

Dear ,

I hope this letter finds you in good spirit and health.

This letter was sent to you by another ham, whose name or callsign I do not know. He or she downloaded this letter and the Operating Practice article from my website at:

<http://www.on4ww.be/op.html>

I am aware that I take quite a risk by publicly releasing this letter and allowing a stranger to send this to you. It is a risk because the letter is in my name and I cannot be sure that the sender means well and does not abuse the letter to bother you and make a fool of me.

I take the risk because of the possibility that the person has good reasons to send you this letter and the enclosed article. I have witnessed over the last two decades a deterioration of behaviour and operating skills that I find embarrassing. I hope that the letter can contribute a mechanism that the ham community can use to grow and improve.

By mailing this material, the sender wants to send a message to you. Most importantly, this letter is IN NO WAY meant to offend or expose you. The sender takes some efforts to send you this material (mailing and postage) and it is meant as a helping hand, not as an offence. Please check on the next page for the specific points the sender criticizes in your style of operating. Be aware, that I ask people to send this material only to operators they witness to make the same error(s) over and over again.

We all make errors (I do, I know!). Often, we are not aware of these errors, but others hear them. For example, nobody EVER told me how I should operate my station on the ham bands. I started operating by listening to old-timers and newcomers alike. Both groups make errors, some of which I acquired and I had to correct afterwards. The enclosed Operating Practice article is nothing but a collection of practical advice that can shortcut the tedious trial-and-error learning or even hard-wired errors that are painful for all involved. The article summarizes the knowledge of many active ham operators, young and old. I have received many positive comments on the article, so there must be some validity in the advice. If you have internet access, please have a look at the comments and add one if you like in my guestbook.

I give the sender the possibility to sign as 'Anonymous' – without name or callsign, because the exchange of this letter should prevent personal fights and not start them. If the sender has a point with his/her criticism, you can learn from it.

If you feel this letter was unfairly sent to you, I would welcome that feedback as well. This letter is supposed to spread the word about reasonable and thoughtful operating techniques in good ham spirit. It is an experiment, I will evaluate the feedback and depending on that continue it or not.

Again, I want to stress that this mail is in no way meant to offend you. It is a way of trying to improve overall operating practice on the ham bands. And with this you can help. We can all help. Thanks!

I hope to catch you on the airwaves some day! 73 – Mark – ON4WW.

PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT PAGE 2, where you will find information on the possible errors you made, thanks.

For the sender of this mail, please check the box of the item you want the reader to pay special attention to. With a marker you can highlight specific text in the article as well. You can add additional observations yourself, when they are not already displayed below. Please be careful and considerate in your wordings, thanks.

- Please read chapter(s) carefully
- Please read chapter(s) carefully, and take special note of the highlighted text
- Please read the complete Operating Practice manual carefully
- I observed you making the following error:

..... (please see chapter. . . .)

Date:	Time:	Frequency/mode:
Date:	Time:	Frequency/mode:
Date:	Time:	Frequency/mode:

- I observed you making the following error:

..... (please see chapter. . . .)

Date:	Time:	Frequency/mode:
Date:	Time:	Frequency/mode:
Date:	Time:	Frequency/mode:

- I observed you making the following error:

..... (please see chapter)

Date:	Time:	Frequency/mode:
Date:	Time:	Frequency/mode:
Date:	Time:	Frequency/mode:

- I observed you making the following **DX-CLUSTER** error(s):

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- Additional observations:

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I testify that this letter and manual have been sent not to offend you, but to help you improve your operating skills. In no way ON4WW has asked me to send you this letter, this has been my own decision

- I wish to remain anonymous
- My callsign and signature: