

FEED BACK

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

Editor Bill VE3EFX

FEBRUARY 1976

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

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The January meeting was attended by 25 members. Cy read the minutes of the Nov. meeting and Ian, VE3HIP gave a report on the party in December. The party was attended by 18 people and the outstanding bill of \$53.15 will be paid out of club funds. The financial statement showed that we have \$383.44 in the bank. Harvey, VE3FOT was nominated to audit the club books. We have 29 Full and 3 Associate members paid up for 1976 to date.

Discussion on amendments to the bylaws followed. A proposal to change #1a so that members who are not paid up for the following year by Dec 31st of the current year, will only receive the Jan. Feedback and be allowed 2 months to pay up.

A Full member will be able to propose that a new prospective member get one complimentary copy of Feedback with an invitation to join the club. If you are interested in these changes come to the club and vote this month or make alternative proposals.

As an alternative I would like to propose that any member who has not paid the dues by Dec. 31st should lose all club privileges immediately, ie. No Feedback, no vote etc. till they pay up. Each member gets the renewal notice in November so there is no excuse, if we gave some people 6 months grace they'd still be late. Ian, VE3HIP mentioned student members and something about hardship to them but as I pointed out, I wanted to let them in for \$1 and was howled down two years ago. Anyway the same students were giving as the excuse for not paying, the fact that they were working 12 hours a day over Xmas so they shouldn't be broke. Dick went over his transistor course and we had coffee and donuts to end the meeting.

At the beginning of January all the Feedback copies were in the mail to all the members who had paid up their dues as requested last November. A casual mention of this on the air was all that it took to set the world on fire. There hasn't been so much activity on the repeater since some of you had to pay Postage Due on an issue. NATURALLY ALL THE BELLYACHING CAME FROM THOSE WHO HADN'T PAID AND WERE IMMEDIATELY JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS. Of course all those that I heard from had GOOD EXCUSES like, "I didn't get to the club in December", or "The Secy/Treas wasn't at the meeting" or "I was too busy". One comedian on the repeater was all heated up and said that he "Had been working 12 hours a day over the Xmas period and hadn't time to mail in his dues". What he didn't say was that he walks past a mailbox every time he goes in to work and he passes it on the way out again, it is that red thing at the entrance to the Mall Mike , with the hole in the top, and it never closes. Does Xmas start in November in Owen Sound ?

Next we were treated to a list of all the good things that these individuals ... done for the club in the past. I always thought that self praise was not a good recommendation. While scraping the bottom of the barrel to find something else to complain about it was mentioned that two club members in the same family were paying full dues and only getting ONE Feedback. Well for the record I used to get two out to the pair concerned and at their own request I dropped it to one as they felt that one was sufficient.

The surprising thing is that we had subscriptions in from Toronto and other places but the Turkeys in Owen Sound and district just can't seem to get themselves set up and organised. Of course they have all the time in the world to get on the air and bleat like a kindergarden class if they think they are missing something.

If you think that you are the only one in this world that is busy , forget it, you might be interested to know that I am busy too and If you are too lazy to mail in your dues in a two month period I fail to see why you should expect other club members to work their tail off to accommodate you. Cy VE3DQA has a lot of work to do in keeping up the books and membership list and doing the correspondence, I spend up to 16 hours a month preparing and getting this newsletter out, not to mention reading it to some of the dummies that are too stupid or tired to do it for themselves. Jim VE3CRV puts in many hours on the repeater maintenance and with Ian VE3HIP putting in a tremendous effort on programs for meetings, we do have busy people. Funnily enough these people all found time to send in their dues to Cy. I wonder which one of you BUSY people is going to volunteer to take over as Editor of the newsletter in the summer when my term expires ? Whoever it is will have a legitimate excuse for saying that they are busy next year. Incidentally Nobody got cut off. I was just too busy to get all copies out in time.

The February meeting will be held on Thursday the 19th at 8pm in the CIAG computer building as usual. At this time of year it is wise to check in to Ontars for the latest news of road conditions at about 6pm and of course the repeater should be monitored for last minute information before you leave home , if there is any doubt about the weather.

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A new Radio Shack store will be opening in Kincardine in the Spring so the locals down in this area won't have to drive to Owen Sound or Goderich for parts . The store is being opened in the new shopping mall beside the Sutton Park Inn by two Control Technicians who work at the Heavy Water Plant.

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As I have said before I'd like to see more monitoring of the repeaters as it can be very comforting for a mobile to know that help is there if he or she gets into trouble on the road. I was glad to have VE3BSF and VE3BFZ on OSR when I was going home from Collingwood on January 3rd. Even if you don't get into any difficulties yourself you could come upon someone else who needs assistance and it would be a frustrating experience to have a radio in the car and not be able to contact help. After the facts were reported to ARRL, VE3BIS got a Public Service Award for his part in assisting when an accident was discovered by a mobile last summer. The help that VE3FOT was able to summon to another accident earlier in the year got a similiar award for him. This is the way the ARRL encourages amateurs to get in to public service and so bring some public awareness of the service that we as amateurs can provide. Incidentally if you are called on to get in touch with the OPP, and don't know the local number you can ask the operator for Zenith 50000. The most important thing to remember before calling the police is to get all the necessary information, IE, type of accident, location and whether an ambulance is needed.

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VE3CRV, Jim has been talking of a plan to move the repeater from Woodford and put in two repeaters with a link between them so that both can be triggered and a mobile would really get coverage from many areas that are poorly served now. We must get Jim to enlarge on his plan and I'll print it up in a future issue of the newsletter.

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I am about as far from the repeater as anyone and the loudest consistant signals are from VE3DXO, VE3FOF, and VE3BFV. The ones I find weak are VE3BIS & VE3CRV.

If you are hoping to get your Advanced ticket in the coming months you would be well advised to take advantage of the new WIAW code practice at 10-15-15 wpm at 0.30z on the usual frequencies. The only way to get your speed up is to listen and get on the air for contacts at every opportunity. Contacts on 2m FM are the road to ruin as far as passing CW tests are concerned, just ask VE3HIP.

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Brian, VE3ERT, is working on the construction of a CW filter for his rig.  
Harvey, VE3FOT, is tearing down his shack for remodelling while his rig gets fixed.  
Ian, VE3HIP, has built a Heath keyer which was a gift from his XYL at Xmas.  
John, VE3EYN, has been working through Oscar 7 on mode B with the new 75cm rig.  
Gone, K3EVE/VE3, has his micro computer kit and will be building it up soon.  
Ian, VE3HXX, has invested in a KW antenna tuner to squeeze all the soup up the RGS.  
Jim, VE3BFV, has a TVI problem and needs a filter to pacify his XYL watching CH2.  
Bob, VE3FCW, is working DX on SSTV with 200 watts.  
Ian, VE3HIP, patching on the repeater. That is pretty handy at times and sounds FB.  
Ted, VE3HXW, took two tranquillisers and checked into the net the other day.  
Where are VE3HLZ, VE3HXV, VE3FTW, VE3DTS, VE3GN and some of the others we used to hear on the net? The number of checkins is good but a lot of the members don't get on and join in.

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Has Owen Sound cable TV got a local channel that carries adverts? If so we should get something on about the club and its activities, meeting dates, times and the location. Maybe they have free ads for nonprofit making organisations. If we get enough publicity we should become better known to the uninitiated who tend to confuse Amateur with Childrens Dand Radio.

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The first weekend of the ARRL DX contest takes place February 7-8th and the second weekend is on March 6-7th. This is a big one and you can get a lot of DX on the bands at these times. The CW version of the same comes up on February 21-22 and March 20-21.

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G3IOR and W6CG have completed a QSO through Oscar 7 mode A using techniques similar to those employed in meteor scatter communication. The contact took about two weeks to complete.

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W6AM leads the DXCC totals with 355 countries on CW/PCME and 353 on Pone only.

In Feedback last month I put the Field Day score sheets that were sent in to the ARRL, and all of you saw the results of our efforts. The SSB station made more than twice as many contacts as the CW station so it was a good job that the CW contacts were worth two points each. In the November issue of QST you can see the published results of the operation, and I believe that we did quite well. We came in ninth in our class in Canada and fourth in our class in Ontario. If the CW station had made as many contacts as the SSB station we would have easily won in our class. For what it is worth, I believe that we were wise to hold the operation down to two stations as the logistics become more complex if you go to more operating positions and the operators would be spread more thinly. Next time we should move the stations further apart to reduce QRM and the organisers will be well advised to inform VE3BIS that the event is due to start at least one day early so that he might manage to arrive on time. I'm not convinced that a tower and beam are necessary as they entail a lot of time and effort in erecting, if a cut in the setup time could be achieved and a ground plane for the twenty metre band could do just as good a job.

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The repeater developed some neurotic symptoms during the Xmas and New Year period so Jim, VE3CRV went out there and administered some of his patent medicine on a cold and wintery night. The new transistorised repeater is close to being ready for operation and all that is needed is the logic and ID unit. I'd like to have comment from the membership on whether we should spend the money to buy the gear and get the machine on the air this summer or not. It would be nice to have a trouble free repeater for next winter. The vast majority of the members are also on 2m so the expense will be of some advantage to nearly everyone.

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This could be a smaller issue as I may need to work a couple of weeks on shift at the end of January and will not have access to duplicating facilities at that time.

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Very good DX conditions are still prevailing on 80m as this is written and it is surprising how strong the South Americans and Europeans are at times. On 20m the DX is there almost all day too and the appearance of a DXpedition can bring a lot of action out of a quiet band. VP2EEG had a vitalising effect on 20m on Dec 30th when he woke up most of Europe at 13.00z and ripped off a lot of contacts with countries from the Madeiras to Russia and most points in between.

the electrical interference at XJ3EFX has made it virtually impossible to operate on VE3OSR. We finally got the Hydro people out here on January 2nd and although they worked all day on one pole there was strong interference as far up as the channel 8 frequency that evening and the noise at 146mhz was terrible. It seems that every time they come they find something else that needs fixing but so far it has not been the cause of the problem.

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Lloyd and Iris Colvin are off on a DXpedition and are operating in the S. Pacific just now. The last two weeks in December were spent at VR1Z and they were operating VR3B the first two weeks in the New Year. The latter is an all time new one for DXCC. Lloyd as W6KG picked up WFX #1 and has operated under 50 different prefixes so he may be trying for another 50 on this trip. Watch the usual DX channels and be sure to listen on any band that is open to the S. Pacific as they are on 30 through 10 both CW and SSB. Their QSL address is Box 2025, Castro Valley, Ca. U.S.A. 94546.

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VE3FCW finally got a good day to put up the beam on January 1st. If you hear any peculiar signals coming out of Port Elgin don't worry it is only Bob operating on 5TV. Maybe we could set up a talk on the subject or even a demonstration one of these days.

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The Flesherton Freeloaders swooped through Bluewater Country on January 2nd and stopped where ever they saw a beam antenna. The EFX homestead was first to be hit, then in quick succession they got BFZ and BIS. Old Slippery was caught with a pot on the stove but managed to talk his way out of providing a meal though I believe the smell of stewed rotten tomatoes wasn't the most appetising one and Harvey contented himself with a stiff shot of the good stuff. Seriously though it was a very pleasant visit that we enjoyed with VE3FOT, VE3EPC and their wives Marion and Doris.

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Anybody who has a FT 101 and is suffering the problem of overload due to poor AGC action in the presense of strong local signals may be interested in a very simple modification that should cure the problem.

Locate R5 on PB-1181, the RF board.

Remove the resistor using a small iron and replace it with a 5.6 volt zener. If anyone is interested I'll give them full details on checks before and after. I haven't tried this one yet but will do in the near future.

The Christmas period produced quite a bit of traffic for VE3ATR, Reub in Kincairdine. His score was, Originated 11, sent 14, received 31, delivered 4, for a grand total of 60 pieces of traffic handled.

The traffic handled at XJ3EFX was, Originated 1, sent 2, received 3, delivered 1. I haven't heard of any other traffic handled by the club members and at this time I don't know if they ever got anything into the paper in Owen Sound or not.

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A sudden solar disturbance caused chaos on the LF bands on Saturday January 10th and there was a very interesting opening on 10 metres. VE3BFV reported working OZ at around 23.50z and I heard lots of VE1 and W/K stations as close in as W8 and W9 which is pretty short skip at these frequencies. VE3EYN reported some action on 2m with other repeaters coming in to this area. The 30 metre band started to act funny at about 20.15z and by 21.00 You couldn't hear much on the band so Tess was unable to take Ontars. The CJ Net was pretty bad and even on the Sunday morning some VE3 stations had a fluttery signal. When you notice this type of condition developing, try tuning up on 10 metres you might be pleasantly surprised.

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Long Skip, the monthly newsletter of the Canadian DX Assoc. had an article in the January issue which indicated that the solar flares that occurred in August 1975 signalled the start of an upswing in solar activity and the start of the next solar cycle, number 21. The next sunspot maximum is predicted to occur in 1979 or 1980, then diminish to the next minimum in 1986.

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VE3TDX is a new repeater on the air from Milton, 10 miles north of Hamilton. It is maintained by the Toronto DX Club, and the antenna is at an elevation of 1100' ASL. Input is on 147.93mhz and output is on 147.33mhz. The prime purpose of the machine is to deceminate hot DX information. DXers are invited to call in with their news and views on DX activity. Maybe VE3CRV can try this one with his tunable rig when the band is open down there.

\* \* \* \* \*

XJ3HIR and XJ3EFX worked an unusual one the other day when we were called by a station in Bolivia, CP3AT/mm. He was a medical missionary aboard a boat on the river which runs through the town of Riberalta in the northern part of the country and he has been there for 13 years. He is familiar with this part of Ontario and originally came from Germany.

Other interesting contacts were HC5LM and HC5RC in Cuenca City 8000' ASL in Ecuador. These were on 20 metres around 20.00 to 20.30 z

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

1976 MEMBERSHIP

VE3AUB Jack, VE3AYN Bruno, VE3BFV Jim, VE3BFZ Bill, VE3BIS Dick,  
VE3CHS Mike, VE3CR Jim, VE3CRV Jim, VE3CTQ Cam, VE3DIQ Bill,  
VE3DPT Peter VE3DQA Cy, VE3DXO Dave, VE3DEV Bill, VE3EAR Bruce,  
VE3EFX Bill, VE3ERT Brian, VE3EYN John, VE3FCW Bob, VE3FFW Walt,  
VE3FOF Bill, **VE3EE Jorgen**, VE3FTW Alex, VE3GLR John, VE3HIP Ian,  
VE3HIR Tess, VE3HXV Gerry, VE3HXX Ian, VE3NX Bill, VE3UU Ken,  
SWL John Cottrell, SWL Ted Lowes, SWL Stan Guzonas.

This is the total paid up members as of this writing, Seven days past the dead-  
line for getting the subs in to Cy.

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Some of the January Feedbacks were delayed in the mail so if this happens to you  
again get on to your post office and lambast the local snail service, these yppos  
are getting paid enough now and postage is going up so let's demand the service  
we are paying for. I know that they leave Tiverton and get 1st class movement to  
Kitchener. It is up to you guys to take it from there.

\* \* \* \* \*

XJ3HIR and XJ3EFX have now received the Canadian Olympic Diplomas for contacting  
all the XJ and XN prefixes. We are still working on the World one . Tess has also  
qualified for the Olympics certificate for working 10 stations on Montreal Island.

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XJ3EFX got a QSL from VE1XU/SU for the 143rd country confirmed on SSB. Be sure  
to call him when he isn't handling traffic or patches into Canada.

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I wonder if the free Olympic QSL cards that are available will encourage some  
more use of the XJ and XN prefixes. It sure makes a difference when you are  
going after these Stateside stations for the Bi-Centennial WAS.

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Some reports of activity from the Peoples Republic of China but no pileups have  
been heard here yet.

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We got a couple of FP8 stations on 20m over the New Year period. One is usually  
enough to cause a pileup but two is a pretty rare occurrence.

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VE3FCW is sneaking in to the WAS action, not competitively , but he is in there.



What makes things tick prompted my first interest in radio. Parts were hard to come by then so my major source of supply was the local dump. There I found old telephone batteries, antique tubes, battery-operated radios and other odds and ends.

My first project involving electronics was the construction of a small snowplow, which housed a case 1½ volt telephone battery and an old light. At the age of twelve this was my first big thrill.

Ham radio entered my life just after World War II when I frequently visited a friend, George Hammond VE3XI, who is presently living in Fort Elgin. George was an electronic genius and made all of his own equipment including a home-made bug. These frequent visits aroused my curiosity and eventually got me my ticket. A friend in Southampton got me my first receiver (army no. 19) which I put in a 3 foot cabinet and 12 inch speaker using the receiver only. I started listening to code and with the help of a two-week bed ridden spell (a case of the mumps) I began learning code. The the end of those two weeks I could copy code at 10 words per minute.

When I was twenty years old I got my ticket and the call letters VE3AYM. My first station consisted of a No. 19 receiver, a home brew 6L6 oscillator running approximately 25-30 watts with a No. 46 pilot lamp which was used as tuning indicators, also a home brew antenna tuning unit which was coupled into a an end fed zapp antenna.

As a radio and T.V. technician and my knowledge of electronics I built a lot of my own equipment until such time I purchased a complete Heathkit station.

With communications as difficult as it is today I feel that Ham Radio continues as it always has in meeting new people and learning more about the hobby that I truly enjoy.

221's

Charlie  
VE3AYM

# ACHTUNG!

ALLE TOURISTEN UND NON-  
TECHNISCHEN LOOKENS PEEPERS  
DAS MACHINEKONTROL IST NICHT  
FÜR GEFINGERPOKEN UND DER  
MITTENGGRABEN. ODERVISE IST  
EASYSCHNAPPEN DER SCHPRING-  
GENVERKES UND BLOWENFUSERS,  
MIT POPPENCORKEN UND SCHPITZ-  
ENSCHPARKENS. DAS MACHINEN  
IST DIGGEN BEI EXPERTEN EINLY.  
IST NICHT FÜR GEVERKEN BEI DER  
DUMMKOPFEN! DER RUBBERKNECK-  
EN SIGHTGESEERS MUSST KEEPEN  
DER KOTTENPICKEN HANDTS IN  
DER POCKETS.

70 RELAXEN UND WATCHEN DER  
BLINKENLIGHTS

