

THE SHAMPOO BOTTLE AUTOMATIC SAFETY GUST CONTROL ALARM

by Gerry King, VE3GK

A gusty wind is the most dangerous and destructive type of condition that exists in a sudden storm. I made up the following back-up circuit that automatically lowers my tower in high, gusty winds. The mechanism is quite simple and you should have fun building the thing. You don't have to have a motorized tower. You might have a most favoured beam heading for high winds and could use this as a warning alarm.

MATERIALS

The plastic shampoo bottle is about 3 inches in diameter and about 7 inches long. It's glued to the end of the 1/4 inch dowel, about 4 feet above the mounting block. The micro-switch support is held by threaded 1/4 inch rods about 2 feet above the base. Measurements indicated here are for this particle installation and might be quite different with other situations. Turn your imagination loose, design your own and have fun!

CALIBRATION

The following method was used to calibrate the device. My son offered his 4x4 truck as a moving

in spring sensitive and travel distance. However it's good enough for this application.

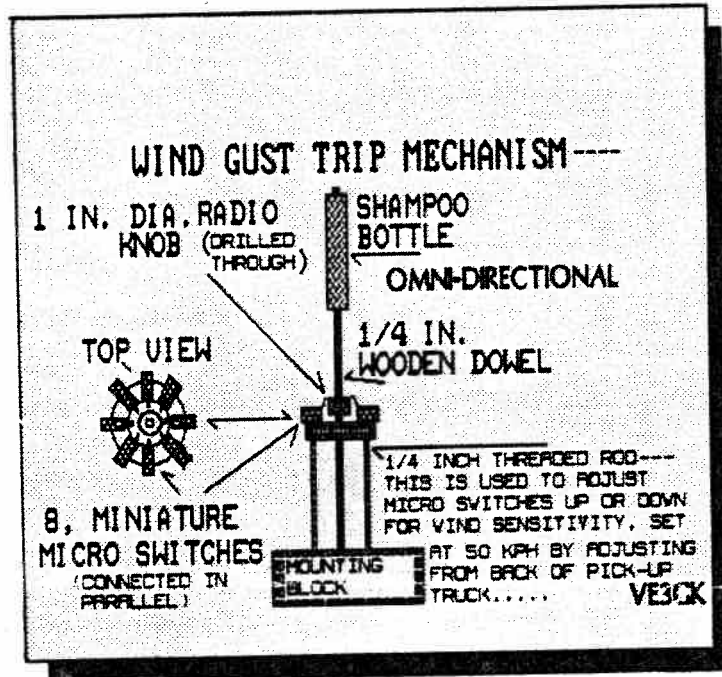
It's hard to gauge the wind if you are not concentrating on it,

and there have been times when I have been careless. It's neat, in a sudden wind storm, to hear the motor start, bringing the tower down.

The micro-switches were picked up at a flea market in Smiths Falls.

Shown on page 6 is a self-latching circuit that incorporates inexpensive surplus components that I purchased at flea markets.

When one of the micro-switches in closed momentarily from a wind gust, the coil energises and pulls up it's own latching contact, completing the circuit. The other contact is in parallel with the down control switch winch motor. The circuit is shut down when the tower cable contacts the down limit micro-switch at the pre-set nesting



platform. We calibrated the set-up for an arbitrary 50 KPH wind factor. He drove his pick-up truck at 50 KPH on a relatively windless day with yours truly in the back. I stood up in the back of the truck and adjusted the height of the micro switches above the support block until the switches operated. The height settings are rough because all the switches vary a little

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Shampoo Bottle Alarmpage 6



OVMRC EXECUTIVE 1990-1991

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GUEST SPEAKER
Gerry King, VE3GK
Series & Parallel Circuits

MARCH MEETING
Treasures of the North
Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ

APRIL MEETING
Show and Tell
& Doppler DF Antenna
Demonstration

Flea Market - 20 April

MAY MEETING
Bunny Hunt

JUNE
Annual General Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC

21 FEBRUARY, 1991
1930 HOURS

Third Floor
Multi-Service Centre
1480 Heron Road,

(East of Alta Vista Drive
near Baycrest Drive on south
side of Heron Road

OTTAWA AREA AMATEUR RADIO NETS

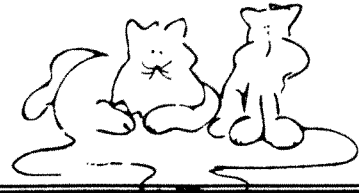
- POT HOLE NET - Sundays 1000 hrs 3.760 MHz (includes Swap Net)
- SWAP NET - (Ed Morgan, VE3GX regular feature of Pot Hole Net and Capital City FM Net. Call Ed 733-1721 for listings and queries.
- POT LID NET - Sundays 1100 hrs (except July and August) 3.620 MHz slow CW.
- CAPITAL CITY FM NET - Mondays 2000 hrs 146.94 MHz Swap Net featured.
- PACKET RADIO VOICE NET - Mondays 2000 + hrs. follows Capital City FM Net above.
- MILITARY NET - Tuesdays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz
- CUMBERLAND EMERGENCY NET - Wednesdays, 1930 hrs. 147.03 MHz
- THE WISE OWL NET - Fridays, 2000 hrs. 147.30 (except July & August)
- CHAMPLAIN MINI NET - Daily 1845 hrs. 147.06 MHz
- OVMRC CODE PHONE - 825-0786 - 24-hr Morse Code practice

RAMBLER COMMITTEE

- Editorial**
Chas. King, VE3PDK
Jerry Wells, VE3CDS
Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ
Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI
Ken Barry, VE3KJB
- Circulation**
Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP
Fred Haire, VE3NJF
Eric Still, VE3OTT
Kevin Still

Strays

by Doug Carswell, VE3ATY



We had a good turn out at the January meeting and dealt with a number of business issues. Of special note - the proposed motion on the sale of surplus Club equipment, presented at the meeting was withdrawn to make room for a more precise motion. If you look elsewhere in this issue of the *Rambler* you will see it. I think it more fairly protects the Club's interests, while at the same time dealing with the problem of controlling our capital assets. Reminds me of my role as tech writer - when having failed to get the information from the only source in town, I would write a few words and print it - and this would solicit the precise answer called for. Compare the two motions. I think you will agree that the one published in this issue of the *Rambler* does a better job.

We didn't get quite the numbers volunteering we had hoped to work on such projects as Field Day, the Bunny Hunt etc. So don't be

surprised if you get a call to help in an area of vital interest to the club. Please accept the challenge.

Our membership continues to grow to the delight of Bravo Gulf Papa. Mike indicated that we are now at 182. I know that membership numbers are not an end in themselves but they are a barometer of our performance in meeting the needs of the membership.

Sheldon Harvey, our January guest speaker brought to the Club an appreciation of shortwave listening. I suspect he found the age profile, the number of SWL listeners, and the aggressiveness in recruiting new amateurs in our Club a bit of a surprise and not consistent with his experience in Montreal. However, perhaps we can benefit from his "horror stories" of inept Amateur public displays of their hobby, but I couldn't help recalling those wise words, "You catch more flies with honey etc. etc."

Eric, VE3OTT, has come up with a good idea that we would like to try out in April. The idea is to run a Saturday morning "how to" packet workshop. For example how do I get my packet node running or whatever that thing is. The workshop would consist of a number of diverse demonstrations and question sessions addressing the "How do I" problems. Topics are yet to be resolved. So at the February meeting you will be getting a piece of paper asking for suggestions. (Location and date to be sorted out.) Lets give it a try. The coffee alone might be worth a try.

Our guest speaker in February is Gerry King, VE3GK, also known as the Golden Kilowatt, who always has interesting tales to tell. So come on out. Keep an eye open for the location of the meeting place for the February as we won't be in the same room but we will be meeting in the same building.

73s - Doug

NOTICE OF MOTION - OVMRC ASSETS REVIEW

Moved by Alan Boyce, VE3LNH, seconded by Ian Kennedy, VE3SNX, that:

1. An inventory be taken of OVMRC assets;
2. This inventory be reported to the members of the Club;
3. An evaluation be made of the use being made of each inventory item;
4. Recommendations be made to the Club on the continued retention or liquidation of each inventory item; and
5. Any money realized by the sale of surplus inventory items be pooled with general Club funds.

Secretary's Minutes

by Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell, VE3SLC



MINUTES OVMRC MEETING January 17, 1991

1. Pres Doug VE3ATY called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. There were several guests in attendance: Gerry Stuurop, Barry Hall, VE3BXH, Ted Starr SWL, Bill Dyer VO1PO J.B. Leblanc, VE3SLW Brian Santon VE3SUU, Sharon Bechthold, VE3PLT

2. Pres Doug asked for everyone to check the lists on the back table and to sign up to assist the various committees that were looking for volunteers. The JW referred to the repeater and Museum referred to the Museum group.

3. Pres Doug mentioned that VE3OTT had a great idea for a Saturday morning workshop to assist people who wanted to learn how to set up a packet station. This is being considered for April and he encouraged people to bring along any problem they might have. If people are interested in this workshop they should let the Executive know.

4. Chuck, VE3PDK informed all that he had received a Packet Tutorial from Mike VE3BGP. He will edit it and make it available to anyone interested.

5. Ernie, VE3RIM gave a short explanation about what has been happening with the Museum of Science & Technology modernization. The plan completion will require 7 years and not 5 to renew all the exhibits. Step 1 on Space will open in June of 92 and Step 2 on Communication will open in June of 93. JW will be in the center of the Communication exhibit. Volunteers will be needed to keep it operational all of the time, once the exhibit opens. Our input to the Museum Committee to tell them what we want and need is vital. The Committee wants to see a fully functional station promoting the radio amateur hobby.

6. Pres Doug informed everyone that next month's meeting will be here in this building but not in the

normal meeting room. We will be on the 3rd floor in the multi-purpose room.

7. Pres Doug asked the Field Day Committee to meet with him during the coffee time at the end of the meeting. It will be a brief meeting.

8. Pat Brewer VE3KJQ informed everyone that the door prize at the Flea Market has been ordered from the U.S.A. and is a HR2600 10- meter transceiver with antenna for mobile use. Tickets are now available for purchase from him at \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

9. Pat Brewer VE3KJQ also informed everyone that the course to be given by him through the O.B.E. has been cancelled. He does have a handout package available for anyone who wants to try getting their licence on their own without the involvement in a structured course.

10. Jeff Wilson VE3RCI announced to all the Annual Club Dinner will be held on Sat. Feb. 23, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. at Anchors Restaurant at Dow's Lake Pavilion. He will be collecting names and numbers of all interested parties. Please inform him if you are coming and how many so numbers can be confirmed for seating.

11. Larry VE3WLN Chairman of the Flea Market Committee gave all an update on their progress to date. The hall has been booked for Sat. April 20, 1991 at Canterbury High School. Letters have been sent out to the commercial vendors and ads have been placed in TCA, QST and CQ 73 to announce the event. Jeff VE3RCI has put an announcement on packet as well. He encourages everyone to talk the event up. Set up for the event will be on the Friday evening April 19.

12. Pres Doug read the notice of motion that had been published in the Rambler that membership was to vote on tonight. Doug spoke on it. He invited comments. Al Boyce VE3LNH spoke to the assembly and asked that the motion be withdrawn and proposed several other motions to replace the one being voted on.

Further discussion ensued among the membership. The motion was finally withdrawn by the mover and seconder. A new motion will appear in this month's Rambler for the membership to consider at the February General Meeting.

13. Pres Doug asked if there were any technical problems. There were none.

14. Dan Holmes VE3EBI read a shortened version of the CARF Bulletin for the 15 Jan. 1991. There were no questions.

15. Leo VE3NVL reminded everyone that the Wise Owl Net contest was to begin on Friday Jan. 18, 1991.

16. Ed Sieb VE3RDZ introduce the guest speaker for the evening Sheldon Harvey whose topic was on Short Wave Listening.

17. Sheldon Harvey spoke on Short Wave Listening. He spoke of its origins and of how it used to be separated from Amateur Radio. Through advancements in technology and through public relations efforts, the two hobbies are now becoming more compatible in their dealings with each other. Short Wave Listening Clubs have been in existence for over 27 years but are only recently becoming more visible. He discussed ways the two hobbies could grow and learn from each other. He brought books for those interested to browse through and purchase during the coffee break and answered questions.

16. Pres Doug thanked Sheldon for driving down from Montreal to speak to membership tonight.

17. Sheldon drew the door prize ticket for the guest's prize which went to J.B. Leblanc, VE3SLW and he drew the member's prize ticket. The winner was Steve Fitak VE3SFI.

18. Pres Doug called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved and seconded by Don VE3PUZ and Emil VE3CQD and the meeting was adjourned to coffee and conversation.

EDITOR'S CORNER



by Chas. King, VE3PDK

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vance Johnson, VE3OAO is a Past-President of the Club who now lives in Aurora, Colorado. Vance is a one hundred percent, whose whole family - XYL Dena, and two sons Shawn and Keith, are members of the Club.

I've been enjoying the *Rambler* under your guidance. I notice that Mike Graham, VE3KMG was suggesting a one page flyer (to explain Amateur call sign license plates), but that your answer was for something the size of a credit card. I believe that both would be useful and that whatever you print in the *Rambler* will get copied by other clubs for their newsletters across the continent.

Any Editor is limited by the articles he receives from the members for printing in our *Rambler*. All indications point to a healthy state of the Club by the excellent quality and interesting articles that have been getting printed.

If I fail to mention anyone by name, please don't be offended. These articles by the following writers were particularly interesting lately: Ed VE3VLF's on how to put jammers out of business; Bob, VE3MPG on his trip to Czechoslovakia; and Brice, VE3EDR's article on Maritime Mobile. I always enjoy Gerry, VE3GK's stories too, (plus his *Gain Game* in *TCA*). And, yes, I enjoy the monthly columns by Doug VE3ATY, Suzanne, VE3SLC,

Pat, VE3KJQ, Jeff, VE3RCI, Ken, VE3KJB and your inputs Chuck.
73 de VE3OAO, Vance

Thank you Vance for your suggestion regarding the license plate flyer and for your recognition of so many of our contributors. Because of the dearth of reader response, writers and editors often feel that they are working in a void. An occasional letter such as yours is heartening. Perhaps it will encourage other would be contributors to make the effort. All they have to do is come up with an idea for an article. With all the writing talent we have in the Club, their idea will soon become a full article. By the way, Vance, Fred, VE3NJF's reference to the Pony Express alluded to your previous employer Western Union. Ed.

UNIDEN HR2600 ALL MODE 10 METER MOBILE WITH ANTENNA YOURS FOR ONLY TWO DOLLARS

For the price of a two dollar raffle ticket, you could be the proud owner of a new mobile 10-meter rig complete with mobile antenna. Tickets are now on sale at a bargain price of three for five dollars or the regular price of two dollars each. The draw will take place at the OVMRC FLEA MARKET on 20 April, but you need not be there to win. Get your tickets from Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ or from any member of the Flea Market Committee or Club Executive

HOW WELL DOES YOUR HANDIE HOLLER?

Wondering what the output
of your handie might be?

Bring it along to the February
meeting to Gerry, VE3GK's
clinic. Gerry will have a Byrd
43 Wattmeter set up to check
your handie's output.

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

*cordially invites Mr. & Mrs. Club Member
to the annual "no host" Club Dinner Party to be held*

at 7 p.m. 23 February, 1991

Anchors Bavarian Lakeside Cafe Restaurant

1001 The Queensway (at Dow's Lake)

Fine Food, Fine Friends, Prizes

R.S.V.P. Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI

Shampoo Bottle Alarm ... from page 1

height. To disengaged the "wind gust" circuit, just push the re-set switch.

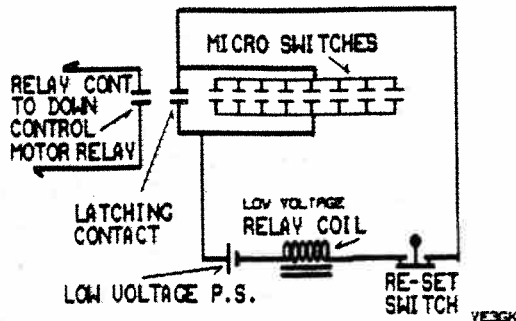
You could even design the thing to actuate from the sound of thunder or the flash from lightning, or rising water, nosy neighbours.. (just kidding) HI.

By the way, does anyone build home made projects out there?

Would love to have some feedback on this article. I just keep rambling on, maybe I could do something else HI. Boy what an opening. Remember you gotta sign the letter.

Have fun....
73..... Ger

RELAY LATCHING CIRCUIT FOR WIND SEN.



TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Children's
Hospital
Foundation

La Fondation
de l'Hôpital
pour enfants

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK TELETHON

JUNE 1 & 2, 1991 AT CJOH TV FOR THE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Special Grandparents Hour

Call John Leaker (Prospective VE3) at 739-9889

IS YOUR CALENDAR MARKED?

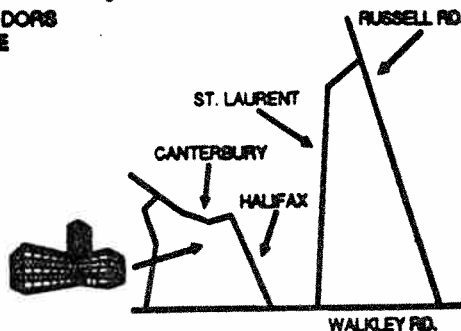
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Annual Fleamarket

April 20, 1991 Canterbury High School
"Eastern Ontario's largest fleamarket
and 'eyeball'"

- *COMMERCIAL VENDORS
- *TABLES AVAILABLE
- *DOOR PRIZES
- *RAFFLE
- *REFRESHMENTS

For information contact:
Ken Barry VE3KJB
454 Wolfedale Cres.
Ottawa, Ontario
(613) 746-4823

DOORS OPEN 9:00am
TALK IN ON 147.30/90





by Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Once again, here is your column of information from various amateur radio clubs from across Canada. We are still missing a bulletin from the east coast, but we make up for it with some visiting newsletters this month. I will try and expand our coverage into a couple more provinces in the next few months. Stay tuned!

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club is now meeting at the new Regional Headquarters on Lisgar Street. Like a number of other groups, they were forced to leave NRC after meeting there for many years. The *Groundwave* also contains an announcement from the Packet Working Group of a Packet Interface card for the IBM. It will allow speeds up to 57600 bits per second. Contact the group for more information. Like many other bulletins the *Groundwave* reproduced Larry VE3WLN's article from the *Rambler* on importing from the USA.

In the London ARC LARC Bulletin Prez Pat VE3PMK laments the state of conversation on the amateur bands. He finds that most of us spend all our time talking about amateur radio and nothing else. "Perhaps if we tried talking to each other about more varied topics and experiences rather than talking at each other about that same antenna we put up ten years ago, it might attract more people to this wonderful hobby of ours."

The Chatham-Kent ARC held a novel meeting last month. They called it Family Safety Night and invited representatives from Fire, Police, and Hydro to speak to members and their families. *Clear Signals* also reproduced Larry's *Rambler* article.

The Windsor ARC is still limping along, but only nine people attended the December meeting. The Club bulletin *Groundwaves* does contain some interesting articles on setting up an Amateur TV station, a net checkin logger for the C64, a code oscillator, and of course Larry's article from the *Rambler*. Too bad there are no Club members left to read them.

The Saskatoon ARC will be operating an amateur radio display at the Western Development Museum between February 2 and March 31. It will be part of a special event called "Fun and Games - Past and Present". If you have been wanting to write something for the *Rambler*, but need an idea, the *Green Sheet* has two. They have been running a series of introductory articles on packet radio, a good idea. The second idea is a "Ladies Page" for XYLs. The January article includes household tips and recipes, but varies from month to month.

The Calgary Amateur Radio Assoc. participation in the recent Hobby Show at the Stampede Grounds was, by all accounts, a huge success. They are all set to get involved again next year. *Key Klax* also reports that the new ATV repeater was displayed at the Hobby Show. As luck would have it the DOC had their monitoring van right next door and so the repeater was taken over and put through its paces. The repeater impressed the DOC people and came out with a clean bill of health. Like all bulletins of note, *Key Klax* reproduced Larry VE3WLN's article.

Now for the visiting bulletins. When Marg VE3EQE visited our club in December she left several

copies of *The Clarion*, the bulletin of the Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association. The bulletin is full of news from members across the country. The women appear to practice what the London ARC President was saying. There is little about radios and lots about almost everything else including a report on the Australian LARA Alarameet this past September. CLARA conducts nets every Tuesday on 14.120 at 1700Z, 7.070 at 1400Z, and 3.740 at 0030Z.

The Kingston ARC sent us a copy of their bulletin *The Kingston Amateur News*. Their club has 70 members. Recently the Club upgraded their repeater and linked into VE3ULR. They also hold an annual fox hunt. Like almost everyone else they reproduced Larry's article. He may now be the most widely read amateur radio author in Canada!

Our last visiting bulletin this month is *Messenger*, the monthly bulletin of the Canadian International DX Club. Sheldon Harvey, our speaker on radio monitoring at the January meeting, was kind enough to give me a copy. The *Messenger* is a good publication containing a number of interesting regular columns. The Ham Column alone is ten pages long in the January issue. Other columns cover the broadcast band, utility band, radio stamps, a QSL column, a guide to DX programs, equipment for sale, and loggings of international broadcast stations. All together it makes for a meaty 64 pages.

That's it for this month, see you again next time.

INVENTORY OF CLUB ASSETS

It was hoped to publish the inventory of Club assets compiled by Alan, VE3LNH, but space did not permit the printing of this lengthy document, containing over seventy line items.

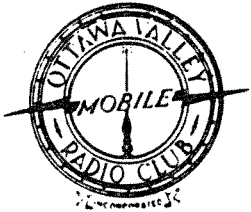
Alan makes another plea for anyone holding Club equipment to let him know so that he can bring his inventory up to date . An evaluation for retention or possible disposal cannot be made until all of the equipment is accounted for.

The inventory will be printed as a separate document and distributed at a later date.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT INVITING A FRIEND TO A CLUB MEETING?
NEW MEMBERS NOW GET A BREAK ON DUES WITH A HALF-YEAR DISCOUNT.**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.,
P.O. Box 5530, Station "F",
OTTAWA, Ontario K2C 3M1



Radio Call Sign

Date FEB 91

Family Name		Given Name & Initials		Preferred Radio Name	
Address - Apartment, House Number, Street				Home Phone	
City/Town		Province	Postal Code	Business Phone	

New Member Membership Renewal
 Association Memberships
 CARF CRRL
 OARC Other

Applies for membership/renewal for the Membership Year..... in the following category:

REGULAR MEMBER* - as a licensed amateur... 1/2 YEAR ~~\$15.00~~ 7.00
 ASSOCIATE MEMBER* - as a radio enthusiast..... \$15.00
 FAMILY MEMBER(S) - of a Regular or Associate Member..... \$1.00

Total: \$ 7.00 Enclosed Cheque Cash

Given Names

* Includes subscription to *The Rambler*

For Office Use

Membership Number

Membership Registered

Receipt Issued

Card(s) Issued

Subscription Registered

DX de YOU

by Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI



CQ CQ CQ DX DE VE3RCI! Calling all OVMRC members. Bring me your best DX catches of the month, any mode, any band (yes, VHF and above, too!). This DX column is based on the reports that you provide to me at each monthly meeting. You can also call me at 837-9598 or send me your logs via Packet Radio to VE3RCI @ VE3KYT. This column will only work if you support it. Let's hear who you've been working. So, did everyone stock up on stamps and IRCs before the GST!

On the HF Bands From Ed, VE3VLF

I was glad to receive this packet message from Ed: Believe it or not I have ONE logging for the DX DE YOU column. It isn't much but it is a change to have my call sign up in lights. It was DJ4FT on 21.045 on CW at 1744 UTC 2 Jan 91. Name is Bjoern in Kassel Germany. He was 559 and he gave me a 449 which faded to a 229 at the end of the QSO. He was running 100W to a windom ant. This is my first DX contact in over a year!

Congratulations Ed! We should all appreciate what a difficult time you have working Europe with only a balcony antenna facing north, but ... ah, the challenge! Keep it up.

From Me, VE3RCI


I managed a few hours for the CQ WW DX CW Contest Nov.25. A few new ones were snagged: CN5N (Morocco) 0401Z 14.018; FM5BS (Martinique) 0428Z 7.014; OL8A (Czechoslovakia) 0450Z 7.004; 56/G4ODV (Gambia) 0504Z 14.009; ED9ED (Ceuta and Melilla - islands off Morocco), 0534Z, 14.016; EA8AGD (Canary Is.) 0549Z 14.029. I also played on 12 meters: OM2BTI (Czechoslovakia) 1336Z 24.947 SSB; Y38XJ (Germany) 1351Z 24.936 SSB; G0KSL (London, GB) 1358Z 24.960. Nice band when its in use! Try it.

From Ed, VE3RDZ


Ed is having a lot of fun with his new Uniden HR2600 10 meter rig. On FM simplex, Ed recently contacted G4ZHGU 1457Z 29.530; OA8CM (Peru - a missionary in the jungle!) 2142Z 29.540. Ed says that he's heard every continent on 10 meters recently.

And finally, true to his word, Henry, VE3OMU, sent along his QSL from WZ6C/ST2 (see DX de YOU,

June 1990). According to Henry, "Erik was working W6 stations in a DX net, as camel mobile (battery operated on the back of a camel). During a pause I gave him a call as he was 57 in Ottawa. He came back to me with 59 and the only Canadian station he had heard! I thanked the DX net manager and he recorded me as a contact". Henry mentions that if you make a contact with a DX station via a DX net WITHOUT being on the net manager's list, you probably won't get a QSL card. Characters who break into a DX net without having the DX station's specific approval to the net manager are usually treated as pariahs! DX nets, if well managed, let you work DX without a lot of QRM - almost a necessity these days (especially running barefoot into wires - RCI). DX nets don't clutter up the frequencies as is the case with the DX station is just "listening up". This type of operation can take up at least 20 or 30 kHz if it is rare.



SUDAN



ST4/WZ6C

TO STATION	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	GMT	MHZ.	2-WAY	RST
VE3OMU	27	APR	90	2254	21	SSB EW	5X9

QSL Manager
W4FRU

Verified by
W4JVU

CAMEL MOBILE

INDEXA
DX INFO NET
14,238 2330Z
A WAMPY QSL

73, OP: ERIK BIORCK

Erik

For the new grandfathers out there, try listening to 14.160 MHz any evening and getting on the list when you can HEAR a DX-station that you would like to get a signal report from. In a DX net you even get a chance to exchange name and QTH and 73! Some DXers frown on using nets to work DX, but that is their problem. Everyone knows that when conditions are good and there is no QRM, you can work anywhere in the world with 100 watts (or much less) and a wire antenna.

All for now. Let's hear from you silent readers! 73, Jeff.

NOVICE NEWS

by Ken Barry, VE3KJB

So you just passed or will pass very soon your theory, regulations, and morse code exams and are looking forward to getting on the air. The first of your worries is probably "I can copy only 12 words per minute and most of the morse code I've heard is much faster than that". Well relax, there are lots of amateurs who prefer to send and receive between 10 and 15 wpm. You only have to have a little patience and search for them. Anyone who can copy 10 or 12 wpm continuously is able to copy up to 16 wpm on first contact with a strange amateur.

Here's how it's done. A typical contact goes like this: CQ CQ CQ DE "His call sign repeated 3 times" and K indicating that anybody who wants to answer him should do so now. You answer him by sending his call sign twice DE

your callsign twice and then KN indicating that he should go ahead. He will probably then send "TNX FER THE CALL" and give you his QTH (location) and his name and your RST (signal report) all twice, then HW CPY IMI which means "How do you copy me?".

So far so good, all the important information for your log has been sent twice. You will remember your instructor Gerry, VE3CDS telling you that when copying morse you should write down what you can copy and leave spaces for the characters you miss. This system will serve you well on a contact where the speed of the incoming signal is a little above your capabilities. Write down the letters you can and fill in the missing ones on the next repetition. If you get into a long conversation, don't be afraid to ask him to slow down

by sending QRS and the speed you prefer in WPM.

Try your hand on a "friendly net," near home. Tune in 3.620 MHz on Sunday mornings at 1100 hrs local check into Ed Morgan's slow speed CW net. You only have to give the last three letters of your call when you hear Ed or Doreen ask "QNI." When your turn comes up, they will invite you to say your piece at your own speed. In the meantime, you read what you can from other Net participants and enjoy yourself.

A thought for the day concerns the ambitious amateur who wired home to his wife: "Made foreman. Feather in my cap." A few weeks later he wired: "Made manager. Another feather." After weeks of silence he wired: "Fired. Send money for busfare." His wife wired back: "Use feathers and fly home."

1. Insert your call and province/state in the frame opposite.
2. Fold in four -- top-to-bottom and side-to-side to reduce to business card size.

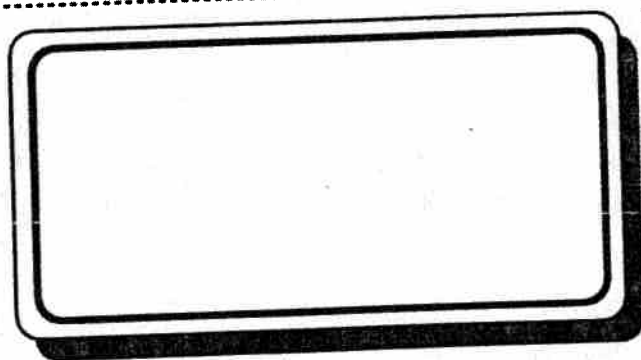


Compliments of
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio
Club, P.O. Box 5530, Station "F"
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2C 3M1

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE PLATES

It is common practice for Provinces of Canada and U.S. States to identify, when requested to do so, Amateur Radio Operator's cars with personalized plates that display their Radio Station Call Sign. Amateurs pay, in most cases, an extra fee for these personalized plates, but because of the public service aspects of Amateur Radio, this fee is considerably discounted.

The "VE" portion identifies Canada, the number identifies the province (3 for Ontario, 2 for Quebec, 4 for Manitoba etc.),



and the last two or three letters are those assigned to an individual station. Put together, as in VE3KMG, they identify the Amateur Radio Station and its licensed operator. U.S. station calls begin with the letters A, K, N, W, have a second letter, a number and two or three letters to look like this: WB2UFS.

Amateur License plates not only make cars recognizable to other amateurs, they help police and emergency service people to spot them in the event they need emergency communications.