

May 1996

FEEDBACK

The OFFICIAL Newsletter of the
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Sponsoring

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

REGULAR EVENTS

GBARC MEETINGS: 4th Tuesday of each month at the Billy Bishop Airport 7:30 P.M.

BREAKFAST MEETINGS: 2nd and last Saturday of each month at the Rockford Esso, 9:30 A.M.

GBARC INFORMATION: Information regarding membership should be directed to VE3NEM Tom Merner RR#4 Owen Sound, N4K5N6 371-0655

FEEDBACK: Submissions or letters to the editor should be directed to VE3TSA Tom St.Amand, 1232 3rd Ave. East, Owen Sound N4K2L5

Minutes of GBARC meeting 23rd April 1996

The meeting came to order at 7:33 P.M. with 22 members present. In attendance were VE3RHJ, VE3NEM, VE3TSA, VE3XOX, VA3CJM, VA3DSI, VA3JRF, VA3SEA, VE3NBJ, VE3XKM, VE3MWU, VE3HMZ, VE3TWI, VE3IOD, VE3TUQ, VE3TTV, VE3TXB, VE3LKD, KA1QU, N1QCM, VE3DTS AND STAN SWL. The minutes of the March meeting were read by Brad VE3RHJ with a motion to accept as written by VA3JRF and seconded by VA3DSI. Tom VE3NEM reported our bank balance at \$931.23 after expenses.

OLD BUSINESS:

Program Director Dave VA3DSI, reported that the scheduled program had been cancelled due to a sudden bereavement, however, we should look forward to a presentation by Atlantic Ham Radio at the June meeting.

ARES Coordinator Steve VE3XKM reported on our involvement in the recent tornado emergency in the Chatsworth area. Bob XOX provided on site communications at the OPP command post at Holland Centre with Brad RHJ providing backup mobile communications. Steve XKM activated our ARES group by contacting many by phone. Tom TSA functioned as net control on the club repeaters, with 12 radio amateurs checking in and standing by in the event we were needed at the disaster scene. Those on frequency were VE3XOX, VE3NBJ, VE3TSA, VE3OVV, VE3IOD, VE3UUL, VE3TXB, VA3JRF, VE3XKM, VE3LKD, VE3WUD AND VA3RFL. Bob XOX commended Norm NBJ for his quick action on the air providing much needed cross repeater communications between the club repeaters and XTX and MTR. Framed certificates of appreciation were presented to Steve XKM, Bob XOX and Tom TSA. Many thanks to all involved. John JRF reported that volunteers were requested for the following Saturday for cleanup operations in Holland Township.

Bob XOX reported on the packet system upgrades. The equipment to accomplish the high speed data link to LSR is currently in test mode on the bench at IJD. This will soon be installed at XOX for "on-the-air" testing with the eventual permanent home being between LSR and XOX. Packet fees are now due, (\$25) with this money going towards a high speed data link between XOX and IJD. The packet group is also investigating a similar link to Kitchener as an alternate path.

The HobbyMarket committee reported a current rental of 4 commercial and 19 non-commercial vendors. This works out to about 30 tables rented out of 80. As is generally the case, as pointed out by the Kitchener fleamarket committee, most tables are rented in the last 2 weeks prior to the event. However, more advertising is planned, such as flyers to put under vehicle windshield wipers. Bob XOX is also planning a mailing to 80 vendors that attended the last Kitchener Fleamarket.

Minutes continued

Bob VE3LKD, our nominating committee, reported the following nominations for elected and non-elected positions in GBARC. President VE3XOX, Vice-President VE3XKM, Treasurer VE3NEM, Secretary VE3NBJ, Bulletin Editor VE3TSA, Program Director VA3DSI, Technical Director VE3HIO. Although HIO has agreed to stand as technical director, it was pointed out there may be a problem with current membership status. Brad RHJ agreed to look into this. Packet Coordinator VE3IJD, Course Coordinator VE3RHJ, Delegated Examiner VE3MWU, Photographer VE3TXB, Club Auditor VE3DXO, and 2 metre net coordinator VE3IOD. No further nominations were heard from the floor. Motion to close nominations by Dave DSI and seconded by John JRF. None opposed.

Norm NBJ presented a report on club identifications, jackets, shirts and caps with many options to choose from. It was agreed that an order form will be included in next months Feedback outlining the different choices and prices so that each member can select to their own tastes.

The question of requesting amateur radio repeater frequencies on MTO roads signs was referred to Tom NEM to look into same as he has a contact at Bayshore Broadcasting.

NEW BUSINESS:

OSCVI Parade, 18th May 1996. Brad RHJ outlined the requirements for the upcoming OSCVI Parade. Volunteering are VE3TXB, VE3LKD, VE3NBJ, VE3XKM AND VE3RHJ. Six were requested by the parade committee so at least one more is needed. If you would like to participate please contact Brad. Volunteers are to meet at the Noble Insurance building (corner of 2nd Ave. E and 13th St East) at 8:45 A.M.

Brad RHJ indicated a willingness to conduct an Advanced Licence Course in the Markdale area. Interested parties are requested to contact Brad. So far, VE3XKM, VA3JRF AND VE3TUQ expressed interest in the proposed 5 week course. In addition, Dave DSI will be videotaping the course.

Field day this year, will be held at the QTH of John VA3JRF. A motion was put forward by Dave DSI and seconded by Tom NEM to allow expenses of \$150.00 to cover a johnny on the spot and for propane. None opposed.

A discussion on the operation of the club repeaters was initiated by Bob XOX. In light of the recent activity due to the tornado emergency, and the continued extraneous noise evident on the air, it was decided that Brad RHJ should first contact Rick HIO to hopefully resolve some of the problems with our repeater system. Several options were proposed in order to rectify concerns raised and a motion was put forward by John JRF and seconded by Nick MWU to improve our system. They are as follows:

1. Disable the VHF links on all repeaters to pinpoint the source of the noise.
2. Relocate VE3OST to better utilize its 100 watt output.
3. Bob XOX to recommend what is required to upgrade the links.

The 50-50 draw was won by Stan Guzonas

BITNET MEMBERSHIP

From: VE3IJD

Membership dues are now due for the packet users group for the VE3IJD BBS and network node system. Money raised helps fund the BBS equipment and Node radio hardware. It does NOT pay the Sysop or Nodeops, nor does it cover other charges such as electrical or telephone at any location. These costs are covered by VE3IJD and VE3XOX. VE3MTG maintains the node at Allan Park. If you know of someone who uses the system, please try to convince them to help carry the load. For a \$25 yearly membership you can access all of the bbs and nodes functions, and communicate with other hams around the world. If you have questions about packet and it's opportunities please contact either Gene, VE3IJD or Bob, VE3XOX.

Memberships are available by mail to
Gene McDonald VE3IJD
R. R. # 4 Tara, Ont.
NOH2N0

EL PRESIDENTE SAYS ADIOS & MUCHAS GRACIAS

In my final message as club president, I want to recognize and thank the many, many people who have pitched in this last year. I've been heartened to see how many members -- especially new members -- were willing to take on a task, small or large, on behalf of GBARC. Here's this year's "honor roll," and I apologize if I overlooked anyone or forgot an accomplishment:

VA3ACI Marv (JEP Grants, Santa Claus parade, Interim Secretary)
VE3BZC Ross (IJD fund)
VA3DSI Dave (Program Director, Durham Fair, Radio Course)
VE3DXO Dave (Auditor)
VE3FFN Walter (80m Net Coordinator, Split Rail Festival)
VE3HIO Rick (Technical Director)
VE3HMZ Bill (Golden K Club, IJD Fund)
VE3IJD Gene (Packet Sysop, Field Day host, Santa Claus parade)
VE3IOD Gary (2m Net Coordinator, Santa Claus parade)
VA3JRF John (2m Net Coordinator, Santa Claus parade, Hobby Market)
VA3KMS Ken (Vice President, Packet Group Coordinator)
VE3LKD Bob (Nominating Committee)
VE3MTG Larry (Telesat Tour, Radio Course)
VE3NEM Tom (Treasurer, Santa Claus parade, Hobby Market)
VE3NBJ Norm (Santa Claus parade, Tornado, Club Apparel)
KA1QU Jack (Club Apparel)
VA3RP Rod (Split Rail Festival)
VA3SEA Jack (Hobby Market)
VE3TFQ Jim (Durham Fair, Radio Course)
VE3TSA Tom (Bulletin Editor, Radio Course, Santa Claus parade, Hobby Market, Tornado)
VE3TUQ Aubrey (Santa Claus parade)
VE3TWK Jack (Radio Course, Club Apparel)
VE3TXB John (Photographer, Durham Fair, Split Rail Festival, Radio Course, Santa Claus parade)
VE3TYL Jim (Radio Course)
VE3WUD Richard (Secretary, Copper Cactus Draw, Hobby Market)
VE3XKM Steve (ARES Coordinator, Durham Fair, Split Rail Festival, Telesat Tour, Radio Course, Santa Claus parade, Tornado)
VE3XOX Bob (Packet Group, Santa Claus parade, Golden K club, Hobby Market, Tornado)
SWL Stan (Split Rail Festival)

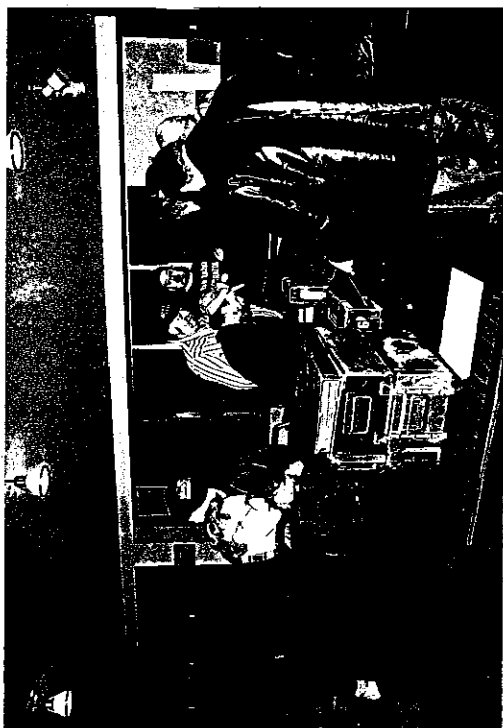
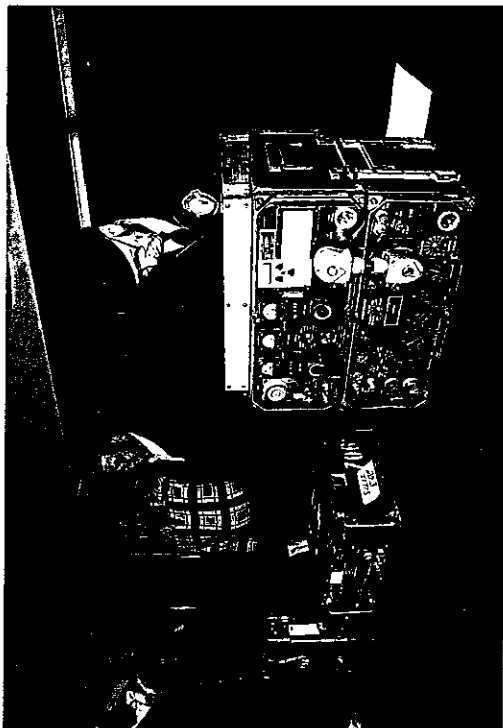
Unfortunately, I don't have a complete list of who helped with the Telesat Tour, Radio Course, Durham Fall Fair, Split Rail Festival, Jamboree-on-the-Air, or Guides-on-the-Air. If you helped with one of these, add yourself to the honor roll!

They also serve who only stand and pay dues... while chatting a few days ago, I realized that we don't give enough credit to our "inactive" members. They may sit quietly in club meetings, or skip them altogether, but each and every year they send in renewal cheques. They provide the lifeblood of our club, and without their contribution we'd accomplish next to nothing. So I want to end my term with a big THANK YOU to the "silent majority" of GBARC members!

73, Brad VE3RHJ



Various photo's of our recent demonstration of Army communications delivered by Sgt Hill.



Club Apparel From: VE3NBJ

The Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club in conjunction with Ram Trophies of Owen Sound have put together club apparel items for your selection and ordering. All items ordered will be embroidered with "Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club" and your callsign. You may choose any colour combination such as one colour for the club name and another colour for your callsign. Ram trophies has asked me to collect payments in advance to the club and then remit for each bulk order placed with them. They have indicated that any additions to the garment can be arranged directly with them by the club member. Any questions regarding these items can be directed to Norm ve3nbj. Thankyou for your order and supporting your amateur radio club in this program.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING G.B.A.R.C.

This issue of FEEDBACK includes a handy order form

Advanced Licence Course!

From: VE3RHJ

It's on! The Georgian Bay ARC is offering an Advanced Licence course, in Markdale, on five consecutive Sundays this July and August. By switching to all-day classes (9:00-4:30), we can get you through the course in only five weeks - including the final exam - and we can lower the cost to \$75, including study guide! (Only \$40 if you already own a suitable advanced study guide -- inquire.)

The classes will be held July 14, 21, 28, and August 4 and 11, at the Markdale Public Library, 21 Main St. E., Markdale. This is 1/2 block east of the traffic lights.

Of course, you must already possess a Basic amateur licence.

I MUST receive your registration for the course no later than June 24. Just send me your name, call, address, and phone number. You can register by packet (VE3RHJ@VE3IJD), Internet (bj@headwaters.com), telephone (519-986-4266), or mail (Brad Rodriguez, Box 84, Markdale ON N0C 1H0). Bring your \$75 payment to the first day of class -- cash or cheque payable to Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club. You should also bring: a notebook, a pen or pencil, a calculator (a "scientific" calculator is helpful but not required), and a bag lunch or lunch money. (There are at least six places to eat within a two-block walk.)

73, Brad Rodriguez VE3RHJ @ VE3IJD.#CON.ON.CAN.NA

This issue of FEEDBACK includes a handy registration form ... just fill it out and send it to BRADeditor

REPEATER INFO from Brad RHJ

At the GBARC meeting of April 23rd, we discussed the noise problems we've been having with the repeater system, and then passed three resolutions:

1. As an immediate fix, disable the link radios and let each repeater stand alone.
2. Since this will limit access to the Owen Sound repeater, attempt to relocate it to a site with better coverage.
3. As a long term fix, upgrade the link radios, e.g. with UHF links.

At the suggestion of Tom VE3TSA, I spoke with our Technical Director, Rick VE3HIO, to find out the status of the machines, and to inquire how the club could help -- with manpower or money -- to repair and upgrade the repeaters. This is a summary of what I learned from Rick.

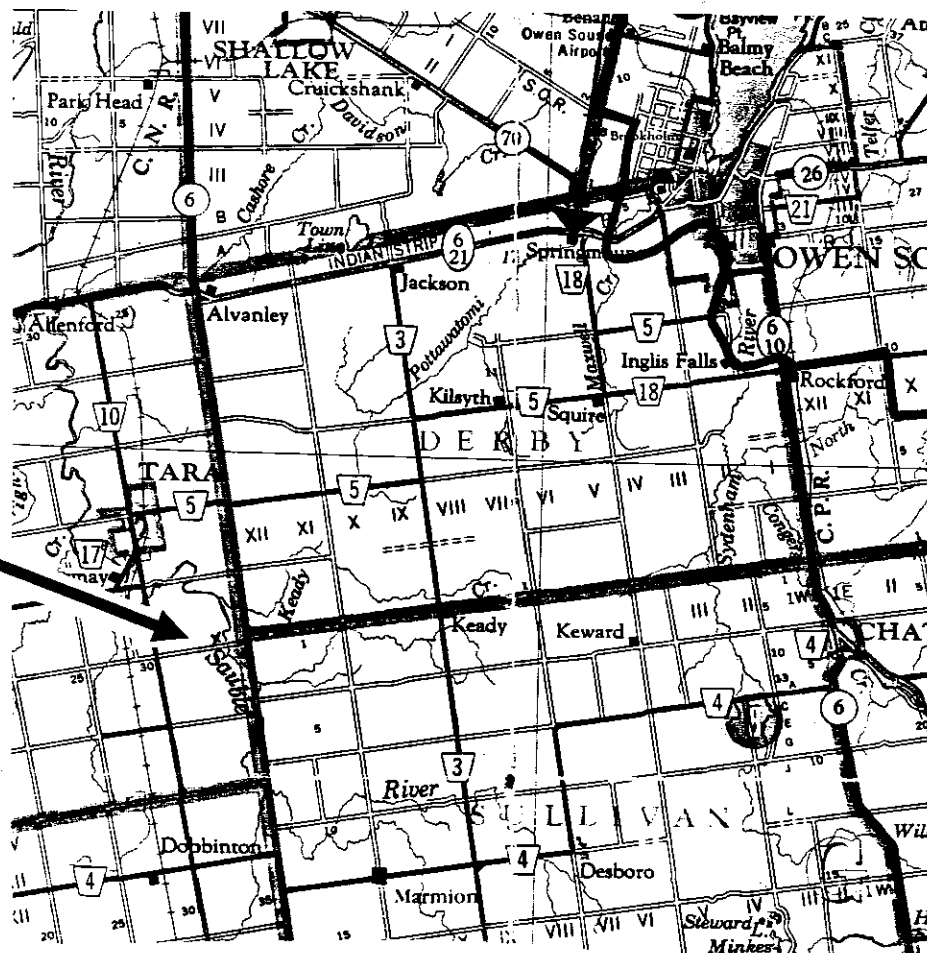
1. Noise problem. Some noise is coming from the UHF link to the phone patch site. We can shut down the phone patch as a quick fix. For a more permanent solution, Rick recommends adding a subaudible tone encoder and decoder to the link.
2. Key-up problem. The sporadic keying of the repeater is caused by a faulty squelch circuit in the Owen Sound machine. Rick has a new (and better) board to install in that repeater, and will attempt to do so by May 6th.
3. Markdale-to-Owen Sound link. The problem is that the power amplifier in the Markdale link transmitter is overloaded and shuts down during heavy use. When this happens, Markdale users can hear each other and Owen Sound, but cannot themselves be heard in Owen Sound. To fix this we need a Yagi antenna to replace the 2m dipole in Markdale; then we can reduce the link transmitter power.
4. Barrow Bay. This repeater is still suffering interference from the CKCO-TV (channel 2) transmitter at the site. The club may need to buy a TV trap to be installed on the Barrow Bay repeater. This may not be the only problem; Rick has spoken with the CKCO engineer, who suspects corrosion (and rectification) on the antenna mounting. (We share this antenna with 12 other users, so maintenance is problematical.)
5. Upgrading to UHF. We probably cannot install the antennas needed for UHF link radios. We use these towers on sufferance, meaning that we could quickly wear out our welcome with additional requests. And we certainly cannot afford to pay the going rate for rented tower space.
6. Assistants. We probably cannot designate "alternates" to handle emergency visits to the Markdale or Barrow Bay sites -- the site owners want to restrict access. For example, Rick is the only person in the area with a key to the Markdale site.
7. Tone squelch. It would help to install tone squelch (CTCSS) on our repeater system. Then only transmitters with the proper subaudible tone could key up the repeaters.
8. Repeater controllers. It would also be useful if the club could buy new, modern repeater controllers, with DTMF (touch-tone) decoders. Then we could activate and deactivate the links remotely when a problem occurs.

- Brad VE3RHJ

Field Day 1996

This year, field day will be held at the QTH of John Fox VA3JRF. The map below indicates the directions to John's place. As usual, bring a chair or picnic table, rope, extension cords, power bars, rigs, antenna's, food, beverages and anything else you think you may need. See you there!

John's house is on the north side of the road about 3/4 of a mile down. Look for a red brick home with a white addition and a red barn. John says he will have a sign posted at the road. 73editor



Message from the Editor

HobbyMarket

Hello All... by the time you read this there will likely only a week or so till 1st of June. I just wanted to remind everyone of our event and also to make a pitch for the Charity Auction. The proceeds from this auction will be donated to the C.N.I.B. Amateur radio program unless the group that donated the equipment indicated otherwise. There are few exceptions here though. So, if you have anything that you think would be suitable, like that old computer you don't use anymore, or power supply, or test equipment please let me know and I'll make arrangements to pick it up.

Membership List

I will put an up-to-date membership list in the June Feedback which will show the new executive.

Feedback Editor

I have accepted the duties of Bulletin Editor for another year but I would like to pass this duty on at the end of June 1997. I will have done this for 5 years and I want a break. I'm just mentioning this so that you know about it and perhaps someone will come forward and want to learn the ropes beforehand.

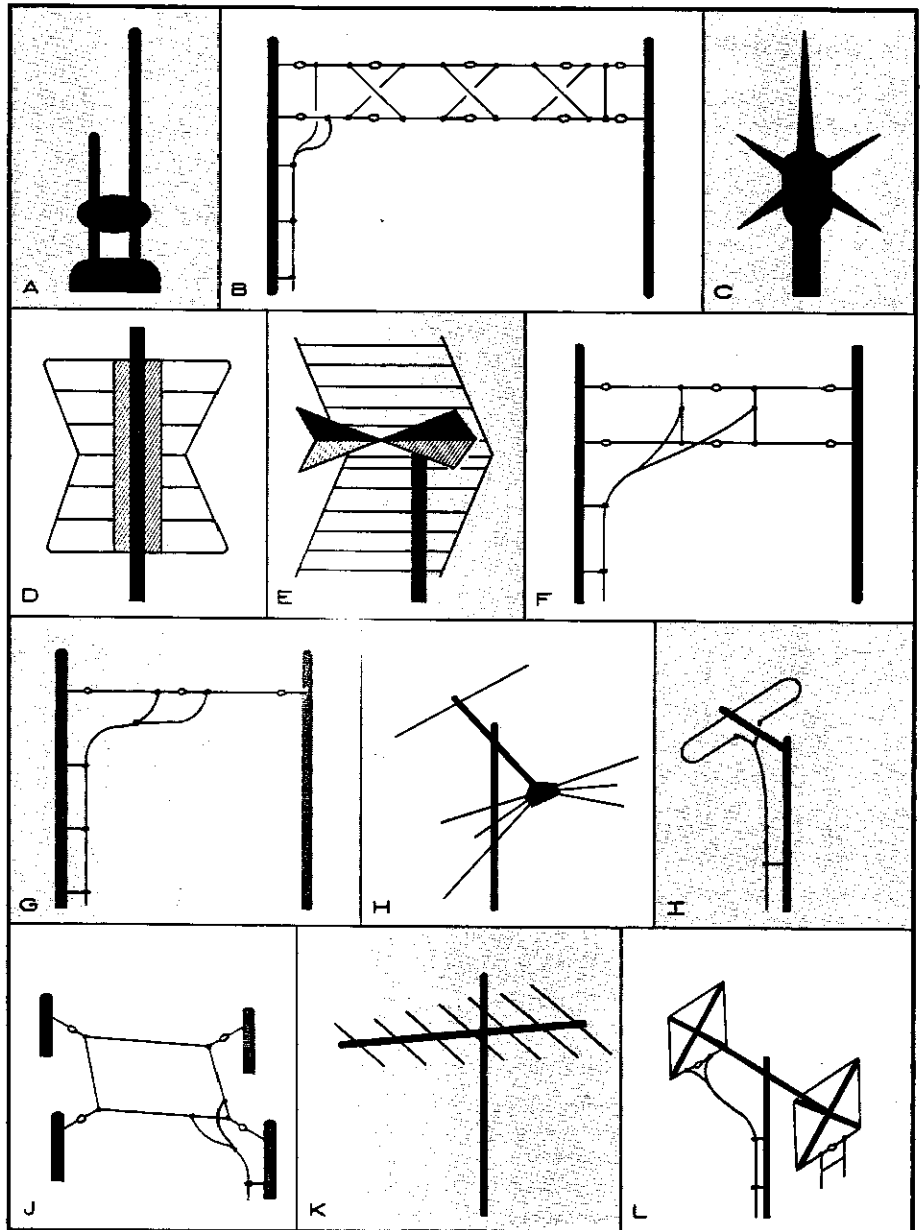
73 Tom

QUIZ

BY ROBERT P. BALIN

To test your knowledge of antennas, see how many of those illustrated below (A-L) you can properly identify by the following names (1-12).

1. Batwing
2. Conical
3. Corner reflector
4. Cubical quad
5. Doublet
6. Folded dipole
7. Ground plane
8. J
9. Lazy H
10. Rhombic
11. Sterba curtain
12. Yagi



ANSWERS:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1-D | 4-L | 7-C | 10-J |
| 2-H | 5-G | 8-A | 11-B |
| 3-E | 6-I | 9-F | 12-K |

Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 113, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5P1
1996 Membership Application

Name _____
Address _____
City, Postal Code _____
Telephone _____

Class of license (optional) Basic 5 wpm 12wpm Advanced Other _____
Call _____

GBARC MEMBERSHIP

includes a subscription to *Fareback*, the GBARC newsletter, and full privileges on the VEGOSR, VEGOST, and VEGGBT repeaters.

NEW RENEWAL

(before Dec 31)

- Full** (licensed amateur) \$25.00 \$20.00
 Family (full member in same household) \$15.00 \$10.00
 Associate (not a licensed amateur) \$15.00 \$10.00
TOTAL _____

BITNET Packet Users Group MEMBERSHIP

Includes full privileges on the VESUD packet Bulletin Board System. Membership is GBARC is not required to join BITNET.

- BITNET** \$25.00
TOTAL _____

Please make cheques payable to *Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club*. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 113, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5P1.

New! GBARC APPAREL embroidered with GBARC logo and your call sign

- Trimark 921 Spring/Summer Nylon Windbreaker Style Jacket**
 Small Medium Large Xlarge XXlarge XXXlarge
 \$37.45 \$42.45

Colour: Red Royal Blue

- Trimark 931 Spring/Summer Nylon Bomber Style Jacket** \$40.45
 Small Medium Large Xlarge XXlarge
 Colour: Red Royal Blue

- Go North #1200 Interlock Golf Shirt with Pocket** \$23.45
 Small Medium Large Xlarge

Colour: Red Blue Black White
 mesh back \$9.65 full back \$9.75

- Baseball Cap**
 Colour: Red Blue Black White

SUBTOTAL for Apparel _____
 Add 15% GST+PST on Apparel _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED for Apparel _____

Please make cheques payable to *Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club*.

Upgrade to Advanced in just five weeks!

The Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club is offering an **Advanced Licence Course**

If you want to run full legal power, repair and build transmitters, operate a repeater, or just learn how radios really work inside...

New condensed 5-week course!
 Just five Sundays - including the exam!
July 14, 21, 28, and August 4 and 11, 1996.
9:00 am 'til 4:30 pm
Markdale Public Library
21 Main St. E.
 (1/2 block east of the traffic lights)
Markdale, Ontario

Only \$75
includes Study Guide, Question Bank, and official examination!
 You must have a Basic Amateur licence.
 \$40 if you already own a study guide. Our recommended guide is RAC's *Study Guide for the Advanced Qualification*. Also acceptable is BDx's *4 Week Advanced Licence Course for Radio Amateurs*. Inquire about other books.
 Instructor: Brad Rodriguez VE3RHJ

Each Sunday
 9:00 - 12:00 morning session
 12:00 - 1:30 lunch
 1:30 - 4:30 afternoon session
 There will be 15 minute coffee breaks in the morning and the afternoon.

Course Outline
 Week 1: Review; Power Supplies
 Week 2: Amplifiers, Other Circuits
 Week 3: Receivers, Transmitters
 Week 4: Transmission Lines, Antennas
 Week 5: Test equipment. Exam!
 Each week you will be given reading and a sample quiz to do at home.

REGISTRATION FORM
 Name _____
 Call _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Telephone _____
 We must receive this by June 24 to order your study guide. Mail to:
 Brad Rodriguez VE3RHJ, Box 84,
 Markdale, ON N0C 1H0.

What you should bring:
 \$75, cash or cheque payable to Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club
a notebook and pen or pencil
a calculator (a "scientific" calculator is helpful but not required)
bag lunch or lunch money
 (There are at least six eating places within a two-block walk.)
We provide the rest!
 Questions? Call Brad at 519-986-4266.