



History of Morse Code - Toronto Exhibit

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) with the help of Canada Science and Technology Museum, (CSTM) Ottawa, is presenting an exhibit of some 40 artifacts covering over 150 years of the development and use of Morse Code. This exhibit will be located in the new Air Terminal #1 at Toronto International Airport (Lester B. Pearson) commencing next week and running until January 2007. This exhibit will be in the Malton Gallery on the second level of the new Air Terminal Building. This exhibit will cover the many uses of Morse Code from early cablegrams, telegrams, and modern radio. Amateur Radio continues to be one of the main users of this very dependable form of communication during emergency situations.



This year Ottawa will celebrate 2 events – one is its 150th year being a national capital, 2nd is the 175 years of the Rideau Canal. Ideas were to have special event stations for the days.



May – guest speaker is Elias on recent Suitsat launch. Also is the judging for the mobile radio vehicle contest 1830 hrs in Museum parking lot. Judges and a prize are required.



June – along with the elections Bob VA3QV to give a show of the club related activities of last year.



Transceiver designer Michael F. Elliott, W8KRR, SK

The man behind the development of the Heathkit SB-104 and Drake TR-7 transceivers, Michael Elliott, W8KRR, 66, of Centerville, Ohio, died April 14. The Heathkit SB-104, released in 1974, was the first transceiver to incorporate solid-state design, come with a digital frequency readout and be priced for the mass market. The SB-104 was a mainstay until 1982, when radios that covered the new WARC bands superseded it. It was one of the last Amateur Radio kits that Heathkit developed. Elliott was also influential in the design of the Drake TR-7, the standard for competition-grade transceivers in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

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Reminders...

Club Meeting	May 18 7:30 P.M.
Dayton Hamvention	May 19-21
Executive Meeting	May 25
Rambler Deadline.....	Jun 2
June Club Meeting	Jun 15
Field Day	Jun 24/25



OVMRC Executive (2005-2006)

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Vice-President	Gerry Trottier, VA3GLT 745-5828, va3glt@rac.ca
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OVMRC Repeater

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)



OVMRC web page

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca>
Webmaster: Elias Zaydan,
VE3EKZ elias@canada.com

OVMRC Life Members

Maurice André	VE3VIG
Ralph Cameron	VE3BBM
Doug Carswell	VE3ATY
Doreen Morgan	VE3CGO
Ed Morgan	VE3GX
Bill Wilson	VE3NR

Club Web site

The OVMRC **Rambler** is available on-line at the club Web site:

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca/rambler.htm>

Sponsors

The **OVMRC** acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities:

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The Rambler is produced using Corel's Ventura™ 8 software.



Amateur Radio Exhibit
VE3JW
Web Site

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada
Science & Technology
Museum



Next meeting
May 18
Rambler Deadline
Jun 2

The Rambler is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. and is published 11 times a year (monthly, except for July). Opinions expressed in the Rambler are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC Inc., its officers or its members. Permission is granted to republish the contents in whole or in part, providing the source is acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited. Submit articles to the editor or by e-mail to: va3wmh@rac.ca.

Things are starting to get interesting “Club Wise” as we have just finished with the Ontario QSO Party and now getting ready for our annual Field Day event. The weather is finally starting to resemble what we remember as “Summer Time” and now its time to play some radio. How many of you got the antenna work done early so you could enjoy the warmer times of the year? On top of that our Election Committee Chair Larry VE3WEH along with his committee Steve VE3SBC are now working hard to make sure we have a full slate of candidates to bring forward to you for the June General Meeting.

Our guest speakers from our April Meeting did a great job bringing us a wealth of information on their respective topics. RAC Vice President’s Joe VE3JG and Richard VE3IAY “pinch hitting” for our hard working RAC Director for North and East Ontario Ben VE3CDA, brought us an excellent presentation on BPL. We, as amateur radio operators all benefit from the hardworking people at RAC. This coming year when you look at the budget brought forward by your incoming executive at the September General Meeting you will notice a great savings from previous years as the OVMRC takes advantage of the RAC Club Insurance plan.

Jim Andrews who is the driving force behind the “Quest for a Cure” adventure race made a convincing argument for giving them a hand. The most unfortunate fact is that the Canadian Cancer Society has picked “Field Day Weekend” as the best time to run the adventure race. The area that the race covers desperately needs Amateur Radio Communications as it’s in an area where Cell Phones are not dependable and there is not much of private commercial equipment up there as well. I would never tell you to skip “Field Day” but being a person who has worked on the “Quest” two out of the last 3 years I can tell you that if you are looking for an event that tests your communication skills as much, if not more than the Canadian Ski Marathon then you might want to look at the Quest. In addition to my above comments, I will add that Cancer has hit my family rather hard in the last few years and if by assisting, I can put my skills as a communicator in to help in the fight to find a cure then I can think of no better way to spend my weekend. If I can get the time off work I do plan to make it 3 out of 4 years.

That’s enough of “Bob on his soapbox” and we now return you to our regular scheduled “Ramblings”.

Keeping in line with the topic of guest speakers. Can any of you remember back to our February General Meeting when our own VE3EKZ, Elias gave us that little teaser on “Suitsat-1”? Well this month Elias will be our guest speaker talking to us on that very same subject with what he promises to be an excellent presentation. Seeing the work he put into his mini presentation in February I have no doubt that his full-blown presentation at this upcoming meeting will be one that people will be talking about for a long time to come.

Start shining your antennas and hide the wiring under the carpet, as this month will also be our “Best Mobile” contest. The judging for this prestigious event will take place in the Museum Parking Lot at 1830 hours and the winner will be announced at the Meeting after our guest speaker but before the door prizes. Matthew VA3MHB, Gerry VA3GLT and myself, will be the judges. There should be the usual prizes and bragging rights that are associated with winning at the OVMRC.

PLAYING PORTABLE- Sunday April 9th found yours truly acting as the NCS Station for the 80m Pothole Net. As the weather was good I decided to operate portable from Brewer Park. It’s the first time I have controlled the Pothole Net on 80m as a portable station since VA3SIE Martin and myself opened up Maple Island in the fall of last year. The weather is a bit colder than I would like, but there were no mosquitoes so it was a great day for playing radio. Stations checking in during my hour were VE3GX, VE3WEH, VE3SMF, VE3EJJ, VE3SBC, VE3LC, VA3PCJ and VE3NPO. Portable stations were VA3QV Net Control at Brewer Park, VA3PCJ operating from Hogs Back Park and Stuart VE3SMF

operating from the Long Island Locks Station near Manotick. I see the summertime being a great time this year to be out playing radio. If you want to come out just ask... We have enough members interested in portable operations that there should be a choice of locations on any given weekend.

ONTARIO QSO PARTY (Coles Notes Version)- I will let VA3STL, who organized the event give you the juicy details but I will let you have this bit of a teaser... We were able to operate 70cm, 2m, 6m and 10 to 80m. Ken’s generator worked flawlessly and our Communications Trailer made it through another winter with no leaks. I still would of liked to see a few more club members participants as we had approximately 10 operators for the 24 hour period along with about 5 more who showed up to help with setup and tear down. That leaves 70 members who did not operate or participate. Granted some of you were operating in the field as rovers, others were still out there at your home QTHs and a few of you just dropped in to give moral support but it would have been nice to see more of you operating or assisting with VE3RAM.

OVMRC SUGAR SHACK DXPEDITION - Our Vice President has advised me that the Sugar Shack DXPEDITION has been cancelled for this year due to a lack of participants.

So far this year we have cancelled the Flea Market and the Sugar Shack DXPEDITION due to a lack of interest.

CASARA SIMSAR- On April 20th our Emergency Preparedness Committee assisted OTTAWA CASARA on a training mission with a “HERC” from the JRCC in Trenton. OVMRC/CASARA Members VE3SRS and VA3QV acted as flight watch for the morning and afternoon flights. Amateur Radio Voice Comms were used along with APRS. The morning flight area was North of Ottawa around Mont Ste Marie and the afternoon flight area was in the Smith Falls Area. Both Flight watches were conducted from Ottawa. Other amateur support was provided by VA3SHQ, VA3YOW and VE3YSH. Thanks go out to the sponsors of repeaters VA2REH (2m) in Lac Ste Marie and VE3TST in Ottawa (70cm) for supporting the efforts of the participants today.

QUEST FOR A CURE FOLLOW-UP: As Jim mentioned at our April Meeting the bulk of the priority race communications go out via Amateur Radio. If you need a rig for the event as 5 watts and your rubber duck will not cut it for this one, contact Steve Regan VA3MGY (usual Callsign at RAC) and he will do his best to find you a loaner rig and antenna if you can find the time to help. Steve is a member of the Ottawa Fire Department and is in charge of communications for the Quest. Although Steve’s Callsign is one you might not usually hear on the local repeaters if you have read the TCA you might notice VA3MGY being associated with the ARISS Project. This means that next year we should have some more dealings with Steve if VE3JW and the museum get approved for the 2007 ARISS event we are planning for. If you need to contact Jim Andrews with any other questions on the race (jim@questforacure.ca) or check out their fantastic website at www.questforacure.ca.

*****As a bit of a trivia question for today, did anyone recognize the one radio operator shown as part of Jim’s presentation? Read further down in this article for the answer.*****

Now that we have finished with the Ontario QSO Party we might want to think about our next contesting endeavor. Field day, which we all know as the last rainy weekend in June will be shortly with us. VA3STL who is our field day chairman sent me an email which indicates we will be in the 3A Category this year as we will be running 3 HF Stations (CW, Digital and SSB) In addition we will be running a VHF/UHF Station on 2m, 70cm and 6m.

6 Meter Activity- After the Pothole net of April 22nd I “spun the dial” so to speak and I ended up monitoring on 50.125usb. The band seemed dead so I just left it there and forgot the radio was on.

Ramblings (Cont'd)

Unfortunately my antenna for 6m is not the best but suddenly I heard club members burning up the airwaves. VA3UMP was heard working a Cornwall station and VA3FAW calling CQ and then having a QSO with VA3UMP. Granted both of these were local Ottawa stations but the fact that they were on the air is the good thing. You can't make a contact unless you are on the air

He's BACKKKKK...Welcome back to Jake VE2TQX to the Ottawa Area after his short visit to Montreal to sample the hospital food. Jake was heard back on the air and controlling the FN25 Net on VE3TWO and VE3RVI on Saturday night (April 22nd). According to what Jake was saying on the net everything went well and he will be at home convalescing for a while. I know the membership joins me is saying..."WELCOME BACK"!

For those of you who can't sleep don't forget the POWOW CLUB who meets most nights at 0001hrs (0400Z) on 3.750 ssb. Net control is usually Gerry VA3AAG in Lions Head Ontario but you will hear checkins from all over Canada. If you want a chance to work a VE7 or maybe a VE8 on 80 voice this could be your best chance unless it's on the Canada Day Contest or the Canada Winter Contest.

For those of you who also like evening 40m work if you can hear anything but the broadcast stations check out the Aurora Net on 7.055 ssb at 2330Z and 0230Z daily. Once again if you want to work a VE4, 5, 6, or 7 with the chance of VE8 this could be the place to listen to. There is also a 40m net called the "Nighthawks Net" running on 7.255ssb in the evenings. It tends to be very friendly and lasts as long as the Net Control Station can stand the QRM from the Broadcast Stations. Try listening for them in the evenings and you might be surprised by what you might hear. Some of the participants are definitely opinionated, but they are out there and they are on the air.

PARTING SHOTS

If you were looking for the POTHOLE NET (80m) on April 23rd you might of noticed that we had moved up "just a bit". On the bright side its kind of nice that the stations that were on 3.760 from up the Ottawa Valley were being heard. The downside was that as we could hear them and as they had the frequency first, we had to move up to 3.762 but it seems that all the regular participants found their way up to us. Giving credit where credit is due...Jose VA3PCJ braved the rainy damp weather and set up portable in Hogs Back Park where I "wimped out" and stayed dry and warm operating from my shack.

Just got my new TCA in the mail today and "congrats" go out to OVMRC Members Martin VA3SIE for getting his QRP Exploits mentioned in "Club Corner" and to Maurice-Andre VE3VIG for the fantastic article about his shack. Mike VE3FFK also was mentioned for his article in the "Groundwave". It seems that Ottawa Area amateurs always make for good press.

WEATHER OR NOT... The bands are cooperating or the Weather is cooperating...On Sunday April 30th I got the chance to dust off the portable station and the WX was just fantastic. The bands could have been better but you take what you can get. The main purpose of getting outside was to check into the 40M Ontario ARES (AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE) Net on Sunday (7.153 at 1300 hrs local). The antenna was a home brewed G5RV Jr. (6-40m) which was suspended between 2 trees at the 15 foot mark and the rig was a Yeasu FT 857 with a LDG Z100 auto tuner. As it turned out the band was a bit strange and I could hear the NCS who was on Manitoulin Island. However he could not hear the stations in Sault Ste Marie who I could hear and they could hear the stations in Toronto who Ottawa and Manitoulin Island could not hear. There was a good deal of relaying but the traffic was passed and another weekly communications test was completed.

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS- Once again I made a general mailing out to the membership and several emails bounced back. If you did not receive the email regarding the History of Morse Code Program on CITY TV please take the time to update your address with our membership chair and Vice President Gerry VA3GLT



And the answer for today's trivia question is: Caroline VE3WYZ.

The above picture (from the Quest for a Cure Website) was taken at the Net Control Station at Mont St Marie (2003) while she was on shift and hard at work. She was so busy she forgot to smile for the camera.

THE FINAL WORD-

This time rather than preach I thought I would make an offer. "The Patient One" has been commenting about some antennas that I have been storing in the basement. I have a 5 element (or is it 4?) 2 meter beam and an older 10, 15, 20, 40 meter HF Vertical that is starting to wear out their welcome in her basement. I do have the documentation for the HF Vertical and it was working fine when it was taken out of service. The previous owner was Graham VE3GBD, who as you know, switched over to a G5RV. I repaired the 2m beam and have not retuned it or used it since. If anyone wants them just let me know. The price is right (free), all that I ask is that you use them. Don't take them just cause they are free. Take them because you need them and will USE them. In case there is more than one person interested in either antenna, I will do the "Rock, Paper, Scissors" thing to figure out who gets them. If you're interested, send me an email. I will have more info for you in my June Ramblings. To be fair, the cut off for this will be the end of the May general meeting as everyone should of read this in the May Rambler.

Till next month

73bob ❖

Note- there was a typo in the April General meeting minutes – the winner of the 50/50 draw was VA3SHO, not VA3SHW.

Materials Required:

- 1 ¼ inch Polyethylene 90 degree elbows X 3
- 1 ¼ inch Polyethylene "T" connector X 1
- ¼ inch stainless steel bolts X 2
- ¼ inch stainless steel washers X 8
- Wire - preferably #10 - coated to reduce rain noise - the heavier the gauge wire the greater the tunable bandwidth
- 450 ohm ladder line to suit - length is not an issue (RG8 may also be used if a 6" diameter coil at 10 turns is done right at the feed point. This will decouple the coax from the antenna since coax is an unbalanced line).
- **Heavy duty** copper lugs that *fit tightly* over the bolt threads (automotive type)
- Lanyard rope to suit - the best quality rope you can afford
- Silicone sealant to waterproof feed point connections - be generous

Calculating Antenna Length

1068 divided by the required frequency in megahertz. For example :
For 3.729 megahertz

$$1068 / 3.729 = 286.4 \text{ feet overall length}$$

Divide by 4 to get each length of the 4 sides = **71.6 feet** (Cut overall length long by approx. 3 feet (18 inches for each end of the feed) to allow for wrapping at the feed point. It's alot easier to cut some off than trying to add).

Laying Out the Antenna

This is the fun part. If at all possible lay it out as it will go up (around the house - around any obstructions etc).

Measure off the required length marking the corners as you go (71.6 feet each leg). *Remember to start measuring the extra length in **from the end** that you have allowed for feed point wrapping!*

Run the elbows down the wire placing them at the pre-marked spots along the wire. At each elbow wrap extra wire to secure elbow at that point (see drawing).

Construct the feed point (T connector). Spend lots of time putting this together. Over-build it since this is where the major stress will occur. Mine is 5 years old and still looks like the day it was built even though it has been subjected to 100 + kph winds and major ice loads.

Rather than drilling the holes for the antenna wire use a soldering iron if possible. There are no sharp edges using this method.

NOTE: If the feed point is located at a metal tower **DO NOT** attach the ladder line to the tower. A standoff system is required. Coax, of course, can be taped or wire stayed to a leg of the tower.

At all 4 corners attach lanyard rope using a clove hitch followed by 2 half hitches then 2 or 3 plastic wire stays around the loose ends and tape the wild end tightly.

Ideally, the antenna should be ½ wavelength above ground (not bloody likely). Get it as high as possible though. I've found that it works well from 50 feet and up.

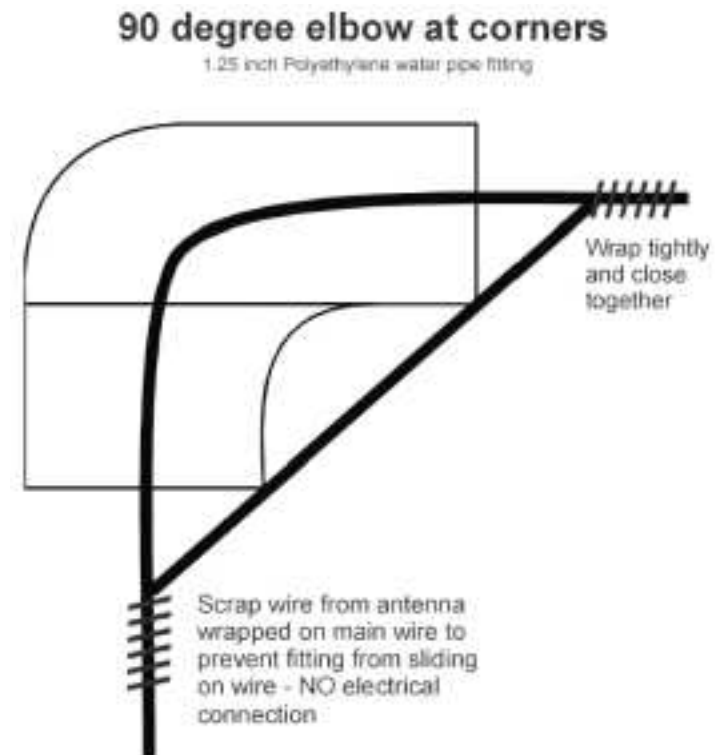
With a good tuner you should be able to tune **any** HF band.

Run a 100 foot ground wire in contact with the earth (it can be insulated or uninsulated – it doesn't matter – although insulated will last longer. The wire can be any length as long as 100' is in contact with the earth. It's best if you bury it by taking a square nosed spade and dig a shallow trench to hide the wire.

Just push the shovel in a few inches and fold the grass and dirt over, lay the wire in the trench and tamp the grass/dirt back over it. The trench will disappear within a couple of weeks. It does not matter what configuration you install the ground wire (straight line, zig-zag, whatever fits).

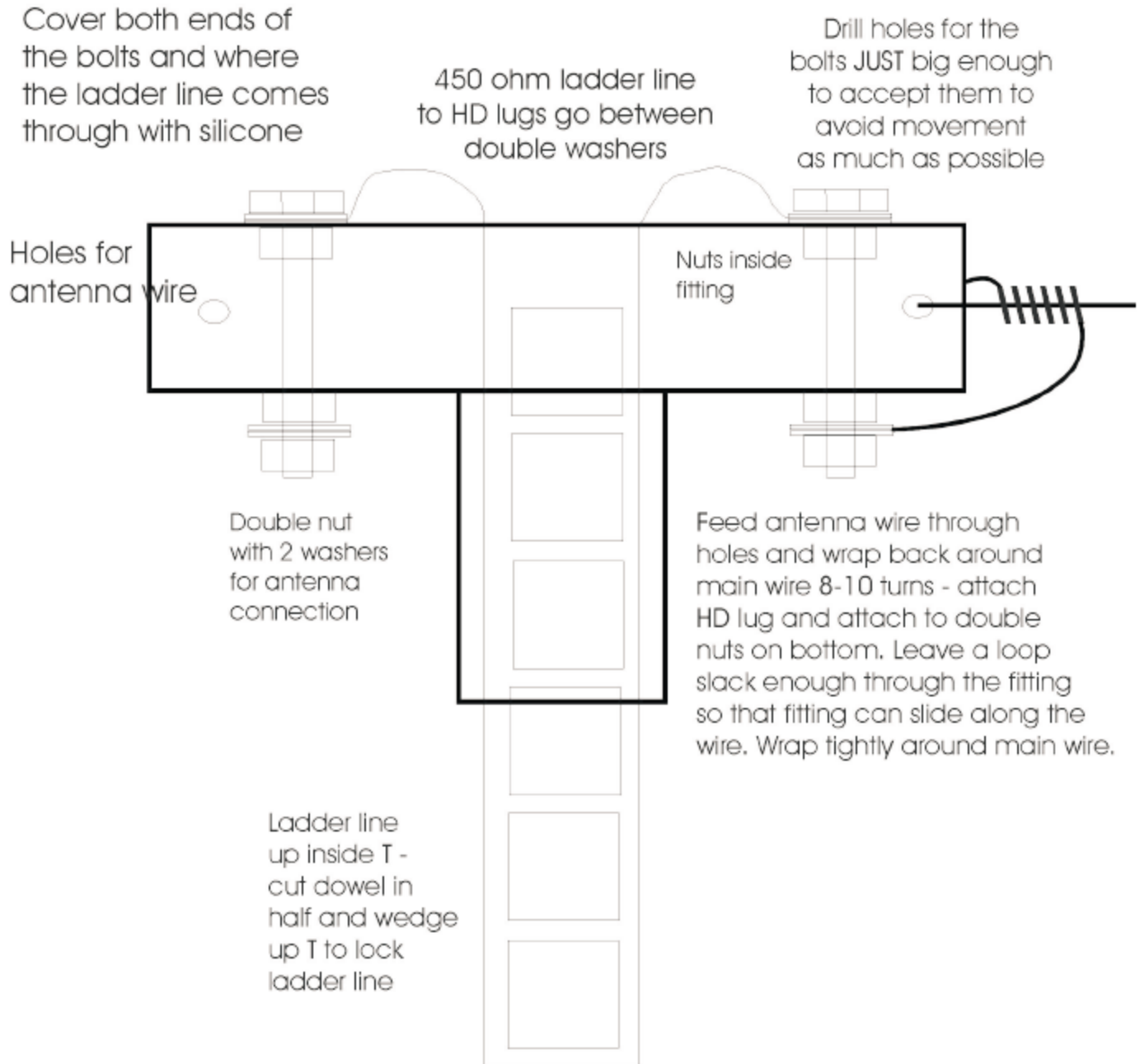
Connect one end of the ground wire to a bus bar at the back of the radios (a ½" piece of copper pipe **sanded clean** works great and attach every piece of transmitting equipment to it at **different points** across the pipe) **Don't** gang all of the connections to one place. Using stainless steel water pipe clamps work best. Soldering can cause a high resistance if a joint goes dry. Use ground shield from an old piece of RG8 for the grounding straps – here, the bigger the better.

The antenna does not have to be a perfect square nor does it have to be particularly level although if it has a significant slant to it you'll tend to be somewhat directional.



Feed Point

**1.25 " Polyethylene
"T" connector
water fitting**



The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

is pleased to announce its 10th Annual



Hamfest

Saturday, September 2, 2006 (Labour Day weekend)

Tailgaters Open and Building Vendor setup: 8 am

Building Opens: 10 am until 1 pm

Radio Amateurs of Canada Forum and Technology Update: 1 pm - 4 pm (approx)

Carp Agricultural Fairgrounds
3970 Carp Rd (at Falldown Lane)

Ottawa (Carp), Ontario

From Ottawa take Highway 417 west to Carp Road exit, north to the fairgrounds

We are in the Arena, so follow the signs on the site

\$6 general admission

\$12/table (plus admission)

\$5/tailgate (plus admission)

We will once again be offering an excellent door prize. Details will follow.

The OARC is proud to sponsor the RAC Forum and Technology Update. This highly informative event follows immediately after the close of the Hamfest at 1 pm. We are very fortunate to have Ben Price (VE3CDA), RAC's Ontario North/East Director, as Moderator.

For further information or reservations contact:

Greg Danylchenko(VE3YTZ)
Tel: (613) 236-9291(H)

E-mail: fleamarket@oarc.net
Web site: www/oarc.net/fleamarket

Talk-in: VE2CRA 146.940 - MHz

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club



P.O. Box 41145
Ottawa ON K1G 5K9

MEMBERSHIP FORM

- * The Membership year starts in July and runs to June 30th of the following year.
- * Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.
- * Associate membership is open to all radio enthusiasts.
- * The family rate is for second and subsequent members of the same family living at the same address.
- * One form per member.

RENEWAL ☐ NEW ☐ CHANGE ☐ OVMRC NAME TAG (Cost \$7.00) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Call Sign	Surname	Preferred First Name
Mailing Address		Apartment Number
City	Province	Postal Code
Home Phone	Work Phone	E-mail Address

Date

BBN

For Office use only

- ☐ One year membership. Regular or Associate. Includes mailed Rambler - \$40/year
☐ One year membership. Regular or Associate. Without mailed Rambler - \$30/year
☐ Family membership. For family of current members. No mailed Rambler - \$5/year

Amount Enclosed

\$

Cheque ☐ Cash ☐

My Interests are: ☐ VHF/UHF Phone ☐ VHF/UHF Digital ☐ VHF/UHF CW
☐ Satellite ☐ HF Phone ☐ HF Digital ☐ HF CW

Current Occupation:

If retired, Former Occupation:

Skills: (Please list them all)

COMMENTS

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OVMRC NAME TAG — ORDER DETAILS

First Name

Call Sign