

FEED BACK

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

Editor Bill VE3EFX  
JUNE 1976

Executive President Dave Dixon VE3DXO  
Vice Pres. Ian Trenholm VE3MIF  
Sec. Treas. Cy Weaver VE3DQA

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The meeting opened at 8pm with the reading of the minutes of the April meeting and the financial statement showed that the club has a balance of \$440.29. The new officers took over and the business part of the meeting was over by 8.25.

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There were 36 members and guests present to hear a very interesting and informative talk and demonstration by Fred, VE3ZL, on microprocessors. Fred and his XYL operate H R Books in Goderich and some of us got good buys on the books he had with him for sale. This was the best turnout for any meeting so far and it was most encouraging for the club executive to get such a good response and also it must have been gratifying to Fred to have a good audience, and to have made a buck too. Incidentally H R Books sell the Callbook too so let Fred know if you want one .

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After the demo 24 of us departed for the Yacht Club and boarded Jim's boat for a cruise and refreshments. This is a very enjoyable event and all appeared to have a great time. Many thanks are due to Jim for making his craft available to the club and we hope there wasn't too much to clean up afterwards.

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Verne, VE3BSF handed out forms at the meeting to be filled in by those with some reference for subjects to be discussed at future meetings. I hope you all did this so that you can get what you want out of the club. Good idea Verne, hope it works out. Verne is the new program director and has plans to make things interesting.

Of those who took the licence exam, we offer congratulations to VE3HIP, VE3HSE and VE3HXX who all passed the Advanced test and we have two new Amateur licence holders at . There may be two or three more after they visit the DOC on June 4th and I hope they get the certificates in time to operate in the Field Day operation.

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DX conditions have been good on 20 and 40m this past few weeks. On 40m in the morning the VK's and KC4's are very strong at times and the Central and South Americans come in till around 12.00z.

On 20m EFX and HIR picked up some good DX around 21.00 to 03.00z including VK5, XJØ, PAØ, AJ4, 5Z4, HB9, HP1, GI, DK, OK1, CEØ, and three TU2's. The station in Ismailia now is VE1APY/SU and he is heard around 14.140mhz daily until 23.30z with very good signals. Heard but not worked were ZL, HM, VP2N, VP2A, ZF1, HC8 VU2, and lots of the more common Europeans.

The XJØ gave me the last of the Olympic prefixes and my 46th Canadian prefix to date.

Tess received the Calgary Stampede Award and it is a new one with pictures of the stampede so it is a big improvement over the old one. She has received all the QSL cards for the Bicentennial WAS and the award ought to be here by the end of May.

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By the time you get this issue of Feedback Tess and I will be in Scotland and we plan to visit quite a few of the GM's while travelling around over there. At least one of those we hope to meet is on OSCAR every day and we have both worked him on 20m about a year ago. Maybe we will get enough slides of amateurs and shacks to put on a show when we get home again.

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The equipment for working through OSCAR 7 is taking shape and with the 432mhz beam leaning on the shed I heard my signals coming back on 2m quite clearly. The 10w CW signal seems to be enough with the beam and I have rebuilt the rotor installation for elevation and azimuth tracking. The next step is to get used to the device that will track the satellite automatically and I hope to be able to get the antennas ready for operation when I get back from my vacation.

Latest word on OSCAR 8 is that the launch date has been advanced eight months so there is a lot of frantic action to get the bird ready in time. A lot of snags have to be ironed out of the program and the original date was going to be hard to meet .

I have a VERY limited number of copies of the SATELLABE, a device for calculating the AOS on OSCAR. I'll be glad to give them to anyone who is seriously interested. Do not request one if you are not going to use it , somebody else may need it.

The fishing trip has been postponed to July 25th and the cost is \$6 per person, payable to VE3EIS as soon as you can get your pen and chequebook in gear.

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John Cottrill who was one of those who got their ticket has been issued the call, VE3IEV, and we have heard him on the repeater.

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The DXpedition to St. Paul Island was operational from May 14th to 17th and was a good signal here on 20m. As far as I know XJ3HIR, VE3FCW and I were the only club members to work it. The call was XJ3ZZ/1 and Tess and I got him on 20m and 30m. The QSL's go to VE3BMV. It was unfortunate that the DOC didn't issue a VY prefix. The planned trip to this island by another group at the end of May was called off.

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XJ3EPK collected the duplexer for VE3OSR and it was installed by Jim on May 16th so the repeater is now on high power and we are getting 90 microamps from it here in Tiverton but there a few bugs to iron out yet as there is some noise on the signals although the tail is clean.

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This issue of Feedback completes my term as editor, and after putting together 30 issues I can look back on the experience as interesting and enjoyable. There was never a lack of information to put in the newsletter, only a lack of time to get as large a copy out as there was material available.

In welcoming Jim, VE3HIZ to the editorship, I hope he gets the support from the membership that has been promised. The important things are the deadlines and the publication dates. I always tried to get the newsletter to everyone at least two weeks prior to the meeting date in the hope that comment might be forthcoming. One thing that I'd like to see more of in Feedback, is information on what the other members are doing, as I'm sure that among the more than 50 members, some of them must be doing more than waffle on the repeater. The only way I got news was to be monitoring 2m and the other bands as much as possible. It's amazing what you hear when some of these characters think you aren't listening.

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As this is being written, Tess is waiting for the WAS Bicentennial Award to arrive and we hope to have it before leaving on vacation.

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I like to ask all the members to get info on there activities in to Jim, VE3HIZ so that he can put it in the next issue of Feedback. I'm not sure when he plans to put out his first issue but I'm sure that he'll let us know soon.

## HAM RADIO STORY - - VE3FOF

On reading through April's issue of Feedback, I see I have been selected to tell "The Story of my Life" regarding involvement in Amateur Radio.

To go back to the beginning: 38 years ago, at the age of 14, while scrounging around in our attic I discovered a commercially built crystal set complete with earphones. On inquiring of my Dad as to what this contraption was, he proceeded to tell me it was his first radio and that if I got a long length of copper wire I probably could listen to local broadcast stations. This I did and was fascinated by the fact that I required no batteries or power source. One evening while listening to a local station, suddenly the station was blanked out by a voice calling "CQ - 160 meters - This is VE3TU in Pickering calling". While I only heard one side of the eventual contact, I soon realized that I knew the owner of this voice - Bill was the editor of the local newspaper, and I wasn't long getting to him and telling him that I had heard him talking. As any true Ham would do, he invited me to come to his house and see the source of "this voice in the night". Once established, I had an open invitation to visit "The Shack" anytime I saw the light burning in this particular room. Many a night I would hurry through my homework and go over to Bill's and sit at his receiver tuning back and forth looking for DX and then Bill would call the station I had dug out of the mud. The receiver was a home-brew TRF and transmitter a big rack job with mercury rectifiers.

My next move was to become involved with other Hams. Roy, VE3AAF (presently a GBARC member) at this time was dating my sister, and soon we were finding Amateur Radio becoming a constant topic of discussion (much to the annoyance of my sister). It was Roy who really brought up the subject of my getting a licence of my own, and with his assistance with theory and code practice I was ready to take the plunge. The appointment for examination was made for September, 1939, and before I knew what happened war was declared, Amateur operations were curtailed and all was forgotten.

In the years that followed I joined the Airforce and the only radio I enjoyed was in the aircraft or occasionally at a Ground Base Station. When the war was over my interest in radio had died - replaced by girls, marriage, etc.

My old buddy VE3TU never went on the air again. Roy VE3AAF and I did not get together again until the mid fifties when 80mtr mobile was the rage. Roy had a rig in his car and I became interested once more. We had a common interest in steam locomotives and this led to much time being spent in his car.

By 1960 I was enthused again and joined the Oshawa Club - obtained a BC348 receiver for \$40. and started preparing for the examination on my own. This didn't work so Roy started coaching me with theory and code once a week during the winter months. In 1962 I joined the Oshawa Club classes at the airport and got my ticket in May, 1963. Immediately got on the air on CW and thought I had the world on a downhill run. Bert, VE3DUS, lent me a matching mobile receiver and transmitter that he wasn't using and we worked 80m for a few months pretty steady .

Then Russ VE3ATT introduced me to 2mtr AM by way of lending me a beam and a Heathkit TWO-er. I worked the Sept. contest (ARRL) on 2 meters sitting under my tower in the backyard, rotating the beam manually. Worked 35 stations (daylight operation only) and thought I had really accomplished something.

My interest in the VHF bands grew more intense and soon I built a 10 element Yagi for 2 meters. Got my own rig and converter for my receiver. Soon after I got going on 6 meters, but because of Channel 2 TV, this became a Sunday morning operation only. My 80 meter activity dropped off and I soon found myself very involved in VHF. I joined the York VHF Society and worked all contests, awards etc. that I could.

My next move was DX on 10 meters- the 10 meter band was on the upswing and I soon gathered up a beam and some AM gear and started working Europe, Asia, Africa, etc. Now I had two voice modes and my CW operation ground to a complete halt! Ten meters stayed fairly open until I moved up here to Paisley.

After my move to this area, I became busy with other things and didn't set up a station immediately. When I did get the notion I found that 10 meters had died, 2 meters was non-existent in this

area and my old gear for CW, especially the receiver, was inadequate. I became discouraged and let the whole matter drop until Jack, VE3DTS (an old buddy from Oshawa Club days) called me and said they were forming a Radio Club in the area and would I be interested. I went to the initial meeting at Georgian College and the rest is history.

In conclusion I would like to state that I have no regrets for having let CW slip out of my operating habits. Ham Radio to me is a hobby and a hobby only, and I pursued the area I enjoyed most at the time. So often I hear Amateurs say you MUST get your advanced ticket right away and you MUST work Traffic Nets, etc. No where in D.O.C. regulations or ARRL literature does it say that an Amateur Class Certificate is provisional. If Amateur Radio was a trade then it would be more logical to pressure members to become totally proficient. You don't hear people going around saying pilots with private licences are second class and should be going for their commercial ticket - or automobile drivers with operator permits should ALL have chauffeur's permits. Each to his own is my motto and don't let this hobby - or any other - dictate your lifestyle. I enjoy Ham Radio very much, but am not married to it.

P.S. Have recently bought an FT200 transceiver and in the next few years hope to get interested enough in the low band phone operation to write my advanced ticket - before retirement. Hi! Hi!

Bill VE3FOF

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Many thanks for another fine story Bill and the promptness with which you sent it in. I don't agree with your comments regarding upgrading to the Advanced ticket though, as in my opinion the Amateur Certificate holder can more readily be compared to a private pilot with only VFR capabilities. He is limited to a considerable extent alongside the pilot with an Instrument and Night Flying rating. I don't think anyone is pressured into getting the Advanced ticket, I would say that many are encouraged to upgrade however. Are you ready to be Encouraged? HI! HI!

I suspect the new rig will be sufficient encouragement though as you surely didn't get a SSB transceiver to operate on CW with.

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The June meeting will be on Thursday 17th at 8pm as usual to finalize Field Day.

According to the WARC Update in QST's May issue, we have the International Broadcast Service requesting bits of our 80m and 40m bands, and the Aeronautical Mobile Service wanting to relieve us of 146 to 148mhz cutting the 2m band in half. The Citizens Radio Service is asking for 5mhz preferably 220 to 225mhz so you can see that we have lots of pressure on the frequencies that we presently hold. As individuals you can't do too much to help other than support the people who will be talking for us at the conference so I would like to see all of those who don't belong to the CARF and Canadian Division of ARRL, to join without delay and support your benefactors. At the same time you will be kept up to date on the affairs that are affecting Amateur Radio today. It must be pretty hard to justify the position of not belonging at this time. I hope that all of you read the contents of the CRRL letter in Feedback Last month.

As a club our efforts to help others obtain a licence and those who have a licence to upgrade, our participation in the Split Rail Festival and some of the CB Coffeekbreaks and public service operations like the car rally and the snowmobile marathons are all important ways to make the public aware of our potential. We can help the police on Halloween just by putting on a Spook net composed of 2m mobiles and a base station at the police station so that any potential trouble can be reported early.

As Amateurs we can get out of the rut and try to get in on something new, like contests, traffic handling, net controlling, Dxing, awards, mobiling, Field Day, 2m FM, or any other facet of Amateur Radio that you haven't tried yet. The guy who has the rig permanently tuned to ONTARS and checks in once or twice a week to get a weather report from the next town can hardly be accused of contributing much to the cause.

Cam, VE3CTQ is working with a scout troop in Kincardine and had a number of them up to the shack of VE3EYN. They showed a lot of interest and Cam is now in the process of getting radio code and theory classes going. He needs cheap receivers for the boys so if you know of one let him hear of it through VE3KIN.

What happened to my suggestion about getting some publicity on the local TV channel in Owen Sound? At least we could get the meeting information on the tube during the week prior, and who knows somebody who isn't a club member might see it and show up to find out what Amateur Radio is all about.

You may have noticed that for the past few months I have not referred to us as hams, I feel that the term is not complimentary and prefer not to use it when non-amateurs are liable to pick it up.

While on the subject of Public Service I'd like to plead with the holdouts to invest in 52/52 crystals for point to point communication so that the repeater can be kept clear for other users, 94/94 and 34/94 are not compatible.

On May 13th Jim, VE3CRV went out to the repeater with VE3HKW and Ken Slack to see what was causing the high noise level on weaker signals. They cured the troubles and when they left the site the repeater was better than it has ever been. I get a reading of 90 microamps here in Tiverton and VE5HW/m was able to operate through the machine from the Tiverton area. VE3FCW got in with 1 watt to a whip antenna that he held in his hand at Port Elgin. As the word spread we had checkins from all over the place and we must thank the crew who made it all possible. We hope to get the ID installed soon and the machine should outperform the old one. It is putting out about 100w ERP and this is without the amplifier.

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Very likely there will be some changes in the rules pertaining to DXCC in the near future, watch QST for the info.

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XJ3EFX patched a Canadian in Southern Peru into Toronto the other day and the radio conditions were excellent at the time. He works for a construction firm building a copper mining plant and is due home this Fall.

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The 20 metre band is open pretty well round the clock these days and DX is usually available from some place or other. The band has been good for Japan in the early mornings and the evenings have produced all continents at times.

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Ian, XJ3HXX is talking BEAMS for the DX bands so watch out for some action when he gets going on SSB.

Ted, VE3HAW is pretty sure he has the FT101 problem nailed down. A new IC is coming.  
Jim, VE3CRV is putting in a lot of spare time on the cottage these days.  
VE5HP looking for a hand to get his beams up this month, any offers of help?  
Where has VE3BFV gone of late? Its ages since I heard Jim on the air.  
Bob, VE3FCW has a 25 watt amp for his 1w rig but it only puts out 6w ??????????  
Bill, VE3BFZ plans to leave for Peterboro in the Fall. Sorry to lose you Bill.  
Jerry, VE3CAC has been busy laying concrete around the house. Time for DX now ?????  
Jim, VE3CMA has big plans for the Oxford County Club Field Day. Watch out GBARS.  
John, VE3EYN still wrestling with his microprocessor programs.  
Bill, VE3NY worked into Kenya right after Tess and I the other week.  
What is Harvey, VE3Frisky Old Tomcat doing with the rig now that he has it back??  
No news from the Slack Twins lately. What score did you send in for the W/VE contest last year Rick? The results will be out soon I expect in QST.  
Have all you guys who were rushing out to mail their ARRL sub last year joined yet?



AJ5EFX got some cards from the bureau and one was for a contact in 1971. Another one came through Box 80 in Moscow in less than 6 mths, I hope the UK7 we got last week makes it as quickly.

While on the subject, if you are working the HF bands much be sure to keep an envelope in the VE3 bureau. Even w/K stations QSL this way if they don't have your QRA.

Another point worth noting, if you just got a call be sure to send in your address to the callbook complete with the postal code.

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Bill, VE3FOF recently underwent an operation to his nose, hope it is back in good working order Bill.

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Just before going to bed on the 22nd of May, Tess and I worked the Yasme DXpedition operating YJ8KG for a new one with the AJ prefix.

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Remember the field day operation is on the weekend of June 26th and 27th. The site is on the farm of Ian, AJ5HXX which is located just East of Alvanley on Hwy 21. The site will be signposted from both directions for those unfamiliar with the road.

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Ian, VE3HIP did some good work on May 22nd when he picked up a call on 5BR from VE3DWH/m who had been driving on Hwy 21 when a car came out of a sideroad and hit him broadside. Ian called the OPP and was in contact with DWH till they arrived.

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I suggested to Dave VE3DKO that the club buys a typewriter for the use of the newsletter editor and this can be discussed at the June meeting. A new one is only about \$50 so we can afford it.

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Plans to drop the beams at EFX have been shelved till after the vacation as the 20m conditions are too good to miss these days. The maintenance on the antenna system will have to wait till the end of June.

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Did anyone see the HARRY O program on channel 2 where they used an amateur station to assist in the capture of the bad guys? It was an authentic station right down to the dialogue and callsign.

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VE3FYL and VE3CR are the new President and Secy/Treas of the Bluewater Club which serves the Goderich area. VE3CGU is bulletin editor again this year.

Don't forget that if you are a repeater user the club would like to have \$15 from you to assist with the purchase of the duplexer. I received a very nice letter from VE3UU with his cheque for \$15 enclosed and Ken has no 2m gear. Many thanks Ken.

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If you read the Readers Letters in the amateur magazines these days it is surprising how many people write in complaining about the technical articles about the new microprocessors, integrated circuits, or some other up to date subject that has appeared in the magazine. I guess that there are still a lot of people around who would love to vegetate in the "Good old days of 1-v-1 rx and 6L6+ 6L6 tx".

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The registration forms are in the latest issue of The Ontario Amateur so I hope we see some more of you "Supporters of things Canadian" at the RSO Convention. I was looking at the club membership list and was surprised to see how many of the club flag wavers are not even in the RSO. Dick, VE3EIS will be our delegate after August so you can expect to hear him calling for more support for the Society.

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Only two more months to go of the XJ activity and it has been a very worthwhile year as far as Tess and I are concerned. I have 73 countries worked with it so far and if I wasn't going on vacation and taking down the beams I'd try for DXCC. I got 4 awards to date and there are more that I can apply for.

Tess worked 72 countries and has 5 awards with more to come so she was very active and the prefix made a lot of difference in the pile ups. She is also trying to get the WAS for 2 letter calls and has 40 so far with most of them confirmed. This one will not likely be completed with the XJ prefix as she needs KL7 and all the contacts have to be made in the Extra class part of 30m.

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Dick, VE3EIS has made up a very compact /p rig with his Multi7 and using the 1watt position he was able to maintain contact with me operating /m till I was South of Port Elgin. Dick was out in his yard at Southampton. If we ever need to operate on a search and rescue mission Dick is well prepared with this gear. He carries it in a back pack and the battery should last for quite a while as long as he doesn't need to go on high power.

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Cy has had word that his TS520 is on its way back from Vancouver so we can expect to hear him on the Sunday morning net one of these days.

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Remember the net is at 09.30 local time on 3.783mhz every Sunday. Get up and get on.

GBARC FIELD DAY --- 1976

By VE3HIP -IAN

PLACE: XJ3HXX -IAN SUTHERLAND FARM -Hwy 21 Near Alvanley.

TIME: JUNE 26,1976 18:00 to JUNE 27,1976 21:00 UTC.

BANDS: 80 - 40 - 20 - For Competition and 2 M. for general information and directions.

FOOD: BRING YOUR OWN, EXCEPT HOT COFFEE AND SAUSAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM VE3BSF and VE3HIP.

CALL: STATION CALL LETTERS USED FOR FIELD DAY - VE3HIP/ 3

STATIONS: ONE FOR 'PHONE AND ONE FOR C.W RIGS SUPPLIED BY VE3CRV,XJ3HXX and VE3BFZ. SERVICE TRUCK BY VE3CRV.

POWER: GENERATORS AND CORDS BY VE3BIS,VE3CRV,VE3HIP.

ACCOMMODATION: BRING YOU OWN -VE3DQZ MAY HAVE TRAILER FOR NIGHT OPERATION OF ONE STATION.

STATION OPERATOR CONTROL: CAM -VE3CTQ IN CHARGE OF LINING UP TIME SLOTS FOR OPERATORS AND LOGGERS.

RECORDS: EXCHANGE ARRL SECTION & SIGNAL REPORT. ENTER EACH CONTACT ON CRIB SHEET AND RECAP WILL BE DONE LATER BY VE3HIP AND REPORT SENT TO ARRL & RSO.

ANTENNAS: TRAP DIPOLES & GROUND PLANE SUPPLIED BY XJ3EFX, AND VE3CRV.

ADDITIONAL INFO: CONTACT VE3HIP ON VE3OSR or LANDLINE 376-5096.

ALL LICENCED HAMS INVITED TO TAKE PART IN STATION OPERATING AND INTERESTED WOULD-BE-HAMS INVITED TO TAKE PART IN LOGGING,ANTENNA ERECTION,ETC. THIS IS AN ANNUAL CLUB ACTIVITY WITH INCREASING INTEREST EACH YEAR. YL's and XYL's MOST DEFINATELY INVITED. JIM -VE3EMQ HAS CHALLANGED US FOR TOTAL SCORE POINTS.HE MAY TRY TO STEAL SOME OF OUR TATICS FROM OTHER YEARS. HI. BRING ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR CHANGE OF FREQUENCY AROUND THE CAMP FIRE WHEN NOT OPERATING.