

Harried ham considers club choice conundrum!



by Gary VE3GAP

To be or not to be, that is the question. And if I am to be, shall I be OARC or OVMRC? Someone please help me with the answer. I can't decide which club to join, maybe I shouldn't join an amateur radio club at all – perhaps the Rotary Club or the Shriners or the Kinsmen. Are they looking for members?

I'm told that one club is more of a social club, the other club is more technically oriented, and Club Not! is just a bunch of crazy people who get together every so often to build things

they could buy preassembled for less money.

Please understand that I am not sure that I will ever want to be more social, or be technically oriented, or assemble amateur projects at meetings. I just want to hang around with other amateurs once in a while for any number of reasons – like getting on with the business of amateur radio be it social, technical, projects, or otherwise.

What further complicates things for me is that these three clubs are not the only interest groups in the Ottawa region.

I have been a licensed amateur for twenty-four years (not all active years) and I find this a very difficult decision to make. I can't pick one club because I like most of the people in it, because I would probably like most of the people in the other clubs as well. I wonder how the new licensees deal with this?

Things would be much easier for me if there was just one club in the Ottawa area – say a ten or fifteen mile radius. I do think

one club with four or five hundred members would be best for its members. Not only would it reduce duplication and provide more money to run the club, we could present a more visible image to the public and we would receive the rewards that go along with a higher profile. Our two national Canadian organizations have seen the benefits of amalgamation – especially during recessionary times.

Why can't we have one amateur radio club here in Ottawa with various interest groups such as packet, sstv, repeaters, Field Day, bunny hunts, classes for future amateurs, flea markets, bike mobile groups, and projects groups. These groups could report to and receiving their funding from the central club.

Are we worried about stepping on someone's toes? Do we just prefer to go on, sometimes tripping over our own feet? Surely we can see the disadvantages of being divided. We criticize our governments for duplication, waste, and inefficiency. Are we not falling into some of the same traps?

[Calling all clubs, calling all clubs. Why should Gary join your club? Why is there more than one club? What unique features does your club provide? Space permitting, Hambone would be pleased to publish responses from the executive of any of the clubs in the region.

Ed.]

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Top 10 reasons for using cw

10. Makes me a real ham
9. Slow enough for my mental processes
8. I had to learn it, so you should too
7. Easy to remember, only uses two symbols, the dot and dash
6. One part of our great radio heritage we haven't junked in favor of better technology
5. Don't have to listen to other guy's whiny voice
4. Only place you can say "hi hi" and not sound like an idiot
3. Not nearly as messy as smoke signals
2. No flags to misplace ... and the number 1 reason to use cw ...
1. Keeps out the riff-raff

Hambone

Hambone is published by:
Hambone World Headquarters
c/o Neil Herber (VE3PUE)
15 Pinepoint Drive
Nepean, ON
Canada K2H 6B1

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Hamboneheads

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Subscriptions
Hambone is free. Since Canada Post would charge 43¢ to deliver each issue we don't mail it out. You can find *Hambone* in various locations and Gary VE3GAP is kind enough to deliver some copies. Donations to help defray the cost of printing are always welcome. Don't send any more than \$5, we'll come begging when we need more. *Hambone* is published sporadically, when time permits.

Submissions
Submissions of all sorts are welcome – they don't even have to be about ham radio. Text is only accepted on 3.5 inch disks.

Mister Ed. speaks, no-one listens!

Saturday, February 20 1994
Was one of the first warm and sunny days of the year, and your fearless editor spent half of it inside an office in Kingston, discussing the finer points of editing *The Canadian Amateur (TCA)* magazine. *TCA* is the magazine you receive if you are a member of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

Doug VE3ATY is the *TCA* editor-in-chief, and he called the meeting to let the dozen or so people involved with production meet each other and try to iron out some of the operational kinks.

One of the topics up for discussion was a *TCA* style guide. If you have never worked on a magazine, newspaper, or large book, it is easy to underestimate the value of a style guide. A style guide insures that everybody writing and editing for the publication has access to the "accepted" conventions. Making sure that they use them is another matter. A style guide

allows a disperse group to put together a consistent and professional looking publication.

Opinion was divided on many issues, but Doug managed to steer us all into agreement before the meeting ended. The atmosphere was very positive throughout.

If, like Gary VE3GAP, you are confused about which local club to join, don't forget that RAC is the only national body representing amateurs in Canada. Take out a membership in RAC and you not only support the organization, you get a subscription to *TCA* thrown in.

With Paul (the Hatchet) Martin slashing away at the public service, we may find that DOC or ISC or IC whatever it is today will be looking to RAC to help out with amateur-related administration. RAC needs to have the support of more amateurs if it is going to be a credible organization.

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Donors dig deep

Lots of people (well, at least Ltwo) have complimented us on the fine standards of journalistic excellence set by *Hambone*.

Some were so moved by the experience of reading an alternative ham newsletter, that they dug into their wallets and extracted some coin of the realm to help pay for reproduction. (Fortunately, it is not illegal in Canada to pay for reproduction, as long as you don't talk about it.)

Donors to date include Gary VE3GAP, Richard VE3UNW, and Fred VE3BAJ. This issue is financed in part by their generosity. Thanks.

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Rumors

Wondering why your amateur station license renewal notice is late this year? Rumor has it that DOC/ISC/??? has had to go out to the printers yet again to get new letterhead and other paper products that accurately reflect their current name-of-the-week.

It also seems that ISC have been so swamped by requests for the new VA3 calls by people who are keeping their VE3 calls that ISC would have run short of invoices even if they hadn't changed their name. No one will confirm that they are thinking of opening up the VB3 calls to see if they can grab another windfall from the multi-call crowd.

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What next? VD calls?

Now that the organization used to know as DOC has opened up the VA calls, local hams seem to be falling all over themselves to get VA3?? (where the ?? is usually their initials).

Just a few months ago when the VE3Q?? calls were opened up, a bunch of call collectors grabbed them up like spilled jelly beans. Now some of the same individuals are turning their attention to the VAcuum calls. Many of these folks – who seem to have at least \$24 to burn – are actually keeping their old calls! Why get a new one? Which one should we use when calling? Will one be used in summer and one in winter? Should we use the Q calls on Wednesdays that don't have a full moon?

DOC has not been exemplary in this regard – they change their initials faster than some old guys send cw. However, they should have thought things through a little better before authorizing the VAseline calls. It is causing genuine confusion.

For instance, a two-letter call like VE3?? used to indicate that you were an old, experienced, and patient individual. Old, because you had to be licensed the same

day as Samuel Morse. Experienced, because you had to maintain your license through two world wars. Patient, because you had to camp out on the doorstep of DOC (back in the days when it was DOC) and wait for somebody to pop off so that you could pick up his two-letter call.

Now the VAcant two-letter calls have thrown a monkey wrench into yet another time-honored ham tradition.

VA3?? indicates that you are new, fast, and impatient. New, because all of the VApour calls are new. (With a VE3??, no one had any idea how long you had been around.) Fast, because you had to whip down to DOC to grab "your" call while it was still around. (One local ham has been heard on the air complaining that someone else got "his" call.) Impatient, because you couldn't wait around for a real two-letter call of the VE3?? variety.

To remedy this appalling state of affairs, DOC should immediately amend the regulations to restrict the use of VA calls to 30 MHz and above. At least we can keep the riff-raff off the HF bands.

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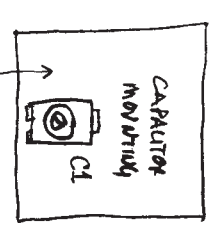
Mike VE3FFK submits 3.5" disk



CW column

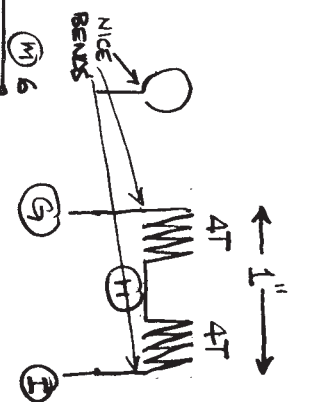
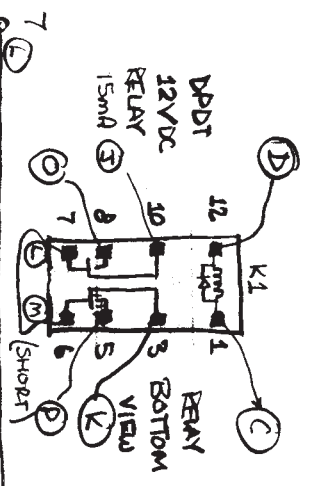
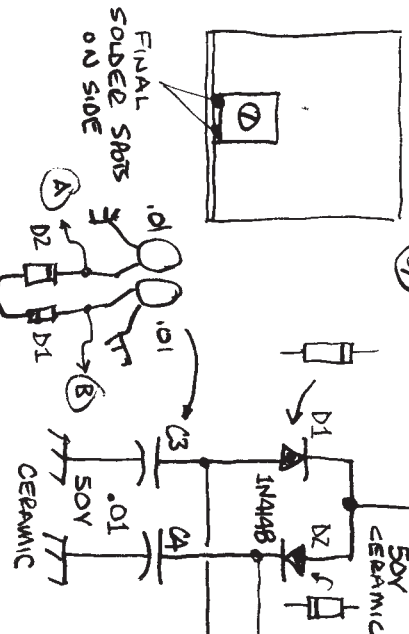
(The following text is presented in a simulated CW (Morse code) format, consisting of numerous lines of dashes and dots arranged to represent characters and words. The content is illegible due to the nature of the simulation.)

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SUBSTITUTE
BACK FROM GIVE

$\frac{3}{4}$ TURN
TAP POINT
"CRITICAL"



USE $\frac{1}{4}$ -2 ϕ BOLT
AS MANDREL
#16 GAUGE COPPER



$\frac{3}{4}$ TURN TAP
TAP POINT
"CRITICAL"

C1 TYPE 403 2M
402 70cM
(ZF PAERS INC)

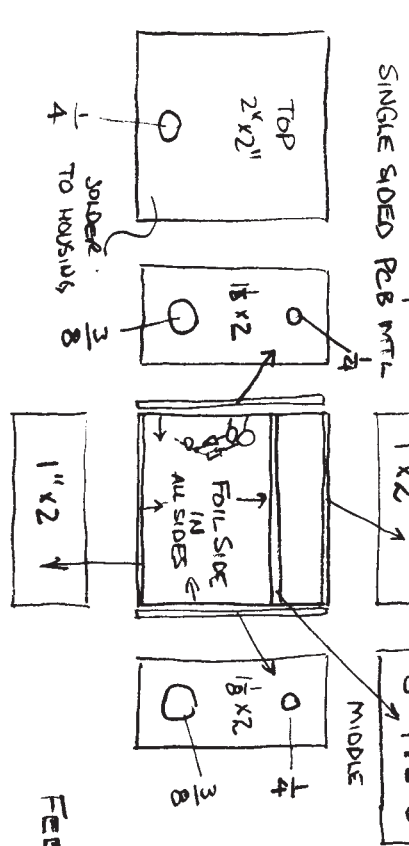
BBS 836-5889
73 ϕ 77, 1 ϕ 75 COMPUSERVE

(TYPE 403 CAPTURES 2M BAND)

2M / 7 ϕ CM BANDPASS FILTER
BY WIL WARREN VESXMT
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HAM CLUB - NBT!
OTTAWA



SINGLE SIDED PCB MTL

DIODE
BRIDGE

9-15
VDC
(FLOATING
POWER)
 \approx 15mA