

FEED BACK

GRECIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

Editor Bill VE3EFX

DECEMBER 1975

Executive President	Dick Shave	VE3BIS
Vice Pres.	Dave Dixon	VE3DXO
Sec. Treas.	Cy Weaver	VE3DQA

* * * * *

The November meeting was attended by 23 members and visitors. Cy read the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial report showed that we had \$156.20 in the bank.

A trophy was given to the club by the Split Rail Festival committee and it will be kept by Harvey, VE3FOT.

VE3FFN mentioned some spots in his area where the repeater coverage was marginal for mobiles. Discussion followed on various solutions to the problem.

XJ3EFX read a proposed telegram to be sent in support of a brief to the Ontario government, requesting that callsign plates be made available in the province. The Secy. was instructed to send the telegram on Friday Nov. 21st.

Jim, VE3CRV, proposed that we hold the December meeting at the Yacht Club premises where drinks will be available and the members are asked to bring along their wives for a get together. The date is DECEMBER 18th at 8pm. I assume that a talkin station will guide those who are unfamiliar with the location.

VE3BIS, started his transistor course and it should be good for those who want to become familiar with solid state circuits. SHAVEKITS, consisting of lesson material, circuit boards, resistors and transistors were handed out by Dick to those who are enrolled.

A movie "The Rise and Fall of The Great Lakes" was shown and Coffee and donuts with a ragchew finished off the evening.

* * * * *

The Jan. meeting will feature a Satellite talk by VE3CDQ who works at Allan Pk.

On Sunday November 2nd a marine rescue took place in the Atlantic off the coast of South Carolina. A Canadian boat had been adrift for three days and the crew was in a weakened condition when they made contact via Amateur radio on 80m. The US Coastguard was contacted and the FCC announced that 3.935mhz was to be considered an emergency frequency for the exclusive use of the stations that were involved in the operation. The call of the station aboard the boat was VEØMCM. WA4CFX appeared to be the prime contact station on the frequency and he was in contact with the Coastguard ship Reliance as it headed out to the location of the stricken vessel.

During the day two radios were dropped to the boat but the crew couldn't retrieve them. The plane then dropped a marker beacon that the Reliance used to home in on until it achieved radar contact.

Shortly after 8pm EST the Reliance announced that they were alongside the boat, were taking off the crew, putting aboard a skeleton crew and due to adverse weather conditions they would lay too until daylight.

The emergency was terminated at 8.10pm and WA4CFX cleared the frequency. Those of us who listened in to the operation heard the most skillful operation by those trying to maintain contact while deliberate QRM from certain other stations made things very difficult at times. Even in a lifesaving venture there are those who try to create havoc and jam emergency communications. CB is not the only service to suffer this type of problem. Hopefully the FCC will be able to nail those who were involved.

* * * * *

Jack, VE3GMT, mounted a DXpedition to Sable Island and used the call VX9A. Tess and I managed to work him on 80m.

* * * * *

VE3CRV went out and fixed the repeater when it stuck in the transmit mode at the beginning of November. TMX again Jim.

* * * * *

The 2m net is working out quite well but we want more people to monitor the 80m nets as well. We are not going to be able to handle traffic into the area if all the local yokels are waffling on 2m.

* * * * *

Next month we expect to have the VE3AYM story, so get it in to me by Dec. 20 Chas. I will be on vacation over the Xmas and New Year period so I must get the copy in so that it can be duplicated in lots of time.

On November the 17th VE3EAR/ m was driving back to Goderich on the shore road from Kincardine when he ran off the road and hit a tree. He put out a call on VE3KIN and was answered by VE3EYN. John set out with Gene, K5EVE/VE3 and they came upon the accident where they found the car had hit a tree head on. Bruce was lying on the front seat with a badly cut chin and after being transported to the Kincardine hospital it was determined that he also had a broken bone in his wrist and a badly bruised leg.

The fact that the Kincardine repeater was being monitored probably saved Bruce's life as he is a Hemophiliac.

Surely the motto of the story is "Monitor Your Local Repeater".

* * * * *

John, VE3EYN has invested in a device to track the Oscar satellites in elevation and azimuth. Once it is hooked up to his antenna it should make operation via the satellite a much simpler business. He also plans to get into the micro-computer business so interesting things are happening in Kincardine.

* * * * *

Remember the GBARC net each Sunday at 14.30z on 3.783 mhz. Also the 2m net every night on VE3OSR at 00.01z approximately.

* * * * *

The 80m band is in fine shape these days, I had checkins on the CJ net from VO2, VE1, 2,3,4,5, and W4 the other night. In the morning there is a regular VK and numerous Carribean and Western US stations on the band.

* * * * *

RSO members should renew their membership through the club when it becomes due as the club gets 50 cents back from the Society. As one of the RSO delegates for this district I urge all amateurs to support the Provincial organization. I also advocate membership in the ARRL as the club affiliation with that body will be in jeopardy if we drop below the required percentage of members. We have already seen the advantages of ARRL affiliation, with the help we got for the Split Rail Festival in September. Most of you were able to make good use of the WIAW code practice on the air and any active amateur will be lost without the benefit of QST, at least if they want to know what is going on in the world of Amateur radio.

* * * * *

All but 17 copies of Feedback were delivered on time last month so the Snail Service isn't as important as you might think. We'll try to get this issue out to the membership too if the high priced help dont return to work.

In a conversation with Harvey, I learned that since we had the club meeting at his house after the Split Rail Festival, he is missing some of the cutlery. The prime suspect at this time is "Old Slippery" who is known to be attracted by any shining articles that are not nailed down. A check of pawn shops in Southampton will be undertaken by the local constabulary in order to clear up the mystery.

* * * * *

The high winds of November 10th didn't do too much damage to amateur antennas in the area but a number of TV and CB antennas were seen to have had a rough time. Dick, VE3BIS lost a dipole for 80m but he was in the process of putting it back up next day when I called in.

* * * * *

It is still a common occurrence on the air to be asked to explain the XJ prefix, and this applies to Canadian stations almost exclusively. The main trouble seems to be the lack of Canadians using the Olympic prefixes. In our club there are five members who use it out of about fifty, that I am aware of. What is the matter with you guys? Is it the cost or trouble of getting some QSL cards made up, or is it the usual couldn't care less attitude that prevails? I find it a bit pathetic to listen to the guys on the air who say they can't get their tongue around XJ. I'll bet that if the DOC had waived the \$13 licence fee for those who used it this year there would have been an awful lot of very articulate people appear on the air overnight.

* * * * *

Very nice CW signals coming from VE3FOF these days. There can't be too much to fix on the rig if it puts out like that Harvey. The net on Sunday morning is doing well again with over a dozen checking in most of the time.

* * * * *

XJ3HXX is working out fine now that he has the antenna up on the new tower and he worked a novice in Puerto Rico for his first DX. As of the middle of Nov. he has 36 States worked but the mail strike is holding up the QSL's.

* * * * *

VE3BFZ has his new Uniden 2020 on the air and it sounds very nice. The new antenna will make a difference too when he gets it up.

VE3NX has a slight problem with the calibrator in his but these rigs sound good.

* * * * *

Question of the month is; When is VE3HIP going to get his Advanced ticket?

My original interest in ham radio goes back to w.w. 2 days, when my cousin had his VE1 ticket before the D.O.T. pulled the plugs on further ham activities for the duration.

Even tho'I was only 10 years old, I was facinated by the QSL's and home brew gear he was using. He gave me an old key to play around with and it was not too long before I put it in series with a light bulb (110 Volts yet !!) and had a great time in the attic. The window over-looked the Bay of Fundy, so if any German subs were around, they must have had quite a time translating those 'secret' transmissions.

In 1948 my cousin moved to Saint John ,N.B. with his young family. I also worked there for the B.of M. and Joan and I used to baby sit for them on the odd occasion. He had his rig set up in a spare room, and needless to say, the temptation was too great for me and I fired up the gear one night. I don't think he lost his ticket, but we did'nt babysit the kids anymore-hi.

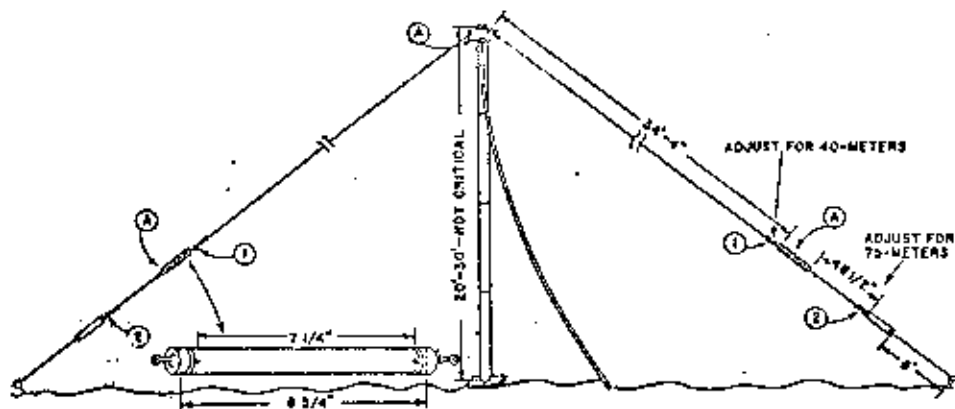
Joan and I were married shortly after and my spare time was taken up with family, house, job, etc; so ham radio took a back seat. One evening I picked up an old issue of the ARRL manual and saw plans for a bread-box re-gen receiver. It was a one tube 6SN7 receiver with hand wound coils for the different bands. The junk box I had been accumulating provided most of the parts so I decided to build it. With some help from a friend(not a ham) we built the power supply and receiver. The first night I heard a Russian and Canadian exchanging ham information, so then I was bitten by the ham bug ,but good.

My cousin went on silent key a few years ago and his wife gave me some of his gear. He was not active then but was part way through building a heathkit ssb, which was returned to them for full credit. I did a lot of listening on the old hallicrafter(still do !!) when I saw the course offered at Georgian College for would-be hams.

Most of you know the rest. I think its the greatest hobby in the world.

Ian

*Design for a compact 80/40-meter inverted-V antenna.
Lead-in is RG-58 or RG-8 depending on length and power.*



Compact 80/40-Meter Inverted

V. The antenna shown in the diagram is for the 80- and 40-meter bands. It is only 10 feet (30.15 m) longer than a conventional 40-meter dipole, but gives good 2-band coverage. The dimensions were suggested by Art Smith, W6INI. The coils at A are made of #18 wire wound on 1.125" (2.86-cm) OD PVC pipe forms. Cut two 8 3/4" (22.22-cm) pieces of the pipe for the forms and drill two rows of three #42 holes 7 1/4" (18.42 cm) apart in each. Measure two 50' (15.24-m) lengths of the #18 wire for the coils.

Thread one end of one length of wire through one of the rows of holes in one form, allowing 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) of wire to protrude from the form. Close-wind the wire on the form and thread the remaining end through the holes at the other end of the form. Mount a #10 brass or stainless steel eye bolt in each of two PVC pipe caps used to cover the ends of the form. Then insert a #10 solder lug under each outside nut. Drill a #42 hole in each cap adjacent to the lugs. Coat the insides of the caps and the ends of the forms with PVC cement. Position the caps on the ends of the forms so that the ends of the wire protrude through the #42 holes near the solder lugs. Tamp the caps firmly into place and allow the cement to set. Scrape the enamel from the ends of the wire and solder them to the lugs. Use a hot iron, make the connections rapidly, and immediately cool them.

The center insulator can be fabricated from a 5/16" (0.8-cm) piece of plexiglass, an SO-239 coaxial chassis jack and a U clamp to fasten the assembly to the mast. The ends of the antenna can be insulated by lengths of

plexiglass or standard antenna insulators.

The dimensions in the diagram are approximately correct for the 7.2- and 3.8-MHz phone bands. Assemble the antenna using these dimensions, allowing another 12" (28.5 cm) of wire at points 1 and 2. For the lead-in, use RG-58 for short runs and low power; RG-8 for long runs and high power.

Feed r-f power through an SWR bridge into the antenna at intervals across the 7-MHz band to find the frequency of minimum SWR. Take measurements in smaller frequency increments as the SWR approaches its minimum value, which should be about 1:1 at the resonant frequency of the antenna. If the minimum SWR occurs at a lower frequency than desired, shorten the 7-MHz section of the antenna at points 1. If minimum SWR occurs at too high a frequency, lengthen the antenna. Make the adjustments two or three inches at a time. After 40-meter resonance is established, transfer operations to the 3.5-4-MHz band and adjust lengths at points 2 for minimum SWR at the desired frequency on that band.

After the resonant frequencies of the antenna have been established on both bands, point 1 can be soldered. Proximity to large objects changes the resonant frequency on the 80-meter band, however. Therefore, it is advisable to make it easy to change the lengths at points 2, if the antenna is going to be used in different locations. The center of the antenna should be as high as possible; but if the center height is increased, raise the heights of the ends, too, so that the apex angle does not become too acute.