

JAN 77

FEED BACK
THE GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

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EXECUTIVE:

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FROM THE EDITOR:

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. All you are asked to bring is a picnic lunch and your bathing suit. Many thanks, Art.

Our club has been asked to supply communications for the snow rally out of Southampton 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.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY TRICK

Just get VE3HIP, AEO, CRV, HXW & XYL'S to work like mad to set it up, get lots of yap yap on the air- bribe the Grey Bruce weater man- drive 80 miles or more & presto- you get yer self the Georgian BAY Amateur Radio Club annual Christmas bash!

VE3FCW mobile- you know the way there?

yeh foller me

VE3EFX just comming out of the local parlor- "just foller me BOB"

VE3BIS can't find a parking place! Where is CRV, we're all here but can't get in. Well well here we are, 14 kinds of wine & 12 kinds of cheese & booze- music and breads.

What a combinatin, a tinder box, any small spark could set it off, everyone looking 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 couples 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 you missed 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 or mystical influences that result in uncontrollable 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 the day, 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 variables, 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 anticipation when sending out a CQ, and not having the slightest idea of who is going to answer it. Who among you, has not experienced that thrill? How many no longer enjoy that element of surprise?

8 So.....long may amateur radio hold its fascination for the many present and future adherents; and may it never become 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 Computer Building, Owen Sound. Hope to see you there.

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

73, VE3HIZ

LIGHTNING AND YOUR SHACK

It is not the intention of this article to suggest that you ground all your gear with copper straps the size of your wrist, make your shack into a Faraday 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 few of the simplest methods which might help to reduce the chances of damage caused by 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 you 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. A few 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 equipment 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 - take 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 Club

OPERATING TIPS • REPEATERS

Make a brief transmission, VE3XYZ monitoring VE3OSR. This will alert other repeater users, also state your town or location ie: ~~VE#~~ VE3XYZ Slobsville monitoring VE3OSR. When working mobiles don't don't talk too long, I've travelled out of ~~xxxxx~~ 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 filibuster transmissions on hears.

NETS

When callin in make a transmission stating your call only. Don't call in with the first ~~gik~~ pile up, after all you can hear the "gotta 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 propagation 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 "foreign" stations use simple english words and speak slower than your usual "garbel" - use the international phonetics. Not - very english deal Uncle Dudley calling. MK Make a short call using the DX station's 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