

April, 1984

Feedback

Monthly bulletin of

The Georgian Bay
Amateur Radio Club



GBARC

The Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club (GBARC) is based in Grey and Bruce counties and meets at 8 p.m. sharp on the third Thursday of each month, except July and August, downstairs in the Grey-Bruce Tourist Information Centre at Springmount, just west of Owen Sound.

The club marked its 10th anniversary in the fall of 1983. It was formed in late 1973 by a core of area amateurs consisting of Dick Shave, VE3BIS; Jim Vamplew, VE3CRV; Jack Avis, VE3DTS and Bill Hardie, VE3EFX.

Since then, the club has grown to about 50 resident and non-resident members.

The Georgian Bay club operates a 2-metre FM repeater on 146.34 (in) - 146.94 (out) at 1200 feet ASL at Woodford, just east of Owen Sound.

VE3OSR is an open repeater and covers roughly the area from Collingwood in the east to Southampton in the west and from Durham in the south up to the Bruce Peninsula. Autopatch facilities are available.

The GBARC net meets every Sunday at 0930 local on 3.783 MHz with a rotating schedule of net controllers. Any amateur is welcome to check in on phone or CW.

Club officers for 1983-1984

President	Bill Kohlman, VE3NEG
Vice-President	Jack Avis, VE3DTS
Secretary-Treasurer	Jim Harron, VE3BFV
Membership Secretary	Moe Hurlbut, VE3LPT
Program Directors	Don Finlayson, VE3JUO Harvey Smith, VE3FOT
Net Manager	Dave Dixon, VE3DXO
Technical Director	George Ziegler, VE3HFW
Feedback Editor	Rob Ludlow, VE3AQT
Coffee	Jack Barrett, VE3AUB

Past Presidents

1973-74-75	Jim Vamplew, VE3CRV
1975-76	Dick Shave, VE3BIS
1976-77	Dave Dixon, VE3DXO
1977-78	Ian Trenholm, VE3HIP
1978-79	Ian Sutherland, VE3HXX
1979-80	Don Richards, VE3IDS
1980-81	Harvey Smith, VE3FOT
1981-82	Laverne Wyville, VE3LPD
1982-83	Moe Hurlbut, VE3LPT

Dues

Annual dues for full club membership including a subscription to *Feedback* are \$10.00.

Feedback

Feedback, the monthly bulletin of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club is published monthly and mailed to reach members prior to each regular meeting. Contributions, articles and letters are encouraged and should be sent to Rob Ludlow, VE3AQT, 847 15th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K 1X7. Phone 371-1692. Deadline is the first Thursday of each month.

Information

More information on club activities may be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer, Jim Harron, VE3BFV, RR2 Kemble, Ontario, N0H 1S0 or from the Membership Secretary, Moe Hurlbut, VE3LPT, Leith, Ontario, N0H 1V0, or from any other club official.

Minutes

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The March 15, 1984 meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. with Bill, VE3NEG in the chair. Adoption of the minutes was moved by Ted, VE3AEO and seconded by Jim, VE3CRV. 13 members were present.

A vote on incorporating the club could be taken because there was not a quorum of members present. The Treasurer's report was read by the Treasurer, Jim, VE3BFV. There is a bank balance of \$287.20 with no outstanding debts. To date \$580 has been donated to the repeater fund by members.

Jim, VE3CRV, reporting for the repeater committee, said there had been only good reports and no complaints about the newly-rejuvenated VE3OSK.

A notice of motion to have GBARC become affiliated with either CHRL or RSO is to be discussed and voted upon at the April meeting.

We are still looking for organizers for the ARRL Field Day to be held in June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m., moved by Don, VE3JUO and seconded by Jack, VE3AUB.

Jim, VE3BFV

Secretary-Treasurer

Future Meetings

There are many, many good reasons why we can have a record turnout at the next meeting, Thursday, April 19:

- Certainly what will rank among one of the most interesting talks GBARC has had . . . Jim, VE3BFV will relate some of his fascinating experiences and involvements during 33 years as an electronic technician with the National Research Council in Ottawa. Knowing how Jim can tell a good story, you'll miss some good ones if you're not there!
- Nominations for next season's club executive will be held. Exercise your democratic franchise in club activities or don't complain. Remember also, the position of Feedback editor is open as I will be leaving the area for Ottawa in the summer.
- There are two issues club members must vote on at the next meeting:
 - Should the club formally affiliate with CHRL, RSO or CARF? Come out and have your say.
 - Should the club formally incorporate? See Notice of Motion on the next page. This notice ran in the last issue of Feedback. The response to it was so underwhelming that there was no quorum to vote on it at the March meeting.

Rob, VE3AQT

-NOTICE OF MOTION-

At the February meeting Harvey, VE3FOT, explained the advantages and disadvantages of the club becoming incorporated like so many other amateur clubs, repeater groups and radio societies.

Harvey pointed out that through incorporating the club, or legally making it one body, liability is removed from individuals in the club for legal or financial responsibility. There would be no personal liability on the part of club members in case of loss, damage or injury to someone or something else during the course of activities directly related to club affairs. The club could also then, if necessary, apply for bank loans and grants (such as lottery funds) and also enter contractual agreements.

On the disadvantage side, Harvey explained it would cost the club \$100 to register as a corporation with the Ontario government, we would need a corporate seal at a cost of about \$75 and there would also be a potential legal fee of up to a few hundred dollars (if we paid an outside lawyer the going rate to do the work for us).

In addition, more detailed minutes and records would have to be kept of club activities than have been in the past and the minute book would have to be available for inspection by provincial officials. Some sort of liability insurance coverage would also be advisable though not mandatory.

A vote will be taken on this matter at the next meeting. If you have further questions or reservations about the issue, please attend.

Editor's Notes

It's getting around to the time of year again when members select the new club executive that they'll have to live with for another year. Nominations take place at this Thursday's meeting. Voting takes place at the May meeting. If you care enough about GBARC to pay your dues, use the repeater and come to meetings, you should be there to pick your man. These volunteer positions don't have to involve a lot of time, energy and work but it's this sort of teamwork toward common goals that keeps amateur hobby clubs such as ours on the rails.

Speaking of volunteer work and the thanks one may or may not receive, Andy, VE3LCZ recently received an interesting letter from Bruce Carveth, VE3EC, RSO communications chairman. Andy, as we all know, has for some time generously acted as Official Bulletin Station for the RSO on our Sunday morning GBARC net. The letter bluntly advised Andy that only RSO members were welcome as bulletin stations . . . no one else need apply. Moreover, if the club was unable to recommend an RSO member who could read the bulletin, the RSO would, reluctantly, they claim, discontinue the bulletin to our net. Needless to say, this did not inspire Andy to join RSO. Not much else needs be said except that some members at the meeting expressed wonderment at how such a policy might be construed as fostering volunteerism and building the spirit of amateur radio.

Feature

By Dick Shave, VE3BIS

A letter from Lakeland, Florida March, 1984 to GBARC:

The winter has turned into spring, the sun has warmed the ground and my flowers have bloomed. This is always a sign of the commencement of the annual migration of vacationing VE3 birds, and true to nature, they have started to arrive.

And so it was, on Wednesday, Feb. 29 when an old friend, Carl, VE3HH called. He and his wife were in Lakeland on a nine-day bus tour and would we care to pay them a visit? Sure enough, we would.

Al, VE3DA and I were able to arrange to pick up Carl and take him to the local Wednesday amateur radio luncheon which is held at The Seasons restaurant in Lakeland.

After a general session of greetings and the formal round of introductions started, I was elected to introduce Carl, who at 80 years old was a visitor of distinction.

"I would like you all to meet another visitor from Canada, Carl Hemsworth," I said. "Carl, who is 80 years old, has been licensed for 64 years and married for 54 years. He originally held the call 3HH issued by the Department of Canadian Naval Services dated 29 July, 1920."

A grand round of applause was awarded our friend. The luncheon was enjoyable and many of the local and visiting amateurs came by our table to say hello.

Another pleasant event occurred when Dave, DX0 and his XYL Bess called. So, of course, we invited them for lunch and enjoyed their company for a couple of hours. We took them on a walking tour of the mobile home park where we live and thoroughly enjoyed a talk about things back home.

Most days, the first order of business is to get the lowband rig set up on 14.152 for the Snowbird Net. This is a pipeline for the Ontario hams to let the folks back home know they're all well and enjoying the Florida sun!

For my part, I like the contacts with Andy, LCZ who faithfully checks in on 14.160 at 1745 EST when he's not on the late shift. Of course, many of the other boys pop in for a hi hi from time to time.

We also had more company, Eric and Kay, VE3JQS, who stayed with us for a few days. Kay is Helen's sister.

Another day, three local VE3s went over to the Orlando Hamvention, a real extravaganza of equipment, parts and people . . . everything you ever wanted for the toy box.

A great time was had meeting other VE3 Snowbirds and the usual picture-taking ritual followed at the entrance. This year has been active on the 75-metre band down here so some faces were added to the voices.

At the annual Lakeland Sun and Fun Fly-in, several thousand aircraft of all sorts arrived with visiting aviators from all over the continent and overseas. The local radio club organized a traffic handling system to pass traffic for the fliers and their passengers.

About 60 amateurs and an emergency communications vehicle took part with different volunteer amateurs each day preparing and directing public service messages on instructions from the fly-in visitors.

. . . continued

We recently visited the Florida Keys that stretch a hundred miles south and west of the southern tip of the Florida Peninsula. It has a long history of sea lore and tropical romance - the writer Hemingway made his home there for years.

There's lots of radio down there with two-metre repeaters at Marathon, Cudjoe Key and Key West. A few times we wondered if we were in sight of Cuba as Spanish is sometimes heard. It seems there are many South and Central American immigrants in the area.

We were pleasantly surprised to hear Len, VE3LST (the brother of Gerry, VE3CAC of Port Elgin) down there on a vacation. Len and his family were staying in the same trailer park we were headed for so we had a few good eyeball visits. We got in touch with our friends the Cressmans through Len. It's a small world.

Enough this time . . . regards to all GBAHC members.

From the sunny south,

73, Dick, VE3BIS

Coming Events

April 27 - 29: Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio.

May 13 - Southern Ontario Repeater Team (SORT) holds its annual Flea Market at the Medway High School in Arva, just 2 mi. north of London on Highway 4. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$2 a head. Talk-in on VE3TTT 147.18/.78 or VE3LAC 147.06/.66 or VE3SUE 444.4/.9. Permits \$1. Tables \$3. Dave VE3GYQ at 519-472-4662.

June 2 - Central Ontario Amateur Radio Flea Market. 10th annual for the Guelph ARC. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Regal Hall, 340 Woodlawn W. Vendors in at 6 a.m. \$5 per 8' table. Admission \$2. Talk-in on VE3ZMG 147.96/.36 and .52 simplex.

July 17 - The Burlington Club puts on the flea market at the Milton Fairgrounds.

October 6, 7 - RSO Convention in Ottawa.

Nov. 10 - York North ARC Flea Market at the Newmarket Arena.

* * *

LATE FLASH: Dave, DX0 has acquired possession of the club's long-lost archives. If you have anything to contribute to them such as photos of club activities or newspaper clippings, please bring them to the next meeting or contact Dave.

Looking Back

Ten years ago at the April, 1974 meeting, 18 members and two visitors attended to hear a talk on the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) from Mr. H. Rankin of Grey County. Dick, BIS also gave a talk on two metres which helped clear up a number of points for those who were not too familiar with the relatively new mode at that time.

Dave, DXO, showed three RCAF training films on antennas. There was some discussion about the club affiliating with ARRL. Jim, CHV's eager code and theory students were nearing the moment of truth when about a dozen of them were expected to be tested by three DOC examiners who were set to come up to visit on May 14.

Bulletin editor Bill, VE3EFX, included an appropriate little cartoon that said: 'If you find mistakes in this publication, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes!'

Bits 'n' Pieces

Donations are still needed and very welcome to the VE3OSR repeater rejuvenation fund. The treasury has been depleted due to "up front" costs to get the repeater back into the condition we now enjoy. Treasurer Jim, VE3BFV will be more than happy to accept your \$20 if you have not already contributed.

* * *

Another ham-in-space mission is being planned. Astronaut Tony England, W00HE will take a 2-metre handheld with him on the 51S Spacelab mission in March, 1985. The conjecture in a previous issue of Feedback about "shuttle bounce" may have been explained in the April QST. The theory is that with so many amateurs aiming RF at a shuttle with a ham on it, clouds become artificially ionized permitting signals to bounce and be propagated better than usual.

* * *

The DOC has given notice that it intends to amend the Radio Operator's Certificate regulations to provide for inclusion of punctuation marks, Q signals and emergency signals in the Morse Code receiving test for the advanced. DOC also plans to revoke requirements for an oral and practical test on radio equipment, and the requirement to draw schematic diagrams on written tests for the amateur certificate. The C&K plans to recommend that DOC limit punctuation marks and Q signals to those that are commonly used and are practical.

* * *

TO SEND - OR NOT TO SEND

by ERIC STABLER VE3ISD
(Niagara Peninsula ARC)

This article has been prompted by two happenings. One, the new exams and secondly, by a report regarding one of our members (nameless) to avoid the shame, but suffice it to say that he lives nearer to the stratosphere than most of us) whose straight key is not only dusty - but, his XYL says, is RUSTY!!! Oh the effect of a Vic 20!!

If you use - or intend to use a straight key there are a few pointers which will assist you to produce copy book code effortlessly.

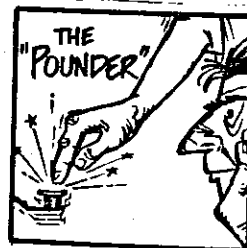
1. Have the key mounted on the edge of your desk. Never - I repeat, never 12 or so inches in from the edge as is so often the case. A paddle type key is, of course, placed in the middle of the desk - but NOT a straight key.
2. The key placement on the edge should allow the key, wrist, elbow, and shoulder to be in a straight line. Your elbow should not be out like a duck's wing!
3. The forearm should be level or below the key - never above it.
4. The action occurs at the wrist. Flex your wrist down, thereby pulling the key down - NOT stiff so that you push the key down. Start with a few V's to get the idea.

After a while, you may find your code begins to deteriorate - you'll find that you have stiffened up and are now pushing the key down - relax and flex the wrist. Once you get the "hang of it" (it will take all of 10 minutes even for a student) then you will be able to send for hour after hour quite effortlessly. It beats paying \$300 for a Vic 20 or \$100 for a paddle!!! Mind you - most of us will be able to reach about 25 wpm on such a key, then you'll have to go to a paddle or computer - but 20/25 suffices for most ham QSO's.

If you have used a straight key in the middle of your desk - resting arm & elbow on the desk - you will have experienced muscular aches in the top of your forearm. This will not happen if you place the key correctly and flex the wrist.

So - to those who live in high places - dusty keys and rusty keys have no place in such immaculate shacks - re-vitalize it and have a go - you'll enjoy it!

P.S. Some idea of the wrist action can be got from placing your arm and hand on the desk and, keeping the fist on the desk, flex the wrist up and down as though sending CW - it's not as good as with a key - but it'll give you some idea as your XYL works away at the rust for you!



* GBARC "Feedback" gratefully credits the Niagara Peninsula Club's "Fee-line"

Net Control Schedule

My dictionary defines "Club" as "an association of persons united by some common interest, meeting periodically for cooperation or conviviality".

There are three avenues available to G.B.A.R.C. members that can help to unite and thus add to the joy of practicing our hobby:

Club meetings
O.S.R. repeater
Sunday morning net

It would be great to see more participation in all three and therefor insure that our group grow stronger - even during adverse situations that might threaten to divide us.

The average number of check-ins each Sunday has been 11. In a group of 50 club members, that could easily be increased. Let's patronize the following Net Controllers with greater regularity.

Apr.	1	AUB	Jack
	8	JUO	Don
	15	DXO	Dave
	22	CRV	Jim
	29	NEG	Bill
May	6	BIS	Dick
	13	FFN	Walter
	20	LCZ	Andy
	27	LPD	Laverne
Jun.	3	DTS	Jack
	10	BSF	Verne
	17	AQT	Rob
	24	LPT	Moe
Jul.	1	BFV	Jim
	8	AEO	Ted
	15	IDS	Don
	22	HXX	Ian
	29	LPG	Mal

Let's communicate!

Dave VE3DXO