5W1JL was on battery power. The roof was starting to come off the station and there was a great deal of water damage. They couldn't get downtown because of flooding. There was no communication at all except for the Amateur Radio link. As Ed said, other Samoan locations like Pago and Savai'i might as well be ten thousand miles away, as communications with them just didn't exist.

"Ed also reported that he checked out the airport and found the runways totally obstructed with debris. It was completely deserted. On the way back from the airport he found an injured girl under a roof that had blown off. He picked her up and took her to the hospital.

"By this time, the net began to receive health and welfare messages and requests from the Australian Overseas Disaster Response Organization (AODRO) as well as from many individuals, particularly individuals in New Zealand, Australia and the US. As the Australian government was unable to contact Western Samoa, AODRO turned to the amateur fraternity

for assistance. Due to the hazards of the flying debris, it was difficult to get information from the 5W1JL radio room to the intended party, or to get people to the microphone. Most traffic was, however, delivered.

"Wednesday: At 0500 UTC, good contact was established with 5W1JL by the

net, Ed's generator was operating again, and the following report was delivered:

The weather has started to improve, but winds are still very strong. All public buildings and most homes in Apia are damaged. Apia hospital has been closed and patients sent home due to lack of power. The road to the

Field Organization Reports June 1992

CRRL Section Emergency Coordinator Reports

Reports were received from the following SECs (DECs and ECs reporting to SECs are listed in brackets). Total current ARES membership is 1063.

Reporting	ARES Members
VE6AFO	306

CRRL Section Traffic Manager Reports

Call	Orig	Rcvd	Sent	Dlvd	Total
VE1BTV	0	27	23	0	50
VE1YS	0	15	14	0	29
VE1DLC	3	5	2	4	14
VE1ALU	2	4	3	2	11
VE1VAR	1	6	1	1	9
VE1BYO	0	1	1	0	2
VE2ALE	0	66	271	0	337
VE2GOP	0	42	77	0	119
VE2ED	1	9	7	3	20
VE3ORN	17	61	74	10	162
VE3GSQ	0	56	70	0	126
VE3GT	0	54	38	3	95
VE3DVE	0	32	46	4	82
VE3CYR	0	56	20	0	76
VE3HZQ	4	27	25	4	60
VE3GNW	0	26	30	0	56
VE3AJN	1	32	13	1	47
VE3BDM	0	14	29	1	44
VE3LPM	0	20	16	7	43
VE3WV	0	39	2	0	41
VE3SB	1	9	13	2	25
VE3NVJ	1	8	14	1	24
VE3AAU	0	16	0	3	19
VE3MNI	1	3	10	3	17
VE3KXB	1	3	9	1	14
VE3DBG	0	1	9	1	11
VE3FS	2	2	4	0	8
VE3BAJ	0	1	5	0	6
VE3GKB	0	1	2	1	4
VE4JR	0	21	6	1	28
VE4TE	0	13	7	5	25
VE5KZ	7	43	45	4	99
VE5JML	0	7	0	0	7
VE6CE	13	10	18	0	41
VE6XG	6	13	13	3	35
VE6ABC	1	4	4	0	9
VE6AKY	1	2	2	2	7
VE7BNI	6	167	213	6	392
VE7BCL	1	100	27	26	154
VE7ANG	0	62	67	3	132
VECCJ	4	34	38	3	79
VE7XV	0	16	14	10	40
VE7FLY	0	8	17	0	25
VE7FME	1	12	14	0	27
VE7BCF	3	9	7	0	19
VE7EJU	0	9	9	0	18
VE7FRZ	3	9	4	0	16
VE7OM	1	8	7	0	16
VE7BZI	3	6	3	0	12
VE7SR	1	6	4	1	12
VE7GKA	0	6	5	0	11
VE7DWZ	0	9	0	2	11
VE7CZW	0	6	2	0	8

National Traffic System

Net (Mgr)	Sess	QNI	OTC
APN (VE1YS)	28	102	52
KTN (VE3AJN)	13	112	7
NPN (VE3NDI)	30	415	1
OPN (VE3AJN)	30	569	169
OQN-D (VE3ORN)	29	95	22
OQN-E (VE3CYR)	30	123	70
OQN-L (VE3GSQ)	24	28	22
MEPN (VE4LB)	29	957	18
MMWX (VE4TE)	30	438	26
SEPN (VE5CJ)	29	1047	12
PATN (VE5NX)	20	82	10
APSN (VE6AKY)	30	644	5
ATN (VE6CPP)	30	-	-

Brass Pounders' League

This listing is available to amateurs who report to their SM a traffic total of 500 or a sum of originations and delivery points of 100 or more for any calendar month. All messages must be handled on amateur frequencies, using standard ARRL-CRRL form, within 48 hours of receipt.

BPL: none this month

Public Service Honour Roll

(1991 Revision) This listing is available to amateurs whose public service performance during the month indicated qualifies for 70 or more points in the following eight categories (as reported to their SM). Maximum points for each category: (1) Checking into a public service net using any mode, 1 point each, maximum 60; (2) Acting as a Net Control Station (NCS) for a public service net using any mode, 3 points each time, maximum 24; (3) Performing assigned liaison between public service nets, 3 points each time, maximum 24; (4) delivering a formal message to a third party, 1 point each, no maximum; (5) Originating a formal message from a third party, 1 point each, no maximum; (6) Serving as a CRRL SM or field appointee, 10 points for each office or appointment, maximum 30; (7) Participating in a communications network for a public service event, 10 points each event, no maximum; and (8) Providing and maintaining an automated digital system that handles messages in standard ARRL-CRRL format, 30 points. Those qualifying for Public Service Honour Roll 12 consecutive months, or 18 months out of 24, will earn a special certificate.

PSHR: VE3ORN (145), VE3BDM (129), VE3CYR (128), VE3GSQ (128), VE3HZQ (116), VE3GT (113), VE3AJN (110), VE4LB (89), VE3LPM (71)

Service and Specialized Nets

Independent Net Managers: Your monthly reports are welcomed. Send to CRRL, Box 7009, Station E, London, ON N5Y 4J9.

Net (Mgr)	Sess	QNI	QTC
ONTARS	30	9846	0
GBN (VE3WV)	27	74	5
GBSSN (VE3WV)	27	81	31
Prairie WX (VE5EX)	30	632	0
Sask ARES (VE5FY)	4	171	0
Sask 2m (VE5HG)	30	780	0
ARG 2m (VE5EE)	29	1075	3
Saskatoon 2m (VE5DN)	28	313	0
Alberta ARES	8	134	2

airport is open. The airport is still closed but hoping to open tomorrow. It has become apparent that it will take years to rebuild, but the Samoan people are very resilient and still smiling. The Samoan Cabinet will meet today with all village mayors to discuss the immediate problem of food supply. The Prime Minister estimates there is about two weeks' supply of food on the islands. The rest has been destroyed or spoiled. Ed states that there is an immediate need for short grained rice, flour, brown sugar, tinned fish and corned beef. There is still no information from Savai'i which has been hardest hit. The weather is still too bad for aircraft or boats.

"According to a later report, the hospital on the island of Savai'i was destroyed with four dead.

"We passed to Ed the message that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Sydney would be shipping 39 tons of food for immediate distribution as soon as the airport was open. A further 200 tons of food would be shipped by sea soon thereafter.

"Thursday: At 2000 UTC, we established good contact with Utai and Ed. The highlights of the traffic was as follows:

The Samoan airport is now open for the first time. Flooding has subsided and there is no rain or wind today. Still no phones. The sun was seen for the first time in a week....

Information is now trickling in from Savai'i that the island was devastated, with most buildings being severely damaged or destroyed. Additional fatalities are being reported....

Today the club station 5W1JL received a visit from the Samoan authorities. They wanted to learn what kind of equipment was used to enable it to perform so well throughout the emergency, when other far more sophisticated equipment didn't make it. They were astonished to see only one Kenwood TS-430S and its power supply sitting on a small table in a small room. Nothing much was said!

"Friday: Once more we contacted Utai and Ed, with good signals both ways. They reported that Savai'i was a total disaster. Ed had been told by an RAAF Wing Commander that Savai'i looked like an atom bomb had been dropped on it. With their homes destroyed, some people had climbed inside their water tanks to escape the fury of the storm. The police station, hospital, several schools and many other buildings had been destroyed. The damage was even worse than on the island of Upolu, where the capital city of Apia was located. It looked as if there was nothing left.

"The 39 tons of food arrived safely via air freight from Sydney and was adequately stored. There was still no commu-

nications available with the outside world other than by Amateur Radio. Much health and welfare traffic was passed. Requests for tarpaulins, emergency generators, lanterns, water purification tablets and more food were passed on to Sydney.

"The aftermath: Saturday to Thursday: Much traffic was handled each day with Ed and Utai over this six-day period. Messages dealt with delivery of food-stuffs, tarpaulins, water tanks, shelters and medical supplies from Australia, New Zealand and the US. Again, a great deal of health and welfare traffic was passed for residents, visitors who found themselves stranded, and friends and relatives who were living abroad. A few telephones finally came into operation on Thursday, December 19, at which time the emergency communication program was phased out.

"A sad note was the discovery of the hull of an Australian fishing boat that had washed ashore. There was no superstructure above the deck, and it was assumed that the three men on board had been lost. A forlorn wet driver's licence was the only evidence that people had once been on that vessel.

"What was different about this operation was the great length of time during which Cyclone Val raged and did such tremendous damage. Telephone communications were non-existent for two weeks, and commercial radio communication was non-existent for about a week. During this period, the islands were completely dependent on Amateur Radio, and in particular, on 5W1JL."

Passing traffic for up to two weeks was a tall order for a part-time group such as MARA. Many operators helped out. Special mention must be made of VK2BWS, VK2CMT, VK3AKY, VK3ASY, VK4XH, ZL1BJU, ZL1BLR, W7YSO, and K7FY, as well as 5W1JL with Utai and Ed in Apia for a job well done. —Bob Boyd, VE3SV

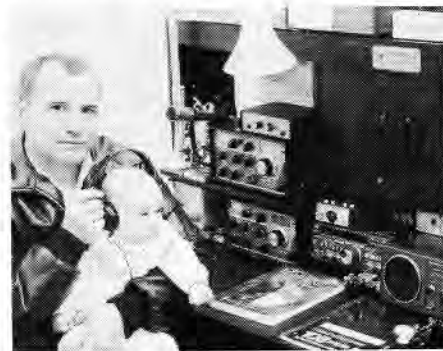
It is hoped that this column, submitted to both The Canadian Amateur and QST Canada, is an ongoing source of news and information for members of both organizations on ARES activities across Canada. ARES members and particularly ECs are invited to send information on their activities, and on any developments they wish to share with other ARES groups. Bob Boyd, VE3SV will pull this together for future columns, to increase our ability to serve our community and our nation, should disaster strike. —Editor

YURI DZYUBA, VE2XLT

Four years ago, Yuri Dzyuba, VE2XLT, came to Canada from the Ukraine where he held the call UB5LT.

He returned to Ukraine after six months, for family reasons, but was back in Canada on a permanent basis within a year.

Within two months of his return to Canada, Yuri passed the DOC test and obtained his Canadian Amateur Radio licence. Yuri lives in Montreal with his wife Svetlana. Their son, Stanley, was born in December 1991. The picture below seems to suggest that Stanley may become the second ham in the family!



Yuri, VE2XLT, and son Stanley, 6 months.

Another visitor from Europe, seen here with Yuri, is Giza, VE2/DL6OBY, daughter of Hartmut Gumpert, 9X5HG from Rwanda. Giza is active on 15-metre SSB from Deux Montagnes, near Montreal. Fred, VE2SEI and Yuri helped install Giza's Cushcraft R-5 vertical and connect it to her Yaesu FT-747.



Giza, VE2/DL6OBY, and friend Yuri, VE2XLT, ex-UB5LT.

NEWFOUNDLAND SEA RESCUE TO BE COMMEMORATED

Amateurs on the Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland will be active with special call sign XO9TP on September 1-15. Shipwrecks and rescues are part of life in Newfoundland. The special call sign commemorates the rescue, by Burin Peninsula residents some 50 years ago, of crew members of the US Navy vessels *Truxton* and *Pollox*. The two vessels ran aground off the peninsula in a vicious storm on February 18, 1942. Requests for QSL cards should be sent to VO1TX, custodian of the special call.