

FEED BACK

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

Editor Bill VE3EFX

NOVEMBER 1975

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

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The October meeting was attended by 25 members and guests. A report on the Split Rail Festival was given by VE3HIP after the minutes and financial statement were read by VE3DXO. Cy, VE3DQA was absent and Dave stood in for him.

Jim, VE3CRV said that the classes were underway with 14 taking the course.

The club has a bank balance of \$151.20, but there is more to come in from the radio course and the boat trip surplus.

Harvey, VE3FOT read his new club byelaws and these were accepted on a motion by VE3DTS, seconded by VE3EFX.

VE3EFX went over the requirements for the rally and answered questions on the subject. There is a report on the operation in this issue of the newsletter. Slides of recent club activities were shown by VE3EFX, and after a break for some coffee and sandwiches, a film on the universe was shown.

Jim had the recently acquired transistorized repeater along and it was shown to the meeting. It is in mint condition and should be a very nice machine when we get it installed .

Harvey did a first class job as usual on the preparation and presentation of the byelaws. We are lucky to have someone with his talents in the club.

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You will note that there is a membership application form with this issue and we now have a byelaw stating that all licensed amateurs must be full members. Be sure to fill in the form completely and correctly and send in the money before January 1st. If this is not done you will not get the January Feedback.

REPORT ON THE "LAST CHANCE RALLY" OPERATION

SATURDAY OCTOBER 13 / 75

Of the twelve original stations who were to take part, we ended up with ten mobile and two fixed stations. The mobiles all met at the Sutton Park Inn, Kincardine, and were assigned to the Selectives they were to cover. After coffee the mobiles left with the respective Selective Captains. After bellyaching all week about having to drive to Kincardine, VE3BIS lit up like a pumpkin at Halloween when his Selective Captain turned up in the form of a shapely young chick by the name of Linda.

The 1st selective was manned by VE3DAL, VE3DXO, and XJ3AIU. The 3rd by VE3CAC and VE5HW/VE3. The 4th by VE3HIP and VE3BSF. The 6th by VE3BIS and Linda. It was on a remote road and we frequently had trouble getting Dick to respond to calls. The halfway point was covered by VE3DQA at N. Bruce and VE3HIZ was near Burgoyne. The 4th selective was run again on the return trip as #12 and the 3rd was run as #13.

The mobile units were supplemented by VE3BFZ and XJ3EFX operating their base stations in Port Elgin and Tiverton respectively. We had absolutely no trouble in maintaining contact with all the stations and apart from a couple of minor faults that developed on the rigs of HIP and BSF, the gear performed fine. Ian and Verne fixed their rigs and no more problems came up.

The 1st selective was closed at 22.25z and the operators left for home after coffee at the EFX QTH. VE3DXO tried to take a spare rig to the 4th selective but a drunk was parked on the road and blocking traffic so he couldn't get in. The OPP soon moved the offender and the rally continued.

The most spectacular driving was seen by those at the 3rd and 4th selectives and it was just as good after dark on the return trip. I believe 40 cars started and 27 completed the course.

The Car Club were most impressed by our communications capabilities and the way we conducted ourselves. They got all the information that they required with the minimum of delay and the general feeling was that we were reliable and showed responsibility in the way the job was handled.

As I was asked to co-ordinate things between the two clubs I was particularly pleased that we were able to carry the operation off without any trouble. I was asked for 10 stations and we got them so everyone who contributed to the success of the venture is to be congratulated on a job well done.

The only criticism I have is that the rig we borrowed for VE3FCW to use was not operable. The control head was not wired up properly and it was not equipped with a 94 xmit xtal. My apologies to Bob for handing him a rig that was u/s even after he worked on it and tried to get it on the air.

On Sunday, October 26th the transmitter hunt was held. XJ3EPX and XJ3HHR set up the station at 9.45am and the first transmission was made at 10am.

Nothing was heard till 11.25 when a request came over for low power, so we switched from the 25w rig to the 2w HT.

The location was excellent and we were able to see the approach roads in both directions for at least a mile. The only mobile that we saw was VE5HW/VE3 who put considerable mileage on the car, not to mention wear and tear, as he tore up and down the road, passing our hideout at least half a dozen times.

At 12.30pm a plaintive call from VE3BIS told us that his antenna wasn't working and he had gone home.

At 12.45pm Jorgen drove to within 50' of the transmitter then turned round and headed out of the area, so I called him and said goodbye, causing him to return for a closer look. We felt that we could have had him running around all afternoon but as company was expected we had to wrap it up by 1pm.

It was a lovely day and we enjoyed the outing very much. It would have been better if there had been more support for the event and I'd like to see some more operations of this type in the future. There was lots of advance notice for the hunt but nobody seemed to have much idea of the rules or time judging by the comments heard on the air prior to the event. I had a prize lined up for the team that won but was reluctant to mention it as we would have had everybody and their dog out there. All religious, social and domestic activities would have taken a back seat if it was known that a piece of test equipment was going to the winner.

One thing is evident, and that is the problem of direction finding in the presence of strong signals, and also when the source is close by. I think that I have the answer to the problem so next time I hope to be able to try it out.

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K5EVE/VE3 brought his Multi 2000 to my QTH and we monitored a pass of Oscar7 in B mode. Using a 5/8 whip antenna at ground level we had signals at s9 from VE7 and VE6 along with many Stateside stations coming in. Gene is gearing up for a lot of satellite action and with the next generation of satellites coming along soon it is going to be a very interesting phase of amateur radio. Has anyone else in the club heard the signals coming through the Oscars? Nobody seems to be doing very much of anything except waffle on the repeater, or if they are, they sure keep quiet about it.

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The CQ DX contest sure produced a lot of action on the bands. There was activity from five continents coming in on the Friday evening at around 03.00 z.

From time to time I hear whispers from various individuals that some of the more caustic comments in Feedback, gives offence to sensitive souls within the club. As far as I am concerned, if you do something right you'll get a pat on the back, on the other hand if you foul up you can expect to read about it in these pages. There are some people who like to look through rose coloured glasses and see only sweetness and light, but this is not the purpose of a club newsletter. Reading the club constitution, I interpret the purpose of the Club Periodical to be "a pillar supporting the club" not a crutch for lame ducks who can't stand any criticism.

Anyone who takes issue with statements in this newsletter is more than welcome to write a letter to the editor and it will be printed in the next issue. Having had experience with this sort of thing before, I know it can stir up more interest in a short time than a series of technical articles.

Talking about articles for the newsletter, if there is anything you want to see in here let me know what your preference is. I have access to information on various aspects of Amateur radio but am reluctant to get into subjects that are not of interest to the membership. The Oscar info was supplied by Gene K5EVE/VE3 who is a member of AMSAT. I hope to be able to maintain the orbital info in the coming months but will only do so if it is of use as I don't want to just fill up these pages with irrelevant information.

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The GBARC net is on Sunday at 9.30 local time on 3.783mhz. We seem to get the same stations calling in each week, where are the others like FTW, BH, AYM, AYN, CR, EAR, GN, CHS, EPC, and others who don't surface too often ?

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Welcome to Dave VE3DXO, who appeared on the repeater at 10.30 pm on October 9th with a new Multi 7. The rig sounds very good and we should hear Dave on 2m regularly from now on. The more 2m stations we have on the repeater, the better we will be equipped to handle emergency type communications.

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The November meeting will be held on Thursday 20th at '8'pm sharp in the CIAG computer building, Owen Sound.

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Jim, VE3CRV, now has the transistorized repeater. It is made by Storno and it could be a very reliable piece of equipment as we use the same gear at the Heavy Water Plant and it has been trouble free for five years now. There is a 117 vac power supply on this one so we can easily set it up and install a relay to switch over to a battery in the event of a power failure.

The new address for the VE3 QSL bureau is ; THE ONTARIO TRILLIUMS  
POST OFFICE BOX 157  
DOWNSVIEW, ONT. M3M 3A3

The Trilliums took over the job as Russ Buckley has been very ill and could not continue with the job.

All active amateurs should have a S.A.S.E. in the bureau at all times.

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VE3HIR, Tess is taking the 1pm to 2pm spot on ONTARS every Saturday from now on.

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How about a volunteer to alternate with me on the GJ net on Sundays ? VE3BME is always glad to have some more help as he frequently has to take it himself.

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VE3DEV and VE3EMQ were up in the Owen Sound area on Thanksgiving weekend . Nice to hear you guys on the local repeater, and hope you enjoyed the trip.

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The Radio Shack twins are conspicuous by their absence these days since they are both at work. I'm sure that they will be salting all that cash away for bigger and better radio gear. I know that they are both doing a good job up there in the Owen Sound Radio Shack store.

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Very little club participation was in evidence during the VE/W contest. I made some contacts but due to net controlling etc. couldn't spend too much time at it. Rick, XJ3HIO made over 200 contacts I believe, so he did well.

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On the evening of October 14th there was a special broadcast by W3BWU through the Oscar 6 satellite to celebrate the third anniversary of operation . Those who were able to hear the broadcast can send in a report to AMSAT for a special QSL. The signals were very strong and the Doppler shift very pronounced. Tess and I were able to hear it for eleven minutes and fifty-five seconds. The satellite has now exceeded its life expectancy by 200%. The Doppler shift moved the received signal from 29.490mhz at 01.23z to 29.484mhz at 01.32z.

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VE3HIR and VE3EFX worked PAOHIP in September and the QSLs arrived about three weeks later. We must bring them along to let Ian see the confirmation from his namesake.

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Please have all copy for reedback in to me by the 25th of the previous month.

## AMATEUR RADIO -- HOBBY or SERVICE

Frequently we hear statements like "it's only a hobby, you can't expect people to take it too seriously", or "the gear hasn't been working too well, but as long as I can work Joe across the lake for our weekly sked it will be okay" or "I don't belong to any clubs, I just use the gear to talk to my brother occasionally". In my view, these type of comments should not come from anyone holding an Amateur Experimental Service licence. Too many amateurs install and operate their stations in a very haphazard fashion, with the conviction that they paid \$13 for the privilege and that is as far as their obligation goes.

Consider this for a moment. The Amateur Experimental Service is just that, a service, and it is the responsibility of each one of us to maintain a station that can provide a service at any time if called upon to do so. We should familiarize ourselves with NET OPERATION, TRAFFIC HANDLING, EMERGENCY OPERATION, USE OF OUR BANDS FOR PROPAGATION TO REQUIRED AREAS AND PROPER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT IN OUR SHACKS.

How much longer can we justify our exclusive use of over 10% of all the frequency space between 3mhz and 30mhz, when so many other services are casting a jealous eye on the 3.3mhz set aside for our use. They listen around and hear such meaningless use being made of the spectrum that could, in their opinion, be put to better use for broadcasting and point to point communications.

We have another frequency allocation conference coming up in a few years, are you ready to prove that you deserve the use of our bands or are you hoping that somebody else will pull your chestnuts out of the fire ?

WHERE DO YOU FALL IN THE FOLLOWING LIST ?

The guy with the 5 band rig and one band antenna.

The guy who operates only SSB and hates CW, RTTY, SSTV and 2m FM.

The guy who won't or can't handle traffic.

The guy who won't work DX. (Usually because he doesn't know how).

The guy who isn't a member of any organisation.

Amateur radio is not like stamp collecting, it is international in scope and we must conform to international rules or chaos will reign. Many of the voices heard at ITU conferences are from the developing nations where Amateur radio is almost unknown, and they are the ones who feel justified in demanding our frequencies or at least some of them. Complacency can only end in disaster as far as our continued existence on the present HF bands are concerned, so think about it and try to consider yourself as a service. Get organised and be prepared for some action. I hope the above will stimulate some discussion at least.

Bill VE3EFX

ONE BEGINNER'S IMPRESSION OF HAM RADIO

VE3DXO

*Dave*

My first association with Amateur Radio was made at a time when I was not the least bit interested in such foolish pastimes; and therein lies this tale.

Before moving to Markdale, in the summer of 1966, my home was in Galt (now Cambridge). I had a good friend living just up the street who was known to me as Murray, and to other Hams as VE3FUU.. His activities in Amateur Radio were about equally divided between operating and trying to convince me that I should follow his silly footsteps. But there was no way that I could see any sense to it and the more he exerted pressure, the more I resisted. It seemed pure nonsense to spend good money buying elaborate equipment to talk with people I didn't even know when Ma Bell had already supplied me with a little black box that was simple, inexpensive, and didn't require an examination or licence to operate. And, besides, I knew nothing about resistors, capacitors, harmonics and all that garbage, and had no desire to learn.

Finally, however, in desperation, and to appease Murray's persistent jabs I said that I would learn the code but that would be it, hoping he would then drop the subject. Then, admittedly, after the first hurdle, the code did seem somewhat interesting, especially after I had struggled up to the remarkable speed of 3 W.P.M. I felt a real sense of accomplishment and it then became a challenge to gradually work my way up to higher speeds.

.. During this time I also met a few of Murray's Ham friends - Ernie VE3OU the fastest key man I know, Con VE3UM a kindly gentleman, George VE3EUQ and Keith VE3CTY both now silent keys, and several more. I was soon convinced that these fellows were indeed having fun with their shop talk and radio contacts. Also it occurred to me that I had spent a lot of time, and hard work and concentration in learning CW and it would be wasted if I wasn't going to make any further use of it.

From then on it was the familiar story you all know - a borrowed receiver for some SWL and WIAW, asking questions of other Hams, visiting shacks and field day sites, studying for the exam, and so on.

I wrote and passed the required tests and received my ticket in January 1965. By then I had acquired a well-used 40 watt Knight Transmitter and rushed upstairs to try it out. I well remember that first nervous CQ and hoped the heck no one would answer it. However, lo and behold, there was VE3FUU with his due congratulations.

Since then I've had many enjoyable QSO's and met many fine people in the Ham fraternity and hope I can continue this way for a long time to come.

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A telephone call from Barry Ferguson in Port Elgin produced the news that he had been issued the call VE3HZP. Barry is looking for a 2m base station.

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The new class of prospective amateurs got underway on October 7th with 13 people including 4 XYLs. First impressions are that we have a good group and I think we will produce some pretty keen amateurs by next year.

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VE3HIZ has moved to Southampton and hopefully he will get some decent antennas up before winter sets in. Anything will be an improvement after the apartment, as Jim will be the first to admit. Now that Dorothy is on the way to becoming an amateur too you'd better get going on that Worked All States Jim.

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Next month we have the story of how VE3HIP got interested in Amateur Radio and the copy is in already so I will nominate VE3AYM to write in with his story for the January issue. Please let me have the copy by the 20th December Charlie.

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The Rusty Brennan Trophy was won this year by the IBM club, it was announced at the RSO convention in Ottawa. Having talked to one of the club members, I am sure we would have kept the trophy if the entry had gone in by the deadline.



CORRECTION: ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE I MENTIONED THAT THE IBM CLUB WON THE RUSTY BRENNAN TROPHY. IN FACT IT WAS THE SOUTH WATERLOO CLUB THAT WON IT. THE KIETH RUSSELL TROPHY WAS WON BY THE IBM CLUB. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

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The RSO Convention had 888 registrations and there were 637 people at the banquet so this surpassed even the Hamilton affair.

There were some good films and talks starting at 9am on the Saturday, but as I had to attend the Delegates meeting in the afternoon, I was unable to get to all the lectures that were available. I did attend a very interesting talk given by Larry, VE3QB, who is one of the control stations for the Oscar satellites.

Part of the lecture was on the Oscar 6 & 7 satellites with some info on the next spacecraft. Oscar 6 is still in good shape and could last for an indefinite time, while Oscar 7 has a few problems although it is functioning well it does tend to have a mind of its own at times and may decide to change modes when it feels like it.

The phase 3 spacecraft will hopefully be launched in the next couple of years or so and it will have an auxilliary kick motor aboard that can give it a 40G kick for 40 seconds. This will be used to boost the craft into a highly elliptical orbit after it has been placed in the more usual circular polar orbit by the launch vehicle. This orbit will give access to the satellite by amateurs in the Northern hemisphere for 70% of the time and so many real DX contacts will be easy with this type of orbit. The present plans are for 146mhz up 435mhz down and also 435mhz up 146mhz down. It is necessary to get away from the 10m down link as it requires low orbits to overcome the high path loss.

One problem that has affected satellites in the past is Spacearc caused by static buildup on the craft.

Larry also talked about and demonstrated a Micro Computer which seems to be a very interesting piece of equipment. He used it to control the Oscar satellites for a couple of week when he was on vacation and there are many functions these machines can perform as the one he has can handle 2000 bits of info per second.

There was a lot of equipment on display including a five band xcvr by UNIDEN a new Japanese company. VE3NX has ordered one and VE3BFZ hopes to get one too. XJ3HXX, XJ3HIR, VE3NX, and I were the only ones from the GBARC who attended the convention as far as I am aware. Where is all this support for things Canadian we hear so much about? Paying your five bucks a year to RSO is hardly enough. The next convention will be in Toronto so it should be a good one.

## THE RETURN TO SIMPLE EQUIPMENT

A long time ago when the air was clean & sex was dirty our government laid down regulations permitting amateur experimenters to select portions of the radio frequency spectrum for learning & enjoyment. Such experimenters or "hams" designed & built their "wireless" apparatus & eventually advanced the state of the art through diligence, persistence & a heck of a lot of work.

Today for the most part this does not seem to be the case. About 10 hams are discovering is a cheaper place to buy commercial gear. We can now purchase that which a few years ago was not even invented. The size of a modern transistorized high frequency transceiver is smaller than a power supply used to be. Our micro-miniaturized FM rigs are a joy to operate & offer many special features.

However - Murphy's law being what it is something will eventually go wrong with these devices & we are left to fix them. This is not too great a problem if we have constructed the piece of equipment ourselves since we must have understood the theory of operation in order to build it in the first place but if ours is a commercial set it can take a long time to repair it. We may eventually even take it to someone who knows how to fix it.

Another item which seems to be getting overlooked is the newcomer to amateur radio who does not have much money to spend. Usually the equipment which he first obtains is very marginal in operation and dependability. Wherever he goes on the bands he has to run competition with many higher powered stations. Even if he tries the American novice and he gets covered. After a while this gets pretty frustrating & he might begin to wonder if it is all worth it.

What our hobby needs is at least a partial return to simpler equipment to get away from the almost exclusive use of commercial & kit built rigs. With our home made less superior equipment we would of course be at a disadvantage to our contemporaries so perhaps a portion of certain amateur bands could be designated by gentleman's agreement for those who exclusively home build their radio gear & who use low powered transmitters.

Would we be willing to set aside some of our sophisticated pre-manufactured gear to operate "Novice" equipment? Keep in mind that we would not have local kilowatt stations to compete with & that QRP operators have successful QSO's even with the present arrangement.

If enough amateurs were interested & helped to promote such a scheme as I have briefly outlined above I feel that ham radio would benefit to a large extent.

Glenn McMichael

VE3CGU

FOR SALE.

A Syscom Commander 11, 4 channel with xtals for 2 channels. 10 w mobile rig \$50  
From Walt, VE3FFN.

A DE65, converted and xtals for 34/94 and 94/94, works well, price is \$60  
From Jim, VE3CRV.

Four small signal sources, for RX alignment, from Toronto FM Assoc. \$10 ea.  
From Jim, VE3CRV

A G.E. Prog-Line with 34/94 & 52/52, mobile rig \$80  
A DX40 transmitter suitable for a beginner \$50  
From VE3HIO.

A G.E. Prog-Line, 30 watt, 2 ch. & xtals for 46/06 and 43/03. Mobile unit \$60  
From Jim, VE3HKV who may dicker on this one.

Two Gm G.E. Prog- Lines : 1- 2 ch 50 watt converted, 20 xtals for 1 ch \$35  
1- 1 ch 30 watt converted, no xtals \$25

A G.E. Prog-Line 450mhz rig converted, 1 ch, with xtals. Mobile unit. \$45  
Two 2m Prog- Line mobile rigs converted, and 2 channelled, no xtals \$37 ea.  
From VE3EYN.

All the above stations are O.K. in the callbook. There are some good buys here.

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Jan, VE3HXX, has of this writing worked 33 States and he has QSLs from 23 of them. This is a great effort in the short time he has been on the air, and surpasses most of those who got on the air last year. His next project is getting up a new 68' tower to hang the trap dipole on.

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VE3HIR and VE3EFX received QSL cards from WC3AS, the special station that operated from Goddard Space Flight Centre on the day of Apollo-Soyuz launch.

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As we now have a disruption in mail service it will be necessary to monitor all the nets whenever possible. The important ones are CJ net, Ontario Phone net, Laurentian net and the Quebec Radio net, all on 80m each night. The Trans-Canada net on Saturday and Sunday on 20m and of course the daily Ontars net. When you are home you should always have the 2m rig on the local repeater in case you are wanted to handle local traffic. If you don't understand the format that formal traffic takes you should as it has been discussed in Feedback and you can hear it being passed any evening on 80m.

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That bright object in the eastern sky at night is Jupiter, it rises before 7pm. The bright object high in the eastern sky in the morning is Venus.