FEED BACK

THE GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

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EXECUTIVE:

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FROM THE EDITORS

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Well the holliday season is over for another year and we are all stuffed with turkey and have recovered from the New Years partys. I hope you all had a good holliday and have renewed your club membership.

Art andrews VE3AKC has invited the club for a picnic again this summer and has suggested Aug. 6 as a date. The location would be Art's cottage at woodland Beach Fall you are asked to bring is a picnic lunch and your pathing suit. Many thanks Art.

Our club has been asked to supply communications for the snow rally out of Scuthampton again this year, this is being loked after by VE3BIS so if you can help out on the 22 of this month please contact Dick. I was out with the group last year and we had a ball, so we hope to see you there this year. so we hope to see you there this year.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAN PARTY TRICK

Just get VE3HIP, AEC TRV. HXW& XYL! Sto work like mad to set it up, get lots of Yak vap on the air- bribe the Grey Bruce weater mmn-drive 80 milesor more & presto-you got yer self the Georgian BAY Amateur Radio Club annual Christmas bash!

VE3FCW mobile-you know the way there?

What a combinatin, a finder box, any small spark could set it off, everyone locking at each other, a cordial "Hi Jim, hello Bill", but no action. Finally Echo Foxtrot X-ray jumped up, grabbed Tess, and we all watched as they gave themselves to the passion of the beat. One after another comples moved to the arena, and the beat goes on-a quick slug of spirits and on again.

Stalwarts like FOT & DXO soon had the pick of the girls; HIP and Joani Babby CRV & Cuttle Pie, HIZ & Cuddle Bunny, FOF & Eyes of Blue, to name only a few.

ON into the night until the music resounded over the frozen

waste of the harbour until, in an orgy of noise, FOT resorted to salty shantys. Coffee and sandwiches, lots of laughs, a rael swell party. If youmissed it, you missed a very good party, ask anyone who was there this year. Who sings off key and we love him?

73 hiccup 88 Barry Tone.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

CQ.....CQ.....CQ: there sure is a lot of magic in that pair of letters, right? ... Wrong! At least a good many "professional" Hams would have us believe that there should not be any inexplicable ormystical influences that result in uncontrolable contacts on the air, especially when working DX.

They say that a Ham should have more than a mere token knowledge of his antenna; to know what its capabilities and limitations are, what signals it will bring in when aligned in any given direction, at any specific time of theday, and from where those signals will originate, They say that he should have full understanding of band conditions, sun spot activity, skip, weather conditions, and the capability of his rig, to the extent that he will know, with a good deal of certainty, who is going to answer his CQ.

Well, I suspect that the large majority of Hams are sufficiently "amateurish" that they do not have all that knowledge at their fingertips....nor do they want to. To them, I say "fine business", because it seems to me, that a person can become so enwrapped with studying all of the hariables, consulting charts, graphs and so on, and can become so proficient, that he has lost the ability to really enjoy the basic characteristics of his hobby.

To the true Ham, the ultimate measure of satisfaction commences with the uncertainty and anticipationwhen sending out a CQ, and not having the slightest idea of who is goinly to answer it. Who among you, has not experienced that thrill? How many no longer enjoy that element of surprise?

8 So.....long max amateur radio hold its fascination for the many present and future adherents; and may it neverbecome so perfect, so structured, and so precise, that we will not know its many pleasures.

VE3DXO

The next club meeting will be held on Jan. 20, at the CIAG Commputer Building, Owen Sound. Hope to see you there.

This is ue of Feed Back is being done on ower own copying machine. This is the first time we have been totaly independent for copying and I think this is a mile stone for ower club.

73. VE3HIZ

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS
with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore
by John Edgar VETDLT

'Twas the night before Christmas, and down in the shack I was tuning the bands, before hitting the sack; The Heath catalogue lay by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The kid was settled all snug in his bed, While visions of CB slang ran through his head; AAd mamma in her kerchief had long been asleep, While I worked some DX that just wouldn't keep When out on the lawn there arose such a racket, I thought sure the tower had broken a bracket. Upstairs to the window I flew like a flash, Losking to see what had caused such a crash. The moon ,as it hung in the sky all aglow, Made it easy to see the antennas helow; When what should I see draped o'er the 20 meter beam But a miniature sleigh and an eight-reindeer team, With a little old driver, his hat all askey, Who cursed them all roundly 'til the air turned to blue. HE got them untangled and coward they came, And he whistled and shouted and called them by name; "Now, Kenwood! now, Collins! now, Heathkit and Yaesu! ON, Atlas! on, Drake! on, Icom and Trio! Watch out for the dipole, there by the wall! Now, dash away, dash away all!" So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of toys --- And St. Nicholas too. And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof The shingles all cracking beneath each tiny hoof. As I drew in my head, and cracked it on the sash, Down the chimeny St. Nicholas came with a crash. He smelled like a reindeer from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot; A bundle of toys he had slung on his back, And he looked like he'd just come from Radio Shack. His eyes hardly recused! He'd had far too much sherry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry; All in all he seemed to have quite a glow, And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow. A dollar cigar he had stuck in his face, And he'd soon scattered ashes all over the place. He had a broad face, and a round little gut That shook, when he laughed, like he was some kind of nut, He was chubby and plump --- he was jolly alright, And I laughed, when I saw him, the rest of the night. A blink of his eyes and a twist of his head Soon gave me to know he'd like something red. He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned like a jerk, And laying five fingers along side his snoot, He rose back up the chimney --- before I gave him a boot. He reeled to his sleigh, to his team gave a wnistle,

LIGHTNING AND YOUR SHACK

It is not the intention of thisarticle to suggest that you ground all your gear with copper straps the size of your wrist, make your shack into a Farraday cage or lower all your aerials to within ten feet of the ground. No one would do any of these things and protection from lightning would suffer.

Instead let us focus upon a fewef the simplest methods which might help to reduce the chances of damagecausedby lightning. Remember that no method yet discovered is positive proof against a direct hit. All the following and other precautions do is increase the odds against getting your shack zapped by a nearby hit.

- 1. Invest in a grounded co-ax switch and use this every night when yeu cease operating. Heathkit's 5 position model appears to be least expensive.
 - 2. Elmenco plugs, the kind with two fuses inside have been shown to prevent lightning damage by blowing first protecting the circuit. Afew of these might be well worth the cost.
 - 3. Ground the chassis of all equipment at your operating position. This is as much for protection against short circuits as for lightning. No one likes a hot chassis. A piece of #10 wire installed today is better than a heavy gauge copper braid which you never seem to get around to installing.
 - 4. The Joslyn Electronic Systems, Goleta California manufactures lightning arresters which attach to the power mains box. The model #1245-01 appears adequate for amateur installations. These arresters protect against high voltage transients on the line if you are away when a storm comes and your radio is still plugged in.
 - 5. Logically since most damage radio aquipment results from strikes on the power lines (you did install that grounding co-ax switch didn't you) if you are home during a really bad storm yank the plugs out of the wall.

Finally, to estimate the distance you are from a thunderclap - yake the number of seconds between the flash and the bang - divide by 5 equals approximate distance in miles.

Good luck and happy hamming.

Glenn VE3CGU (President - Editor) courtesy of the Bluewater Radio Dlub

OPERATING TIPS * REPEATERS

Make a brief transmission, VE3XYZ monitoring VE3OSR. This will alert other repeater users, als state your town or location ie:

ME# VE3XYZ Slobsville menitoring VE3OSR. When working mobiles don't talk too long, I've travelled out of fxxxxx range while waiting for some of our long talkers to shut up. Let up between transmissions, an emergency would be stale news during some marathon fillbuster transmissions on hears.

NETS

When callin in make a transmission stating your call only. Don't call in with the first **sik** pile up, after all you can hear the "getta be first lids", so wait till you hear the steady routine call ins, then make your call as the previous station is just ending his call, this is rather tricky and means starting to talk as previous operator is still talking.

DX

Listen and tune very carefully and listen and tune very carefully and listen and listen. Know the propogation conditions, ie: you can work any particular DX only when the path is open, don't let "good enough" equipment suffice, if possible use a beam. For "foreigh" stations use simple english words and speak slower than your usual "garbel" - usethe international phonetics. Not - very english deal Uncle Dudley calling. MK Make a short call using the DX stations call 2 or 3 times and 2 or 3 times your own call. (On the Q.T. no sense blasting the rare D.X. call for all your "friends" to hear.)

I. Nohital