

February, 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.

## President's Report

So, here we are in Orwell's 1984. It is also Ontario's Bicentennial. Hams have a very special way to celebrate Ontario's 200th birthday and that's with an award sponsored by the RSO.

I have heard it so many times from the more experienced hams that they have had enough of working contests and chasing awards.

Well, I hope you will make an exception this time to this award. Use it to seek and find old friends. That is one of ham radio's strong points, you know, making long-lasting friendships.

Where can you find better ham radio friends than in your own province? I'm sure that by the time you have 200 VE3 contacts you will have found at least one old buddy. Both of you would be thrilled by the contact.

There is a saying: "New friends are silver but old friends are gold." So let's give it a try and work the Bicentennial Award.

It's yours to discover. (Where did I hear that?)

\* \* \*

In the November issue of Feedback we adopted a proposal to give the repeater committee authority to purchase or move or whatever is necessary to maintain VE3OSR in respectable working order. VE3CrV appointed himself as chairman of that committee.

The committee has determined that the problem is in the duplexer. At the last meeting it was decided to explore the price of a new one. On the GBARC net Jim informed us that he has a good Hes-Lok unit at a good price.

By the time you read this it should have been in operation for some time. Now we must pay for it.

Consider this one. It will be discussed at the next meeting. If you don't come out and voice your opinion, then there should be no complaints when we vote to spend your money on the duplexer.

I still feel a separate group independent of GBARC is the best way.

I also want to propose for discussion that we consider raising dues to \$20 per year starting next fall to cover increased Feedback mailing costs and expenses associated with repeater improvement.

Also at the next meeting, I'd like to hear your opinions on incorporating the club. There are advantages.

Field Day should also be discussed at the next meeting. Any volunteers?

So with that, I'll say 73 and see you at the next meeting.

Bill, VE3NEG

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

## Minutes

The Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club held its January meeting in the Grey-Bruce Tourist Information Centre at Springmount on January 19 at 8 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Kohlman, VE3NEG. There were 15 members present.

The minutes as published in the January issue of Feedback from the December meeting were moved for adoption by Moe, VE3LPT and seconded by Ian, VE3HXX. The financial report by Jim, VE3BFV showed a balance of \$1047.34.

Under old business, the repeater debate continued. Jim, VE3CRV gave us a technical report on the behavior of our cavities under conditions of changing temperatures.

The building in which the repeater and cavities are housed is subject to great changes in temperature and humidity. Paul, VE3KOI has again realigned the cavities. Jim, CRV found that the SWR changed considerably depending on the ambient temperature of the cavities.

Ian, VE3HXX moved that the repeater committee proceed with obtaining a firm price on a new set of cavities. This was seconded by Jim, CRV. Prices were to be available on the Sunday morning net when a vote on the air would be taken on whether to proceed with the purchase of the new equipment. (\* It was agreed on the net to proceed with the order of new cavities and delivery would be in a couple of weeks.)

It was moved by Jim, CRV and Andy, VE3LCZ that the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Coffee and donuts and a gab fest completed the evening.

Jim, VE3BFV

Secretary-Treasurer

## Future Meetings

Thursday, February 16, 1984: Jim, CRV has offered to bring test equipment to the meeting suitable for checking frequencies, power output and deviation on members' 2-metre transceivers which they are invited to bring with them to the meeting.

Thursday, March 15, 1984: Jack Avis, VE3DTS, our vice-president, is scheduled to give a talk on the area of electrical indicating instruments.

## Editor's Notes

It's good to see that members have brought their concerns, abilities and resources together to make tangible progress in resolving the repeater problems.

It always seems very intimidating and perhaps even hopeless in the early stages of solving any problem and OSR was no exception. There was discussion, patience, new ideas, further discussion, the usual predictable but healthy disagreements but we seem to be back on track now.

Jim, CRV pointed out at the last meeting that because of Owen Sound's unique geographical location, repeater coverage into the heart of downtown will never be excellent if the coverage out into the fringe areas of the counties is to be at all satisfactory to the members and visitors in those areas who have just as much right to expect a dependable repeater.

New cavities and other improvements to OSR are not without cost and I can't imagine any club that could finance such expense through general revenues derived from regular dues unless it is a very large metro club.

So we all have to decide in our own way what it is worth to us to have a good, consistent repeater with autopatch and ID that we can be proud of, that will serve the many recreational visitors the area gets year-round and that doesn't take a back seat to any of the machines down south.

We all have different personal budgets for ham radio and varying levels of resources so we needn't feel contributions are any less worthwhile if they are not as much as some members are able to generously contribute.

\* \* \*

Agnes Koepke, the widow of the late Fred Koepke, VE3WF, has graciously agreed to let the club apply to the DOC for Fred's call so that it can be used on special occasions.

\* \* \*

Since taking over as Feedback editor last summer, I have felt that clubs have much to offer each other in the way of the expertise of their members, ideas for meetings, bulletin features, flea markets and hamfests etc.

There obviously must be some limit on the number of clubs we can exchange bulletins with for postage reasons. But I think we have a pretty good group now that has been fine tuned so that bulletins are mutually beneficial and any special events they have are still within driving distance for our members if they wish.

Here is the current updated list of other Ontario clubs with which we are exchanging bulletins. I cull out any items of interest to us and include them in Feedback:

Apart from RSO, CML and CARF these clubs get Feedback: London, Niagara Peninsula (St. Catharines), North York (Toronto), Orillia, Scarborough, Skywide (Toronto), Windsor, Metro and York Region.

Other clubs have had the opportunity but there has been either no interest or no reply from them.

*Rob*

## Coming Events

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club 6th annual Flea Market, dinner and dance on Sat. Feb. 18 at the Black Sea Hall, 455 Welland Ave. St. Catharines. Exit QEW from Hamilton on Niagara St. to South Service Rd. Continue to Welland Ave. and turn left. Talk-in on 147.24/.84 and .52 simplex. Lots of parking, indoor displays, new and used gear, commercial displays, hourly door prizes. Flea market 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$2 per person. Set up at 7 a.m. Tables \$3 each (max. 2) Adv. reservations on tables - Deadline Feb. 1. Cheque, cash or M.O. to NPARC Flea Market, Peter Mitroff, VE3DSW, 8 Marsten Dr., St. Catharines, Ont. L2N 3C7. Ph. 416-935-6732. Dinner-dance. Bar opens 6:30, dinner 7, dance 9. Tickets \$15 ea. Draw tickets on IC22U (2m. xcvr) and VIC-20 \$2 ea or 3/\$5. Area motels rates \$36 - \$48 per night/ couple.

\* \* \*

March 10, 1984. Peel A.R.C. Flea Market in Brampton. 8 a.m.

\* \* \*

The famous Dayton Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio is set for April 26-29 this year.

## Net Control Schedule

Here is the interim net control schedule for the Sunday morning net (3783 at 9:30) according to Net Manager Dave, VE3DXO's master list.

Feb. 12	Dave	DXO
19	Moe	LPT
26	Jim	BFV
Mar. 4	Ted	AEO
11	Don	IDS
18	Ian	HXX

## Feature

### HOW I GOT INTO HAM RADIO

By Norm Biggar, VE3MTV

It all started with an interest in two-way radio. I started communication on radio using a Fanon 100 milliwatt walkie talkie on 11 metres. I used to talk to Peter Bowers all the way across town, a distance of close to a quarter of a mile.

My greatest DX contact of the time was to a mobile on the east hill, a distance of almost three quarters of a mile!

My interest increased as I listened to CBers on my walkie talkie. Two of my school friends, Paul McInnis and Jim Shaw had radios in their cars, so I just had to get one.

After high school, my first job was at Whitaker Cable and my first major purchase was a Hallicrafters CB-3A from Neil McInnis. I got my CB licence in 1972 (XM451634).

All that time, CB was a very friendly band with all operators using their calls and everybody knew everybody else on a first name basis. On occasion it was possible to "talk skip" on the CB bands, quite a phenomenon for CBers, but it also led to some interesting contacts.

Larry Cutch got me interested in ham radio by letting me listen in on his receiver on a number of occasions. He directed me to the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club meetings, at that time held in the CIAG computer building in Owen Sound.

In 1974 I joined GBARC and signed up for the ham radio course at Georgian College which was being taught by Jim, VE3CRV. I struggled along in the course and there was always encouragement from many members of GBARC. Bill, VE3EFX and Vern, VE3BSF were always there to keep my interest in ham radio going.

Being young at the time however, ham radio fell to other interests and I never finished the course. My interests in electronics were, however, kept alive.

My initial electronics came from Ray Lundy, teacher at OSCVI. However, many hours were spent with my friend, the late Ken Graham, as he worked on an array of electronic devices from tape decks to computers and radios to synthesizers.

Never worrying about warranties, he would buy a new electronic toy and have it torn apart half an hour after he got it home (just to see what made it tick!) He and I also spent innumerable hours travelling, meeting people with the use of CB radio, all over Ontario.

Years went on and visits to Vamplew Electronics would always have Jim asking when I was going to get my licence. I also recall while working at a local automotive store, a visit by Jack, VE3DTS. He filled me in on what was happening in ham radio. He encouraged me to get the code and licence and to come out to the meetings. (I think I sold him a can of paint that day.)

In 1980, Don, VE3LZX and Harvey, VE3FOT worked on a cable TV program entitled "Calling VE3LZX", a program on ham radio. The program was hosted by John Fleming, a retired wireless operator now working at Edwards.

Since I was working in the programming department of MacLean Hunter at the time, I was able to fire a lot of questions at these two operators.

During visits to Scarrow Shoes, Moe, VE3LPT would tell me of the upcoming radio course and suggested I sign up. (I also ended up with three pairs of shoes, snowmobile boots and a pair of North Stars!)

The final push came at work. Tom (now VE3NEM) insisted that he and I and some of the guys from work sign up for the course at OSCVI.

So, after a lapse of six years, I was once again learning ham radio. This time it was under the guidance of Laverne, VE3LPD and Don, VE3IDS. Code practice was coming from all angles. With the use of Moe's FRG7 I was able to copy WIAW. My girlfriend (now Mrs. Biggar) got used to my leaving an hour early every night and my family got used to an extra hour of noise every evening as the FRG7 fired up. Code practice also came from Meaford via VE3LPD.

In 1980, Moe, Tom and myself travelled to Kitchener in the midst of what could have turned into a snowstorm.

After a nervewracking day, I wrote and later found out I had passed the theory and regs. And, on April 24, 1981, after the longest three minutes of CW that I can remember, I completed the CW portion.

After an even longer period of time, (perhaps four minutes) the examiner informed me that I had passed and that VE3MTV had now come into being.

So, there you have it. Although one likes to take all the credit, it's plain to see that it took a lot of help and encouragement from a lot of people to make it.

Even the day before the exam, my friend Henry VanDerHiede said: "Go for it." It's the pushes you get like those that really help along the way to getting your licence. Thanks.

So, that's how I got into ham radio.

Let's hear your story!

73, Norm Biggar, VE3MTV

### CANADIAN OPERATION IN FLORIDA

By Dick Shave, VE3BIS

The amateurs in Florida during the winter must swell their ranks by 30 per cent. Of course, I'm guessing but a lot of the calls one hears on the local repeaters are from out-of-state and a fair number are Canadian calls.

The vocabulary and to a small degree the accents are different but the main subjects heard in conversation are about the same as we all hear.

It's a good lesson for the Canadian to see how the Americans contend with band crowding. The limitations are set by the FCC which means we must operate in the "American band" so I, for one, would like remind everyone who can go into the "DX" portions of the band that it is an enviable privilege.

There is a real interest for the amateur away from home to keep in touch with the gang back home. It may be to hold on to political position in the club hierarchy or the need to prove portable prowess is on a par with the state of the art or it may be the need to tell everyone how great it is to be having such a great time, hi, hi. Whatever it is, the Canadian operators in Florida are pretty active.

The FM repeaters are plenty full down here so it's no trouble getting local information about road conditions and directions. Some of the best are the Brooksville and Lake Wales machines in Central Florida.



The early morning Oatmeal Net on 3780 kHz is a good place for the "snowbirds" to meet and talk back to Ontario and other eastern provinces. The net meets most mornings at 6 a.m. EST under the able direction of Elmer, VE3LJX. There are many more well-known operators who call in. - Carl, VE3HH and Ed, VE3KSH to name just a couple of the northern gang and Red, VE3ETH and John, VE3MB (Money Bags) to name a couple of the southern gang.

The Snow Bird net which operates weekdays on 14.152 MHz ± at 9:30 EST is a good net to pass traffic back home. The VE3s in the north and the VE3/W4s in the south do a great job controlling and in this case I'm not going to mention any calls or I'll miss some.

The biggest problem the amateur away from home faces is how to get an antenna up and working. A mobile installation is fairly efficient on the higher frequencies. For people in apartments and mobile homes it is a great challenge to get a signal on the air that is on a par with the rest.

Many places have restrictions on the erection of any outside paraphernalia, antennas included. This seems to be due to the worry of the owners of the property about unsightly views affecting property values. More than a few accommodation deals have been squashed for this reason.

At the local flea markets a lot of the amateurs are Americans but here and there a smattering of Canadians are heard and the beady eyes of the junk seekers are to be observed skulking between the rows of goodies peering furtively over their shoulders as they scurry along looking for the best prices.

The local amateurs have a good luncheon meeting each Wednesday in Lakeland and I suppose it's done at many centres. The usual chatter about local goings-on, antennas, new equipment and the good old days are some of the subjects discussed.

This winter has been pretty cold even down in the deep South so a frequent topic of conversation is the weather . . . how cold is it? and the snide comment: "They spend all that money to go down South and it's really good up here . . ." It's all in the eye of the beholder. If you don't like it, pass it up.

In discussions with amateurs in the south and from northern states and Canada, the majority say they have plenty to keep them occupied. Some go golfing, others do a little gardening and still others do things like bird watching or computer wizardry.

If you operate away from home either portable or mobile, it's a good idea to plan well ahead for all aspects of your proposed operation. Here are a few tips: - Try out all the equipment including portable antennas in a portable location at home in similar situations that you expect to find at your remote sites.

- Prepare a list of spares and alternate equipment ie. mikes, fuses, antennas and a small repair kit.

- Also, don't forget an odd assortment of wire and poly rope.

Have fun on your trip and if you come to Florida in the winter, look at the TV news. They always show the cold weather "Up North". Hi, hi.

Computers

CORRECTION!!

On page 12 of the December issue of Feedback is a circuit and short program for the TRS-80 color computer. The correction is in the program. Below are two program with corrections. "One" is for a 16K machine. "Two" is for a 32K machine.

73, Bill, VE3NEG

ONE

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100 *PRINTER DRIVER-DAN DOWNARD
110 *REV 1 12/82 FOR 16K TRS-80
120 CLEAR5,16334
140 DATA 52,20,246,0,111,193,254
150 DATA38,20,246,0,156,92,241
160 DATA0,155,39,14,129,13,38
170 DATA7,190,160,2,173,3,134
180 DATA10,53,20,57,52,2,134
190 DATA13,190,160,2,173,3,134
200 DATA10,173,3,53,2,32,236
210 FOR D=16335 TO 16363
220 READ E:POKE D,E:NEXT D
230 POKE1021,PEEK(359)
240 POKE1022,PEEK(360)
250 POKE1023,PEEK(361)
260 POKE359,126:POKE360, 63:POKE361,207
270 POKE149,2:POKE150,0
280 POKE155,72
290 POKE151,64:POKE152,0
300 NEW
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TWO

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100 *PRINTER DRIVER-DAN DOWNARD
110 *REV 1 12/82 FOR 32K TRS-80
120 CLEAR5,32718
140 DATA 52,20,246,0,111,193,254
150 DATA38,20,246,0,156,92,241
160 DATA0,155,39,14,129,13,38
170 DATA7,190,160,2,173,3,134
180 DATA10,53,20,57,52,2,134
190 DATA13,190,160,2,173,3,134
200 DATA10,173,3,53,2,32,236
210 FOR D=32719 TO 32767
220 READ E:POKE D,E:NEXT D
230 POKE1021,PEEK(359)
240 POKE1022,PEEK(360)
250 POKE1023,PEEK(361)
260 POKE359,126:POKE360,127:POKE361,207
270 POKE149,2:POKE150,0
280 POKE155,72
290 POKE151,64:POKE152,0
300 NEW
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## Looking Back

Ten years ago, at the Feb. 13, 1974 club meeting, there were 17 members present with 3 visitors. There was a grand total of \$94.11 in the club's coffers.

The 3 visitors were Charlie Noakes, G3UHR and his XYL and daughter. Charlie was hoping to be on the air from Kincardine with a VE3 call soon.

Harvey, VE3FOT presented the club with the constitution that he had drafted. The club endorsed and adopted the document unanimously.

VE3OSR was on the air with good coverage reported as far as Bracebridge, Mount Forest and Tiverton.

## New Members

There have been two renewals since the last bulletin with the roster went out. Please make these additions between the lines in your copy of the roster from the bulletin:

VE3JFX Alf Dale Box 901 Seaforth, Ont. NOK 1W0

VE3MTP Hart Ridderbusch 397 Third St., Hanover, Ont. N4N 1B4 364-3672

That brings the club up to 48 paid-up members including three SWL's and excluding nine non-renewals from last year and excluding the 12 complimentary mailings mentioned on Page 5.

## Trading Post

FOR SALE: Tone alerts, 3 each, built by VE3BIS. Five-digit tone access. Self-contained in an attractive box, built-in speaker, capability of monitoring with speaker muted, external sensitivity adjustment. Just plug into rig audio output and attach to 12 VDC supply.

Contact Andy, VE3LCZ  
832-5868

Model 33ASR teletype in clean, working condition.  
\$75 or best offer.

Attention antique collectors! Hallicrafters Sky Buddy all-band receiver. Circa 1938. Working condition. \$25

Jim, VE3BFV 371-1209

Two Model 20 teletypes available with DC supplies. Set up to take 6-level code, 60 ma. signal at 120 VDC. 66 wpm.

WANTED:

Fairly fresh 6146s (As or Bs). There must be some out there? Also, I am trying to compile a fairly complete list of useful VHF frequencies in the area for scanner monitoring. Can anyone contribute to the pot?

Above 3 items: Rob, VE3AQT 371-1692

## Bits 'n' Pieces

Libby Stevens, VE3IOT of Thornhill, has corresponded with us and wants to thank the Georgian Bay Club for its cash donation to the Jocelyn Lovell Trust Fund.

This past summer, Jocelyn, Canada's former top cyclist and gold medalist, was hit by a dump truck while he was training for a coming event.

As a result of tragic accident at the age of 33, he is a quadriplegic and is now undergoing rehabilitation therapy in Toronto.

He is also a sincere candidate for amateur radio. Radio was his first hobby before he went into cycling. He built a receiver and he recently told Libby that radio was his first hobby and it now looks as though it will be his last hobby.

Libby had started a campaign where amateurs collect Dominion Store tapes. Dominion will match each \$450 worth of tapes with \$1 cash towards a special wheelchair for Jocelyn which he will need when he gets out.

Libby pointed out that our cash donation of \$20 is not modest at all because that is equivalent to \$9,000 worth of grocery tapes!

\* \* \*

DOC exam dates for the rest of 1984 are April 18, June 20 and October 17.

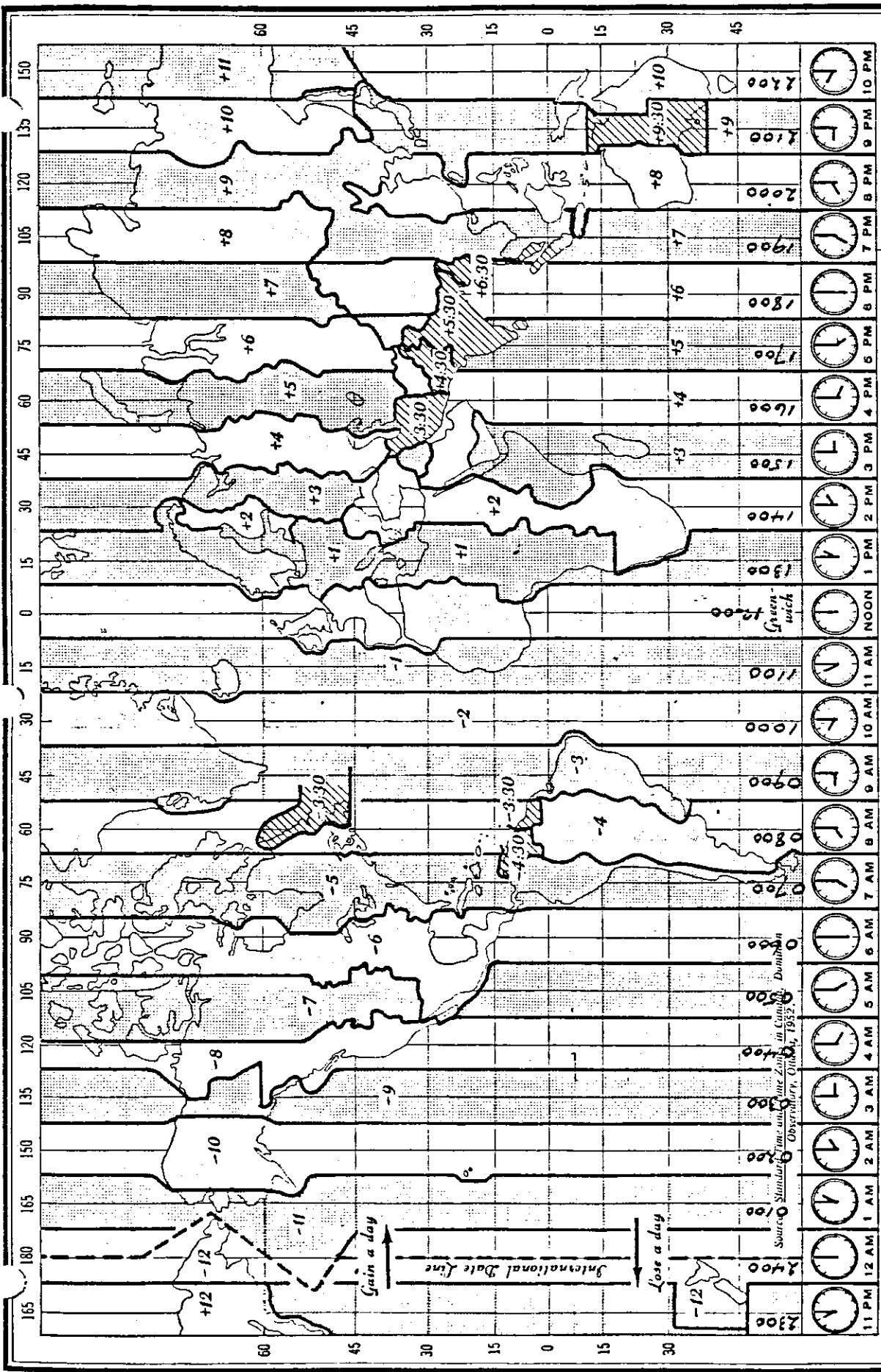
\* \* \*

The CRRL is offering a new service for amateurs seeking licensing in foreign countries. It now has information sheets and licence application forms for more than 150 countries and more are on the way. Many of these countries do not have reciprocal operating agreements with Canada but are still worth a try. Address inquiries to Naarlon Thorn, VE3LRU at CRRL, Box 7009, Station E, London, Ont. N5Y 4J9.

\* \* \*

Here, courtesy of a number of other club bulletins, is a collection of witty sayings, laws and jokes, some related to ham radio and some not so much:

- A lot of people love their job. It's the work they hate.
- A perfectionist is one who takes infinite pains and often gives them to others.
- You are only young once. After that you have to think of some other excuse.
- The difference between failure and success is doing something nearly right and doing it exactly right.
- Murphy's Eighth Law: If you tinker with or try to improve something long enough, eventually it will break or stop working.
- The best way for a wife to have a few minutes alone at the end of the day is to start doing the dishes.



# WORLD TIME CHART

Time zones are shown by alternating gray and white stripes. Countries with one-half hour times are shown by oblique lines. The number of hours which needs to be subtracted or added from local time to give Greenwich Time is indicated for each zone. No zone system has been officially adopted for Saudi Arabia or Afghanistan. The Soviet Union by a decree on 6 June, 1930 advanced all clocks in the Union by one hour. The times on this map correspond to the new advanced times.

L. F. Wonders