

MAR 1994

FEEDBACK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

Sponsoring

VE3OSR FM REPEATER 146.940- Mhz MARKDALE
VE3OST FM REPEATER 145.290- Mhz OWEN SOUND
VE3GBT FM REPEATER 146.895- Mhz BARROW BAY
VE3IJD PACKET BBS 145.630 Mhz KEADY

REGULAR EVENTS

GBARC MEETINGS:
SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH

BREAKFAST MEETINGS:
SECOND AND LAST SATURDAY
OF EACH MONTH

GBARC INFORMATION:
INFORMATION REGARDING
MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE
DIRECTED TO IAN VE3HIP
519-371-5479

Minutes of the meeting of February 8th. 1994.

The meeting started late because the airport was locked when we arrived. There were 20 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as published after the secretary pointed out that the DOC is now the ISC not the ITS as printed in the February feedback. The treasurer reported we have \$301.16 in the bank and no outstanding invoices.

OLD BUSINESS Due to lack of response the first aid course idea will be dropped. The ISC has been contacted and the process of putting the club repeater calls in the clubs name has been started. Roy, EBM collected the filled out emergency preparedness forms from the members and will use them to make up a fanout list. The general idea of the fanout is that the Emergency Coordinator phones two guys and they call two each and so on and everyone checks in on the repeater then stands by for further instructions. When the fanout is ready a practice run will be held on a saturday to try it out.

NEW BUSINESS Ian, HIP brought up the fact that the club once had speakers at meetings and that we should try to get some for upcoming meetings. We have been invited to the Collingwood meeting on March 4th. Kieth VE3OY will be the speaker, the topic will relate to packet radio. REPEATER Rick, HIO reported that VE3GBT is off the air and that VE3OSR on 94 is now up at Barrow Bay, the intermod from the paging transmitter is now gone, there is a problem with the CKCO TV transmitter that is causing interference. Ross, BZC moved we close the meeting, seconded by Dan, DQC. 50/50 draw was won by Nick, MWU...

NEW MEETING PLACE

Our new meeting place for club meetings will be the Marine-Rail Heritage Centre, at 1165 - 1st Ave W. , downtown73 VE3HIP

COMPUTER DISK DRIVES !@#%\$#

From: VE3TUK (Port Elgin, Ontario) Date:15-02-94 Time:4:57Z

This might be old information but I think it is worth repeating, as a friend of mine had the same problem.

I recently had a problem with my 5 1/4" disk drive a: where after obtaining a directory listing from one disk, replacing that disk and issuing another "dir" command would cause the same list to come up. It was sometimes possible to make the a: drive current with no disk in the drive... Today I took the cover off the computer and the inside was coated with dust around the 5 1/4" disk drive and power supply. By the design of the computer the fan on the rear of the unit removes air from the power supply; air must be replaced by entering from other openings on the unit. Unfortunately the 5 1/4" disk drive does a great job of doing this... better it seems than the grilles on the front of the unit, and it was full of dust! A good vacuum solved the problem. I have my system on most of the time running TPK so I think this case was a bit more severe for that reason. A year of 24 hour operation!

I guess the moral of the story is... check your 5 1/4 disk drives for dust from time to time if you leave your computer on! Dust can be dangerous when it comes to hard drives in particular... I remember an analogy that a hard drive head can be compared to a 747 flying at 600 miles an hour, 6 inches off the ground. A dust or smoke particle is 20 times that size, 12 feet high or so in this analogy. Enough said?

73 Russ

RADIO AUTHORIZATION REVOKED

VANCOUVER, January 18, 1994. Press release from Industry Canada.

The amateur radio station licence and amateur radio operator certificate of Pierre Joseph Souaillard were revoked by Industry Canada after an investigation by department radio inspectors revealed another person had written the qualifying operator's exam on Mr. Souaillard's behalf.

Hal Hickey, acting District Director of Spectrum Management for Industry Canada's Lower Mainland office, said that charges under the Radiocommunication Act have been laid against Mr. Souaillard.

Industry Canada's investigation revealed that Mr. Souaillard had interfered with amateur radiocommunications, modified his amateur radio equipment to enable it to transmit on police frequencies, and interfered with police radiocommunications.

"While a licence/certificate suspension would usually be applied on a first offence for any one of these violations," said Mr. Hickey, "the fact that Mr. Souaillard broke so many of the regulations is cause for full revocation."

Mr. Hickey also announced that the person who is alleged to have written the exam on behalf of Mr. Souaillard is also under investigation for alleged offences under the Radiocommunications Act.

COMMUNICATIONS CANADA CONFERENCE 1993 -

NOTES FROM NICK MWU THAT HE MADE AFTER WATCHING THE ISC VIDEO

-Applicants for systems involving significant antenna structures will be required to notify and consult with the appropriate municipal authorities.

-Significant is not defined.

-Amateurs should consult with the municipality if they think there will be a conflict.

-Municipalities have no jurisdiction over antenna height or usage, there is federal paramountcy.

-The DOC does not have the legal authority to prevent a municipality from enacting bylaws.

-Bylaws that restrict ham antennas are ultravivus.

-Hugh Clark of the DOC predicts that the international requirement to pass a CW exam to operate HF will be dropped at the next WARC.

-There are proposals for standards of RF susceptibility of radio sensitive equipment, that may or may not ever be enacted.

These are a few points I picked from the DOC conference tape, for more information contact the secretary to borrow the tape.....VE3MWU

PARABLE OF THE ISMS

Socialism: If you have two cows, you give one to your neighbor.

Communism: If you have two cows, you give them to the government and then the government gives you some milk.

Fascism: If you have two cows, you keep the cows and give the milk to the government; then the government sells you some milk.

New Dealism: If you have two cows, you shoot one and milk the other; then you pour the milk down the drain.

Nazism: If you have two cows, the government shoots you and keeps the cows.

Capitalism: If you have two cows, you sell one and buy a bull.

A FOURTH HIGH-ENERGY GAMMA-RAY PULSAR

The detection of pulsed high-energy gamma rays from the Crab and Vela radio pulsars by the SAS-2 and COS-B satellites in the 1970s suggested that the increased sensitivity of the EGRET on the CGRO would provide discovery and characterization of additional pulsars. Coordinated observations between CGRO investigators and radio astronomers around the world have been established to monitor a large number of candidate pulsars. The first EGRET detection to come from this program is the pulsar PSR1706-44, which pulses 10 times per second and is thought to be a spinning neutron star that formed in a supernova about 17,000 years ago.

The gamma-ray source was actually discovered before the radio pulsar had been found. It was called 2CG 342-02 in the second COS-B catalog. The low counting rate of gamma-ray telescopes makes searches for fast pulsations difficult unless an accurate starting point is known. The nearly simultaneous radio and EGRET observations allowed the pulsed gamma radiation to be detected.

PSR1706-44 is rather different from the other high-energy gamma-ray pulsars, such as the Crab, Vela, and Geminga, because it has a single broad pulse, while all the others have two narrow pulses with a wide separation. The figure shows the shape of the PSR1706-44 pulse compared to the EGRET observations of the Vela pulsar. The gamma rays may be produced by the same processes in the two cases, but the geometry of how the gamma-ray pulse is beamed toward Earth must be quite different. The number of gamma rays also indicates how much dimmer PSR1706-44 is than the Vela pulsar.

MURPHY'S LAW FOR SMALL FALLING OBJECTS.

Whenever you drop a small object on the floor, if the object is spherical, it will roll, quite unimpeded by adverse slopes in the floor or carpet, to the most inaccessible spot in the room, and come to rest 1 centimetre out of arm's reach, causing you to have to lift and move the heaviest and most awkward piece of furniture in the room in order to recover it.

If the object is NOT spherical, and therefore cannot roll, immediately upon hitting the floor, it will disappear from the face of the Earth and even the most diligent search will fail to find it. Until, that is, you decide to either vacuum the floor or enter the room barefoot, at which time it will magically reappear, in the precise spot where it first disappeared, and will then either cause irreparable damage to the vacuum cleaner or excruciating pain to the underside of the foot!

Further corollaries to Murphy gratefully received.

Vy 73, de John, G3YKP @ GB7BAD (Nottingham).

SLIM JIM ANTENNA

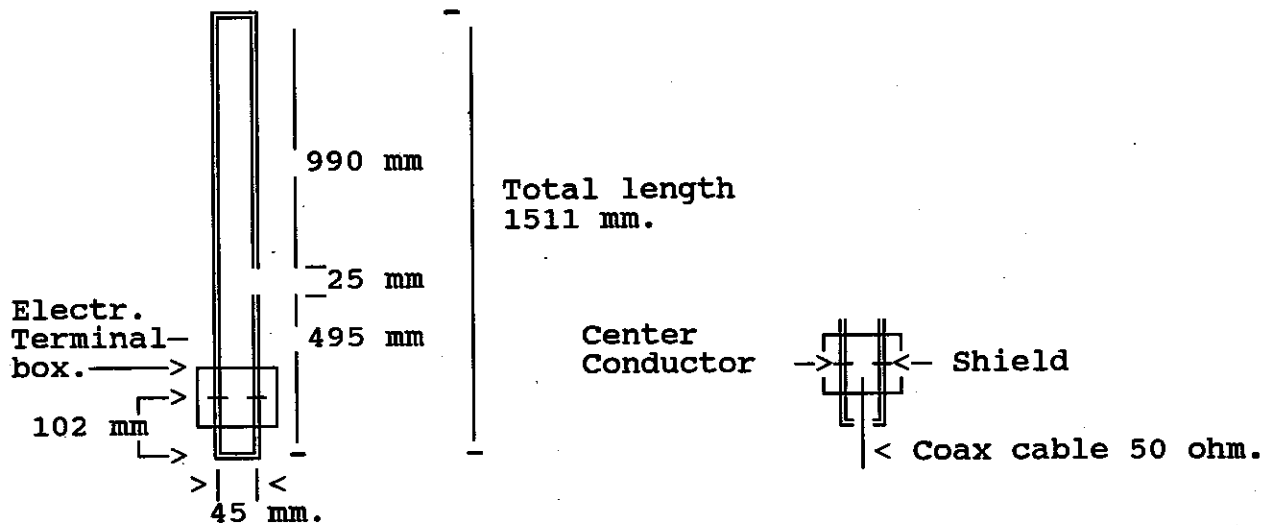
This antenna is earlier described in Practical Wireless by G2BCX.

Slim Jim is a back feed folded vertical dipole antenna for the 2-m band. It is 50% more effective than a GP-antenna, depending on the low radiation angle. The antenna has no groundplanes and therefore it is very easy to place. The name Slim Jim comes from the slender construction.

The feed is on the base, which causes no problem with the connection between the feeder and the antenna. The feeder impedance is 50 ohm.

Slim Jim can be made of alu-pipes with a diameter of 10 mm, or 12 mm, or a 300 ohm cable. The distance between the two parallel elements is not critical and neither is the length if is made of 10 mm.

The isolation between the two divided halves, between the half wave and the quarter wave half, should be made of pertinax or teflon or a similar isolation material, which fits between the two parts.



With a correct feed, the SWR will be less than 1.5-1 all over the band. The antenna can be constructed for permanent use or portable/ mobile use.

De Leif SM2TM @ SK2DR.BD.SWE.EU

IMPROVING PILOT LAMP LIFE

Yesterday I read a bulletin from someone concerned with the pilot lights failing on his rig, and asking what can be done about improving lamp life.

Incandescent lamp luminance and life are affected critically by changes in voltage from the specified value. To give you some idea, the calculated life of a lamp rated for 1000 hours at 12V at different voltages is:

voltage	life (hrs)	percent lumens
11.0	6600	61%
11.5	1780	86%
12.0	1000	100%
12.5	580	115%
13.0	340	132%
13.8	150	163%

These values vary somewhat between different sizes and wattage ratings, but they are reasonably close for small tungsten bulbs. From the data it is evident that lowering the voltage will increase life substantially at the cost of light output.

A second factor that shortens lamp life is turn-on turn-off cycles. When a lamp is cold its resistance is substantially less than when hot. Therefore, there is a large inrush current each time a bulb is turned on after it has been allowed to cool down. Limiting this inrush current can improve life.

My Yaesu FT-227RA, that is used on packet, seemed to burn out lamps at a rate I felt excessive. The solution was to put a small resistor in series with a lamp whenever I replaced one. The size was selected to drop the voltage 0.5 to 0.75 volts. The drop in light output was noticeable but not objectionable. The series resistor also reduces the inrush current and adds life to the lamp in that respect too. The resistor is soldered in-line with one of the lamp's pig-tail leads. Usually, one-quarter or one-eighth watt resistors can be used, but use Ohms law to check the rating (use the maximum specified operating temperature for the rig to be "professional").

Since equipment manufacturers don't usually give much information on the lamps they install in the equipment, (at least this seems true for the lamps with pig-tails) you'll have to do some experimenting to find the best size resistor for your application.

Before you start, check the schematic and make sure the lamp is not used for other functions too. This is not usually the case, but there are some clever designers who sometimes come up with unusual circuits!

Finally, this suggestion to improve lamp life is for small tungsten pilot lamps. Before you use it on other types of lamps and higher power applications do some research.

Cheers, Bob
AF6C @ N6RKY.#SOCA.CA.USA.NOAM

ENGLISH LANGUAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Having chosen English as the preferred language in the EEC, the European Parliament has commissioned a feasibility study in ways of improving efficiency in communications between Government departments.

European officials have often pointed out that English spelling is unnecessarily difficult - for example, cough, plough, rough, through and thorough. What is clearly needed is a phased programme of changes to iron out these anomalies. The programme would, of course, be administered by a committee staff at top level by participating nations.

In the first year, for example, the committee would suggest using 's' instead of the soft 'c'. Certainly, sivil servants in all sities would resieve this news with joy. Then the hard 'c' could be replaced by 'k' sinse both letters are pronounced alike. Not only would this klear up konfuzion in the minds of klerikal workers, but typewriters could be made with one less letter.

There would be growing enthusiasm when in the sekond year, it was announsed that the troublesome 'ph' would henseforth be written 'f'. This would make words like 'fotograf' twenty per sent shorter in print.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reash the stage where more komplikated shanges are possible. Governments would enkourage the removal of double letters which have always been a deterrent to akurate speling.

We would al agre that the horrible mes of silent 'e's in the languag is disgrasful. Therefor we kould drop thes and kontinu to read and writ as though nothing had hapend. By this tim it would be four years sins the skem began and peopl would be reseptive to steps sutsh as replasing 'th' by 'z'. Perhaps zen ze funktion of 'w' kould be taken on by 'v', vitsh is, after al, half a 'w'. Shortly after zis, ze unesesary 'o' kould be dropd from words kontaining 'ou'. Similar arguments vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

Kontinuing zis proses yer after yer, ve vud eventuli hav a reli sensibl riten styl. After tventi yers zer vud be no mor trubls, difikultis and evrivun vud fin it ezi tu understand ech ozer. Ze drems of the Guvermnt vud finali hav kum tru.



"RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA"
"RADIO AMATEURS DU CANADA"

MARLBOROUGH INN CONVENTION CENTRE
1316 - 33RD STREET N.E. CALGARY, ALTA. CANADA T2A 6B6
JULY 29 - 31, 1994

ENJOY CALGARY'S HOSPITALITY
THE GATEWAY TO THE WEST
COME AND CELEBRATE CALGARY'S CENTENNIAL (1894 - 1994)

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PLANS WE HAVE FOR YOUR STAY
SPECIAL EVENTS STATION CIGRAC
(TALK HOME TO YOUR FRIENDS FROM THE CONVENTION)

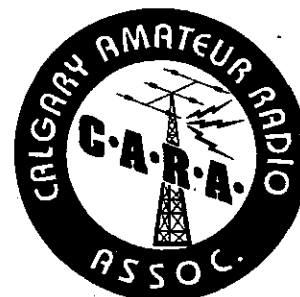
- Exhibitions • Dealer Displays • QCWA Meeting
- RAC General Meeting • CLARA Meeting • Ladies Programs
- Children's Programs • Flea Market • Seminars
- Wine & Cheese • Banquet Keynote Speaker • QSL Bureau
- International Amateur Radio Union • AMSAT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE TO:
RAC CONVENTION '94

2023 - 41ST AVENUE S.W. CALGARY, ALBERTA
T2T 2M2

FAX: (403) 287-0290 ATTENTION DON BIRKS VE6NOD
OR TELEPHONE EVENINGS (403) 243-4454
YOU ALL COME NOW AND DON'T BE A STRANGER!

HOSTED BY...



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Tom,

I like to keep a list of local 2M repeater stations on the wall of my shack and a similar one in my car.

Mine lists all repeaters from North Bay to South Western Ontario except those in Toronto, Windsor and Niagara areas. It shows the frequency, call letters and municipality of each station. I find it convenient and useful. However mine is now very much out of date and inaccurate.

I wonder if a similar listing could be printed in Feedback such that it could be cut out and used as I do.

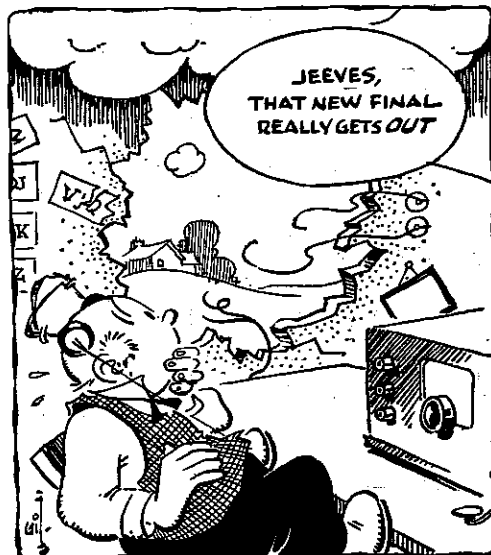
You do a terrific job with the newsletter. Many thanks.

Yours very truly,



D. W. Dixon DX0

I SENT A MESSAGE OFF TO MIKE VE3JTQ, THE REPEATER CO-ORDINATOR, AN UPDATED LISTING WILL APPEAR IN AN UPCOMING FEEDBACK.....EDITOR



Do You Just Belong

Are you an active amateur, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented, that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd?
Or do you stay at home, and crab both long and loud?
Is your input ever acted on, to make it better tick?
Or leave the decisions to just a few, and talk about the clique?
Do you take an active part, to help all hams along?
Or are you satisfied, to be the kind to just belong?
There are a lot of things will happen, that means success if done.
It can be easily accomplished, with the help of everyone.
So attend the meetings regularly, and be heard with voice and heart.
Don't be just a member, but take an active part.
Carefully think this over fellow ham, are we right or wrong.
Are YOU an active member?? or "DO YOU JUST BELONG".

submitted by BOB XOx

WANTED

ARTICLES, STORIES, CARTOONS FOR FEEDBACK, THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT SENT ME THEIR STORY...EDITOR

FARNSWORTH - SILENT KEY FEB. 08

1994 - WES FARNSWORTH - The father of the FARNSWORTH method of code passed away. What a great mind. We thank KE0NH - Wes for all that he has contribute to the world of Amateur HAM Radio! We will miss him. 73 de Earl N0QOO, Genesis N0SXM, & Dee N0TEA.

EK7DX-QSLs OK via bureau! QSLs for EK7DX and all the other (Armenian) calls which I handle (e.g. UG6GAT, 4J4GAT, 4J0GAT, 4J1700GAT, UG0C, UG7GWO, 4J7GWO, EK8ZZ) will certainly be answered via bureau as well. Due to difficulties in getting the logs from Armenia (mailing is not safe in both directions) there are some delays in replying to your cards. Sorry for that! 73's and best DX Bernd, DL1VJ DL1VJ@LX0PAC.LUX.EU



VE3TSA TOM 371-9805

TR2600A 2MTR HANDHELD, PB-26 BATTERY, PB-26S BATTERY, CIGAR LIGHTER ADAPTER ST-2 BASE STAND, WSE DOCKING BOOSTER 2IN-50OUT (converts handheld to 50 watt mobile), AND RUBBER DUCK..WITH MANUAL....\$435.00

DBASE 3+ DATABASE SOFTWARE FOR IBM OR COMPATIBLES..C/W MANUALS AND ORIGINAL 5 1/4" DISKETTES....\$40.00

PRINTER...TANDY DMP-500...220 CPS...WIDE CARRAIGE....FOR IBM'S BUT TEXT ONLY...THIS IS A HEAVY DUTY PRINTER C/W MANUALS.....\$75.00

MULTIMETER -- BECKMAN MODEL 3010 3 1/2 DIGIT,DIGITAL MULTIMETER...C/W MANUAL AND CARRYING CASE....\$100.00