

QUINTE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P. O. Box 292, Belleville ON K8N 5A2

Q. R. M.

M E E T I N G

DATE: Wednesday, March 17, 1993
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Room P1 Pioneer Building
Loyalist College
PROGRAM: Lee Jourard will speak on
Communications

This is a reprint from The Toronto Sun of January 30, 1993.

Let me tell you about the strange mysterious double-life my husband has been leading.

By day he is the mild-mannered Dave--loving husband, devoted father, computer wizard for the Sun and all around nice guy.

But by night and on weekends my normally quiet Dr. Jekyll turns into a mysterious Mr. Hyde.

That's when he becomes Victor Echo Three Sierra Victor Lima, amateur radio enthusiast, habitue of the shortwave frequencies and perennial electronic tinker.

Amateur radio enthusiasts are a breed unto themselves. They speak in their own cryptic language, enforce their own rigid rules of etiquette and take immense pride in the speed of their Morse code and the strength of their signal.

Let other men display their virility by driving fast cars or pumping iron, hams take pride in a well-hung antenna, so to speak. Even in these liberated times, ham radio is a male dominated hobby with only a handful of female hams.

At any rate, antenna envy can lead a man to desperate measures.

During December's huge snowstorm for example, while I fretted that a tree might topple and send hydro wires crashing down into the yard, my husband kept running outside -- to check on his aerial.

After the storm finally subsided, he insisted on scrambling up to the roof in freezing weather to restore the drooping antenna to its full majesty.

For several months, friends stopped visiting us, mainly because

my husband constantly press-ganged our dinner guests into clambering across the steep roof of our two-story house in search of the perfect place to anchor the antenna.

My nephew, James, was suckered twice. The first mission was to secure an antenna atop the garage, which proved to be no problem. But poor James made the mistake of returning again and ended up scaling the side of the house to the roof.

Just when he thought it was safe to come back for a visit, a guy wire came loose and his services were commandeered once again. James doesn't visit very often these days. And when he does he wears hiking boots.

One of the first rules of amateur radio is that you should never, ever, under any circumstances confuse it Citizens Band. Got that? Okay, you can read on.

Hams consider themselves the aristocrats of the airwaves (must be those big antennae) and take great offence if they're confused with those CB "plebes."

The art of amateur radio has changed a great deal since the early years when an exceptional proficiency in Morse code was required in order to get a licence. These days, Morse is only required for operators transmitting on the long-distance high frequencies. Operators don't need to know Morse to transmit locally.

And while the communications revolution and the advent of cellular phones have certainly changed the face of world-wide communications, amateur radio is still the only reliable method when disaster strikes and power and telephone lines are knocked out.

When a cyclone hit American Samoa last year, for example, one amateur radio operator maintained the island's only link with the outside world. In fact, he kept the whole of the southwest Pacific in touch, keeping up communication with a group of operators in New Zealand. He was so successful that the military came to him afterwards to ask him how he'd done it.

At the height of the five-day tempest, the governor of Samoa, the

Australian embassy and the military all relied on him for communication. He kept his rig running with an emergency generator and batteries.

Most serious hams believe their licence gives them not just the right to transmit, but a responsibility to serve in times of need. Amateur radio operators keep disaster networks in place all the time, just in case.

After the Barrie tornado several years back, hams were the first means of communication to come back on the air. Their assistance was so speedy, so well-organized and efficient, that as a reward the province dropped the price of special ham radio licence plates.

The world of amateur radio is as esoteric as it is complex. And the language defies explanation.

"Fine business," is a phrase most commonly used, mainly because it means anything you want it to. It can mean "hello," as in "Fine business. My name is Dave, VE3SVL," or it can be an acknowledgment that you have understood something. As in "Fine business. I'm glad the weather on Easter Island is good."

And for some reason, "73" means good-bye, not just in, "Well 73-over and out," but in, "Well, I'll just say my 73s for now and back to you."

Then there's "saltmines" for place of work. No explanation needed, I guess. But what's this "XYL" business which refers to wives? (The husbands of the few female hams are referred to as "OMs" but that's easy. It stands for "Old Man.")

When he isn't calling Peru or Tierra del Fuego or Isreal or Christmas Island or tuning in to the Space Shuttle's amateur radio operator, my husband can be heard yacking with his local pals on the two metres frequency on his portable FM rig.

And while most people would find it odd to have "friends" you never see, that is part of the attraction of amateur radio. After years of overhearing the same voices, I feel as if I've known "Moe" and "Jordon" and "Willy" all my life. They shoot the breeze each morning on the way to the "saltmines," and pass along snippets of information they've picked up or tidbits of ham gossip

they've heard on the airwaves.

They're a patchwork of personalities, with little in common except the same droll, understated sense of humour and an ability to talk intelligently on just about any topic - a talent, no doubt acquired because of their constant communication with a broad range of people.

One of the most endearing things about amateur radio operators is their meticulous care in avoiding vulgar or obscene language on the air. Serious hams abhor any kind of foul language or risqué material. And they are vigilant with others who flirt too closely to the line. Concern for the sensitivities of others often borders on the extreme. I actually heard one operator ask his listeners to "pardon the expression," when he announced to anyone listening that he had, "fallen on his fanny."

Serious hams are also scrupulous about ethics.

Most were shocked by the recent "Squidgy," tapes, purported to have been recorded by a British operator who taped Princess Dianna's private conversation with her close friend James Gilbey.

Reports that the operator had a tape recorder handy to his radio raised hackles with many hams. While it is not illegal to tape such a conversation, it is illegal to disclose what's been heard. And they say that unless the operator was following one of the callers around in a car, it is an incredible coincidence that a ham would accidentally tune in to a conversation on one frequency and then also quite by accident know exactly which frequency to tune to in order to record the other half of the same conversation, all the while clutching a tape recorder.

They suspect the public hasn't been told the whole story and that the entire incident reeks of a set-up.

One of the most recent innovations in transmissions is packet radio. This is a method of communication that is not for the technologically faint of heart, since it uses radio to transmit messages

from computer to computer.

My husband sends and receives messages around the world in this fashion, and recently received a pathetic plea from a beleaguered operator in Bosnia, describing the horrendous conditions in that state.

Such innovations in radio technology also allowed an operator to transmit undetected from Baghdad to the outside world during the war in the Persian Gulf.

On the lighter side, I was cooking dinner the other day when Dave took a break from his electronic fiddling and asked what was on the menu.

"Baked ham," I said innocently.

"Oh, shot back Dave, "What's his call sign?"

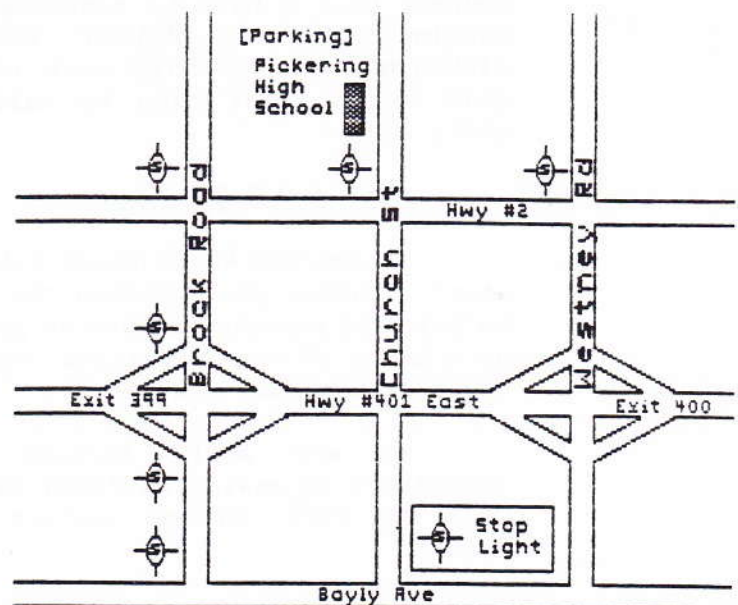
Very funny, David. Obviously it's time we said our 73s

Over and out.....

PICKERING FLEA MARKET

Remember the Pickering Flea Market will be held on Saturday April 3, 1993. The cost of admission is the same as last year \$5.00 per person. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. The market will be held at the Pickering High School on Church St. Vendors tables are \$12.00 per 6ft. + Admission. For vendors the doors open at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are sent to:

South Pickering A.R.C.
P.O. Box 53
Pickering, ON
L1V 2R2



Dear fellow radio amateurs:

For every active organization, change is a basic fact of life.

My tenure as ARES EC for Hastings County has extended over 5 years now. It is time for a change. Please note that my resignation as EC will take effect on 30 June 1993, the end of Q.A.R.C. fiscal year, or as soon as my replacement is found.

I assure you all that I will hand over all the documentary material I have accumulated, and that I will back up the person who volunteers to replace me to the fullest extent of my ability.

It is with pleasure that I advise you that Don Davenport VE3BPL, has agreed to take over as Emergency Services Chairman at Quinte Branch of the Red Cross Society.

I had anticipated that Don might assume the EC Job, but his responsibilities prevent this, and he has taken up the Red Cross job instead.

Having Don at the Red Cross will assure that our close liaison there will continue.

It is vital that all of the Q.A.R.C. get busy and come up with a volunteer to take over as EC for Hastings County South.

Sincerely
John A. Lester
VE3MB
E.C.

**** SILENT KEY ****

It is with great personal sadness that I have to announce the passing of Earl Wilson VE3TYQ. Although Earl was only with us in QARC for a short time he will be sadly missed.

P A C K E T News

Al Smardon VE3OX would like to start a packet group within the QARC to help and promote the use of packet as a means of communications. Anyone interested please contact Al.

We are still looking for volunteers to assist in Field Day in June of 1993. Please contact Len VE3ASR.

The club is still looking for members to form a committee to organise a celebration to commemorate Fifty years of the QARC. anyone interested please contact a member of the executive.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome three new members to the QARC. They are Craig Smith VE3FZA, Rob Rolfe VE3LYV, and Minne Hovinga VE3VOA

The following will be of assistance to all hams who are trying to learn their Morse Code.

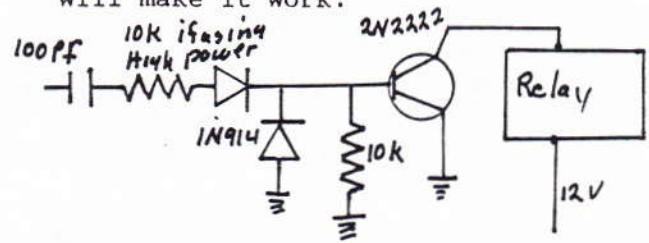
Morse code Transmissions
Frequencies are: 1.818, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, and 147.555 MHz.

Slow code 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13, 15
Fast code 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13, 10

Code practice text is from the pages of QST. The source is given at the beginning of each session.

WIAW schedule								
East	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	UTC
9 am			Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code		1400
10 am			Code Bulletin					1500
11 am			Teleprinter Bulletin					1600
noon								1700
1 pm			Visiting Operator Time					1800
2 pm								1900
3 pm								2000
4 pm	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	2100
5 pm			Code Bulletin					2200
6 pm			Teleprinter Bulletin					2300
7 pm	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	0000
8 pm			Code Bulletin					0100
9 pm			Teleprinter Bulletin					0200
9 ⁴⁵ pm			Voice Bulletin					0245
10 pm	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	0300
11 pm			Code Bulletin					0400
Mdnte			Teleprinter Bulletin					0500
12 ⁴⁵ am			Voice Bulletin					0545

For those of the members who tried to build the relay system to remove the Strip Line filter on transmit here is the correction that will make it work.



QUINTE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Income Statement
July 1 1992 to Mar 10 1993

Income

Membership fees	995.00
Directory Sales	180.00
Training Course	787.00
Bank Interest	8.60
50/50 Draw	45.00
Donations	240.00
Name Tags	5.00

Total Income	2260.60

Expenses

Office Supplies	10.50
Benevolence	203.89
Door Prizes	184.71
Training Course	660.30
Field Day	21.75
Newsletter	995.07
Ham & Eggs	26.78
Insurance	270.00
Packet	219.43
Name Tags	78.21
Summerfest	69.82
Mall Display	91.37
Equipment Purchase	532.01
Incorporation Fees	215.00
Liscence	23.00

Total Expenses	3601.84

Net Loss of Income -1341.24

Bank balance as of July 1, 1992	2311.83
plus total income	2260.60
minus total expenses	3601.84
equals bank balance as of June 30 1992	970.59

Balance in Awards Fund account is 292.10

*APR 15
ere*

FOX HUNT
MAR 27