

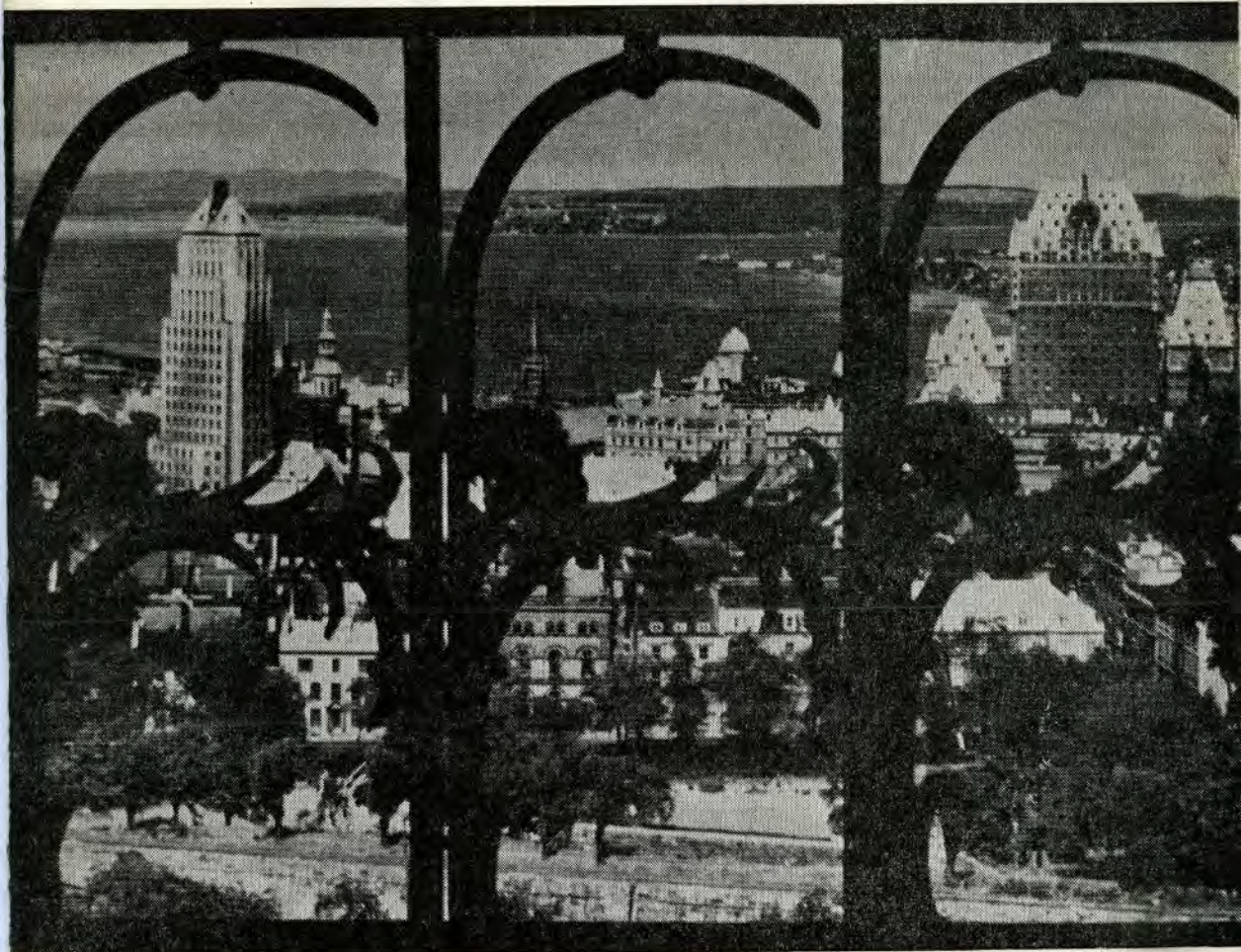
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CANADIAN
AMATEUR

Vol. 1 No. 5 Published in the interests of the Radio Amateurs and Experimenters of Canada

A Salute to VE2 Land



"An exclusive from UA Land" — Page 24

May, 1959

OUR COVER . . .

From the Government tower and through the grill may be seen in foreground, Quebec's famous wall and other aspects of Quebec's old architecture — The Chateau Frontenac on the right and Quebec's only skyscraper, the Price Brothers building in the background. In the distance, Point Levis, centre, the Island of Orleans and in left upper hand corner, the Beauvre shore, Quebec City.

Photos on Front Cover and Mr. Duplessis on page two, courtesy of Photo Driscoll, Quebec Province.

The Canadian Amateur

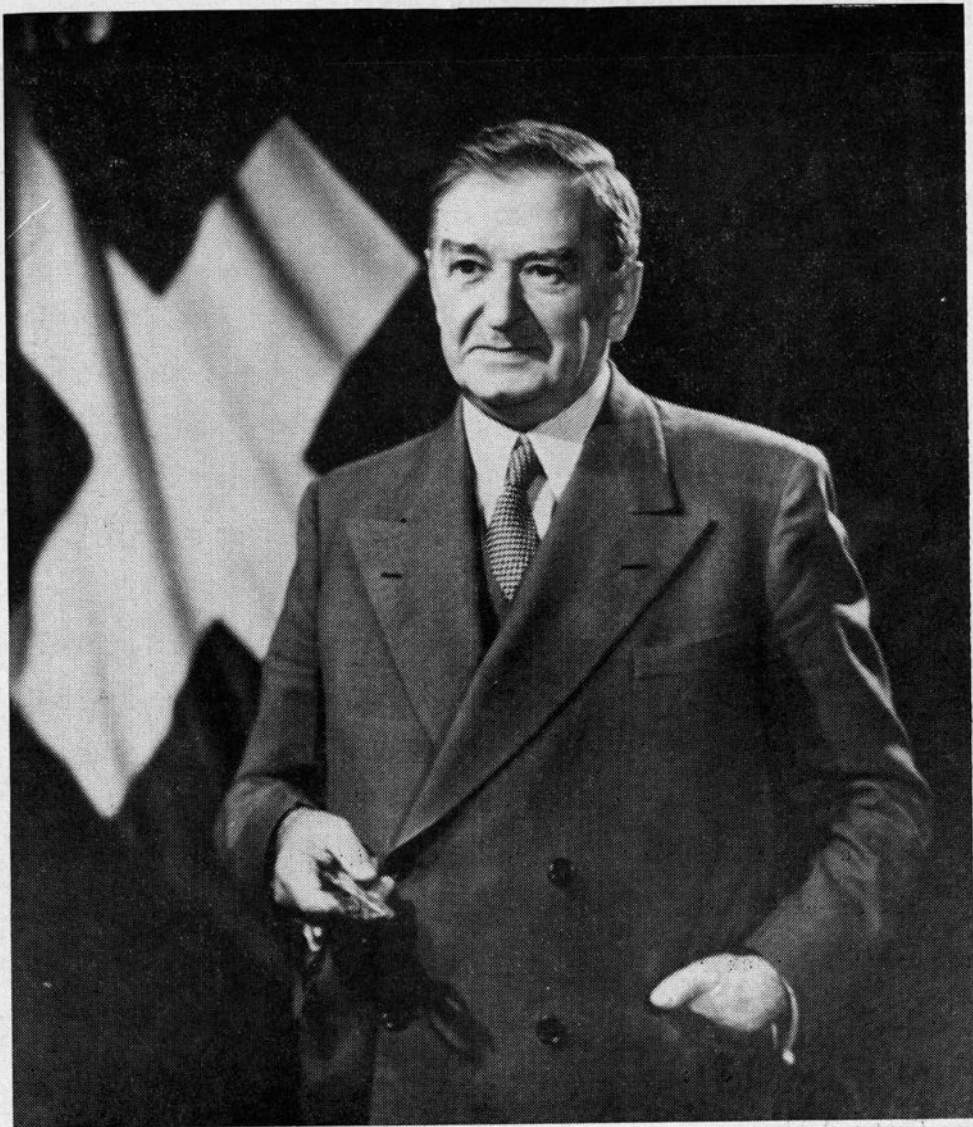
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Canada.



MESSAGE DU PREMIER MINISTRE DE LA PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC

Il m'est agréable d'offrir mes meilleurs vœux aux amateurs canadiens par l'entremise de leur revue nationale, le *Canadian Amateur*.

Les services rendus par leurs stations sont fréquents et nombreux quelles que soient les circonstances. Puissent leurs communications servir à rapprocher les peuples dans un même esprit de fraternité et de compréhension.

Maurice Duplessis

Premier Ministre du Québec

THE CANADIAN AMATEUR — Published monthly by Radio Experimenters Ltd., at 10328 Trans-Canada Highway, North Surrey, New Westminster, B.C., Canada and authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

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EDITORIAL

Greetings to all the people of the province of Quebec, and a particularly happy "Hello" to all the VE2's who have rushed to the side of their new national radio journal with offers of help and co-operation far beyond the "call of duty". You have earned a spot in the heart of the Canadian Amateur magazine for as long as it shall endure.

Visiting old friends and meeting so many new ones everywhere throughout Canada, has been a most wonderful experience. The whisper that was the Canadian Amateur, only four short months ago, is already the "voice" of over a thousand VE's from the Atlantic to the Arctic to the Pacific. And soon will be heard and recognized the world over as that of fighting Canucks who are fiercely proud of their heritage.

The Quebec edition of your magazine points with great pride to the first attempt to give the French-Canadian people recognition in a truly national Amateur Radio publication. It is the earnest hope and desire of the Canadian Amateur to bring the French speaking people of Canada news and views each month. We want you to become as much a part of the little book as you are of Canada itself.

The magazine would have to "Burst its britches" before it could give the proper credit to all the VE2s who have written so many marvelous letters, and helped in so many ways to bring life to the Canadian Amateur, but to neglect to pay tribute to "Jon" VE2ATL and "Pag" VE2ABE, and Alex, VE2AFC, would be inexcusable. A terrific job fellows.

Amateurs the world over will recognize this edition of the Canadian Amateur maga-

zine as something more than just a little journal dedicated to them. They will see in reality an expression of that quality which we treasure so highly . . . Tolerance, and a desire for a better understanding among the peoples of the earth.

June will find us headed into the great North West. Come with us and meet the VE8 gang.

Your Editor is quite concerned about the letters that are urging your journal to take a stand on some very pertinent subjects, before the little book is able to sit up!

Canadian Amateurs, no national Amateur radio magazine would be worthy of the name if it did not dedicate itself to serving and working for those who gave it life. Rest assured, your Canadian Amateur magazine, and it's Editor, have pledged their future to serving you.

If you Amateurs who are writing such strong, forceful letters of great interest to every thinking, wide awake Canadian Amateur, will address your reasoning to the Editor with permission to publish them, he will!

As in every new venture, adjustments have to be made and this magazine is no exception. Poor ole Bill, VE7ZM, is finding his many commitments and pressure of business just too much to permit him to do the kind of job he feels should be done on his DX column. He has asked me to relieve him of the load, if possible. Be patient, you big DX men—several sources have offered to help, among them, the Vancouver DX Club. Thanks for helping to get us rolling, Bill.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Sirs:—

Enclosed is three bucks (Canadian currency) for which please put me on the mailing list for your FB mag for a year.

Someone sent me copies of the second, third and fourth issues of Volume 1, and must say that you have a darned neat paper.

Regarding your contest about the word amateur — just think that the word needs a new definition, such as, "One who does a job better for the fun of it than a professional does for pay."

Best of luck to your new paper and hope that you get plenty of subscriptions from south of the border.

VY 73,

V. S. Gish, W7FIX—A7FIX

Dear Sir:—

Enclosed please find subscription form duly signed and sealed, but first I would like to see the word **Radio** included in the Title of the magazine.

Also please eliminate the pages wasted on news of YL and XYLs as their place is in the kitchen, **NOT** clobbering up the bands. They talk for half an hour and say **Nothing** at the finish. They should not be issued tickets by the DOT and FCC.

You are at liberty to publish the above, all or in part.

Yours truly, (or should I put 73),

VE3CFI, Len Humphries

Dear OM:—

I was pleased to receive a copy of the March "Canadian Amateur" and enjoyed reading it so much that I am enclosing a money order for a years subscription; lest you fail to appreciate the significance of this fact, I might add that three dollars is a great deal of money to a university student at this time of the year!

I would appreciate it if you could make my subscription retroactive to your first issue, and so I hope that you can have some more copies printed.

At present my studies leave little time for ham radio, and my activity is confined to an occasional 40 metre cw contact or a venture into the 75 phone band when I feel braver. However I hope to be more active in the future, and perhaps we shall meet on the air sometime.

73,

J. David Litster, VE3ENL.

Editor, Canadian Amateur,

Dear John:—

Many thanks for the letter and the initial copy of the Canadian Amateur. I was sure happy to receive this as I want my file of all copies to be complete from the beginning. Then I can look back ten years from now and say. "Yep, I've got every copy of that wonderful Canadian magazine!"

Well, your request for an article on 160 sort of caught me a little off base, as I have not spent as much time on the band as I would have liked. However from what I have seen of it I like. It's a wonderful band, and the only fly in the ointment is the lack of use by VEs. Perhaps my little discussion in the attached article will help to remedy the distressing situation.

You know John, when your letter arrived I had almost completed the composition of an article of a slightly different character which however does tie in with the 160 meter business. The editorial in CQ about the European proposals set me thinking that the time was getting short for a start to agitate the boys into some sort of action to help forestall the possibility of a cut in our bands at the conference coming up this year. I believe the A.R.R.L. can do the best job for us and that every Canadian ham should be a member until such time as we have a Canadian alternative. I have hopes that you will succeed along this line through the Canadian Amateur magazine.

I hope you won't think me too forward in sending you both of these articles, and assure you my only purpose in doing so is to try and do what little I can to further the cause of amateur radio which has been so long neglected in this country.

I realize what a rat race you must be running and hope that you won't overdo it. No use getting a nervous breakdown or heart attack even over the best of causes, especially when there are many hams in the province you can call on for help. So take it easy fellow.

With very best wishes for every continued success,

73

Verne VE7EH

Dear 7JB:—

Well, here I am again, as promised, but I am afraid its going to be a bit of a disappointment to you. I had hoped I could round up a fair amount of info on local

(Continued on Page 31)

THE RI SAYS . . .

By J. E. Kitchin, VE7KN — Supervising Radio Inspector of B.C.

In an earlier issue we discussed the Radiotelephone Restricted Certificate and the poor candidate trying to rake up a dollar for the examination fee. So, assuming he was lucky enough to borrow one, he presents himself at the appointed time and place and here's what happens next.

1. **Inspection of documents.** You must be at least eighteen years old but under certain conditions some consideration may be given if you are only seventeen. But don't apply if under seventeen as the "special consideration" cannot be stretched that far.

2. **Hearing test.** Having all those years of experience copying weak code signals now pays off and you will be glad you didn't spend all your time on 75-m phone; Your hearing (average of both ears) must be at least 75 percent of normal as measured on a Departmental standard audiometer. If you have to wear a hearing aid to reach this point it will be O.K. but, in this case, the certificate will be endorsed accordingly.

3. **Oral examination.** This comes next and consists of the following three parts:-

(a) Knowledge of the operation of modern radiotelephone equipment for use in land stations. This is NOT technical but practical knowledge, which means how do you turn the thing on and off, change the frequency (by means of the switches provided on the panel and not by tampering with its innards) and so forth.

(b) A general knowledge of radiotelephone operating procedure and International regulations applying to such stations and, particularly, to the regulations regarding safety to life.

(c) Canadian regulations applicable to these stations.

Any amateur should be able to make pass marks (75 percent) in each of these sections without any great effort except, perhaps, as regards the regulations concerning the safety of life. So you should familiarize yourself with the Distress, Urgency and Safety signals and their uses.

4. **Practical test.** Now you must demonstrate your ability to send and receive messages correctly by radiotelephone. This requires a knowledge of "standard" procedure (as distinct from amateur procedure) and you must also be familiar with the phonetic alphabet. This phonetic alphabet has been the subject of a previous article in the "Canadian Amateur" but, if you missed it, make sure that the alphabet you learn starts off with alfa, bravo, charlie, etc., down to zulu, because substitutes and reasonable facsimiles will not be accepted. There is no such expression, for example,

as "Victor easy seven king nancy;" it is "Victor echo seven kilo november" in this alphabet.

Being a licensed and certificated amateur you already have (we hope!) a copy of the Radio Act and Regulations. Familiarize yourself with the regulations applying to the licensing and operation of land stations in the private commercial and municipal services. The rest of it is just already common sense, which we know you already have. However, it is always the candidate who is on the spot so don't just trust to luck — get out the book and check up.

While pondering over the matter, amateurs who haven't forgotten their technical knowledge might perhaps be well advised to try for the Radiotelephone General Certificate. This includes a written paper on technical subjects and it is, of course, a higher class of certificate than the "Restricted" — which is purely operational. A complete syllabus of examination details for both these examinations may be obtained from any RI office on request. You will find the Regional Office address on your station licence in case you haven't noticed.

Good luck OMS.

This Could Cause Ulcers . . .

Being the top dog in any endeavor in this day and age means one has to have something more than just good looks! Whatever is necessary, Les Jeffrey, W8WT of Farmington, Michigan, has plenty of it. Being the top fone man in the "Worked all Prefixes", just isn't easy Bub. Les has done a beautiful job on his crossword puzzle, if he ever does another one for us, it will accompany a story about this boy, with some pictures of his beautiful home and antenna farm.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Contrary to the general belief, VE7KX is human! Jim entered and won first place in the B. E. R. U. contest. Nice going Jim. The top nine placed as follows:

- 1 VE7KX—4948
- 2 ZC4IP—4157
- 3 VE2WW—3702
- 4 ZD2GUP—3426
- 5 G5DQ
- 6 G5RI
- 7 VE3UOT
- 8 VE2YU
- 9 G5WP

Pour répondre à l'aimable invitation de John Brown, VE7JB, éditeur du CANADIAN AMATEUR, il m'est très agréable de souhaiter la plus cordiale des bienvenues à sa revue dans les milieux francophones de notre beau pays. Voilà plusieurs années que les amateurs canadiens étaient sans nouvelles les uns des autres; bien sûr quelques clubs publiaient à intervalles réguliers un bulletin, qui selon les endroits, avait un nombre restreint de lecteurs, mais sur la plan national on se sentait un peu oublié pour ne pas dire délaissé.

Mais en janvier dernier, quelle heureuse surprise que de trouver dans le courrier, en plus des QSL rares, une enveloppe porteuse de bonnes nouvelles. THE CANADIAN AMATEUR était né, sa lecture ne servit qu'à nous prouver une fois de plus l'intérêt qu'ont les amateurs canadiens pour un tel lien tangible, initiative de nos amis VE7.

Déjà les abonnements arrivent de tous les coins du pays, mais il en faudra davantage pour mener à bien cette mission; les amateurs de langue française n'ont pas été oubliés puisque l'ami VE7JB met à notre disposition quelques pages tous les mois, je vous invite donc tous à lui envoyer vos articles techniques ou autres sans délai. Soyons solidaires et travaillons main dans la main pour que la vie "amateur" au Canada continue sa marche ascendante. A MARI USQUE AD MARE.

73

Alex. Desmeules, VE2AFC

Québec.

The **M**ontreal **A**mateur **R**adio **C**lub *Incorporated*

Club Call: VE2ARC

President: VE2MW

Founded in 1932 and incorporated in 1949, the Montreal Amateur Radio Club is the largest one in North America.

Having between two and three hundred members scattered throughout the North American continent, our organization has its own club station operating all bands with the call VE2ARC. For those who have television interference, we provide technical assistance with our T.V.I. Committee. Although being affiliated with both the A.A.R.L. and R.S.G.B. our club officials thought of our good public relations by being registered with the Canadian Red

Cross and the Royal Canadian Militia for emergency purposes.

Needless to say that the M.A.R.C. sponsors the popular W/VE contest, and organizes the annual Montreal Convention. Our club is also becoming well-known through its Ham-TV programs produced by Bill, VE2AZT, assisted by Charlie, VE2AFM, and Bennie, VE2AKT.

For all those want-to-be hams, the club has very interesting code and theory classes. The Montreal Amateur Radio Club holds its meetings on the last Wednesday of each month, and also publishes the monthly bulletin "Marcogram."



FRONT ROW, Left to right:—VE2AKT (code and theory classes); VE2NB (assistant treasurer); VE2GZ, ex 2AKY (treasurer); VE2MW (president); VE2TA (Vice-president and memberships); VE2AFM (Vice-president and entertainment); VE2HI (Secretary).
BACK ROW, Left to right:—VE2YV (Publicity); VE2DB (memberships and code class).



Believe it or not . . . this nice looking "YL" is Eric Lloyd, SWL who fouled every xmtr hunter except VE3UY at the M.A.R.C. Transmitter Hunt.

VE2AQQ Suggests . . .

Cy, VE2AQQ, wrote me a letter, crammed full of suggestions, some of which are already being utilized . . . Your French section Cy, is your baby, alert your compatriots to their opportunity, there is no reason why your Canadian Amateur magazine should not have articles in French of interest to all radio-minded French Canadians. A VE1 and a VE2 should, and will, as you suggest, most certainly be on our masthead in the near future . . . About your license plates, don't be so shy, send me the details, let the Canadian Amateur tell the world how Quebec acquired this privilege. Finally Cy, the Canadian Amateur magazine will make every effort to provide the Amateurs of Canada with the information they want about Canadian manufacturers and their equipment . . . But . . . the Canadian Amateur magazine will never become a catalogue, there is too much to tell about our pastime to permit that.

. . . and from the west coast here is a rather unusual bit of information. Our lovely YL editor Lois was very carefully backing up her new Vauxhall, when one of those unpredictable telephone poles deliberately shifted directly behind her . . . Fortunately there was very little paint rubbed off, only 195 bucks worth!

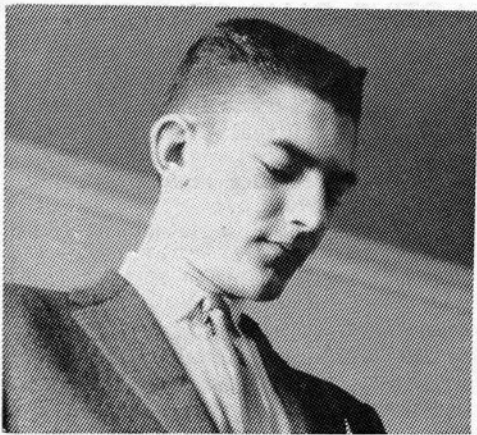
YLRL AWARDS

1. WAS/YL (Worked All States)* Establish two way communication with station operated by a licensed YL in each of the forty-nine states of the U. S. A. (Alaska included). Send QSL's or confirmations with listing thereof, to Grace Ryden, W9GME, 2054 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago 14, Illinois, U.S.A.
2. WAC/YL (Worked All Continents)* (N. and S. America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania). Establish two-way communication with station operated by licensed YL on each of the six continents. Send confirmations to Barbara Houston, W0LYV, 1385 Northview Dr, Marion, Iowa, U.S.A.
3. YLCC (YL Century Certificate)* Establish two-way communication with stations operated by 100 different licensed women operators anywhere in the world. Send confirmations with a list showing the full name of the operator, her call, and the date, to Katherine Johnson, W4SGD, Box 666 Fuquay Springs, North Carolina, U.S. Arrange names alphabetically by last name. Endorsement will be awarded for each additional 50 YL's worked.

*The following rules apply to all three of the above awards:

Award is available to any licensed amateur in the world. Any and all authorized amateur bands may be used. Contacts must be made from the same QTH or within a 25 mile radius, the only exception being that a different color of endorsement will be sent for the YLCC when one has moved from the original QTH. Contacts may be made over any period of years. Sufficient postage must accompany the confirmations to finance their return by first class mail. YLRL will not be responsible for any loss or damage to same. Decision of the custodian regarding interpretation of the rules shall be final.

4. DX-YL. Keep your usual log and when you have worked 25 different DX YL's (YL's outside your own country) make a copy showing the following: Date, time, station worked, frequency her report, your report, phone/cw, her name and QTH. (QSL's not necessary). Send log copy to Maxine Willis, W6UHA, 6502 Wynkoop Street, Los Angeles 45, California. All contacts must be made from one QTH or within a 25-mile radius. Sticker awarded for each additional 10 DX YL's. This certificate must be earned since April 1, 1958, and is for YLs only.



Jon Achim, VE2ATL, president

L'origine du C. J. O. remonte en avril 1958, lors d'une partie de sucre tenue à St. Nicolas près de Québec. A cette époque, la radio amateur devenait de plus en plus populaire parmi les jeunes, et un lien de relation plus étroit se faisait sentir.

Or en décembre, les idées commençaient à s'échanger au sujet de la formation d'un club. C'est alors que je recevais un appel de Gilles Pagé, VE2ABE, qui me donna un compte rendu de l'enthousiasme manifesté par les jeunes amateurs du Québec au sujet du nouveau club, je devins très intéressé de la proposition et nous entreprenions tous deux l'organisation du C. J. O.

Il suffit d'une semaine pour rentrer en communications avec tous les jeunes amateurs de langue française de la région de Montréal. La semaine suivante, une réunion avait lieu afin d'élire les membres du comité.

Depuis ce temps, le Club des Jeunes Opérateurs, tient ses réunions mensuelles dans la métropole canadienne et publie son propre journal appelé CJO'59, qui compte di-

Club des Jeunes Opérateurs (C.J.O.)

Club Station: VE2JC

vers départements dont le VHF, DX, propagation, théorie etc.

Le premier but du club est de promouvoir le goût de la radio amateurs parmi les jeunes de langue française. Quoique nos cours de code et de théorie n'aient débutés que depuis trois mois, nous avons maintenant quatre jeunes qui ont obtenu leurs lettres d'appel.

Opérant la station-club VE2JC, Gilles Pagé eu la chance de participer dans des communications d'urgence avec une station française. Grâce au travail efficace d'un groupe d'amateurs de trois continents, la vie d'un jeune Français fut sauvée.

Tous ensemble, groupé sous un même toit, nous sommes donc très fiers d'appartenir au SEUL CLUB AU MONDE ORGANISE POUR LES JEUNES AMATEURS ET SWL DE LANGUE FRANCAISE.

"Jon" Achim, VE2ATL

Président

(See English translation overleaf)

Left to right—Dunn Harvey, SWL representative; 2ABE, secretary; 2ACD, treasurer; and 2ATL, the club president. (smoking)



CLUB DES JEUNES OPÉRATEURS (C.J.O.)

Club Station VE2JC President VE2ATL

Looking through the Radio Amateur Call Book today, we find a lot of clubs organised for young hams; but, if we take a particular attention at the Quebec Section, we won't find any. Does that mean that the young Quebec amateurs don't feel the need for such clubs? No, I do not think so. We found that out at a sugar party held at St. Nicolas, Que. where a happy group of hams met together. We saw that a lot of young French-speaking amateurs had thought of it before, but nobody had started to work on the idea.

In Dec. 1958, I received a call from Gilles Pagé, VE2ABE, who told me that lots of young hams across the province were very interested in the project. I was very glad to hear this, and we got together to call every young French speaking ham in the Montreal area. A week later, we had our first meeting and we elected the officials, and named our club: Club des Jeunes Opérateurs (Young Operators' Club). As we couldn't reach the other boys outside Montreal, we decided to have both active and correspondent members.

Since then, C. J. O. holds its monthly meetings and publishes a club bulletin every two months, including departments like DX — VHF — TFC — propagation — theory etc.

Our principal aim is to promote the interest of "ham radio" among young French speaking boys. Our code and theory classes have given "ham radio" four newcomers since they started three months ago.

Through the courtesy of VE2ABE, we have our own club station, operating mostly 20 meters with the call VE2JC. Our members will try to keep VE2JC active in all kinds of contests whenever possible.

So, all together, we are proud of being members of the **FIRST RADIO CLUB IN THE WORLD ORGANIZED FOR YOUNG FRENCH-SPEAKING AMATEURS AND SWLS.**

"Jon" Achim, VE2ATL
President

List of A.R.R.L. Officials In the Quebec Section

Alex Reid, VE2BE — Canadian A.R.R.L. Director.

Bill Skarstedt, VE2DR — Section Communications Manager.

Felix Edge, VE2QN — Section Emergency Co-ordinator.

George Godde, VE2YA — QSL Manager.

—by "Jon" Achim, VE2ATL

ACTIVE CLUB STATIONS IN QUEBEC

Montreal Area:

VE2ARC—Montreal Amateur Radio Club Inc.

VE2DN—Cercle des amateurs de la T.S.F. et Vidéo

VE2EE—Canadiar Amateur Radio Club

VE2UN—McGill University A.R.C.

VE2ADX — South Shore Amateur Radio Club

VE2CO—Lakeshore Field Day Group

VE2AMT—Royal Canadian Corps of Signals

VE2QX—Lachine Amateur Radio Assn.

VE2BAR—Royal Montreal Regiment

VE2JC—Club des Jeunes Opérateurs

Quebec Area:

VE2CQ—Radio Club de Québec

Others:

VE2APX—St. Johns Radio Club
The Monitor

'Amateur' Contest Closing Soon

As the closing date for our little contest draws near, your editor would like to express his thanks to those "Amateurs" everywhere, who have been interested enough to put their views in the form of an entry.

Apparently Canadian Amateurs, wherever they may be, do like a contest.

Scores have let Websters do their thinking for them, many have let their imagination take over, while others cite cold hard facts to prove their point. All in all, a very, very interesting development, one that could have far reaching effects on "Amateur Radio".

Of one thing your editor is positive . . . he is going to miss the RME 4350A First Prize . . . if only because he worked a new country with it; He might have to get one at that, to keep all these Novices from passing his total!

One letter out of Toronto bristles with fire, expressing concern over ole JB's use of the word "Rut" . . . forgive it pleez, he meant no harm, just his way of asking, "Do you think we will ever grow up?"

June is your last month to get that letter in, so don't say we didn't warn you! Good luck, and if the guy that wins that communications receiver, already has several, well, all you gotta do is . . . suggest we stage another contest!

Before the entries are handed over to judges, all identifying marks will be removed and a number substituted . . . gotta keep it clean!

L'attrait de Mexico---Mobile!

par Dalton S. Reymond, K6JD—XE/JD

Le goût de l'aventure, le désir de voyager au loin, de visiter des endroits étranges et peu connus est latent en chacun de nous. Cet attrait ne fait que croître lorsque nous nous asseyons devant notre poste de radio et parlons à nos nouveaux amis aux quatre coins du monde. Peu d'entre nous réalisent qu'à notre porte, à une distance raisonnable soit du Canada, soit des Etats-Unis, il y a un pays qui possède un charme immense et qui exerce une fascination presque incroyable sur le voyageur, pays dont l'hospitalité et la bienveillance de ses habitants sont si grandes qu'on se sent parfois bien embarrassé.

C'est le Mexique!

Il est vrai que ce pays peut paraître un tant soit peu étrange à celui qui arrive du Canada ou des Etats-Unis et le visite pour la première fois, mais cette étrangeté ne fait qu'ajouter à la fascination qu'il exerce sur le voyageur qui découvrira bientôt que le Mexique est une terre d'enchantement, aux traditions profondément enracinées, aux contrastes extrêmes où se mêlent l'ancien et le nouveau, aux bâtiments modernes offrant tout le confort et toutes les facilités qu'on peut trouver dans n'importe quelle autre partie du monde: des routes bien goudronnées serpentant parmi les paysages les plus spectaculaires qui existent dans l'Hémisphère Occidental, toutes entremêlées d'incroyables joyaux d'architecture, produits des civilisations passées, dont la magnifique construction et la beauté sont au-dessus de toute description.

Partout où vous regardez vous voyez des preuves d'un gouvernement fort, d'une économie en pleine croissance: dans les Etats de Sonora et de Sinoloa se trouvent d'énormes barrages, de gigantesques projets d'irrigation, des centaines de milliers d'acres où poussent le blé et le coton, terre qui, il y a quelques années encore, n'était que désert aride. Sur le grand plateau, à 6500 pieds au-dessus du niveau de la mer, sur presque toute la route qui va de la ville de Mexico à Lagos de Moreno en passant par Quaretaro, vous verrez que l'agriculture y est très active, que beaucoup d'industries nouvelles s'y sont installées dans des villes modernes et magnifiques telles que Torreon et Monterrey, aux rues reluisantes de propreté, larges, goudronnées, bordées de bâtiments dont l'architecture contemporaine est frappante.

Vous verrez également beaucoup de vieilles villes pittoresques comme San Miguel Allende, Guanajuato, Taxco et Zacatecas, et beaucoup d'autres de toutes dimensions depuis la jungle tropicale de San Blas et Nayarit jusqu'au grand plateau à 7500 pieds, en plein milieu de la République Mexicaine, les unes perchées sur les flancs de la montagne, les autres dans des

vallées profondes et luxuriantes aux rues étroites et pavées, avec leurs églises et bâtiments publics splendides dont le charme colonial et castillan a à peine été touché.

Tutefois si vous avez l'intention de voyager au Mexique, et si vous n'êtes pas très au courant des joyaux anciens que contient cette grande nation située au sud de notre pays, de la richesse de ses traditions et de sa culture, nation qui était déjà un grand pays avant l'arrivée de Christophe Colomb, il est préférable que vous l'étudiez avant d'en franchir la frontière, ou alors, restez chez vous.

J'ai effectué 5 voyages dans ce pays charmant dont deux avec un poste de radio dans ma voiture, et j'ai toujours été étonné en songeant qu'il y a quelques centaines d'années seulement, quelques soldats espagnols et une petite poignée de religieux ont réussi à conquérir et à transformer cette terre immense, peuplée d'Indiens primitifs, et qu'ils ont laissé derrière eux les plus merveilleux exemples d'architecture qui se puissent voir dans le monde, et une vieille culture si profondément enracinée qu'elle a pénétré dans chaque coin de la République.

Si vous avez l'intention de voyager au Mexique, vous devez adopter l'attitude d'humilité nécessaire pour pouvoir rencontrer ces bienveillants voisins sur un pied d'égalité. J'ai découvert qu'immanquablement vous serez récompensé par deux sourires pour chaque sourire que vous donnerez au Mexique, qu'il s'adresse au plus humble ouvrier ou au Maire lui-même, cela ne fait aucune différence. Nous avons beaucoup à apprendre de ce peuple bienveillant et courageux si nous savons regarder et si nous voulons ouvrir nos cœurs à ceux qui nous offrent l'hospitalité. Ils me l'ont accordé et m'ont témoigné cette bonté en toute simplicité. Je n'oublierai jamais ces trois semaines et demie que j'ai passées au Mexique.

L'exposé de cette expérience a incité des douzaines de demandes de renseignements de la part de mes collègues amateurs américains et canadiens, tant pendant mon voyage que depuis mon retour, s'informant de la façon de procéder pour pouvoir circuler en voiture au Mexique avec un poste de radio à bord.

Les conditions requises pour des amateurs canadiens désirant voyager de cette manière sont exactement les mêmes que pour des amateurs américains. Il leur faut tout d'abord obtenir une licence mexicaine, ce qui est relativement facile bien qu'il y a un ou deux ans ce n'était pas encore autorisé. La première démarche consiste à la ligue mexicaine des amateurs radio (Liga Mexicana de Radio Experimentadores LMRF) Liverpool 195-A, Mexico 6 D. F.

pour leur demander des formulaires qui vous seront envoyés sans délai par l'aimable et complaisant gérant de la Ligue (Gerente Administrativo de la Liga) 1^{te}. Corl. Mariano Yustis (XE1BX), qui sont les suivants:

- (1) Demande de carte de membre de la Ligue.
- (2) Demande pour l'obtention d'une licence mexicaine.
- (3) Un certificat d'immunité canadienne en cas de violation des lois de circulation mexicaines.

Ils doivent être remplis et renvoyés avec un mandat postal mexicain de \$8.00 (américains) pour la carte de membre de la ligue, et un autre mandat de \$8.80 (américains) pour la licence. Vous devez également envoyer une copie photostatique de votre licence canadienne, une copie photostatique de votre carte certifiant que vous êtes propriétaire de votre voiture, une lettre ou une déclaration émanant soit du Bureau de Tourisme Mexicain, soit du Consulat Mexicain qui vous aura délivré votre visa de Touriste, valable pour 6 mois, certifiant que vous entrez au Mexique comme visiteur. Tous les canadiens circulant à l'intérieur du Mexique doivent être en possession du visa touriste qui coûte \$3.00 (américains). Aucun passeport n'est nécessaire. Lorsque tous ces documents auront été envoyés au Bureau de la Ligue, vous recevrez, 6 semaines ou 2 mois plus tard, votre licence mexicaine et un numéro d'appel qui sera le préfixe XEØ suivi de vos lettres d'appel. De plus tout voyageur circulant au Mexique, franchissant les Etats-Unis au retour, devra se munir d'un certificat de vaccination contre la variole qui lui sera réclamé par les douaniers au point de rentrée dans le territoire américain.

Mon premier voyage avec un poste de radio a commencé le 16 décembre 1958. Mon second voyage le 7 avril 1959. J'ai parcouru à chacun d'eux, plus de 5000 milles. Je dois avouer que j'appréhendais considérablement de voyager seul, sans compagnon, si loin, dans un pays totalement étranger, mais mes craintes se dissipèrent rapidement. Dès que j'eus traversé la frontière, j'ai pu opérer sur la bande de fréquence américaine—ce que les Canadiens apprécieront—et dès ce moment je ne fus plus seul. Les amateurs mexicains ont capté mon appel et ils se sont occupés de moi comme une poule l'aurait fait de ses poussins, depuis l'aimable Président de la Ligue de la ville de Mexico, le General Alberto Najera (XE1H) jusqu'aux amateurs de chaque secteur de la République, s'intéressant à mon itinéraire, aux routes que je prendrai, aux villes que je visiterai, tous anxieux de prendre contact avec des amateurs des les villes où je passerai et de faire les réservations nécessaires dans les motels qu'ils recommandaient. Pendant toutes les années où j'ai circulé comme amateur radio, jamais je n'avais tant parlé à autant de postes différents qui, tous sans exception, se sont préoccupés de mon bien être et m'ont toujours offert l'hospitalité

de leurs villes et de leurs foyers. Je suis retourné chez moi aux Etats-Unis emportant une impression ineffaçable: il n'y a rien de plus fort que la fraternité des amateurs radio pour créer et cimenter des relations amicales entre les différents pays du monde. Il n'y a pas une organisation ou un groupe international quelconque qui offre une camaraderie si amicale et si généreuse que celle qui m'a été accordée par mes bons amis amateurs du Mexique: cette terre séduisante, qui se trouve au sud de notre pays, vient en toute première place lorsqu'il s'agit de témoigner de son hospitalité et sa bienveillance.

Continued Next Month

HOT NEWS ABOUT FREQUENCIES !!!

From time to time we have received questions from amateurs regarding the possible loss (or gain) of amateur frequencies and apparently so much talk about losing some of the bandwidth is going around that this magazine decided to find out the facts of the matter.

Accordingly, we wrote to the Department of Transport at Ottawa and asked if they had any statement to make concerning their intended stand at the forthcoming Geneva Convention. In the past we have been very happy to state that the utmost co-operation has been received from DOT and this occasion was no exception. To prevent any possible misinterpretation of remarks we are quoting Mr. Nixon's letter in full, as follows;—

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of April 10th, with which you enclosed copies of "The Canadian Amateur".

I quite realize your concern with regard to the retention of present allocations of frequencies to the Amateur Service and may assure you that the Canadian Delegation to the International Telecommunication Union Radio Conference commencing on August 17th this year will endeavour to have the present allocations to Amateurs, including those on a world wide basis, continued.

So far I have received no definite information of any firm proposals by other countries to withdraw frequency allocations to Amateurs.

I am sure you are very gratified at the response to your efforts in publishing "The Canadian Amateur" and I wish you every success in the future.

Yours truly,

F. G. Nixon,

Director, Telecommunications Branch

Mr. Nixon is the Director of Telecommunications at Ottawa and is most certainly in a position to know. The Editor of this magazine wishes to express his thanks and appreciation for the statement, which should kill all rumors and doubts in the minds of our readers about Canada's stand at the Convention.

The Mt. Fairweather Story

PART 5

By George Kitson, VE7ALE

Can't you just see the look on poor Ken's face: "How did I ever let you talk me into this one, A.L.E.? Just about now I would be half way through a nice cold beer in my favorite "pub" in North Van—if I had had sense enough to stay home!" George's mental reply—"O.K., Kenny, our work has begun. Pick me up and let's get going!" The concluding installment next month—Don't miss an amazing climax—with pictures.

After waving goodbye to the plane, Ken and I turned back to our camp. We had lots to do getting ourselves settled down shipshape for our months stay. First we had to pack our supply of gasoline from the beach — it was in five gallon cans. This necessitated many trips back and forth. We thought it would never end! Those wire handles were not too easy on the hands I can assure you.

After we had the fuel and oil cached in a safe place, we turned to the camp itself. Ken took hold of the sleeping quarters — Commissary or what have you. He was as busy as a beaver, whistling away and having the time of his life. I busied myself around the radio shack — taping up the connections on plugs so that the moisture would not seep in, finally wrapping them in polyethylene for extra measure. This we found to be very necessary as the moisture content of the atmosphere and the ground was very high.

I became so absorbed in the tasks at hand that I forgot about the passage of time. I was startled to hear Ken roar "Come and get it." I stuck my head out of the shack door and there stood his lordship with an apron tied around him, or at least it looked like an apron. In front of him was a table that he had fashioned out of boxes and planks, (where that guy scrounged things I don't know but he always could come up with the needed thing) and on the table was a steaming meal. Ken said, "you had better pitch in — we have to be on the air for the Net in fifteen minutes." Then I realized it was 9:45 p.m. It seemed strange to see the sun still high in the sky. We scoffed the meal — it was delicious. Any of you guys need a wife? Look up AEW! All you need to do is supply him with a good Collins gear and he will do all the cooking and sewing you need.

With the Onan purring, we settled down in front of the gear. Dead on 10:00 p.m., the Panhandle Net went into session. Bob, KL7CCG was Net Control that night. After all regular check-ins had been made and on the Late or Missed call given, we introduced ourselves. What a welcome we received! The gang had been waiting for us. We listened for VE7AHJ, Ted in Terrace, B.C. and to him we passed our first of many to come pieces of traffic. After Net, we rag chewed with the gang. Marge, KL7BYA; her OM, 7BUS; Walt, 7BF; Wally, 7HS; Art, 7DB; Ben, 7GV; Leo, 7IR and Chuck, 7CAU. We then moved up

to twenty, but the band was dead so we hit the sack. So much for our first day.

We were kept busy, changing this, putting in that, etc., in the days to follow. So much so that we had very little time for radio other than our skeds with the climbing party and the Net. Then on the 20th, our third day in there, we met the person whom Ken and I consider to be Queen of Radio amateurs — Jo, KL7CPH, the XYL of Wally, 7BF, of Mt. Edgecomb, Alaska. A terrific personality with her quiet but authoritative voice. Unruffled and efficient, she handled a good percentage of our traffic to the south. Every day we skedded with her and she would pass the daily weather forecast. This was of immense value to the climbers. Paddy said later, "without those reports they could not have planned ahead the way they did." Although she was over 150 miles away, she sure helped to make our stay out there in the wilderness, just that much more pleasant. Always ready with a joke, as witness when Dennis reported in from the mountain, that during the night it had rained and unfortunately, one set of batteries for the portable had got wet. She immediately christened him "Dennis keep your batteries dry." When we left Alaska, we did so with the feeling that we owed her a debt of gratitude which we possibly can never repay.

After trying spasmodically for DX, we started in earnest to see what we could work. It was then that we started to get the shock of our lives. DX? What is that up there anyhow? At first we thought it was our antennas that were at fault, we also started to eye the receivers with suspicion. But after a few cautious queries to the gang on the Net and their answers confirmed our suspicions. DX did not look so promising. It was conditions not equipment. We found out later that during the time of our stay, severe Ionospheric storms played havoc with radio. It was somewhat eerie to sit with both receivers cranked wide open and hear nothing except a slight hiss. The S meter needle sitting at about S1. At one time, for a space of four days, the only signals we heard (with the exception of the Portable and the Sitka Net Stations, and they at S3-4) were the Loran stations and those only with the BFO turned on. This held true on all frequencies. The HQ14OX which has general coverage was carefully tuned with both main tuning and band spread controls with

the same result. We would leave the Onan running while we worked around the camp, the receivers tuned to the DX portion of twenty. We would hear the band open up and a station would come booming in. We would both race for the shack, quickly tune around — hear someone calling CQ. We would call him and before we could get an answer the band would drop right out again. It was very discouraging I can tell you. However, there were some bright spots. The odd time things did open up. We worked JA's KA's, SM, TI, UA, (ZL, one of these on 75 meters no less). We worked all the W-K prefixes. However, in our primary interest, the expedition traffic, batted 1000 percent.

One day, after loafing around the camp, we decided to do some exploring around the peninsula on which we were living. It was a dull day. We skirted the small lake which we had christened Lake Litoo and made for the western shore of the strip of land, that is, the Pacific side. We pushed through a thin fringe of stunted spruce to the rocky beach and got our first look at the open Pacific. There it was. Cold, black and alive with threat. Its surf, white fangs as it snarled onto the rocks. It was a menacing sight. The rocks and boulders were quite difficult to walk over, so we cut back through the scrub and found a wide trail. It was overgrown with thick moss which in some spots was more than a foot thick. As we walked along we conjectured about this trail — who had cut it out and so on. It was then noticed that on some of the trees, were old and deep marks where cables had cut into the bark. At other places the trail was made out of split logs similar to a logging road. It then dawned on us that this was the route of what is shown on the map as "Soloman's Railroad." It was used by a mining outfit in the early days to winch their gear through by means of a steam donkey. We stayed on this trail for some distance and did not venture into the bush which was on our right. We had been warned to stay out of the bush, especially as we did not have rifles. Bar's you know! As we walked along I noticed a series of deep imprints in the moss. They were about fourteen inches long and six inches deep. I drew Ken's attention to them and suggested that they were bear tracks. He grinned and told me I was nuts. I sure kept both eyes and ears open just in case. We did not see or hear anything of the big critters much to my relief.

Through the bush we could see a tremendous old boiler lying on the beach. We went down and looked it over. It was the boiler from a steamer that had been driven ashore there. All along the beach for about a quarter of a mile, were various parts of the ship. It was not too difficult to imagine the day or night of terror that must have existed those many years ago — the sea

at its full fury and the wind screaming — the terrible crash and grinding when she hit the rocks. I felt goose pimples ripple over me as I stood there and thought of it. We high-tailed back to the camp and had a good supper. The hike had sharpened our appetites.

After supper we were sitting in the shack, relaxing and smoking, when we heard voices. We ducked out of the tent and saw two men and a young lad coming down our trail to visit with us. They introduced themselves as Bob Hammer, Seattle, owner of the fishing troller Sultan; Elmer Youke, Pelican, Alaska, owner of the Anna May; and Alvin, a young companion and helper of Elmer. They had heard about the Expedition and had seen us walking along the beach, and decided to come and visit with us. We sure made them welcome. We broke out some of our delicacies and entertained them. We turned Alvin loose with a bag of potato chips, candies and cookies. You should have seen that kid tuck the stuff away! He was a little shy at first but his natural youthful yearning for sweet stuff soon overcame that. After a while he took off for our lake and was busily engaged in catching some of the tiny frogs that were hopping around. For ourselves, we sat guzzling mugs of coffee and talking about the expedition and Alaska. Elmer enquired him we did not have any firearms. He said, as to what calibre guns we had. We told him we did not have any firearms. He said, "What, no guns? I wouldn't stay ashore one night let alone one month." We laughed and explained that it would have cost us \$300.00 to get the licence that would have allowed us guns. He grunted he would not have come. Ken suggested that there were no bears in this particular spot. The reply was, "Have you been up the trail over yonder?" nodding toward the west. We said, "Yes." "Did you see the holes in the trail?" Yep, we had seen them. Elmer said, "What do you think made them, mosquitoes?" Apparently our peninsula was notorious for the critters.

The next day, Bob took us fishing. It was quite an experience to see a commercial fisherman in action. It was a grand day.

On our return to Lituya Bay that evening, we saw a small seaplane sitting at the water's edge by our beach. When we went ashore we met two young University students from Seattle—John Chichester and Ned Gulbrun, who were spending their vacation flying around the coast of Alaska in their little Cessna seaplane. They decided to spend the night on the beach close to us. We invited them to stay with us at our Lake Litoo Lodge. We assured them the finest service and the only running water in the district, even though it was cold. They took us up on the offer. Bob and Elmer took off for the top end of the Bay to see if they had caught any shrimps in the trap they had left there the previous evening. About half an hour later they

came back with two buckets of what they called shrimps — I called them prawns. When stretched out the average of them measured a good eight inches long. They showed us how to shell them. We all set to work and in no time at all Ken had them in the pan deep frying them, I never ate so much in all my life. They were out of this world. Ken had to handle the skeds with the Mountain and the Net that night. I had eaten so much that I couldn't move. I could just let out a feeble croak.

Where we had shown much interest in fishing boats and planes, so our visitors evinced their interest in watching Ken make contacts with our radio gear. So our days went by—Hamming, Skeds, visits to our friends' boats.

It was on one of these trips that we found Bob had four receivers of various makes and vintage. Three of them had been defunct for some time and the fourth one had packed up that morning, leaving him without ears. We went back to camp and got what tools and spare parts we had. Eventually we got one of them working. We stayed aboard eating, drinking innumerable mugs of coffee. We never noticed the passage of time, until someone said it was 2:00 a.m. — broad daylight at that! We loaded our gear aboard the little dinghy and Bob rowed us ashore. He was busy talking to Ken who was sitting in the stern. I was squatted in the bow. They were so busy talking that Bob forgot to swing the boat and go onto the beach stern first. Instead we rammmed the beach bow on and stuck there. A large breaker rolled in over the transom and deluged Ken and Bob while I sat smug and dry making comments as to the intelligence of certain people. I had Ken's Test meter on my lap and my first concern was to keep dry. I stood up and faced the beach with one foot on the gunwhale waiting for a chance to jump. While standing there I heard Bob yell, "Look out, here comes a big one, hang on!" Like a jackass I turned to look. The boat gave a lurch and that was it. I toppled out backwards and old ALE found himself sitting in the salt chuck with water up to his waist. I was holding the meter aloft and not a single drop of water hit it. The other two guys just sat there guffawing and bellowing with laughter while I crawled up to the beach. There I sat soaked to the skin, not being able to move for laughing.

Eventually we pulled ourselves together. Bob took off to his boat. We could hear him still cackling as we slogged up the beach to our camp. Once there we built a big fire, stripped off, had a good rub down and got into dry clothes. Sleep was impossible. We cranked up the Onan and went on the air. We talked to Japan for a couple of hours and then crawled into our sleeping bags. Another eventful day for our memories.

(Continued next month)

News from Labrador, VO2 Land

The Goose Bay Amateur Radio Club consists of members of the Department of Transport, R.C.A.F. and U.S.A.F. employees residing in Goose Bay. We are affiliated with A.R.R.L. and most of our members are fully licensed hams both c.w. and phone and operating their own stations. Our club call is VO2HA and can be heard every year on Field Day also at other times when operated by one of the club members. Meeting nights are the first Thursday every month, and is held on rotation basis at one of the married members houses.

Every April we hold our annual QSO Party which lasts for seven days and gives outside stations good opportunity to qualify for our W.A.G. certificate, or get a VO2 for Zone 2 or WPX or WACAN awards. Our club holds at least one get together every winter for YLs and OMs. In summer time we hold as many beach parties as weather permits for the OM and all members of this family.

At the present time, at least 12 members are active on the bands. Officials of the club are elected every October for a one year term.

Present Officials are:

President: VO2AH

Vice-Pres.: VO2UA also QSL mgr.

Sec. Treas: VO2NA also Route Mgr. for A.R.R.L.

Act. Manager: VO2AA

Awards Manager: VO2AB

R.C.A.F. Representative: VO2EB

U.S.A.F. Representative: K1DHE/VO2

T.V.I. Committee: VO2AH; VO2UA;

VO2EB; VO2GB; K6PDE/VO2 and

W7WWH/VO2.

(First two from D.O.T., the next two from R.C.A.F. and the last two from U.S.A.F.).

Footnote: All QSLs to VO2 boys should go via VO2UA, D.O.T. Goose Bay, Labrador.

Jack, VO2NA

Don, VE2BV, proposes a very fine idea. A "displaced persons" column. A sample of Don's idea can be found in this issue. Many Amateurs from far away places have come to Canada, and visa versa. Here is an opportunity to locate and keep in sight a lot of the calls that have changed QTH's.

Down through the years it has been my happy privilege to meet scores of wonderful personalities, from all parts of the earth, because of my amateur radio activities. Having the opportunity to meet Joe "Sax" Bordeleau, VE2DD, during his recent business trip to the coast, was an experience I will treasure always. Joe's easy smile and engaging manner has, and will make friends for him wherever he goes. The Canadian Amateur salutes a grand guy, "Sax" Bordeleau, VE2DD.

Want to be a ham?

By Jon Ogden, VE3ECO — Consultant, Graham Peel, VE3EDC

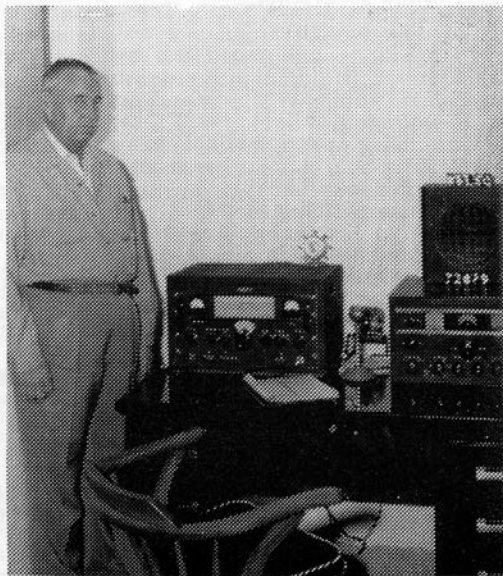
STUDY, SLEEP, STUBBORN . . . Part 2

Anxiously I paced the floor of my upstairs bedroom and waited for the mail man to make his timely appearance. He arrived on time at about 11:30. "Mail for you Jon," hollered Mom. "Who is it from," I shouted as I plummeted downstairs "Some Radio Co.," she replied. My catalogue had arrived at last! Glancing out the window I saw Graham strutting up the sidewalk. "Hey Graham," I hollered, "It came." "Your Catalogue"! "Yes!" Together we hurried upstairs and melted on the couch. Man, just look at the radio stuff in here. The book was jammed full of all sorts of impressive looking radio equipment. Knobs, switches, dials galore adorned every intricate piece of equipment. We drooled over all the amateur transmitters, receivers, mikes, and a myriad of other items. Things like beams, bugs, VFO and crystal calibrator meant nothing to us at that time but we were determined to find out just what they were. We talked it over and decided to go down to the Radio Inspector's Office and get what information we could on obtaining our licenses.

We stood outside the office for several moments, a little hesitant about going in. Then we gathered our courage and strolled in. The secretary was very nice and gave each of us the Radio Amateur Syllabus. It contained all the necessary information regarding the exam. You must answer questions on many subjects pertinent to ham radio. Several diagrams must be drawn as well and they are listed on the syllabus. You must however choose your own particular circuit from a source such as the Radio Amateurs Handbook. The symbols commonly used by servicemen etc. must be used. We spent several evenings familiarizing ourselves with the symbols. The Inspector went over each section of the syllabus with us explaining anything that was not clear to us. He wished us luck and we were on our way.

I obtained several books from the library and we went to my place to study. Please don't make the same mistake we did and try to learn a lot of technical theory that is far beyond you. The exam is hard and thorough and you must know your stuff but they don't expect you to be an electrical engineer. We started right in on the theory and the diagrams deciding to let the code go until later. A mistake perhaps but that's another story. It seemed that no matter which diagram we looked at, they were just a maze of twisted lines,

broken lines, curved lines, solid lines, wiggly lines and if you can think of any other way to cripple a line it was there. From early morning until late at night we hovered over the books trying to absorb some of the information contained in them. Bleary eyed, we would retire to bed and dream of twisted lines, broken lines and complicated theory. Bleary eyed and confused we would get up in the morning and begin where we left off the previous day. Several times it almost got the best of us but we stuck with it. Perhaps we worked too hard at it. All work and no play makes a would be ham a disgusted boy. Weeks, months passed and we were back at school. Our study was confined to idle talk on the bus and on week-ends when we had time. It was a long time indeed from when we saw our first jagged resistor symbol to the day that we were handling the real thing and installing them in our own equipment. But we started from scratch, right from the very bottom. We knew nothing of electronics or ham radio when we first started. It was a long, hard climb from wild-eyed beginners to elated amateurs.



This photo is of Howard, W6LSO, taken through the window of his Palm Desert home.



The YL Page

By Lois Gillespie, VE7AUF



And now we come to Quebec, a province abounding in history, charm and personality. It is almost with nostalgia that we think of Quebec, the province that played such a large part in the early history of our country, as well as in its present development; the land that we remember from our schooldays as the home of Maria Chapdelaine, of the lumberjacks and coureurs de bois, of Wolfe and Montcalm, colorful figures that inspired countless childhood dreams! It is now a land of modern and sophisticated cities, of a great seaway, of important centres of learning, but it will never, we feel, lose its old-time charm.

We haven't been able to find out how many YLs there are in VE2-land, but we warmly greet you all, with the sincere hope that we may hear from many of you, either by letter or on the air, very soon.

We won't say how long it is since we were in Montreal, but we were born there, and have a feeling of relationship with that fascinating city, even though we left at an early age and have never managed to get back! But we've always felt that Montreal would be a wonderful place to visit, and now, after hearing from and about the Montreal Amateur Radio Club, we are quite certain of this!

The Montreal Amateur Radio Club is big, active and very much alive. It also has a reputation of being a very friendly club. It goes a long way back, having been organized in its present form in 1932, and has a membership of about three hundred.

Perhaps one of the reasons for the club's outstanding qualities is the fact that it boasts a number of YLs and XYLs in its membership. Its secretary is VE2HI, Ethel Pick. Ethel has been the permanent secretary of the club for the last ten years. She has held her phone ticket since 1935 and has her Quarter Century Amateur Wireless Association pin and membership. She uses a DX100 and a National 101-X at her home station, and has an Elmac transmitter and receiver in her car, with a fibreglass whip.

Ethel taught school for over thirty years and is now librarian in a private school for boys. This gives her time for one of her favorite ham activities—attending hamfests. Last year, for example, she attended one in Plattsburg, N.Y., followed by one in Burlington, Vermont, in June, the hamfest in North Bay, Ontario, in July; one in Truro, N.S. in August; and the Montreal hamfest in September, where she was official hostess. In October, she attended a hamfest in Albany, N.Y. Ethel is also a regular contributor to the Montreal Ama-

teur Radio Club's monthly paper — the "M-A-R-C-O-GRAM" — a very well set up and interesting paper. Ethel's picture appears elsewhere in this issue, taken at one of those hamfests.

You may have already read about another member of this club, Mary Reidy, VE2NR. She participated in the famous hidden transmitter hunt held by the Montreal A.R.C. at their hamfest, and contributed much to the success of this project. Mary strolled along the street with her "girl" friend, a young OM wearing a blond wig, a full skirt with the antenna wire sewn spirally into it, nylons and high heels! "She" carried a large bag containing the transmitter, with a Dick Tracy mike at his wrist. The poor unsuspecting transmitter hunters, expecting a rig in a car or under a verandah, were not at all interested in the fairer sex, and had no eyes for the tall blond or his attractive companion!

Mary also took part in a very successful amateur TV show staged one evening by some members of the club. The program was varied and interesting, and Mary read the news and took part in a play, looking quite professional, as you can see by her picture. (Or does an amateur want to look professional?)

VE2RK, Therese Desrochers and her OM, VE2ZZ are just back from a two months' trip in Mexico. We would like to hear about that trip, Therese.

A very enthusiastic ham and club member is VE2RR, Betty Whitehead, the XYL of Jim, VE2PW. Betty is usually on the air every day, but at the moment she is very busy building an Apache transmitter. This is her project, not Jim's!

Another very active YL is VE2NJ, Nancy Jeary. Nancy specializes in traffic to the Maritimes and Ontario, and has the reputation of being a very friendly person.

Phyllis Turner, the XYL of Earl, VE2CA, is also very well known for traffic handling, particularly for the boys up in the Arctic.

And there is VE2EB, Francoise Babin, a young and very attractive YL, VE2AOB, Stella Belanger, who lives near Quebec City but is a good member of the Montreal club also; VE2EG, Ethel Guay, with wonderful equipment; VE2ACA, Alice Argall, also very active, and the XYL of VE2DY; VE2YZ, Mary Groome, the XYL of VE2YF a clever, attractive and popular member of the club; and VE2ALG, Lucy Dube, who is the XYL of the late Henry Dube. VE2EF, Doris Fulton, is also secretary of the Canadian Amateur Radio Club, St. Laurent, and

dair Amateur Radio Club, St. Laurent, and we hope to hear more about the XYs in her district later.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO BE A HAM — BUT . . .

People may occasionally think hams are a bit that way, but they don't often come right out and tell us so! However, in May's case, her critic was not at all backward about expressing his opinion! May is May Sparke of Jasper, Alberta, a YL who operates under her OM's call VE6YE.

It happened when they lived at the end of the steel at Norddegg. The Indians frequently came around selling wild meat, and one day one called when May was busy on the air, passing traffic on CW. Her OM, George, went to the door, and the Indian stepped inside and stood watching in amazement as May, oblivious to her surroundings, sat "pounding the key." Finally, their visitor turned to George and demanded, "What she do?" "Oh," replied George casually, "She is talking to someone — maybe a thousand miles away." The Indian looked dubiously at May, busily tapping away, reflected a moment, then, moving his hand in circles around his head, he said, pityingly, "Oh, my! Too bad, too bad! She little sick in the head!"

Far from being in this sad state, May is a very able operator indeed. She has held her license since 1930. She took her test along with about forty men—the only woman there—and won first prize for the code speed test! "Which," she says, "I have never lived down!" Throughout the years May has handled many important messages from Police boats, lighthouses and remote and isolated stations. Altogether she has handled a great quantity of traffic, ranging in subject matter from messages of great importance to love letters 140 words long! May has made use of her exceptional code proficiency also in helping learners with

their code practice. She has never gone in for certificates, but has been presented with the "Amateur's Legion of Honor" certificate from the "I Tappa Key Radio Fraternity," which she greatly treasures, and she has made the Brass Pounders League three times.

May and her OM started working DX about a year ago and are enjoying this new phase of amateur radio very much. Look for her on twenty meters, and take your choice of a phone or CW contact.

ACROSS THE LINE

From Louisa Sando, W5RZJ, come kind remarks and wishes for the Canadian Amateur. No doubt most of you know Louisa, who is the YL editor of CQ magazine. She has held the position since August, 1947, and apparently CQ was the first magazine to carry a YL column. We have read and enjoyed this interesting column for years.

Louisa is also the author of "CQ YL," a very interesting book which is all about YLs—oldtime YLs, DX YLs, handicapped YLs, YLs outstanding for various reasons, with information about YL clubs, awards, hamfests and conventions. It has been brought right up to date with the new YLR officer listing, new certificates available, etc., and can be obtained for just three dollars, postpaid from Louisa Sando, W5RZJ, 212 Sombrio Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Louisa will autograph your book if requested to do so. We think this is the only book of its kind, and it contains a great deal of information of interest to YLs.

BABIES AND SHOWERS. . .

Wanda's (K6ENK) family is growing, numerically and ham-wise. The latest harmonic is baby Lois, who sounds charming, with her big brown eyes, dark curly hair and captivating smile. And the latest fully fledged ham in the family is daughter Linda, who has now passed her conditional

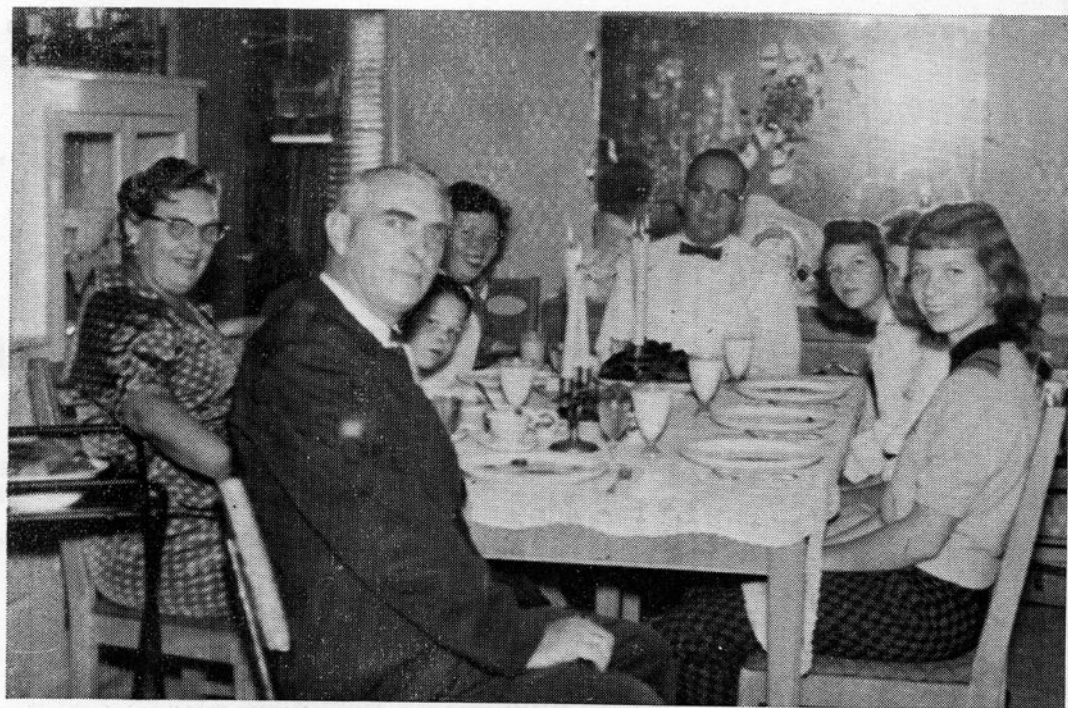


Mary Pick specializes in hamfests and here she is at the North Bay Hamfest (second from left) with VE2TA, left. Note that coveted amateur licence on Mary's car!

examination and is almost dying of impatience awaiting the arrival of that license from FCC, so that she can go on the air as K6PBG.

And, speaking of babies, Wanda tells of something really different in the way of baby showers given by the Sacramento YL Club—the Camellia Capital Chirps. They held the baby shower on the air—gifts, refreshments, games and all! They even played Bingo, with sections of the Ham bands as prizes! The guest of honour was K6LVE, who was known to have a sked on forty meters each Thursday with a couple of YL friends. Gifts were mailed to a friend and neighbor of Zona's, who came marching in at the appointed hour laden with packages and cakes. Fourteen "guests" checked in on the air and they all had a delightful time. It must have been fun!

Mary Reidy, VE2NR, broadcasting over the amateur radio TV station, VE2AFM.



Remember the little boy at the Y.M.C.A. Hobby Show back in 1911? Look at the handsome brute today, with his XYL Fay and a happy group. W6ELW, Oakland.



Your **LAST CH**

Hurry, Hurry! E

The New RME 4350A COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER!

Yes, this is the contest's 1st prize and it's a honey. Jam-packed with value, it will do just about everything!

A TRANSCEIVER Value — \$700.00!

—Brand New!

"The Ham Shack's" contribution. This terrific Transceiver has two Pioneer Dynos, is 12 volt and will handle two hambands as is, plus broadcast receiver.

A HI-GAIN 3 ELEMEN 10 METE

Bill McCarter's 3-Beam is a beautiful battleship and cracker!

This magazine wants your thoughts on a very contentious question:

What is your opinion concerning the word "AMATEUR?"

DO YOU FEEL IT IS TIME WE GOT OUT OF A RUT?

DO YOU THINK IT IS A FITTING NAME FOR OUR HOBBY?

For the best letter, for or against a change,

We will award a Grand Prize!

All you have to do is write a short letter, 300 words or less, expressing your viewpoint on the subject and mail to:

"THE CANADIAN AMATEUR"

10328 Trans-Canada Highway,

North Surrey,

New Westminster, B.C., Canada

CHANCE to Win a PRIZE !

Enter this Contest NOW!

N —
MENT
TER BEAM!

3-element, 10 mtr
uty. It's built like
d is hot as a fire-

A Beautiful —
VOLT - OHM
METER!

The V-O-M will do everything but
mix the batter for you — It's a
honey!

A Johnson
SIGNAL
SENTRY

Taylor Pearson & Carson have
added a Johnson Signal Sentry
to our list. A read handy gad-
get!

CONTEST RULES:

Entrants must be amateurs to win Grand Prize.

There will be other valuable prizes awarded to runners up.

A consolation prize will be awarded for the best letter to anyone not licensed but interested in ham radio.

All letters will be judged carefully by a panel of three prominent amateurs who's decision shall be final.

All letters must be legible and contain 300 words or less.

Contest closes June 22, 1959, and winners' names will appear in the July issue.

All letters to become property of "The Canadian Amateur" who shall retain the rights of publication.

Your

Last

Chance!

Model Control By Radio

ARTHUR G. ROBERTS, VE3AKT

After the war I could never quite whip up enough steam to get back into amateur work again after operating a station since the early thirties as VE3BO and later as VE3ASF.

Then I ran across a little book on the early attempts at radio controlled modelling which set me to thinking and I soon found around Toronto a group of fellows who were also interested in this pursuit. That was some years ago. We now have a club numbering somewhere around 45 with more and more interest being shown by fellows who hold their "tickets."

In Canada there has been very little official ruling on the use of radio for model control. The pattern has been set in the States where the citizen's band (27.255 mc/s) is most widely used although another spot frequency in the 465 mc region is also in use to a limited degree.

The 27.255 mc spot is being used in Canada but when a group are working together it means there is only room for one on the air at a time which has its limitations. In the States, this band has been broadened by a few hundred kc/s and the manufacturers are now working on crystal controlled superhet receivers for the models, which are more selective. The result will mean more modellers can work at the same time from the same location.

For the "ham" the problems are less acute because he not only has the freedom of the citizen bands but he can get his license endorsed for "radio control" of models on a 40 mc spot, 53-54 mc/s, and various UHF spots as well. This has led some modellers to get their amateur tickets so they can work outside the limitations of one or two spot frequencies.

The beauty of this sport is that there is plenty of designing work to be done during the winter months and the summer is usually spent outdoor with the club or family, flying or sailing the models.

The Toronto Radio Control Club holds monthly meetings during the winter with talks and demonstrations on all phases of the "art" from aeronautical design problems to transmitter, receiver and servo construction.

Although there are a few boat enthusiasts in our group, most of them are more interested in the flying end of the sport for which we rent a field each year and prepare landing and take-off strips.

Basically model control can be broken down into three or four different systems that can be used with many variations and combinations of these systems for producing additional controls.

The simplest form of control is the rudder only. This consists of a simple receiver

weighing only an ounce or two which operates a relay when the transmitter signal is received. The relay in turn operates an escapement or servo-motor which provides right or left rudder at will. A motor control is often added to provide high or low motor speeds. At the other extreme, the more complicated control systems include what is called 8 or 10 channel tone operated receivers which provides left and right rudder, up and down elevator, fast-medium-slow motor speeds and left and right ailerons.

These controls are usually operated by a "stick" in much the same way as the control in a full scale light aircraft. The stick is either built into a hand held transmitter box or in a control box cable connected to the transmitter on the ground. However, some commercial and home-brewed units used lever switches or buttons instead.

There are a great many commercially made receivers, transmitters and kits on the market made in the States, Britain, Japan and Germany. Some are excellent and some leave much to be desired. Most of the receivers today use at least one vacuum tube with transistor audio sections but the trend is toward 100 percent transistors. This does away with filament supplies and requires lower operating voltages.

Tone operated systems provide many more controls and the most widely used system requires a transmitter with about 3 watts input grid modulated by one or two multivibrators or similar low frequency oscillators. By keying various combinations of resistors and condensers in the circuit different tones are transmitted ranging from around 200 to 500 cps. These tones are tuned to the natural frequency of each of several flat steel reeds in a reed unit which takes the place of a conventional speaker or earphone. Any one of up to 10 reeds can be made to vibrate against a contact which in turn closes one of the 10 midget relays. Receivers used in this system are peaked around the 300 cps range.

The systems just described have one thing in common, when a control is signalled from the transmitter you get full deflection of the control surface or none at all. By signalling up elevator, the elevator travels to its full limit and returns to neutral position when the signal is released. It is possible to "blip" the controls with a series of quick signals when a slow maneuver is required but it is not the ultimate in perfectly smooth control.

What is required is a system that responds in proportion to the movement of the stick for the ultimate in flying control.

This has been accomplished in numerous systems with varying degrees of success and is called proportional control. If you can get good proportional control on rudder and elevator you need little else except engine speed which only requires a stepping control.

One system developed by Dr. Walter Good in the States uses variably pulse frequency and pulse width to provide proportional control to rudder and elevator. Another system currently being explored in several centres is a transistorized system of DC amplifiers to drive the servos which are in turn controlled by a discriminator which detects the frequency change in a continuously transmitted tone. Two or three tones may be transmitted simultaneously one from each control surface. When a tone is raised in frequency you might get right rudder and when lowered in frequency from its central or neutral position you would get left rudder.

Some experimenting is also going on in the field of AC servo systems but as yet none have been flown.

In Germany, one modeller has developed a pneumatic system of controls. A horizontally opposed twin cylinder deisel engine has a vacuum pump built into it which builds up a vacuum in a large reservoir tank which in turn is connected to a series

of perhaps eight ball valves which are operated by relays. Special diaphragm operated actuators are connected behind the valves with tubing. A vacuum behind the diaphragm will draw it back—a vacuum in front will draw it forward and a short push rod fixed to the center of the diaphragm can be connected by push rods to which ever control surface you wish.

This is a fast run-down on the "state of the art" at present. Literally thousands of variations have been tried on practically every existing circuit and system but the basics remain the same.

For those amateurs who are looking for new fields to conquer or a different application of their talents, here is a field that will test all their ingenuity and provide years of real fun.

At any of the model meets it is truly exciting to see a six or seven foot model weighing from 6 to 10 pounds taxi around into the wind, stop and then gun the engine for a fast take-off. They can loop, inside or outside, fly inverted, roll, spin or beat up the field under the hands of a good pilot, just like a full scale aircraft.

The sooner we get more interested in this sport the sooner we may persuade the Department of Transport to enlarge the frequency allocations for its use.



Therese Daly and VE2BG enjoying a get-together.



For Amateur Experimenting

By Leo Shishkin, UA3BJ

U.S.S.R. amateurs are encouraged in home construction and experimentation by their radio regulations, which require them to construct major pieces of communications gear. In the first article from The Canadian Amateur's Moscow correspondent, Leo Shishkin, UA3BJ describes a different slant on obtaining chirp-free, click-free break-in. Read on, then get out the bread-board and try this one.

"Amateur radio" - - this is not just "CQ DX- - PSE QSL." Pure DX-men are acquainted with but 10% of all the attractions of amateur shortwave radio. Often one can hear on the air, "CQ DX only". I permit myself to affirm that the ham transmitting such a general call disappears from the air in about a year, as he soon tires of it. But one never tires of amateur radio if he always has a hot soldering iron by his side. Soviet hams, in the majority of cases, work with homemade apparatus and love to experiment. Thanks to this, even amateurs without special education acquire good habits and, in many cases, satisfactory knowledge.

Some time ago it occurred to me to try to achieve good frequency stability in a transmitter with a minimum number of stages. I can't say that this turned out to be more difficult to do than in a multi-stage transmitter. However, when certain beginners tried to repeat my experiments it turned out harder for them to build this simple transmitter than a complex one. Nevertheless it seems to me that some of the readers would like to surpass their ham acquaintances in the quality of operation of their transmitters and in the simplicity of their construction. If your neighbor has a no more than satisfactory tone for telegraphic work, has clicks on all bands, and has 9 stages in his transmitter, then he of course, will think he should eliminate his clicks if you have done so in but a two-stage transmitter having as well a remarkable tone and break-in operation.

Clicks occur thanks either to too rapid growth and decay of the signal on keying,

or to a quick shift of frequency at the moment of pressing and releasing the key. Ordinarily both causes are active. In the presence of unsatisfactory frequency stability it is impossible to eliminate clicks without loss of tone quality. Decrease of steepness of the front of the signal results in a chirpy tone. Therefore, before contending with the clicks it is necessary to stabilize the frequency.

In a two stage transmitter exclusion of the influence of keying on the frequency meets the difficulty that there is too great an influence on frequency by the circuit parameters in the anode of the exciter. (See Fig. 1). These circuit parameters depend on the regime of the final stage, which unavoidably varies during the process of keying. Keying the exciter only is impossible on account of the unavoidability of frequency instability, which depends strongly on the variation of supply voltage with keying. The circuit of figure 1 is distinguished by the fact that keying is accomplished in the final stage; furthermore, it is tuned in such a way that there are two mutually compensating causes of frequency shift. Operation of the key brings about variation of the screen voltage of the final stage—its appearance and disappearance. Moreover, operation of the key brings about a simultaneous variation of supply voltage to the exciter anode. During the moment of pressing the key the screen voltage rises, the current consumption from the rectifies grows, and the exciter anode supply from the rectifier falls. This decrease in the exciter anode voltage tends to carry the frequency away

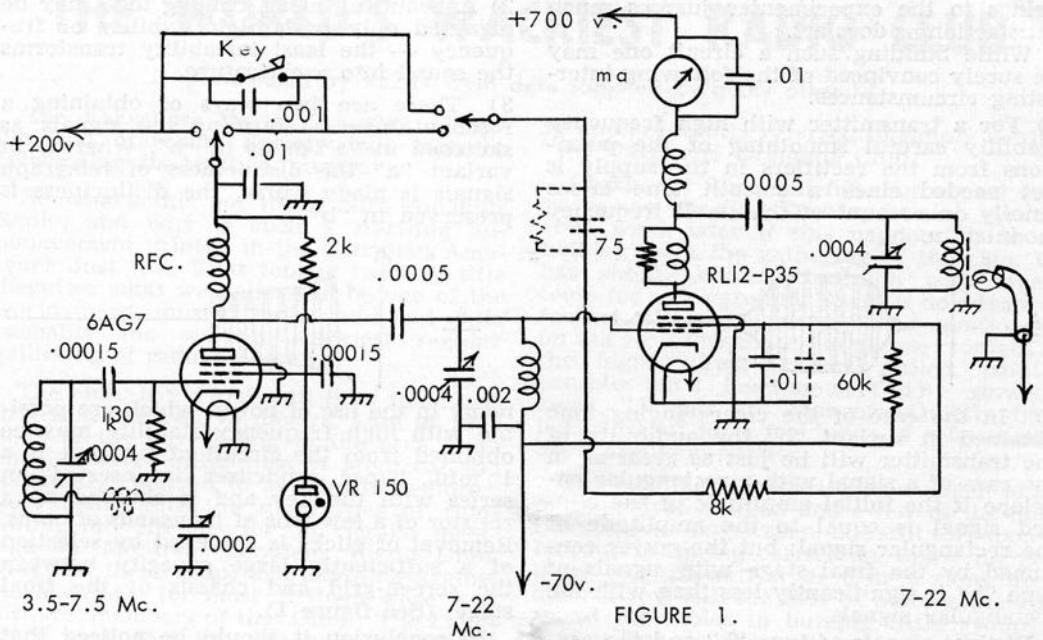


FIGURE 1.

from its initial value in a certain direction. The increase of screen voltage in the final stage which, itself, forms part of the anode circuit of the exciter, and this also brings about a shift of the frequency of oscillation. Through the tuning elements of the circuit, equal and opposite influence on the frequency is produced by the two causes. The transmitter in which this circuit was realized was supplied with everything necessary for removal of TVI and therefore the operation of the exciter was not heard in the receiver when the receiving antenna was disconnected from the transmitter. * In order to exclude interference to the receiver from the exciter the receiver was connected to an indoor antenna sufficient to guarantee DX reception, but the transmitter was connected to a vertical antenna laid out over a metal roof. The transmitting antenna was fed by a coaxial cable. This disposition of receiving and transmitting antennas eliminated audibility of the exciter. With such an arrangement break-in operation is guaranteed without switching off the exciter.

* Ed. Note:—And I thought MY rig was shielded!

Matching in direction and magnitude of the frequency shift caused by variation of the exciter anode voltage — i.e. compensation of the effect on frequency of the process of keying the screen-grid of the final, is achieved by variation of the capacity of the variable condenser inserted between the cathode of the exciter tube and chassis. However, this capacity also affects the frequency of oscillation. A practical value of this condenser is chosen as follows: A shunting resistor is inserted in parallel with the key and the receiver is retuned to a frequency separated from the

frequency of the transmitter by twice the intermediate frequency and is tuned so that the transmitter is heard at strength 7 on the image response of the receiver. Having turned on the BFO, and while working the key, we notice by ear the influence on the frequency of pressing the key. While rotating the above indicated condenser and all the while restoring the departing frequency to its former value by hand regulation of the main tuning condenser, we continue to operate the key. It is necessary to do this until a setting of the cathode to ground condenser is found such that pressing the key does not bring about an audible change of frequency. In order for it to be possible to determine by ear the frequency stability of your transmitter it is first necessary to be convinced of the stability of your receiver. For this the receiver is tuned to a broadcast station in the nearest broadcast band and the BFO is turned on. The receiver is tuned to the point of audible beats at a frequency of 100 to 200 cycles per second. While listening to the beats, work the key. The frequency of the beats must not change at all on pressing the key.

As it is not urgent to describe in detail the building of such a circuit, I recommend just to begin experiments with the study of the properties of the circuit of this exciter, for which it is necessary to assemble an experimental oscillator as in figure 2. Unfortunately not everyone is capable of detecting, by ear, the smallest change in frequency. In such cases an oscillograph is necessary and one must judge changes of frequency of the beats by Lissajous figures.

Setting up such a circuit requires accuracy, patience and good hearing, and

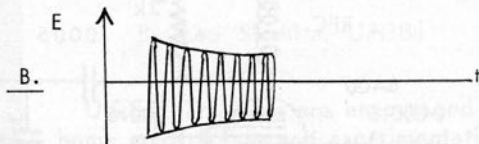
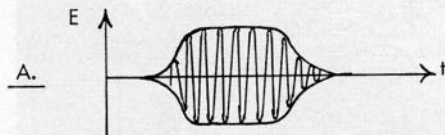
brings to the experimenter just as much satisfaction as does art.

While building such a circuit one may be surely convinced of the following interesting circumstances:

1) For a transmitter with high frequency stability careful smoothing of the pulsations from the rectifiers in the supply is not needed since a smooth tone arises chiefly on account of the small frequency modulation.

2) A beautiful, clear, ringing tone may be obtained only with high stability of frequency — the least instability transforms the sound into a caricature.

3) There are two ways of obtaining a resonant tone — forming the signals as sketched in "a" or as in "b". Whereas in variant "a" the distinctness of telegraph signals is made worse, the distinctness is preserved in "b".



4) In the case of the clear ringing tone obtained in variant "b" the audibility of the transmitter will be just as great as in the case of a signal with a rectangular envelope if the initial amplitude of the clipped signal is equal to the amplitude of the rectangular signal; but the power consumed by the final stage with signals of type "b" is significantly less than with the rectangular signals.

nomy in the use of power which are possible with high frequency stability may be obtained from the circuit of figure 1 if a 1 mfd. paper condenser is inserted in series with the key and is shunted by a resistor of a few tens of thousands of ohms. Removal of clicks is achieved by selection of a sufficiently large capacity between the screen-grid and chassis of the final stage. (See figure 1).

Distinct signals of type "b" and the eco-

In conclusion it should be noticed that

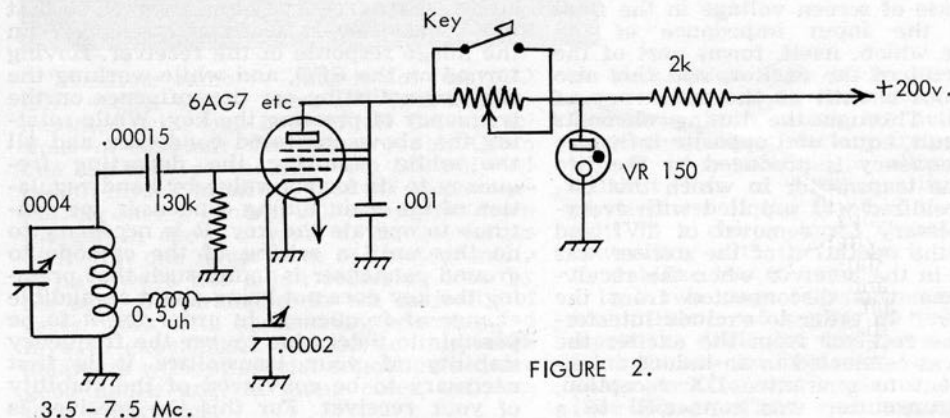


FIGURE 2.

figure 1 is primitive in this way, that the 3 condensers in the exciter (grid circuit, cathode to chassis, and anode circuit) each of which influences the frequency and therefore the stability, are not ganged on one shaft, and on retuning the frequency by a few tens of kilocycles it is necessary to retrim their capacities. This is necessary when getting used to the circuit, but is uncomfortable for daily working on the air. However, this is handy in certain cases. Sometimes one happens to hear on the air requests to tell about the tone of the transmitter you are listening to. This happens when a short-wave beginner meets with difficulties in appraising independently the tone of his new transmitter on account of imperfections in his receiver. He who has to answer such a question knows that to give a satisfactory description of the tone of a transmitter is as difficult as to replace a portrait photograph

with a verbal description. Working with the transmitter of figure 1 it is possible to warm up in one or two minutes and to represent on the air any tone from T9X to T3C with all shades in between, if the rectifier filtering provides the minimum necessary smoothing. (In my case a 20 mfd. condenser is used, without a choke, in a full-wave rectifier for the exciter and for the screen-grid of the final; and a 4 mfd. condenser without a choke in a half-wave rectifier for the anode circuit of the final). I had to describe on the air the tone of a strange transmitter by request of the operator in two cases, and both times there followed expressions of astonishment and thanks.

I have constructed analogous circuits around other tubes, for example 6PZ and G-807 (6L6 and 807) without stabilized voltage.

—Translated by E. Argyle, VE7AAV

THE WORLD'S WACKIEST RADIO CLUB

(Assembled by VE2BV from data supplied by many others)

The Lakeshore Darts, Draughts, Chowder and Marching Society will soon be celebrating its tenth anniversary.

So what's this got to do with Amateur Radio, and why is such a startling announcement printed in the Canadian Amateur? Just this. That tongue twisting title disguises what we believe to be one of the worlds most unusual radio clubs and quite probably the world's wackiest regular gathering of radio amateurs.

The club, if we may call it as such, was first conceived on 75 meters. Late in 1949 some of the boys living in the area lying some 10 to 15 miles west of Montreal and commonly referred to as "the Lakeshore." were bemoaning the difficulties of commuting into the city for the regular meetings of Montreal Amateur Radio Club. (Not that these chaps had anything against the M.A.R.C., for most of them were, and still are, members of that Club.) The Lakeshore area, fast growing as a residential suburb, already had a considerable ham population, and every prospect that the number of hams living in Lachine, Dorval, Pointe Claire, Beaconsfield and Baie d'Urfe would continue to increase by leaps and bounds. Surely this area could support an amateur radio club.

The idea caught on. Soon the nightly round-tables of hams on the western end of Montreal Island buzzed with discussions of the pros and cons of a Lakeshore Radio Club. The inevitable arguments about meeting place, dates, constitution, dues, etc., raged back and forth. Finally however it was agreed that all interested amateurs should meet to discuss things over a few brews at one of the local taverns.

And so it came to pass that on a night early in 1950 over fifty dedicated and vociferous hams converged on the Dorval Tavern. And what an evening! Some of the stalwarts endeavoured to make speeches or otherwise express themselves. Most of them were quickly shouted down. It soon became apparent that this was a gathering of real individuals, little interested in the formalities of rigidly run meetings, rules of procedure, elections, and so forth. Before the evening was out the majority ruled that we would meet once a month at this same spot, but that there was to be no constitution, no elected officials, no dues; in short, nothing but the chance to get together at regular intervals over a pint of beer and chew the rag. Not even a name? Well-1-1 . . . Someone jokingly suggested that we be called the Lakeshore Darts, Draughts, Chowder and Marching Society. Silly, but this group was just unorthodox enough to snap at the name, and it has since stuck. The club may be called many things, and probably is, but it is most fond-

ly and reverently referred to simply as the "the Darts and Draughts Club."

Crazy, eh? Sure, but fun. For almost ten years now the first Tuesday in each month (one week later if this happens to be a holiday) sees the gathering of the clan. It has simply become tradition with amateurs for miles around. There is no advance fanfare, although you may hear mentioned on the air a few times the phrase "tonight's the night." Switches are pulled, paint-brushes and lawn-mowers are stowed away, TV sets are shut off. Quietly the lads steal off for a few hours of relaxation, beer, and ham-chatter.

The meeting place has been changed to a more central location and a few of the old faces are no longer seen, but still this spontaneous gathering carries on. Some nights there may be as few as 6 or 8 show up; other nights will see fifty or more gathered round the tables in buzzing little groups. And where do they all come from? Well mostly the Lakeshore area of course, but there's always a sprinkling of Montreal hams out to renew friendships and quaff a few. Visitors from practically every VE district, and many W's, have dropped in at various times. DX has been represented in visits of ZS, VQ4, VP6, several Gs, and numerous others, all seemingly happy to have been one-night-members of the Lakeshore Darts and Draughts Club.

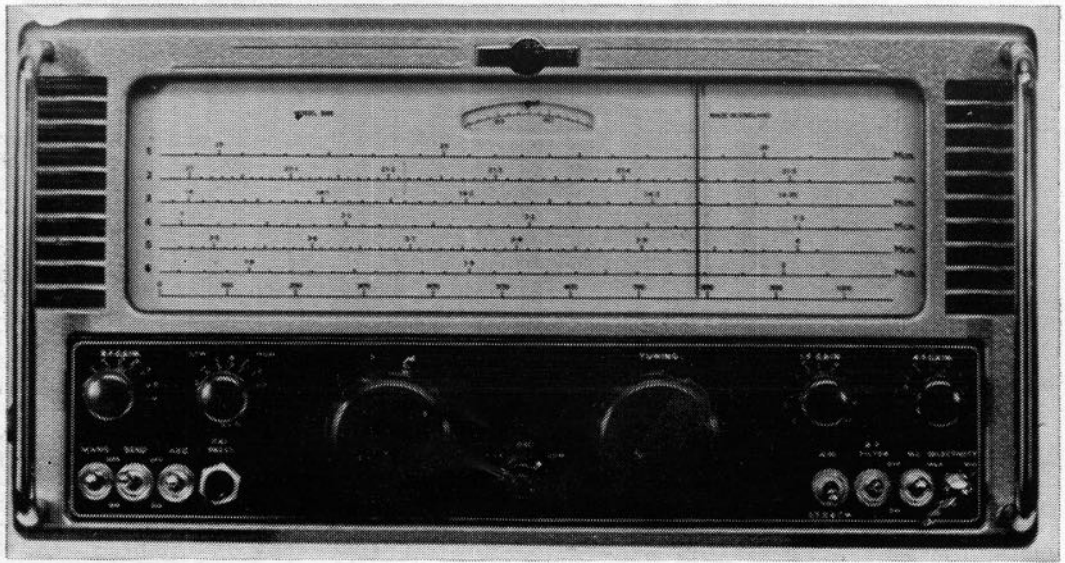
You too can become a member of the world's wackiest radio club. You don't need a gold plated invitation — just an interest in ham radio and the price of a beer or two. Why don't you time your next visit to the Montreal area so that you can drop in at the Maples Inn, Pointe Claire, around 9 p.m. on the first Tuesday of any month—the second Tuesday when the first falls on a holiday. The Lakeshore boys will make you feel right at home!

Local Ham Retires From Police Force

It was learned recently that "Cy Ramsay" VE7ACW was retiring from the R.C.M.P. after 24 years of service. Cy is presently on retirement leave, retirement being effective on June 30th, 1959.

Friday, April 3rd, 1959, a gathering of members of the force and their wives, took place at the Wander Inn, Trans-Canada Highway, North Surrey, B.C., in his honor at which time, S/Sgt. G. Emsley of New Westminster presented him with a movie camera, on their behalf.

Cy is hoping now to do more hamming, color movie and still photography.



FROM ENGLAND

Eddystone 888-A Amateur Receiver

By Bob Cooper, K6EDX

Amateur radio communications receivers are manufactured the world over, but few constructed outside the United States ever find their way to the American market. High tariffs, plus generally less expensive receivers of superior design to be found under the trade names of Hammurlund, Hallicrafters, National, Collins, etc., to name a few, help keep German Telefunken, Dutch Philips, and English Eddystone receivers within their respective markets.

However, this is not denying that our neighbors across the sea know how to build superior receivers, or at least models every bit as top notch as some of our better designs. One of the best new European designs is the Eddystone 888-A, an amateur band receiver, which incorporates several new ideas for communication receivers, and manages to improve on many of the older circuits.

Following the idea originally introduced by the Collins 75A line of amateur (and communications) receivers, the Eddystone 888-A covers the amateur bands only, stretching the various amateur assignments out on a 12 inch directly read dial. In addition to this, a vernier fine tuning scale is provided which, when used in accordance with the logging scale, brings the total effective dial space to an equivalent 14 feet long! Quite a shot in the arm for selectivity, a much sought after commodity in today's crowded amateur assignments. This system allows "accurate" frequency read-

ings to 250 cycles on the 1.8-20 megacycle band, or to 2 kc on the 28 megacycle band.

Other than the usual degree of selectivity afforded the amateur in the 888-A, the engineers at Stratton and Co. Ltd., Birmingham, have taken great pains to insure that the receiver maintain a high degree of stability. A brief short term warm up drift has been allowed to remain, as attempts at removing any such drift would involve very expensive methods not warranted in amateur receiving equipment. However, long term drift has been virtually removed through rugged oscillator mechanical stability, good electrical design, careful choice of components, and the use of negative temp co-efficient condensers throughout. Additionally, a 100 kc crystal oscillator with re-occurrent beats every 100 kc throughout the receiver range, is provided for exact dial calibration of the main dial. A condenser in parallel with the oscillator (of the receiver) tuned circuit allows recalibration to a fine degree, on each amateur range. To avoid confusion when using the calibrator, the switch which activates the calibrator mutes the receiver input, thereby removing incoming signals. A VR-150 is used to provide exacting voltage regulation to the 6C4 oscillator tube.

An advanced design audio filter employed in the 888-A should be a boon to CW operators. A steep response curve peaking at 1000 cycles, with a bandwidth of 100 cycles, at the 6 db point, is featured. Ad-

ditionally, less than one db insertion loss is claimed, for the audio filter, allowing it's use under weak signal conditions. (American manufacturers please take note!) With the audio filter in the circuit, and the receiver set at the sharpest IF bandpass setting (900 cycles), a signal 250 cycles off resonance is attenuated 32 db., a real help in digging for weak signals near the stronger stations.

OTHER FEATURES

Monitoring:

Through the stand-by receive switch, the stand-by position does not completely shut the B plus from the receiver, but rather mutes the receiver allowing the operator to monitor his own phone or CW signal. RF — IF — AF controls:

Under the wide variance of receiving conditions encountered in amateur reception, it is often advantageous to be able to reduce RF and IF gain in the receiver, thereby lowering the amount of voltage present on the mixer grid, and detector. This reduces and often eliminates overloading effects from off resonance, but nearby strong signals. (Allowing you to copy a weak station right under the side-band skirt of the stronger station.) With the RF, or IF stages running full blast all the time, strong close proximity signals will overload the mixer grid, thereby erasing any signs of the weaker signal.

Realizing this problem, the Eddystone receiver incorporates a set of three gain controls, one each in the RF, IF, and AF stages.

Noise Limiter Circuit:

A series diode (6AL5) is used as a reducer for pulse type noise, such as is experienced from auto ignitions. Like all series limiter circuits, the limiting is a function of the bandwidth employed, and works best with wide band receiver response.

CW/SSB Converter:

For reception of CW/SSB signals, the diode detector is cut from the circuit, and the incoming IF signal is mixed directly with BFO to produce an audio signal. The BFO adjustment allows for a plus-minus shift of 3 kc. (maximum)

Automatic Gain Control:

Delayed automatic gain control is featured in the model 888-A, keeping the received signal within a ten db Audio output range for up to 80 db variation at the antenna input. (AGC takes hold at the 2 microvolt threshold level.)

Sensitivity:

For a 20 db signal to noise ratio, 3 mv is required at the input stage. Absolute CW sensitivity is better than .5 microvolt. (Exact figure somewhat dependent upon the hearing characteristics of the operator's ear.)

Selectivity:

Unlike most American communications receivers, which provide selectivity in steps of crystal insertion, Eddystone uses a mechanical selectivity system, which

moves the coils within the IF transformer cans. (I.e. Hammurand in Super Pro series.) This allows a smooth variation from 900 cycles to 5,000 cycles, of IF selectivity. With the audio filter in the circuit, also, extreme selectivity is available which is useful only for very stable, and fairly slow CW reception. (At the audio filter's sharpest point.)

Image Ratio:

Rejection of images is better than 35 db at 30 megacycles, and even higher on the lower amateur bands.

Input Impedance Matching:

Although designed for a nominal impedance of 75 ohms, a trimmer adjustment is provided for close tolerance matching between the antenna and RF input stage. (Allowing for maximum coupling from the antenna.)

Mechanical Tuning Mechanism:

A gear driven (not string), inertia controlled flywheel mechanism has a reduction ratio of 40-1. is absolutely free from backlash, and permits critical tuning in all ranges.

Finish Of Receiver:

Because of the world wide use of the Eddystone models, each receiver is rust proofed, (and this can be very important if you are planning an expedition to a South Sea isle), with all internal parts finished for humid tropical service. (Also very important, if you plan to operate from Chicago on a hot summer day.) The external surfaces are a grey hammerstone enamel, while the grey control knobs are mounted forward of a anodised plate. (Another excellent feature, protecting the front panel against finger nail scratches.) The two grip handles either side are chrome plated.

Power Supply:

Again, the world wide expected use of this receiver shows up in it's design. Primary taps on the power transformer allows it to be used on 110 volts, or 200-240 volts, 40-60 cycles. Power consumption is approximately 80 watts.

Mechanical Construction:

Any receiver with heavy duty mechanical construction can be expected to possess a high degree of electrical stability, which will be especially apparent on the beat note of a CW signal. Eddystone model 888-A uses such innovations as aluminum die-casting coil boxes, and front panel, which should result in a receiver which will stand up under a great deal of punishment.

Audio Output:

A single 6AQ5 tube is rated for 2.5 watts audio output, into a 2.5 ohm low impedance load. A jack is provided on the front panel for hi Z headphones, which when inserted, mute the speaker.

Controls Available:

On the front panel, in front of the aforementioned anodised plate, we have large knobs for Band Selection, and Tuning. Smaller knobs are provided for independent control of the AF, IF, and RF stages;

BFO pitch; oscillator frequency, Butterfly knob for variable selectivity. Toggle switches are provided for:—power, on/off; AM/CW-SSB; noise limiter; Standby; AF Filter; AGC on/off. Press switch for Crystal Calibrator. Raising the top cover we find the following controls:— small knobs for Antenna Trimmer, and Standby Mute sensitivity; screw driver adjustment for Crystal Calibrator frequency.

Et All:

For a receiver employing but nine tubes (plus rectifier, VR tube, and crystal calibrator tube), the Eddystone 888-A looks to be a fine example of English ingenuity, and workmanship, that could give many of it's American brothers a lesson in simplicity. Cutting down on the frills and relying on better inherent circuit selectivity, and sensitivity, the Boys at Stratton and Co. Ltd., again demonstrate that you don't need brute force tactics to obtain good results.

Perhaps an interesting parallelism can be drawn here, between the Eddystone 888-A, and another line of English products, and the small sports and economy cars.

FLASH!!!

An organization of great promise has come to life in Ontario. Composed of Amateurs of integrity and wide experience in their chosen fields, they have come together with a common bond and purpose: To serve and help the radio Amateurs of Ontario in the many problems that beset them in this age of confusion.

While the Ontario Amateur Radio Assn. may have been formed for the express purpose of assisting the Amateurs of that province, your Canadian Amateur magazine predicts that an organization of such calibre must, and will, be beneficial to Canadian Amateurs everywhere!

The June edition of the Canadian Amateur will cover, in detail, this important development. Don't miss it!

LATEST SILENT KEY . . .

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Mr. Harry E. Fisher VE2RI, well-known as the Regional Radio Superintendent for the Department of Transport. Mr. Fisher's office was located in Montreal.



On March 2, 1959, a group of old friends sat together on a huge sofa in the apartment of Norm and Claire Phillips, Braemar Apartments, Palm Springs, California. Left to right:— Glenn Lay, W7ADS, Yakima, Wash; Norm Phillips, W6KUL, Encino, California; Howard Dümm, W6LSO, Long Beach, California; and Dwight Williams, W6RO, Long Beach, Cal.

Letters to the Editor—Cont'd

hams who have migrated here from other parts. However this proved to be a bit harder than I anticipated, and what I did get doesn't seem to be quite the stuff for working up into a newsy item.

Anyway, here's what I have. It started with an idea I had some time ago, to try and tally up as many as possible of the VE2 lads who at one time or another have been rather active in other parts of the country, and even in other parts of the world. I also had the idea that maybe you could have sort of a "Displaced Persons" column in the rag at intervals if you could get some of the lads in the other districts to try a similar stunt. Might help some of us to keep track of long lost pals. But on the other hand, maybe I am the only guy who thinks it might be of interest.

Here's some of the 20 displaced persons now signing VE2—

AIO—ex VQ8AK
AJY—ex VOIT, VO1BT
AYY—ex G3GNO
FH —ex 4GI and 5SH
BV—ex 5EU, 4DM, 1AQ
JR—ex 5JP, 7JP
JS—ex 4AE, 2ANN
KZ—ex 5KU, 5KQ, 6FO, G3FFO
LI—ex G5LI
NV—ex 3AKG, 2ADQ
OJ—ex 4AF, 6AF
OK—ex 4CC
QC—ex 4SC, 5PA, 1BF
TX—ex 4MK, 2VD, 1ON
UQ—ex 5HC, 4ARO, 7HC
WA—ex 4SO, 1VF, VO6U
WW—ex 4PH, 5AHZ
YA—ex 5EO, 6IC, 7EO
YU—ex G3BXN, DL2XW, VE6ZR
XX—ex 3ZV

That's that. Here is a few short bits of news which might fill up an odd corner: Gordie, 2UQ, not active but helped 2WW pile up score in DX test.

Jim, 2XX, and Harold, 2TX, previously active mobileers now silent on account of the problems of mounting equipment in new cars.

George, 2YA, skeds brother Ted, 7ND, and Sid, 2EH skeds brother Charles, 6PY.

Jim, 2JS, recently visited Russia, but says he did not meet any hams while there.

That's it, 73,

Don, VE2BV

Dear John:—

Was very pleased to receive your nice letter and the first copy of what looks like a fine new magazine. My subscription premium is enclosed .

You asked for a story about my radio activities and past history. Not too exciting, I'm afraid, John. Started in radio back in grade school about 1921. Built nearly all the usual circuits along the way, including the Harkness Reflexes and the "dynes." Those were the so-called good old "daze"

when we had to fabricate a good many of our own parts. I can't help thinking that the young hams of today are losing out on came interested in short wave reception and soon afterward decided to study for a ham license. Got on 40-meter CW in May 1931, using a pair of 245's in a self-excited much of this fun. It was 1930 before I be-oscillator.

Guess it was about 1932 when some of us tried loop modulation on 80 meters. Even tried 5 meters. Had the pleasure of working on the "scanning disk" type of TV transmitter in Detroit about 1931 with a real pioneer of h a m radio, Bob Osborn, W8ZM. Also had the good fortune to build the first re-recording amplifier used in the "talkies."

Most of my hamming from 1931 until World War II and sometime thereafter was confined to the United States and Canada as I had no room for good antennas. Happy to say that conditions have changed for the better since moving from Detroit to Farmington, Michigan in 1955.

At present, I am busily engaged in trying to keep ahead of everybody's friend, G3DO, Mr. Doug Edwards, in the "WPX" phone award race. We are No. 1 and No. 2 in this "rat race", and it is really fun digging out new prefixes and then comparing our results during Sunday "skeds", band conditions permitting.

The equipment here is a barefoot 32 V 2 transmitter and a 75 A 1 receiver. I'm quite sure that I have proved to a good many that power is a minor item except when one might be keeping a schedule with some distant place and then wanted to be reasonably sure that he didn't get clobbered. Yep, it's the antennas that do the trick plus a lot of luck. You have to be on at the right time which means many hours of listening.

I've been chasing DX since Jan. 1, 1957, and my score from that date is 193 countries worked on A3, with 184 confirmed. I get on CW only to chase the occasional new one. Joined the SSB gang recently, but haven't left my old pals with "ancient modulation" yet.

The antennas here are separate three-element beams constructed and styled after those in Bill Orr's handbook. Some mechanical strengthening was necessary because of the high winds at this location. I find the omega matching system excellent

The twenty-beam meter is at 75 feet, which works out quite well. Below this, at

about 60 feet, you see the fifteen-meter beam. A prop pitch motor turns this pair. The ten-meter sky-hook is on a 33 foot pole and is turned by a TV antenna rotator. These antennas are pretty much in the trees but seem to do a pretty good job even so.

Getting confirmation of contacts for the various awards has been the usual problem here. Too many "100 per cent" QSLers never QSL.

All the best to you, John, and great success to you and staff in the new venture.

73 and DX,
Les-W8WT

Dear John:—

If this sounds like the start of a passion letter—well! Words fail me. To say that I am highly complimented is putting it mildly. I must in all fairness however point out some obvious drawbacks.

First I am but a rank beginner in the field of "ham radio" although I must admit to considerable experience in electronics.

Secondly, I have little or no direct connection with the VO1 hams since I am licensed for Part V only (to be very official) and consequently do not indulge in the local Newfie equivalent of the "back yard fence" which is BCAREC! Consequently my source of news is strictly limited. Until you can dig up a better qualified one however I will gladly offer what I can to help.

Thirdly, as is obvious, I am in the RCAF and my term of duty here is strictly limited. Where next? Qui sait! VE7? Har de har.

However, as you have discovered, I like to peddle a good line of b.s. whether on the air or on paper. Ask Fred over at Comox. When two guys can stay on for over two hours in Trans-continental 10 meter QSO-wow. Rag-chewers are mere babies in our league. Incidentally get up on 10 on 28.280 any week-end and you'll hear me!

So - - - your letter thrilled me and you have my maximum support.

Now to comment to greater length. Be concise and to the point he sez, (ref page 3 of original issue—for which multi thanks) my god—sharpen your greasencil OM cause your sure going to need it.

Nope I never laid eyes on your publication until today. I heard a brief mention of it from VE7ALL but actually VE3CFX in Guelph was the one who gave me the address and described the original issue over the air. You and the others involved deserve congratulations for a magnificent effort. It does not compete with any existing magazine but fills a long felt need. I have but one "gripe"—and hope I don't hurt anyone's feelings—the name. But I'm dammed if I can think of a better one. I tried—Lord did I try. Witness—"Canadian Ham"—Ye gods Swift Canadian here I come! "Wave"—possibilities but what of

the VO's? CQVE—ummm—? VE chatter—VE News—VE Yak Yak—or just "Yak Yak", (Hi). "VEN" (VE News)—you could always answer 'Now!'

I like your contest—enclosed is my effort for what it is worth. I distinctly welcome the fact that you won't be afraid of controversy. This is, I think, one fault of the major publications. I can see why as unfortunately advertising etc. rear their ugly heads. But if there is life there must be controversy. Also I welcome the fact that it will be technical. Herein lies my main interest.

Re publishing my letter, or for that matter anything I send you, go ahead. Heck I'm tickled pink. Now re the fax of life.

Pictures—hmmm. Gruesome thought.

Statistics:—Well first off the obvious ones. Full name "Charles Neil" but look around if I get called anything but "Vince". Hi. Age—up in the dirty thirties—almost into the forties in fact. My God time does fly. Family—XYL and 1½ harmonics (will be two by the time you say Outer Slobovia!) Home QTH—VE7 land (Vic. occupation?) R.C.A.F. in Telecommunica-

Occupation—Warrant Officer (this is an tions with an emphasis on Radar although I've been mixed up in just about every branch at one time or another in the last 18 years.

Interests—other than ham radio—automobiles, boats, house design and engineering of all types.

Education—not enough!

Future—pension and a permanent ham shack with lots of beams and such.

Ham experience—darn little. Been interested in amateur radio for years but just couldn't cope with that darn ditty-dah-dit (still can't in fact!) but eventually when stationed out at Comox, Fred, VE7ALL got me infected and mad enough to give it a whirl. Got onto 6 meters in the local area and consequently never did really get cracking on cw. Moved to VE3 land as VE3BII and managed to put in a few horrible hours on 40 cw to fill up the old log book so that when I came down to VO1 land August the RI took pity on me and gave me a Part V endorsement. It is Part V isn't it? Anyhow I got me up on 10—and boy have I been having a ball ever since. With horrible gear, horrible qrm, lousy antennas and generally furbarred shack all round I still manage to have a lot of fun. As mentioned previously I have been maintaining more or less continuous skeds with Comox and have also managed to work all western provinces. DX—har de har—my antenna is out of this world. I shouldn't even mention it since you will immediately form a horrible opinion of my professional abilities. It is a beam (hi) made up of hunks of beat out RG8 coax tied with string across the rafters up in my attic (which conveniently runs more or less at right angles to the optimum east-west path. It has an out-of-this-world SWR (around 3.5:1) and somehow or other I

manage to work not only Comox, but also G, VP9, VE8, Ws and you name it. Power-wise I'm loaded with a DX35 modified for plate modulation running a potent 50 watts input. The Receiver is an ancient SX28 with a pre-amp. I'm using the latter word very loosely since, in the last week, it has developed a distinct disinclination to amplify at all. When its good it breaks even!

Future plans—well I have three local R.C.A.F. types—in my own section, interested in going on air and have sold my receiver to one of those with five week delivery. This is to give me time to construct its successor. I am buying one of those Heath "Comanche" mobile jobs since I already have the power supply (my modification story on the DX-35 would break your heart and you would probably die laughing! Ask 7ALL to read it to you sometime on net—he probably has it framed in his shack!) and the price is right. If it preforms as well as do the other Heath items I will have no problems. Antennas—come summer—if it ever comes to this benighted spot—no banana belt here—I intend to do something, actually by the time you get this I am hoping to have me up a wonderbar so that I can at least get the swr down. Incidentally I have an outside dipole with an swr of 1.5:1 and I'm darned if I can work anyone with it—did work a VE8 just to prove it was working but its lousy even broadside on, whereas the beam gets 20 over reports even end on! As a W8 told me—don't touch a thing. He figured I had me a KW tied on the end—gave me 40 over plus! Which proves one thing—that signal reports are in sad need of an overhaul. Want an article on that guaranteed to stir up trouble?

Now activities—other than mine. As I said there isn't too much activity around here. I'm still getting maximum DX in the Cinema Interference Line—they still refuse to do a darn thing, even with DOT hounding them (on my side incidentally), very aggravating. VOIES (John A John) is fairly active on 15 but is away at the moment. Also expects to leave here in early summer. EK (John) is pretty active still with his potent Globe King—Gad you should see his exotic QSL collection—ah me. EL (Eric) is active but chiefly on 75 and on trying to get me out of the cinema sound system (since he's a friend of the operator—who will miss my activities in livening up otherwise dull films with the occasional "CQ 10" —hi.

I sure like those articles by the RI—it is very difficult to get the proper perspective on regulations with so much scuttlebutt going around. I'm going to see if I can't get up on 111 (woops my VFO slipped) 11—at least as an SWL if my antenna wont load or radiate! I hear BIF (Jim) regularly—in fact have his QSL card—very nice one too. Incidentally regret that I can't take advantage of your QSL offer, my goodness you should see the stack of VE7 cards I discarded, the VE3 ones I discarded, got

wise now and only order them in small batches. (My typing gets worse). RTT boys have it made. Did you see that teletyped one in CQ a few issues back? Now thats an idea eh. Incidentally in a permanent QTH I could sure get me interested in that stuff as I've had a bit to do with it in the service and it intrigues me. Course anything electronic intrigues me. Trouble with me is too darn much talk and not enough action. Also when I do start I have a nasty habit of losing interest in mid stream or alternatively I modify the poor thing until even I get lost in the shake-up. My present power supply is a lulu for an example. It is a bridge rectified effort using silicon diodes with a negative supply, couple of positive supplies, VR tubes galore and goodness knows what else—all this to run a DX-35!

I am distinctly fortunate in having access to literally thousands of dollars of the most modern test equipment—spoils one utterly too. My poor little Heath VTVM and GDO look awfully sad, but sure get worked out often. That picture of your shack looks interesting—is she standard equipment in VE7 land? Hi.

I got a kick out of the TVI article. Wish my Theatre Interference would solve as easily. TI? Since everything is buttoned up, by-passed etc., have come to the conclusion that their trouble is a lousy ground. But how do you tell that to a technically ignorant and money tight owner? Hi.

Like you say this has gone far enough. Sure enjoy both the letter and the magazine. Give me an idea of what you want, how I can help, etc. and sure will do all I can. You'll need to clean up the verbosity naturally, won't hurt my feelings at all.

So, until next sked time,

VINCE, VO1FF

Gentlemen:—

I wish to acknowledge, with thanks, my complimentary copy of the Canadian Amateur received last week.

You are, indeed, to be congratulated for the effort put into it but more for the thought which promoted its publication. There has been a very definite need for this publication and although it has been started in one way or another in the past, it hasn't seemed to stick. I would publicly give thanks to those before you that have started and carried on through adversity but to you gentlemen, we must all pledge our support to your future works.

I enclose my \$3.00 for the coming year and assure you that more will be forthcoming in the future.

I am enclosing an entry in the contest that you are sponsoring and although I do not expect to be a winner, I must show my support of your worthy cause, by at least trying.

Keep up the good work and if I, in my humble way, may do anything to assist you, please feel free to call on me.

Fraternally yours,

A. Murphy, VE3ELY

South Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc.

The South Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc., St. Lambert, Que. would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Editorial Staff of the "Canadian Amateur" for a job well done. This is the type of all Canadian magazine that we amateurs have been wanting for some years. We only hope that Canadian amateurs will give it their whole hearted support.

Now as for the history of the South Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc., it suffices to say that the club originated away back in the early 1920's when a group of radio enthusiasts got together to chew the rag and discuss their common problems. Some of the members at that time were: Tommy Letts (now VE2BG and over 50 years in radio). Tom started out in 1908 with a spark transmitter and home built receiver and antenna. As time went on he graduated into rotary spark gaps, quench gaps, "Q" valves and the then new type 202 valve. 2BG takes credit for being the first amateur phone station in operation in Canada and the first Canadian to work Holland, making contact with PCII. Alex Reid, VE2BE, Canadian Director ARRL, who was one of the first stations to make contact with England. Along with Jack Walton, 2KY, Kenny Walker, 2KW, Kent Morham, 2CT, Earl Turner, 2CA, Stan Rivers, 2PD (then 2CQ), Frank Marchand, 2DI (deceased) formed the original South Shore Radio Club with Joe Robertson 2GA as the first president and Ben Franklin (call unknown) as secretary. These fellows used to meet in a little shack known as the "Toc H" in St. Lambert. It may be of interest to note that some of these members were in the original Wireless Club of Montreal which was formed in the year 1908-09 and met in each others homes.

A lot of RF has gone out over the airwaves since that time and it would be nice to reminisce more about what went on, but space here will not permit it. One thing can be said however, before we dwell upon the history of the present club. Amateur radio today will never be what it was in those days. Here was a handful of men tinkering and experimenting with bits of wire, coils and electricity, the results of which has fired the imagination of the world and resulted in the birth of amateur radio. It was the beginning of a fascinating hobby which we know today as amateurs and of which we now are members.

After the war, which caused all amateur operation to cease, we again re-organized the club in the fall of 1948 with Monty Montgomery VE2KG as president for two years running. Since that time under Presidents Art Kidney 2GD, Brock Wilcox 2AEW, Gordie Smith, 2AJI, Blen Blennerhassett, 2ATT, Bill Barrie, 2IK, the club has gone ahead in leaps and bounds. With a well organized executive and a fine set of bylaws the club was officially incorpor-

ated on the 13th of August, 1956 under the provisions of the Amusement Clubs Act Chapter 304 of the Revised Statutes of Quebec 1941.

Every year the club participates in the Annual ARRL Field Day and for 2 years won the Noel Wright Trophy for the station in the Montreal Area making the high-points in the Field day. The Club holds an Annual Dinner dance around Christmas at which times the Clubs Outstanding Amateur Award is made.

Novice classes are a big item with the club. As many as 20 prospective amateurs have sat down throughout winter months to learn the code and fundamentals of radio.

Civil Defence plays a big roll in the Club activity. Thirty members are enrolled in CD and weekly roll calls are made on 3765 kc/s and 28250 kc/s. Simulated tests and "Operation Alert" are all part or the Club's CD program as well as maintaining a fully equipped communications control room in St. Lambert.

The Club call is VE2ADX and the equipment in the station is a Johnson Viking II transmitter, a Harvey Wells TBS50, a Millen VFO, Johnson Match Box, a Hallcrafters S76 and Marconi CR100 receivers. The Club meets the second Monday in each month at 217 Riverside Drive, St. Lambert, P.Q. at the "Gateway to the St. Lawrence Seaway." (Directly in front of the St. Lambert Lock where the Queen will open the seaway this coming June.)

Every month the Club publishes "Skywave" as its official magazine with 2KG, 2ATT, 2AY as editors and publishers.

The present club executive is:

Bill Barrie, VE2IK, President
Floyd Glasser, VE2AGM, Vice Pres.
Norman Abrey, VE2NY, Treasurer
Arthur Kidney, VE2GD, Secretary
Brock Wilcox, VE2AEW, Activities Manager
Jack Snowball, Social Director
G. (Monty) Montgomery, VE2KG, Director

So there you are, this has been the story of the South Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc.

G.R. Montgomery, VE2KG
Editor Skywave

SCOOP . . .

Some of the most beautiful color slides and film ever to come out of the great north-west, are on their way south.

Roman, VE8CE, who incidentally, puts one of the most constant signals into this QTH, from the north, has sent a few samples of what to expect for a half hour show of slides . . . simply indescribable! I intend showing them wherever possible . . . everyone must have an opportunity to see Roman's collection.

The Tri-Square Aerial

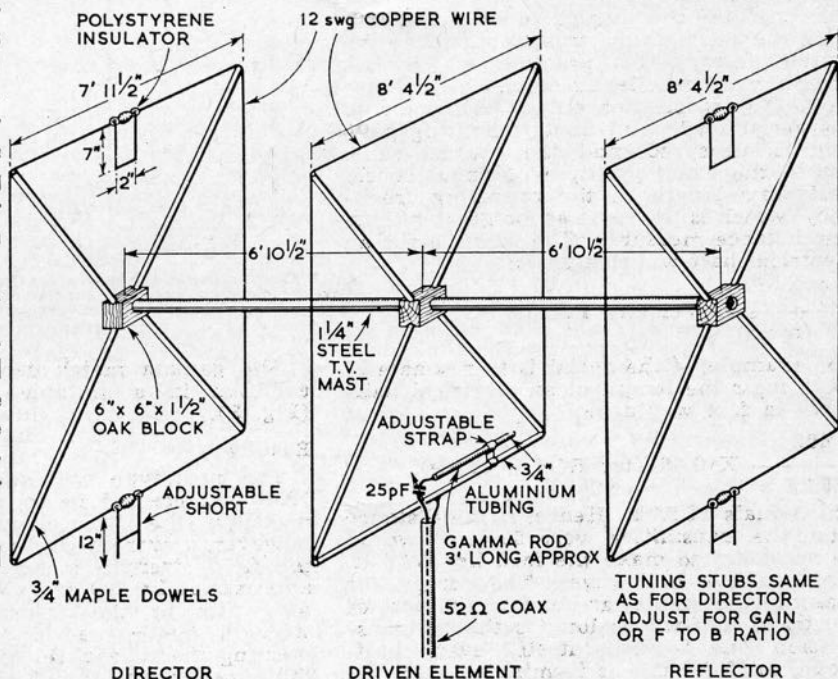
By H. H. Gloster, (VE3IT)*

During the writer's career as an active amateur, from 1912 to the present date, many types of aerials have been built and tried; some good, some very poor indeed. The Yagi type, both two and three element, has always given good results, providing it is properly tuned and matched to the transmission line.

The Quad aerial appeared to present intriguing possibilities, and much thought was accordingly given to a suitable design with a view to comparing it with the two element close-spaced beam which had been in operation for approximately 18 months. The latter has given excellent results, and with a power input of 50 watts had re-

sulted in 96 countries being worked. The article by G2PU in the March 1958 issue of the R. S. G. B. Bulletin regarding the "Bi-Square" provided much valuable information. It was thought, however, that if two squares gave such good gain, three should increase it still further, although the little information available seemed to indicate that it was very doubtful if much additional gain could be expected from the use of an additional element. This, of course, presented an immediate challenge, so a tri-square aerial was built to resonate at approximately 100 Mc/s, since at this frequency the array was sufficiently small to lend itself to table-top experimentation.

Fig. 1. Dimensions and mechanical details of a tri-square aerial for 28.25 mc/s. The method of fixing the oak spider blocks is shown in Fig. 2.



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Please direct all enquiries to:
"The Canadian Amateur"

A gamma match to the driven element was used. Since this provided a good impedance match irrespective of the number of elements used. A grid dip oscillator was used to drive the array, and the measurements were taken by means of a field strength meter in the room.

The following results were obtained:

Type of Aerial	F/S Meter Current Reading	Gain in db (Current)
Reference dipole	2 microamps	—
Square-driven element only.....	4 microamps	6
Square driven element with reflector....	7 microamps	10.8
Square-driven element with director....	7 microamps	10.8
Tri-Square	15 microamps	17.5

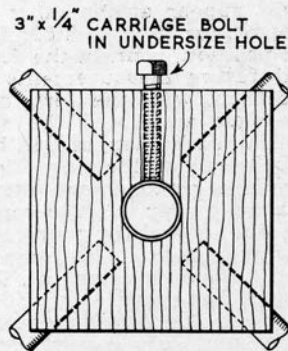


Fig. 2. Method of holding the "spiders" to the boom.

In each case the gamma match was adjusted for correct impedance, and the stubs for maximum forward gain. These results were discounted to some extent, since it was felt that some of the gain might be attributed to the presence of metallic objects in the room: nevertheless it was felt that it would be decidedly worth while to proceed with the construction of a full size 28 Mc/s version. Fig. 1 shows the dimensions and mechanical details of the beam which resonates at 28.25 Mc/s. The method of holding the "spiders" to the boom is shown in Fig. 2.

At VE3IT, the beam is supported at the approximate centre of the boom by a 1 1/4 in. steel TV mast. The aluminium tubing at the bottom of the driven element is lashed to the mast for mechanical strength, since this point is at zero r.f. potential. The top of the array is approximately 36 feet above ground.

Impedance Matching

In securing the correct impedance match from the aerial to the transmission line the writer followed a practice which has always given excellent results. The distance from the transmitter output connector to the aerial feed point in its operating position is measured, and the coaxial cable cut to the exact multiple of an electrical half wave-length at the operating frequency, which is the same as, or greater than, the distance measured. The formula for an electrical half wavelength is:

492

$$F \text{ (mc/s)} = \frac{X \text{ Velocity Factor}}{492}$$

For example, if the aerial is to resonate at 28.25 mc/s the length of an electrical half-wave in feet would be:

492

$$28.25 = \frac{X \text{ 0.66 (for RG8/U cable)}}{492}$$

28.25

This equals 11.52 ft. Hence, if the distance from the transmitter were 50 ft. it would be necessary to make the feed line 57.6 ft. long, or five half-waves. The reason for making the cable an exact number of electrical half-waves long is that a transmission line "repeats itself" every half-wave, so if the line is terminated with the resistance at one end, the same resistance will appear at the other end. Under such conditions it is possible to erect the array in position, connect the feeder, and conduct all future measurements at the operating position, with the certainty that whatever changes appear at the feed point of the aerial, such changes will be repeated at the other end of the line. This is a most convenient arrangement since it permits the station owner to sit in comparative comfort in the operating room while passing instructions as to gamma match changes, etc., to the assistant on the roof or at the top of the mast!

Using an Antennascope (CQ Magazine, June and July issues, 1954) or some other form of bridge arrangement at the end of the coaxial inside the shack, the gamma

rod length and capacitor setting is adjusted until a purely resistive load of 52 ohms (in this case) at the required operating frequency is secured. Then, with the aid of a field strength meter, the bottom stubs are adjusted for maximum forward gain, and the impedance match again checked and readjusted if required. It should be noted that the upper stubs are preset and are not touched during the tuning procedure. If maximum back-to-front ratio is desired then the help of a local amateur should be secured, the back of the beam turned towards his station while his carrier is on, and the stubs adjusted for minimum signal.

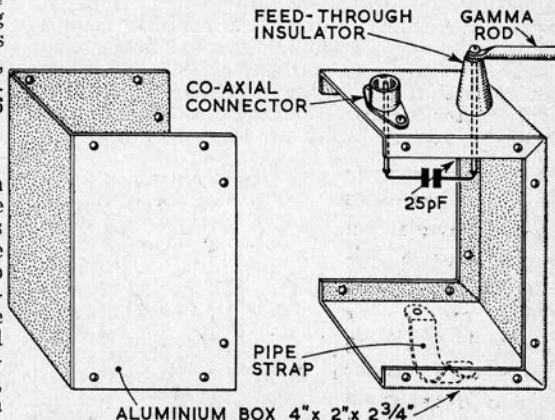


Fig. 3. Construction of the housing for the gamma match capacitor. After the impedance matching has been carried out, all joints should be covered with tape and the box sprayed with insulating varnish to make it waterproof.

The gamma match capacitor should be enclosed in a suitable waterproof box, (Fig. 3).

Results

The prototype was completed in June 1958 and erected in position. Before dismantling the two element Yagi beam, however, a current reading was taken with the field strength meter at a distance of approximately 200 feet. With an input of 50 watts to the transmitter the field strength meter read 6 microamps. After erecting the tri-square, correctly matching the impedance to the 52 ohm RG8/U coaxial, and tuning for maximum forward gain, the current reading in the field strength meter in the same position as before was 26 microamps—a current gain of 12.7db.

During the summer the reports on short skip to W4 and W5 stations, and also along the southern path to South America, including Argentina and Chile, were excellent. When the band opened early in September to Europe and New Zealand the results were even more gratifying, reports of S9 to S9 plus being common. Consistently good reports have been received from G3HCU, G5HZ, G2BB, G3IGK and G2FSP. On many occasions when CQ has been called the writer has been delighted, if somewhat embarrassed, to find as many as three British stations calling him on the same frequency.

As VE3IT is located at the London (Ontario) Airport, transmitter output is limited to 50 watts, hence the input power is kept to 50 watts so that there is no fear of overstepping the limit. Since this power is comparatively low the beam was tuned for maximum forward gain, with the result that the back-to-front ratio is not too good, but it is felt that there is no reason why it could not be tuned for maximum back-to-front ratio at some expense, of course, of forward gain.

Mention was made of the splendid help given by VE3AGV in the mechanical considerations involved in getting the beam in operating position, and in assisting with the tuning.

DEADLINE . . .

Several indentations have been made in the ole "J B" hide by clubs, spears and elephant guns, in the hands of "dead-line hunters."

They have made it quite clear that they don't like waiting a week, a day or even a minute longer than necessary for their beloved . . . Oh how well I know their feeling of frustration . . . I will never forget the first time I waited in the pouring rain for a beautiful vision . . . was it worth it? . . . well, the vision has been darnin' my socks for nigh on to 36 years!

Gathering sufficient material for one edition dedicated to one province, has been responsible for the trady arrival of your Canadian Amateur magazine. Having once decided to introduce the little journal to a different area each month until all the provinces have been covered, your editor intends to go through with the idea.

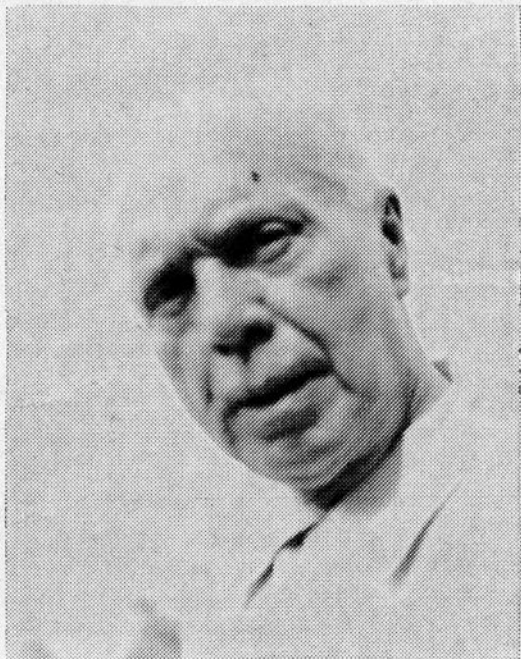
Keeping a deadline will be comparatively easy when we have settled down to the pleasant task of being a Canadian national magazine, filled with news about Canadian Amateurs everywhere.

Materials have stock-piled wonderfully, Canadians have co-operated far beyond the "call of duty" in their anxiety for the future of their little journal . . . Stop worrying kids, there is a layer of untouched, virgin material ten feet deep, solid, across our great Dominion . . . This is Canada, remember?

So quit biting your nails . . . spend some of the time so wasted in blasting your old editor. Do it the easy way . . . every morning from 7:00 to 8:30 P. D. L. T. on approximately 14185. I'll go down below 14100 if some of the C.W. boys (and gals) want to take a crack at me!

And further, you sentimental guys, (3DPO, DWN, ATU and a few others who wish to remain anonymous) dry your tears, Patricia, a shy, delicate Irish dish, has taken pity on me . . . can take dictation with green eyes . . . knows shorthand with beautiful Brunette inclined to be auburn hair . . . types 100 wpm with offers to model those ridiculous, skimpy bathing suits . . . so, that could be another reason your Canadian Amateur magazine is . . .

Canada's A.R.R.L. Director Writes



Dear John:

I thought that you and the readers of "The Canadian Amateur" would be interested in knowing that I will be attending the World I. T. U. conference at Geneva starting Aug. 17th; attached to the D. of T. as an official delegate, representing the Canadian amateurs.

This is made possible through the unanimous decision of the Board of Directors of the A.R.R.L., who will take care of all expense in connection with this trip.

I will make every effort to keep the Canadian membership informed of the proceedings as they concern amateur radio.

I enclose herewith my cheque for a subscription to The Canadian Amateur.

Wishing you every success.

Your sincerely,

Alex Reid, Canadian Director.

O.K. O.K., I'll try and get some rest, or something.

Thanks a million Cyril for your encouraging note, you are a most understanding lad. The Nova Scotia edition could only be improved in one particular . . . the editor, he appears to be awfully weak . . . but then, how many professional weight lifters are there, only four months old? Glad you have enough faith in the little effort Cyril to continue acting as our Canadian Amateur correspondent. The gang out here will try hard to justify your confidence. Say "Hi" to good old Aaron for us all.

BY Bill Skarstedt, VE2DR, S.C.M.

Traffic handling is really a very interesting and remunerating phase of our hobby. I say "remunerating" as it certainly helps to build better operators. We here in Canada have the privilege of being able to handle non-commercial third-party messages. Quite frankly, not many of the boys take advantage of it. We would like to see many more Canadian hams take an interest in the various tfc nets, whether local, regional or otherwise.

Perhaps the reason why tfc work is not too popular with the great majority is the fact that we have no trans-Canada net operating. We used to in the "good" old days, and if my memory serves me right, the interest was much greater then. Is there any reason why we could not again establish a Canadian trunk line? Unfortunately the time element always enters into such

DRAGNET . . . VE2

Rrrring . . . Oh, Oh, somebody at the door, I will have to QRT with this KX6 and answer the door.

Woow! Sorry sir, I haven't ordered any Heinz baby food. But this postman insisted that this parcel was to be delivered to my QTH.

It weighted like three pounds of air mixed with four pounds of oxygen. Gee, was I ever puzzled.

I rushed to the shack with the precious parcel. What was I going to do? Open it? Drop it or let it there? Should I call the Police or Fire Department? With 55 cents in stamps on it, this parcel was sure a strange looking one.

With the curiosity of an old DXer, I had to know what was in there.

After taking out all the issues of last year's newspapers from that parcel, I finally found something. Here it was, lying on the bottom, a dead looking 1939 catalogue with a little note on it: "Refer to page 109, your sorrows will be fulfilled."

Looking at page 109, I was "superheterodyned" when I saw an envelope with the words: "Treasure here x." Was it coming from Captain Cook (ZK1-land)? Now that I had opened the parcel I had to find the mystery.

I unsealed the envelope with great precaution and I had the biggest surprise of my life, when I found out a nice looking QSL card from VE2CQ via this joker VE2APH.

Don't laugh, this might happen to you.

Gilles Pagé, VE2ABE

calculations. When it is too early in Vancouver it may be too late in Halifax. A net operating in the 80 m. band at 10 p.m. E.S.T. would perchance overcome this difficulty, as the time in B.C. would then be 7 p.m. and in Halifax 11 p.m.

Lately, I have made it a habit to operate on approximately 14,120 kc/s at 9:30 local time (1430 G.M.T.) on Saturdays and have had the pleasure of contacting many VE districts. Excellent QSO's often materialize as the skip usually is very advantageous cross-country. I mention this fact as I would suggest a general get-together of tfc minded VE-operators on this frequency. We would then be able to exchange ideas and perhaps come to some happy conclusion for future operations. I have heard rumors of starting a Canadian net on 11 meters. While this may have merit I feel that the disadvantages may outweigh the advantages. I am referring particularly to the erratic behaviour of this band and also to the greater possibility of TVI. I also believe that our new Canadian magazine will devote some space to traffic topics and would ask you to write in and state your views on the subject. I am sure that we will be able to work out something suitable for all concerned and thus revive the lagging interest in one of the most important and rewarding phases of amateur radio.

Incidentally, I personally believe in variety. Our hobby has so many interesting channels. I don't believe that we should bury ourselves and become died-in-the-wool tfc pushers. Far from it. I get much enjoyment out of DX-ing, plain rag-chews, whether on phone or CW. To maintain full pleasure out of our hobby I believe in diversity. When you get tired of listening hour after hour trying to pick up one of those elusive missing prefixes, why don't you let up on the tension by chatting with some W-Ham, or QSY to a tfc net frequency and spend a few minutes with these fine operators. We here in Canada should be very proud of the fact that we have among us a number of excellent tfc men. They may not receive the glory of the man who is able to contact over 200 countries but in their own right they are doing a splendid job. During disaster periods it is more than likely that those contributing the most valuable service are well versed in the proper traffic procedure. Whether on phone or CW they seem to have the knack of organizing quickly and are able to handle tfc correctly and expeditiously. During contests also, many of the leading operators can thank their tfc handling experience for their prowess in being able to place ahead of their fellow hams.

Give it a thought fellows.

VE2BG, Mr. Tom Letts of Longueuil

One of VE2's more fabulous and outstanding Hams is Tommy Letts, VE2BG, of Longueuil. He is really an Old Timer, having been active on the air for over fifty years. He became a professional radio worker when with the DeForest Company, which he joined in 1904. In 1907 he joined the Hydro-Quebec Company and was with them for 45 years, retiring only in 1952. In 1907 Tom became a Ham and created quite a few firsts. He was the first Canadian ham to work Holland. (PCII) He also takes credit for being the first Amateur Phone Station in Canada. His C.W. Transmitter was the first operated in Montreal by an Amateur. During his fifty years as an Amateur, he has communicated with such groups as the Byrd Expedition in Antarctica and with the crew of the Graf

Zeppelin, who he also visited at their mooring in Montreal. He made a habit of contacting the Manchester Lines' Ships on their way to and from Montreal.

Mr. Letts started off with a spark transmitter and a home-built receiver. As time went on rotary spark gaps, Q valves and 202's were all tried with varying results. Then around 1948 he had a 250TL tube in the final, 809's in the modulator with a full wave antenna fed $\frac{3}{4}$ wave from the end, 180 watts input. The receiver now was a Marconi CSR-54. Nowadays modern and fine equipment puts out a very fine signal from VE2BG.

Long years before the Montrealers had Television, Tom operated a television receiver which had been given him by one of his friends who couldn't make it work. It had a very tiny picture in a very large set and fascinated Tommy. The one and only television transmitter, that was sometimes in operation in Montreal, now and then used to send Tom a special broadcast using the thumb and nose language, knowing very well that Tommy would be sitting in front of his receiver.

In May 1958, the South Shore Amateur Radio Club and the Montreal Amateur Radio Club had a special Hamfest one evening to honour Tommy's record of over fifty years on the air and presented him with an engraved silver stein. Then in September, 1958, the Montreal Amateur Radio Club presented him with a life membership. This was only the second life Membership to be presented by the Montreal Club. The first one was presented to Dean William Meredith, Dean of McGill Faculty of Law. Dean Meredith is better known to his ham friends as Bill, VE2HM.

Tom has friends all over the world, many of whom he has never seen. Tom is on the air every day and gets a very great deal of pleasure from his hobby. Perhaps some of his best enjoyment comes from teasing his very special friend, Alex Reid, VE2BE. As a retired person or P.L. (professional loafer) Tom keeps in daily touch with his many friends and thoroughly enjoys his hobby. He still is fascinated by television and keeps up with the sports and some of his favorite programs. Of course if he can get a good joke off onto VE3BE that tops everything.

Tom's brother Ralph is also a ham and can almost equal Tom as an old-timer and as an outstanding ham who has had some wonderful experiences. To sum up, the air-waves around Montreal would never be quite as interesting or pleasant if the signals were not forthcoming from station VE2BG.

Ethel Pick, VE2HI

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