

# North Shore Amateur Radio Club

## ~ SPARKS ~

December, 1994

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### Special Holiday Edition



Holiday greetings to one and all, and warmest wishes for the New Year! We trust that this festive time brings happiness to Amateur Radio friends ~ not just to our in our own, little club, but to the multitude who share this fascinating hobby with us across this country and across the world.

We sometimes get so wrapped up in local concerns and rag-chewing on the nearest repeater that we can forget the amazing power of Amateur Radio to build friendships through the simple medium of communication. Heaven knows that our world -- and even our own country -- could use more of the friendly dialogue that we hams enjoy every day. The two parties in a QSO may have different cultures, different religious and political views; but mutual love of the same hobby can make buddies out of people who would otherwise seem to have very little in common.

Let our hope for the New Year be that more people in this troubled world will learn to share in the spirit of friendly dialogue that those of us who are privileged to know this hobby often take for granted!



# A Visit from St. Nicholas

(with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore) by John Edgar, VE7DLT

**T**was the night before Christmas, and down in the shack

I was tuning the bands before hitting the sack;  
The Heath catalogue lay by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The kid was settled all snug in his bed,  
While visions of CB slang rang through his head;  
And mamma in her kerchief had long been asleep,  
While I worked some DX that just wouldn't keep;  
When out on the lawn there arose such a racket,  
I thought sure the tower had broken a bracket.  
Upstairs to the window I flew like a flash,  
Looking to see what had caused such a crash.  
The moon, as it hung in the sky, all aglow,  
Made it easy to see the antennas below;  
What should I see draped o'er the 2-meter beam  
But a miniature sleigh and an eight-reindeer team,  
With a little, old driver, his hat all askew,  
Who cursed them all roundly 'til the air turned to blue.  
He got them untangled, and onward they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;  
"Now Kenwood! now Collins! now Heathkit and Yaesu!  
On, Atlas! on, Drake! on Icom and Trio!  
Watch out for the dipole there by the wall!  
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away. dash away all!"  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With a sleigh full of toys -- and St. Nicholas, too.  
And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof  
The shingles all cracking 'neath each tiny hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and cracked it on the sash,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a crash.  
He smelled like a reindeer from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
And bundle of toys he had slung on his back,  
And he looked liked he'd come from the Radio Shack.  
His eyes hardly focused! He'd had far too much sherry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;  
All in all he seemed to have quite a glow,  
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.  
A dollar cigar he had stuck in his face,  
And he'd soon scattered ashes all over the place.  
He had a broad face, and a little, round gut  
That shook, when he laughed, like he was some kind of nut.  
He was chubby and plump -- he was jolly alright,  
And I laughed, when I saw him, the rest of the night.  
A blink of his eyes and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know he would like something red.  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying five fingers along side his snoot,  
He rose up the chimney -- before I gave him the boot.  
He reeled to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like a misguided missile;  
But I heard him exclaim, when no more I could see,  
**"Merry Christmas to all, and to all Seven Three!"**



## New Informal "Net" on HF

A group of club members and friends are getting together almost every night of the week around 21:30 hours local time on 3.740 MHz or thereabouts. Anyone interested in checking in with this informal group is most welcome to do so.

## NSARC Acquires Packet Repeater VE3USH

NSARC has officially purchased the VE3USH packet repeater from its former owner, VA3KC.

The packet repeater committee consists of its Chairman, Harden, VE3VGI; Bob VE3LLE; and Laird, VE3LKS.

## SWAP SHOP

By Walter Beach, VE3FJC  
tel. 263-2338

Please direct all Swap Shop business to Walter by landline, repeater, or on packet at VA3BBS.

### For Sale: Joe, VE3FVH

2-m antennas (2 units) KLM long-boomers, 13 LBA. \$100 each.  
70 cm J-beam antenna, MBM 88 element, \$100.

### For Sale: Mike (905) 686-9894 (after 5 PM)

Yaesu FT7479x all band HF transceiver c/w pyramid 35a power supply. Purchased in Oct. 89, hasn't been used in 3 years. \$950  
Icom IC-245 2m transceiver with 3a power supply. Also has IC rm2 digital keypad. 10w output. \$125  
Daiwa IA-2065 2m linear amplifier 10w to 50w. \$150  
Oskeblock all band SWR meter. \$50  
MFJ 901 manual antenna tuner. \$50  
Heathkit micromatic keyer/sender. \$65  
Heathkit IO-103 oscilloscope (old model) \$50

### For Sale: Peter, VA3XTL (905) 655-5180

Yaesu 2-m handheld, FT208R, with PA3 car charger, NC-9B wall charger, YM24 spkr-mike, 2 batteries, Immaculate for \$200  
Realistic 200 channel scanner, Model Pro 2022, with 800 chip installed, \$200  
Archer Discone Scanner Antenna with handbook  
\$50 Marine Radio, Uniden President MC520, \$100

### For Sale: Walter, VE3FJC (905) 263-2338

Realistic ham radio receiver, AX190. Solid state, analog dial, 10m to 80 m, "brand new". \$150  
Commodore 64, keyboard, disk drive, green monitor. P/S and cables. \$100 or trade.

### For Sale: Len, VE3LDR (905) 723-6970

Yaesu FRG 100 General Coverage Receiver. Still Under warranty! \$550.00

## Amateur Radio in Canada Threatened by Legislation

If the EMCAB-2 legislation that has been in effect since June is allowed to stand, it could be the end of our hobby as we have known it. Read the Editor's Notes reproduced from the *Canadian Amateur Radio Magazine*: if you don't get mad, apply for sainthood. A sample letter from the RAC that each one of us can send to our members of parliament protesting this legislation is attached.

Those who can afford it are urged to join the **Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)** to help add the weight of numbers, and financial support, to this fight. Information about RAC and an application form are enclosed as part of this issue.



**Dear Member of Parliament:**

I hold an Amateur Radio Licence issued through Industry Canada.

In early June of this year, Industry Canada released a document entitled, "Criteria for the Resolution of Immunity Complaints Involving Fundamental Emissions of Radiocommunications Transmitters." This document, called EMCAB-2, was issued as an Electromagnetic Compatibility Advisory Bulletin.

This bulletin places no onus on manufacturers for any responsibility in manufacturing electronic equipment, when it is used in proximity to radio transmitting equipment. On the other hand, licensed transmitter owners comply with stringent federal regulations for use of the radio spectrum as a resource. It is only prudent responsibility to do so.

EMCAB-2 ignores the inconvenience to the consumer and the transmitter owner when a complaint occurs and obligates them to resolve an issue, when it is clearly the responsibility of the manufacturer to ensure its equipment is properly designed.

EMCAB-2 alludes to international standards which are not yet in effect and simply, by implication, assumes that such standards will come into force. I believe the Advisory Bulletin will be subject to wide misinterpretation. It complicates its actual purpose because it lacks even a methodology of measurement.

You should be aware that the European Community has begun a proper approach to resolving 80% of these problems by mandating that all electronic equipment must meet some specified level of immunity (rejection) of radio transmitter energy. This will preclude importation unless these standards are met. Why should Canadians accept sub-standard designs?

More than 42,000 licensed radio amateurs in all parts of Canada and countless individuals who reside in close proximity to radio transmitters could be affected by EMCAB-2. We request that this document be rescinded and withdrawn and that the first step toward resolving immunity problems be technically addressed by manufacturers. Responsible engineering design by manufacturers would obviate the need for EMCAB-2.

Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

cc: The Honourable John P. Manley, P.C.  
Minister of Industry

# Editor's Notes . . .

ROB LUDLOW, VE3YE



## Fight EMCAB-2 now!

**The Canadian Amateur** is published in Canada 11 times per year to provide Radio Amateurs, those interested in radio communications and electronics, and the general public with information related to the science of telecommunications.

Unsolicited articles, reviews, features, criticisms, photographs and essays are welcomed. Manuscripts should be legible and include the contributor's name and address.

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The notoriously flawed and discriminatory EMCAB-2 document (Electromagnetic Compatibility Advisory Bulletin – formerly TRC-86) from Industry Canada (IC) has been in effect since June and it will stay that way unless you take action.

A crucial IC statement of technical criteria to be used in resolving interference cases, it is a cold, blunt instrument waiting to shut your station down.

If you are tired of hearing about it, you should get interested now. This is a serious issue affecting your ability to operate as you have always taken it for granted.

It is not an exaggeration to say that it is the biggest threat Canadian amateurs have ever faced. If you value your rights and privileges as a radio amateur, and if you are proud of amateur radio's decades of research, dedication, experimentation and public service, you will act on this issue.

The RFI field strength thresholds cited in EMCAB-2 are ill-considered, unreasonable, unrealistic and could impose severe restrictions on normal operations.

IC admits that the controversial level of 3.16 V/m (volts per metre) for "radio-sensitive equipment" is approximately equal to 100 watts output (regardless of frequency) at a distance of 10 metres. That could affect just about everyone except QRP operators.

The level is even lower, 1.83 V/m, for broadcast receivers, video and audio tape recorders, CD and record players, cable converters and audio amplifiers.

EMCAB-2 stipulates that if the signal level exceeds these field strength values on the premises of the affected equipment, the transmission is the cause of the problem.

For comparative purposes, here are some sample RF field strength values measured by the US Federal Communications Commission and Environmental Protection Agency:

- 120 watts into a dipole at 7-13 feet on 40 metres: up to 150 V/m measured 1-2m from the earth.
- 140 watts into a roof-mounted vertical on 20 metres: 6-9 V/m measured in the home.
- 425 watts into a 3-element yagi at 25 feet on 10 metres: 8-12 V/m measured 12m from the base.
- 500 watts into a 5-element yagi at 20 feet on 6 metres: 37-50 V/m measured 10m from the

antenna.

Do these seem like normal operating conditions? This affects *all* of us. Imagine how much RF would be needed to exceed the 1-3 V/m level.

IC concedes that EMCAB-2 could force an amateur to increase antenna height or reduce power in the direction of an affected neighbour.

What RI will be able to resist the easy temptation to shut a station down, or enforce QRP power levels, if neighbours demand action to solve interference problems with their "radio-sensitive" TVs, stereos, VCRs and telephones?

EMCAB-2 is an arbitrary, one-sided, political solution to a technical problem. It unfairly pits amateurs against their consumer-neighbours while the government abdicates its responsibility to hold manufacturers to a higher technical standard.

As with many issues in our modern, international world, EMCAB-2 subjugates the rights of some to the interests of the few – and they are powerful, commercial interests, part of the trend toward globalization and international "harmony."

It is a simple issue of politics and power. The influential home entertainment industry profits at our expense with the complicity of a seemingly complacent government.

We cannot be complacent. If you believe your individual right to radiate RF unchecked is eternal and sacrosanct, it is time for a reality check.

If you have never written a letter to a politician or minister before, now is the time. It has never been more important to express your views to legislators on the importance of amateur radio and the manifest unfairness of EMCAB-2.

Please, consider carefully your response and approach to the suggested letter and points raised elsewhere in this issue of *TCA*.

How much time do you spend hamming? How much time is it worth to you to protect and preserve that delightful privilege?

Please, take whatever time is necessary to express your views and mail (postage free) or fax your views to your local MP and Industry Canada Minister John Manley and force this onto their agenda.

There is strength in numbers. Your voice *does* count and politicians *do* listen to well-reasoned, arguments and expressions of concern. Public servants *do* respond to political will, which is shaped by public input.

Have your say, and please do it today! ♦

## Subscribe to The Canadian Amateur

Each month *The Canadian Amateur*, Canada's national Amateur Radio magazine, brings you news and views on the Ham scene from coast-to-coast. Our special feature articles put you in touch with other Amateurs and their activities, and our regular columns give you a detailed look at the many different facets of this unique form of communication.

Add to this our Technical Articles, Swap Shop, Social Events and Editorials, and you have full coverage of Canadian Amateur Radio operating ... the serious side and the fun side. Your subscription to the Canadian Amateur automatically enrolls you as a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada, Inc., and gives you access to all of RAC's membership privileges.

If you are not already a subscriber, SUBSCRIBE TODAY! using the handy form below and send it to:

### RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA INC.

Administrative Office  
P.O. Box 356, Kingston, ON  
K7L 4W2

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All payments in Canadian funds.  
Payment must accompany application form.*

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Families may join RAC by paying the basic fee of \$36.00 per year, plus \$19.00 for each additional person who wishes to use the services of the organization. (One copy of the magazine per family membership.) Please include the extra names and callsigns with the application. Prices include GST. Multiple year purchases will be accepted to a maximum of three years into the future.

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Assistant directors vacant

### NEW QSL BUREAU ADDRESS

Please note that the RAC Outgoing QSL Bureau address has been changed to:

RAC Outgoing QSL Bureau  
P.O. Box 3329  
Morinville AB T8R 1S2

This is a change from the old address of Bag 5000, Morinville. Please do not use Bag 5000 any longer. Note: The Outgoing Bureau is for use by RAC members only.

The Incoming Bureau is for use by all amateurs and it forwards cards to provincial incoming bureaus. You must make your own arrangements with your provincial incoming bureau. The main incoming bureau address remains the same:

RAC Incoming QSL Bureau  
Box 51  
Saint John NB E2L 3X1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Canada only) \$900<sup>00</sup>

TOTAL


*The following award-winning story was written by  
**Barbara Ann Taylor**, the bride of VE3FRM. The  
story was printed in the Port Perry Snooze Dec. 20/83.*

## The Meaning of Christmas

Here we are in the middle of an economic depression with the most important holiday season of the year upon us. Many parents are looking upon it with dread and the children are anticipating that magic morning when they jump out of bed and find Santa has come and gone leaving all kinds of goodies with them.

The television stations and stores started their campaign for Christmas even before Hallowe'en was over with. The Sears Christmas Wish Book has been dog-eared since it was received in September. Enough Christmas lists have been made to fill a book. The tinsel and plastic trimmings are ready to put on the artificial tree. Parents are rushing around doing their Christmas shopping, but with very little Christmas cheer, wishing the day would either not come, or it was over and done with. They are more concerned with how they will put the latest electronic game under the tree, when they know the children have it pictured there already.

I can well remember my early Christmases, when the time was more relaxed. There wasn't the fad of electronic games and designed jeans. I was delighted to receive a few hand made clothes secretly sewn by my mother in the wee hours of the morning. I remember the freshly-painted doll house, painstakingly crafted by my grandfather and smuggled into the house after I was asleep.

Homemade fudge, candy apples and popcorn were the culinary delights found in the Christmas stocking. Christmas cake was not bought in a store, but it was baked in the crispy days of autumn and was christened with a touch of brandy -- but only after sampling by Grandpa to test if all was well. The Christmas goose would pace nervously in the barn yard, almost knowing that this would be his one and only Christmas. The Yuletide tree would be chosen by me one week hence, and with a

nod of approval, grandpa would fell it with a few sharp blows of his axe. It would then be dragged home across the snow-covered fields, Grandpa wheezing at the fore and me running along behind, picking up the pine cones that had fallen. These would later adorn the tree after being painted red and green. Decorations would be spun from popcorn, silver paper and beads. Mother would carefully unwrap the few coloured glass globes from their boxes stored in the attic. What lovely things they were, displaying all the colours of the rainbow and filling my young eyes with excitement. The tree would become the center of conversation when friends and relatives came calling. Many a voice would be spent and memories tried as long-forgotten carols were sung around the parlour stove. Eggnog, cookies and Christmas cake would revive parched throats and bring on more songs.

Grandpa's radio, which to me was very sacred, held an exalted position in our family life, and stood majestically in a hallowed corner of our dining room. Throughout the year its batteries were used very sparingly, and I presume their cost was a King's ransom. Grandpa would turn it on precisely when the farm news began, and abruptly off at the end. However, during the Christmas season I was allowed the patronage of its high technology. Stretching out on a blanket between it and the warm kitchen stove, like a worshipping subject, I became bewitched by its magical powers. Christmas carols sung by what sounded like a host of heavenly angels filled my ears, and Santa's voice, kind and full of joviality, filled my little heart with happiness and anticipation.

Those are the Christmases I remember, cherish and try to imitate today. Christmas is what we wish it to be. To some it is a computer under the tree or a trip to Florida. To others it may be a religious experience sprinkled with visitations of friends and relatives. The calm and tranquility that can be shared is almost mystical. Whatever you wish Christmas to mean, let it be just that. Don't be like our Christmas goose in the barn yard.



# THE BACK PAGE

## Club Meetings

NSARC meetings are the **second Monday** of each month. We meet at the Arts and Resource Center in Oshawa on Queen Street (except during July and August.) Meetings begin promptly at 19:30 hours local time. SWLs, visitors and guests are always most welcome to attend!

### Try Solving the "Toughest Puzzle of All"

One a train, Smith, Robinson and Jones are fireman, brakeman and engineer, but not respectively. Also aboard are three businessmen who have the same names: A Mr. Smith, a Mr. Robinson, and a Mr. Jones.

1. Mr. Robinson lives in Detroit.
2. The brakeman lives exactly halfway between Chicago and Detroit.
3. Mr. Jones earns exactly \$20,000 per year.
4. The brakeman's nearest neighbour, one of the passengers, earns exactly three times as much as the brakeman.
5. Smith beats the fireman at billiards.
6. The passenger with the same name as the brakeman lives in Chicago.

So ... Who is the engineer?

(There is no "catch" in this puzzle, and the answer will be published in the January newsletter. Have fun and enjoy!--Peter, VE3ZZV)

### North Shore Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 171  
Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 7L1

Club Events Station: VE3NSR

Repeaters: 2 m VE3OSH 147.120 MHz (+)  
70 cm VE3NAA 443.000 MHz (+)  
packet VE3USH 144.970 MHz (+)

## Net and Code Practice

Club net every **Thursday** at **19:30** hours local time, with CW practice (starting slow and working up) at 20:30. More net for the night owls starting at 21:30.

## Late News Flash! New Executive for 1995

NSARC' welcomes its new officers for the 1995 calendar year, and thanks these people for the substantial time and effort that goes with accepting these positions. Last names and phone numbers when available! Watch for the January issue.

- President: Peter, VE3ZZV 655-5180
- Vice President: Steve, VE3SBD 571-4716
- Treasurer: Earl, VE3VGK 725-5606
- Program Director: Steve, VE3SHB 435-0858
- Secretary: George, VE3UEH 432-1368

Happy  
New  
Year!