

May 2001

FEEDBACK



The **OFFICIAL** Newsletter

of the

Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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

<http://greynet.net/~gbarc/>

GBARC Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except July and August in our CLUBHOUSE, Unit 6 Rockford Plaza, Rockford On. 5km S of Owen Sound. 7:30 p.m.

Breakfast Anyone?
Any Saturday 9:00 a.m., at the Rockford Esso.

Nets
80 metre net on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on 3.783 Mhz.
Two metre net on Thursday at 9 p.m. on VE3OSR 146.94-Mhz.

Submissions are always welcome. Send them to Tom



This Month

Message from the President

**We say goodbye to a friend
John VE3TXB**

Minutes of the last meeting

**Sir William Samuel
Stephenson**

President
Bernie
VE3BQM



**Vise-
President**
Bob
VE3XOX



Secretary
Susan
VE3TLK



Treasurer
Bob
VE3LKD





Message from the President

Bernie VE3BQM

How to Help Grieving People

Like Anne Apsitis with the loss of John VE3TXB in his 76th year
and Tom Merner VE3NEM with the loss of his son Jeffrey in his 26th
year

What You Can Say, What You Can Do

Relatives, friends and neighbors are supportive at the time of a death, during the wake and funeral. Food, flowers and physical presence are among the many thoughtful expressions. After the funeral, however, many grieving people wonder what happened to their friends.

They need their support and caring even more when the reality begins to hit and the long process of grief begins. Their help is essential since immediate family members have their hands full of grief and may find it difficult to give support to one another, or may not live nearby. Your help and understanding can make a significant difference in the healing of another's grief.

A grieving person needs friends willing to cry with them, sit with them, care, listen, have creative ideas for coping, be honest, help them feel loved and needed, and believe they will make it through their grief.

Ways of helping grieving people are as limitless as your imagination.

Bernie Monderie

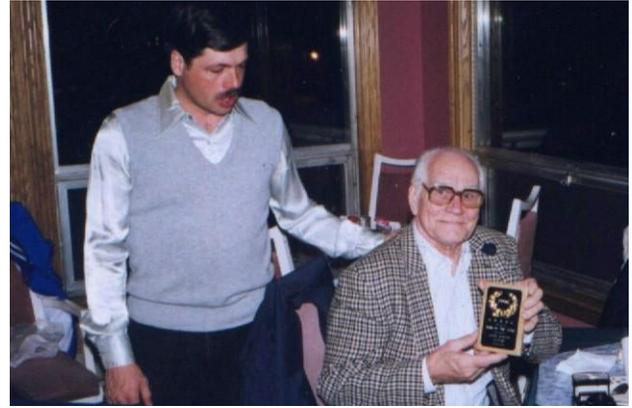
[VE3BQM](#)

GBARC

We say goodbye to a friend John VE3TXB



VE3TXB
John Apsitis
Silent Key May 2001



These pictures represent just a small portion of the time spent with John in various club events. There aren't too many pictures mainly because John was usually taking them, a duty he was all too happy to do. So over the years John recorded many of our 'get togethers' on film and for that alone is owed a great debt. But he was active on the air also, net control for the daytime traffic handling nets, and was always around on 2metres. I remember when John was first licenced, he had a dickens of a time remembering his own call. Har.. it would come out XTB or TBX or some other strange thing , but John would get a good laugh out of it and so did we.

He made up a little saying using his call letters to help him remember...he would say **VE3TXB Ten Times Better**. I have missed qso's with John not only because he was a good friend, but he was a gentleman on the air.

Always patient with a new ham and willing to pass along what he had learned along the way, and quick with a joke if he could slip one in.

My deepest condolences to Johns' family.. *editor*

VE3TXB 73 VE3TSA ... -.-



GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of meeting, April 24th, 2001

The Meeting was called to order by President Bernie VE3 BQM at 7:30 p.m. The Treasurer's Report was not available for this meeting. A motion was made by Jim CJM and seconded by Dieter DST to accept the minutes.

Old Business

A nominating committee is needed to obtain volunteers to run for the executive committee positions. Steven SEG and Joe JNA volunteered.

We received an email from Steve Gibson N8DNG in our sister city of Miamisburg Ohio (Mound Amateur Radio Association W8DYY). They contacted us to let us know about the Saturday morning net at 10:00 a.m. on 14.340 MHZ. Gene IJD told us that a group of scouts from Miamisburg come to Harrison Park each year for the Jamboree.

An article on the Flowerpot Island trip will be submitted to RAC etc. when confirmation of the special call sign CG3FP has been received from Industry Canada. Tour boats are available to ride over to the island if you are not coming for the weekend. Book early as it will be a very busy weekend. Susan TLK will get more information as to time, rates etc. If you are coming for a day trip remember to bring a lunch. Jim CJM is continuing to look into obtaining T-shirts. The approximate cost would be \$20.00.

Field Day will be on June 24. We will be prebooking the tent. This year it will be held on the farm of Ian HXX, on Highway 21. VE3 HXX is on the tower. For more detailed directions contact Bernie BQM, Gene IJD, or Bob XOX. A motion was put forth to authorize the necessary funds to rent a tent and Johnny-on-the-Spot For Field Day. It was moved by Jim CJM and seconded by Chris MUM. Motion carried.

The Fergus Flea Market will be held on June 9 in the arena.

A breakfast report was given by Chris MUM. The breakfast was for March 31. 28 people attended with approximately a \$90 profit. We celebrated the first anniversary of the clubhouse with cake and ice cream and let's not forget the candle.

The Canwarn training course will be held April 29 at 1:00 p.m. in the Adult Learning Centre, Ontario and Minnesota Streets, in Collingwood.

New Business

There is a possibility that a Basic Radio Course will be offered again in the fall. We were informed that the St. John Ambulance service is considering going on the radio.

A presentation was made by Brad RHJ, Emergency Co-Ordinator for Grey County, on ARES services. He asked the club to reconsider the decision made last month in order to allow practicing and exercises for ARES on the OSR repeater. Club members continued to decline the use of the OSR repeater except in emergency situations.

The 50/50 draw was won by Aubrey TUQ, a total of \$8.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24p.m. on a motion by Gene IJD and seconded by Jack DTS.

Sir William Samuel Stephenson



**Inventor, Innovator,
Industrialist, a man
called “Intrepid”**

THE LIFE OF SIR WILLIAM STEPHENSON seems to be a study in opposites. Great secrecy on the one hand epitomised by his work during the war as the spymaster "Intrepid". Juxtaposed with colourful showmanship demonstrated by his film company, Sound City Films, producing half of all films made in Britain during the 1930's. One little known fact about Stephenson is his work as an inventor.

William Samuel Stephenson was born at Point Douglas, a suburb community of Winnipeg on January 11, 1898. His father was a lumber mill owner, a descendant of the Scottish settlers brought over by Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk.

Winnipeg in those days possessed a particularly good, if not very elegant educational system, which Stephenson attended by way of the Argyle High School. Unlike so many other inventors, he was a good student being particularly adept at mathematics. After school hours he liked to box, attaining a position as a reasonably good lightweight on the school team. None who witnessed him in the ring in those days ever expected that one-day he would hold the amateur world championship from 1918 to 1923.

With the commencement of war in 1914, Stephenson joined the Royal Canadian Engineers, was commissioned, sent to the trenches, promoted to Captain and gassed. Unfit to return to the trenches, he turned down an administrative job and decided to join the Royal Flying Corps. It is not clear how he convinced the medical examiners that he was fit to fly, but he was successful, and after five hours training as a pilot, he was posted to No.73 Squadron of the RPC in France.

For some time Stephenson was a competent if unspectacular flying officer, being where he should when he should be there, doing what he should be doing. However, casualties being as heavy as they were, he eventually percolated up through the administrative ranks to become one of the two Flight Commanders. Despite this rather unpropitious start, things changed for Stephenson very rapidly in March of 1918.

Stephenson was out on a flight with a Sopwith Camel and got badly beaten up by two enemy fighters. When, after extreme difficulty; he managed to return to base, he was so furious at what had happened that he immediately climbed into another aircraft and returned to action. By the end of the day he had shot down two enemy fighter planes, his first 'kills' of the war.

The catharsis of having been almost shot down appears to have liberated Stephenson's previously restrained killer instincts, for in the next few weeks he shot down no less than eighteen enemy machines and two kite

balloons. The story is told of how Stephenson made a bet in the mess one evening that he would "bring back a Hun for breakfast." Early the following morning, while on dawn patrol, he succeeded in downing an enemy machine within a mile of his own aerodrome, winning the bet. One of his victims was Lothar Von Richtofen, brother of the "Red Baron."

But things didn't always go well. During a solo reconnaissance flight on July 28, 1918, Stephenson found a French reconnaissance plane being attacked by seven Fokker fighters. By exemplary use of cover, he succeeded in bringing down two enemy machines and driving off the rest. Pulling alongside the French machine to escort it back to base, the French machine gunner mistook him for another enemy machine. He fired a burst into Stephenson's engine, which put it out of action, simultaneously wounding him in the leg. Stephenson crashed in No Man's Land, and crawling out of his now burning aircraft attempted to make it to British lines. An enemy machine gunner succeeded in wounding him again in the same leg, and he was captured. Sent to Holmzinder POW on the river Wesser near Brunswick, he promptly engaged in the age-old POW game, how to escape. A few weeks before the Armistice he finally succeeded, taking with him a photograph of the camp commandant, which he had purloined from his office the previous night.

When Stephenson was demobilized, his exploits had won him the Military Cross, and the Distinguished Flying Cross, as well as the French Legion of Honour and Croix de Guerre with Palm.

At the conclusion of the war, Stephenson returned to Winnipeg, where he became interested in the possibilities of radio and television. Unsuccessful hunting for a job in broadcasting on both sides of the border, Stephenson returned to England. He expected to stay for a few months picking up ideas about radio, which he hoped he could translate into a broadcasting job back in Canada. He stayed for nineteen years.

The most striking thing about radio in those days, to Stephenson, was the poor response among the public to the possibilities of radio. Determining that this was the area of greatest growth in broadcasting, Stephenson used what little capital he could raise to invest in the General Radio Company and the Cavendish Electrical Company, which manufactured broadcasting equipment. Within a very short time, Stephenson had convinced Cox-Cavendish to manufacture cheap but reliable radio sets. They promptly flooded the market.

Stephenson then turned his attention to research; believing that one of the greatest difficulties faced by communications at the time was the inability to send pictures quickly and reliably over great distances. There was a device on the market at the time, which for the previous thirty years or so could be used to transmit a wireless photograph. It functioned by taking the original photograph and splitting it into small sections. Each section was then labelled to denote the appropriate degree of light or

shade. It was not a particularly successful system, since it was very slow, and the quality of the wireless photograph upon receipt was not very good.

— Stephen son determined that a vast improvement in the picture quality could be obtained if the picture itself in some way operated the transmitting device. But first he had to find funds and a chemist to help him.

The London *Daily Mail*, then the largest newspaper in the world, was headed by Lord Northcliffe, a dynamic far-seeing aristocrat. He had recognized the importance of wireless photographic transmission as early as 1908, and had been using his newspaper's funds to try and improve the system. When Stephenson was brought to his attention, Northcliffe immediately offered to help, by way of partially bankrolling Stephenson's experiments at General Radio's laboratory at Twyford.

In those days, the element that was conventionally used to convert light into an electric current was selenium. The difficulty in using this element was its long rate to changes in the input light level. As such, a selenium-based device's scan rate of more than a few pixels per second were impossible. For slow facsimile work this was of little importance, but for the transmission of any sort of moving picture, which was Stephenson's

ultimate goal, the time-constants were impossibly long. Stephenson and Baker succeeded in producing a substitute for pure selenium.

The next step was to develop a scanning device, which could sweep the photograph to be copied exactly, and as near automatically as possible Stephenson rejected the use of mirrors, and returned to the Nipicow disk, developed in 1884 by P. Nipkow.

The Nipkow scanner consists of a circular disk having a series of small holes arranged in a spiral about its centre. A scanning disk is placed at the image plane of the F pickup device and at the viewing areas of the receiver. As the disk rotates, the holes move across the image field in succession sweeping out a pattern of parallel lines. A light sensitive device is located behind the disk in the pickup device. In moving across the image areas the apertures in the disk allow the light from only one element of the picture at a time to reach the light sensitive element. The light reaching the light sensitive device fluctuates in accordance with the content of the picture, and produces a corresponding fluctuation in the current output, which, in turn, can modulate a transmitter.

A radio receiver receives and demodulates the signal from the transmitter. The signal, after suitable amplification, controls the light output of a light source.

A Nipkow disk rotates in front of this light source. The rate and phase of rotation of the disk is controlled by the synchronizing signal in such a way that an aperture in the receivers' disk is at all times in the same relative position with respect to the image area as the corresponding one in the disk of the transmitter.

Since there is a one-to-one time correspondence between the positions of the apertures in the transmitting and receiving disk, and a similar correspondence between the amounts of light passing through the respective apertures, a reproduction of the image at the transmitter will be seen in the plane of the disk at the receiver.

Stephenson modified the Nipkow disk and his shaped selenium substitute making them both more reliable and faster. It then only took a very short time before Stephenson and Baker developed a machine for automatically transmitting wireless photographs.

It is recorded that a visitor to his laboratory was shown a small picture with a parallel line effect reminiscent of a fine half-tone reproduction on the cinema screen and informed, "This photograph was transmitted by our method in twenty seconds. It is only a question of speeding up the apparatus to reduce the twenty seconds to the time necessary for the persistence of vision." Stephenson, in so saying was thinking ahead to television.

The *Daily Mail* published the first picture transmitted by this process on December 27, 1922, hailing the inventor as "a brilliant scientist," and the development of his device a great scientific event." The accompanying article went on to say,

"Wireless photography is now an accomplished fact. That is to say, an actual photograph can now be made to operate a wireless transmitting apparatus in such a manner that the photograph is reproduced on sensitive film at some distant station. One of the goals toward which Inventors have been working for more than half a century, ever since the transmission of signals by the ordinary telegraph became possible, has been reached; and a new era in illustrated journalism is beginning. The wireless machine can now, automatically, and without the intervention of a human operator, tick out an exact reproduction of a photograph at a distance."

The effect on Illustrated Journalism was tremendous; with virtually every newspaper which could possibly afford a device buying one. The basic process is still used in newspaper photography, all subsequent designs being essentially (despite the use of satellites and laser beams) no more than a speeding up of the process- in the

eighteen years that Stephenson's patents protected his invention, his annual royalties averaged \$100,000 a year, a very considerable sum in the late twenties and early thirties.

Investing his royalties in industry and commerce, Stephenson by the early '30's owned or controlled a score of companies including Sound City Films, Earls Court Ltd., Catalina Ltd., one of the first manufacturers of plastics, and Pressed Steel, which made 90% of the car bodies built in Britain.

His business led him to all continents, and into contact with a vast range of people, both those in power and those prominent in industry and commerce. It was his work with Pressed Steel that led him to go on many business trips to Germany. From his observations of German rearmament, brought to the attention of Winston Churchill, then out of office, lay the seeds of Stephenson's wartime work in Intelligence. For when Churchill returned to power he needed a man to head British Security Co-ordination (which he once called 'the Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare') The obvious man was Stephenson.

Stephenson was knighted, awarded the Order of Canada and the William J. Donovan award, and became the first non-American to receive the Presidential Medal of Merit, that country's highest award for a civilian.

Sir William Stephenson passed away at his home in Bermuda in January 1989.

From The Mailbox

It's with deepest regret that I inform you about the passing of a good friend John Apsitis,,VE3TXB of Durham.John fought a long battle with cancer.His wife Ann wanted you all to be the first to know.

Visitation will be Tuesday May22/01 at the McCulloch Funeral Home at 166 Bruce Street North in Durham from 2pm till 4pm and from 7 pm till 9 pm with the funeral taking place at 11am on Wednesday the 23rd.

73 Gene ,,VE3IJD

ZEROBEAT

THE BRUCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

IS NOW POSTED 73 DE JIM COVERLEY VE3OVV

<http://www.brucearc.on.ca>

Bumped into a fellow today that knew me from the sun times article on the club...

He is involved with the **International Plowing Match 2004...**

They just got the go ahead for the 2004 ipm in Meaford, and was wondering if we , the club would be interested in being part of the match, in the communications as well as demos in amateur radio..thing will be starting with in the next while to prepare for the match , and he figures maybe we would like to take part in this....He is sending me info for the match....what do all think?

Bob Vary

When in Barrie stop in at the **Barrie Amateur Radio Club Meeting**

Georgian college, Rowntree Theatre

Date: TBA Time: 7:30 PM

73 de ken ve3kpp