

?? May 1968

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

The May meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club was held in the Civil Defence Building on Waterloo Street with the meeting getting under way at 8:20 pm. Vice President Bill Klemacki - VE3EEW was in the Chair, and there were 16 present.

Following the roll call, the minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Considerable discussion was held on the increase in amateur license fees.

There is now full insurance on the HW-12A and the Secretary is in possession of the policy.

A transmitter hunt has been scheduled for June 2.

Les Harris - VE3AYZ read a letter he has received from Mr. Cec. Partington (formerly VE3WH and now) in Winnipeg. Cec. was a founding member of the L.A.R.C.

The 1968 Field Day Chairman is Bill Goodfellow - VE3GOD (622-2559) with the exercise to take place on June 22-23.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Following the meeting, the members went on a tour of the picture tube remanufacturing plant of Mahon Electric in Fort William. Thanks goes to Ray Forslund - VE3EDZ for arranging the visit for us and to Frank Guarasci of Mahon Electric. (See report below.)

Signed:

Robert Browning - VE3EEM
Secretary Treasurer

Present (from June 1968 High-Q):

Kim Fernie - VE3EFW
Wolfe Boggs - VE3EFV
Les Harris - VE3AYZ
Jim "JC" Bailey - VE3DGZ
Ray Forslund - VE3EDZ
Ed Babudro - VE3ECU
Barrie Walker - VE3EES
Stan Chorley - VE3ECR

Robert Browning - VE3EEM
Bill Klemacki - VE3EEW
Frank Start - VE3AJ
Reg Corbett
Harold Muller
Adolph Karasiewicz
Bill Bartley

Mahon Electric Visit Report

The evening concluded with a visit to the Mahon Electric facilities in Fort William, to observe the technique of picture tube rebuilding. This is quite a process, with technician Frank Guarasci, spending most of his working day at this particular task.

The process begins by cutting the neck of the tube with a heated wire, but not immediately broken off, in order to allow the air to slowly fill the vacuum in the tube. After air has filled the vacuum, the neck is broken off and the inside is washed out.

The next step makes use of a rotary device that spins the tube as a new neck is welded on. Oxy-acetylene is used here with a very small flame. As soon as the glass is soft, the two pieces are forced together and the joint is smoothed with a spatula. The result is an almost invisible joint. The neck is then cut to length.

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A new gun is then welded onto the neck. This gun has a small pipe extending out the end through which the vacuum is created.

The trickiest part of the process is next. A high-vacuum pump and an oven are employed to create the vacuum and seal the tube. This is a two hour job. The tube is then removed from the oven to cool. If the bulb cools too quickly, an implosion can occur, as can be attested to by Frank, who has the scars to prove it.

The next step is the firing of the Getter, which removes any impurities remaining in the tube. A 27 MHZ transmitter is used, and it looks real "home-brew". After this the tube is ready for use, except for the addition of the tube base, which is octal, and merely soldered to the wire leads of the new gun.

This little-known industry has been in operation for a year or so and is helping to provide new picture tubes to the local TV trade. About four tubes can be done in a day.

Many thanks to Frank Guarasci, Mahon Electric and Ray Forslund - VE3EDZ who made the arrangements for this interesting visit.

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