

July 2003

# FEEDBACK



The **OFFICIAL** Newsletter

of the

## Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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

### GBARC Meetings

are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except July and August at 7:00 p.m.

### Breakfast Anyone?

Any Saturday 8:00 a.m., at the Rockford Restaurant.

### 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.

## This Month

MINUTES OF MEETING

FLOWER POT ISLAND

FIELD DAY 2003

WIARTON AIRPORT RAA FLYIN

STUDENTS LEARN THE INS,  
OUTS OF TRADE AT ABERDEEN  
MEETING

**NEXT MEETING IS  
SEPTEMBER 23**

**President**

Gene VE3IJD



**Vice-President**

Barry  
VA3WBG



**Secretary**

Tom VA3TS



**Treasurer**

Bob  
VE3LKD



**Newsletter Team**

Bernie VE3BQM  
Tom VE3CVL



**Program Director**

Jim VE3CJM





# **GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR** **RADIO CLUB** **MINUTES OF MEETING**

---

**Minutes of June 28th, 2003 Meeting of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club**

**The meeting was brought to order by 4:07pm by President Gene VE3IJD**

**Introductions were made. Welcome to guests Casey and Norma Ellis**

**A Motion was made by Bernie BQM to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Seconded by Joe JNA.  
Passed**

**The treasurers report was given by Bob LKD.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**VE3GBT Repeater - The repeater has developed a problem in the receiver and is losing audio. Good thing it's still on the bench under test.**

**Billy Bishop Heritage Days - Club members IJD & XYL Randy, NX, BQM, SEG, ZON, TLK, CJM AND DIQ attended and helped out with communications for this event. A letter of thanks was sent by the organizers. (Our apologies if anyone was missed)**

**Flower Pot Island - CJM & MUM attended the AGM (Annual General Meeting). A report was given by Gary and Heather welcoming the club to attend again this year. Jim will contact them and make arrangement for the first weekend in August. Jim reports that this is also an excellent day trip with lots to see on the island. As of this time Cove Island and Cabot Head have not been activated for amateur radio contacts.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**New Meeting Time - Our new meeting time for the September meeting will be 7:00 pm at the Rockford Restaurant.**

**Club Supplies - Bob NX will look into a supplier of wire, connectors and components.**

**Bruce County ARES - Sue Coverly and Mike Hartwick (Kincardine) are the ARES Bruce contacts. Gene and Bob have had preliminary communications with them and will investigate this further.**

**Beam & Tower - A motion was tabled by Bernie BQM and seconded by Mary ILT to purchase the triband beam, tower and rotor from VE3HXX's estate for \$400.00 for club use. Passed. Bob NX agreed to be the custodian of this equipment mainly because he has some space to store it. The beam will be used at flower pot island this year.**

**Electronic Projects - Gene IJD tabled the idea of a youth group as part of the club. The effort would be to have youth related topics, projects and anything else that would be of interest to the youth in our club as well as new young members. More on this later.**

**Phone out List - Gene IJD explained the benefits of a phone out list to contact those who are not on email.**

**Elmer Group - The idea of an Elmer group was discussed to help those who require it to raise towers, install antennae or any other assistance that would be needed by club members.**

**Phone Patch - The phone patch will soon be back on OSR. Bernie BQM has to solve a couple of technical issues but the end is near.**

**Repeater - Barry WBG asked about the financial position of the new repeater (GBT). He felt the club should pay for any shortfall that may now be out of pocket for Gene IJD. Gene replied that the club should hold off till the September meeting as some donations had not yet come in.**

**WNYSORC - A discussion was held with regards to the repeater council and the current questions from a club in Michigan that we may be interfering with their machine which is only 5kc away from ours. GBARC has been allocated this frequency since 1992 and it was the opinion of our executive that we should continue to use our frequency. However some allowances could be made such as the use of a beam to reduce emissions in Michigan's direction.**

**Adjournment - Bill DIQ motioned to adjourn shortly after 5pm , seconded by Mary ILT. Passed.**

**The 50-50 draw was won by Casey Ellis who donated it back to the club...thanks**

## **FLOWER POT ISLAND**

---

**Hi Everyone**

**Flower Pot Expedition for this year is fast approaching (August 2,3,4) We need to know who is coming and for what duration (1 night, 2 nights or day trip). The menu is much like other years (hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, fish, eggs, pancakes, etc). if you have any concerns or diet requests, let us know.**

**Please drop us an e-mail at [va3cjm@aol.com](mailto:va3cjm@aol.com) or call 519-422-0202.**

## FIELD DAY 2003

---

**The GBARC 2003 Field Day was held on Saturday June 28 and Sunday June 29 at Gene IJD and Randy's House.** We managed to work 25 contacts on 80 meters , 80 contacts on 40 meters, 122 contacts on 20 meters, 6 cw contacts on 40 meters and 1 cw contact on 20 meters to make a total of 234 contacts.

On Saturday evening the club's monthly meeting was held followed by a fantastic potluck supper which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone – especially Gene and Randy for making it a great weekend.





# STUDENTS LEARN THE INS, OUTS OF TRADE AT ABERDEEN MEETING

---

The beginning of spring ushers in tornado season.

And come May through July, Mother Nature's fury peaks, fascinating some and endangering all.

Since 1950, Brown County has had about 54 tornadoes. Last summer's disastrous twister that struck in the Barnard area was the largest. While the massive F4 tornado didn't result in any injuries, it destroyed several buildings.

South Dakota averages 25 tornadoes a year, said George Marshall meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Aberdeen.

Marshall said that, based on history, the optimum time for tornadoes to hit is from 3 to 9 p.m.

This week, 11 people congregated in the Brown County Courthouse Annex basement to learn the art of severe weather spotting. Almost half the spotters came for a refresher course, while others were new to the field.

Hub City resident Randy Imberi has attended the class in Aberdeen and Jamestown, N.D., for the last 13 years. Imberi is a ham radio operator and current president of the Hub City Amateur Radio Club. The ham radio allows Imberi to tune into the weather forecast as it develops.

Over the past 20 years, the 43-year-old Imberi has been following severe weather. In the beginning he just used a CB radio.

Imberi recalls a tornado in Jamestown about 11 years ago. He said he was with a group of spotters strategically positioned around the town watching the storm develop. The enormous wall cloud covered most of the town, he said.

"Everyone was watching this thing, hoping it didn't come down," Imberi said.

The town was spared.

"We lucked out," he said. "That was the first time I was really scared."

Brown County Emergency Management and the NWS held the Severe Summer Weather Spotter Training Course on Wednesday.

The two-hour class was open to the public and aimed at teaching those interested in weather watching to recognize cloud formations, severe storm and tornado characteristics, and the dangers that may follow.

The spotters are out in the field and are often the reason the NWS issues a severe weather warning, Marshall told the room. He said the severe weather spotters add credibility to a warning and can inform the NWS as a storm develops.

The training course informed participants about the typical characteristics of a severe thunderstorm, such as the minimum 58 mph winds, 3/4-inch or larger hail and the formation of a tornado.

As the tornadoes develop they rotate counter clockwise. But not all severe storms develop into tornadoes, which

are actually not as deadly as flooding or lightning, Marshall said.

"Only your strongest storms develop rotation," Marshall said.

The size of a tornado is determined by the Fujita scale that ranges from F0-F5.

The scale measures tornado intensity based upon damage observed after the twister has passed, Marshall said.

- F0 is a "Gale Tornado" and can cause broken tree branches.
- F1 is a "Moderate Tornado" and will break windows and peel the surface off of a roof.
- F2 is a "Significant Tornado" and destroys mobile homes and uproots large trees.
- F3 is a "Severe Tornado" and destroys small buildings and can uproot a forest of trees.
- F4 is a "Devastating Tornado" and can remove a house from its foundation and set the structure down elsewhere.
- F5 is an "Incredible Tornado" and takes strong frame houses and lifts them up until nothing is left. Trees are completely debarked, uprooted and blown away.

Sixty-nine percent of tornadoes fall into the F0-F1 range. Twenty-Nine percent are F2-F3. F4 and F5 twisters cause 70 percent of deaths, but only make up about 2 percent of tornadoes, Marshall said.

"If you don't have shelter, you're chances of survival are slim to nil," he said of the F4-F5 tornadoes

Here in Canada we use a similar program called CANWARN. CANWARN is a volunteer organization of ham radio operators who report severe weather when they see it to Environment Canada. CANWARN is organized in local networks. When CANWARN members spot severe weather, they send their reports to the CANWARN network controller who forwards them to Environment Canada's severe weather office in Toronto using either the special telephone line or the CANWARN web page. At the weather office, the severe weather meteorologist combines the data from the satellites and radar with the information from the ground to refine the forecast or prepare a severe weather watch or warning. Environment Canada trains ham radio operators to spot and report severe weather. They learn about the structure of storms, the types of clouds to watch for and what the department's severe weather watches and warnings mean. Keep a look out in upcoming newsletters to find the next CANWARN training date and location