

May 2004

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 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 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

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The Amateur Amateur: A Wealth of Possibilities

Swap Shop

Ham Radio Trivia

Message From The Newsletter Team

GBARC Mail Box

**NEXT MEETING will be on
June 26 at the Field Day in
Sauble Beach**

President

Gene VE3IJD



Vice-President

Bob
VE3XOX



Secretary

Tom VA3TS



Treasurer

Bob
VE3LKD



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Editor
Barry VA3WBG
Steven VE3SEG
Tom VE3CVL



Program Director

Jim VE3CJM



Minutes of GBARC Meeting 22nd April 2004

Attendance: Gary FV, Bob NX, Stan ZON, Steven SEG, Susan TLK, Jim CJM, Randy, Barry WBG, Gene IJD, Tom TS, Bob LKD, Okke TWI,

Guests: Percy BBD, Jon CIC

The meeting was brought to order by Gene IJD at 7:08 pm. The minutes of the February meeting were read. Motion to accept the minutes by LKD, seconded by CJM, carried. The minutes of the March IPM meeting were read. . Motion to accept by WBG, seconded by SEG, carried.

The treasurer's report was given by Bob LKD. It is GBARC policy not to print actual dollars here as this is posted on the web. Motion to accept by TS, seconded by NX, carried.

Jim CJM reported on him and Chris's efforts to promote GBARC through the various newspapers in the area. So far notices like meeting dates or events can be posted. Susan TLK volunteered to get an entry into the "Three Day Planner".

A discussion was held on the topic of replacing our event banner. It was agreed to look into the price and Randy offered to get a quote.

As Norm NBJ was away we didn't have an update on the youth group. Check again next month.

LKD gave as report on ARES, recent events and turnouts of volunteers. Upcoming events are the Red Cross open house on May 6th. The next ARES meeting will be in Markdale Thursday May 15th at 7pm.

Susan gave a report on Zehrs tapes and a small but welcome offering is received. Thanks

Gene mentioned a conversation he had with Ron O'Donoughue about last years Billy Bishop heritage days. Sadly Ron reports the Owen Sound Flying Club actually lost money on the event so there will not likely be one this year.

The recent CANWARN course at Douglas Point was attended by 51. This year there was new information on the formation of tornadoes. Gene took an informal poll and we found that everyone present has had CANWARN training.

The group learned that Walter had suffered a stroke and is at the GBRHC. Motion to send flowers and a card by NX, seconded by TLK, carried.

Gene started a discussion on the IPM, reported that the CANWARN group will be unable to attend, and chaired the remainder. John CIC volunteered to take care of the vintage radio display and Barry WBG will create a display on GBARC activities. A few ideas were thrown around about handouts for browsers at the IPM, like buttons or business cards, flyers, cdroms, booklets or newsletters. It was the consensus of the group that more IPM meetings will need to take place.

The president asked that a committee be formed to handle the annual nominations for the May elections. There were no volunteers.

Field Day this year will be held in Sauble at the QTH of Chris and Jim McLaren. This will be the 26th and 27th of June. More details to follow. Motion to set a budget of \$500 by LKD, seconded by NX, carried.

Motion to adjourn by Bob LKD, 9:00 pm. Next meeting will be May 25th.

Today's Hams Must Nurture Newcomers

NEWINGTON, CT, May 22, 2004--It's up to today's Amateur Radio veterans to cultivate ham radio's younger generation, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, told the ARRL Forum at Dayton Hamvention 2004. Calling the statistic "shocking," Haynie cited ARRL survey data showing that more than one-fifth of new amateur licensees never get on the air. He suggested that too few experienced amateurs take new licensees under their wing to help them get started.

"One of the things that we need to do is open up our hearts and open up our minds a little bit about the new generation coming along," he said. The addition of another half-dozen ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP) pilot schools has raised the total to 81, Haynie pointed out. In addition to its primary goal of using Amateur Radio to educate youngsters about wireless technology, the ETP has resulted in thousands of new hams--teenagers and younger.

"What makes these programs successful, of course, is the local hams, the local clubs getting behind the program and teaching these kids the kinds of things we all know," Haynie said, adding that nothing is too basic or simple. "I didn't know how to put on a PL-259 when I got my General," Haynie admitted, recalling that he'd more than once forgotten to slip the connector's shell over the end of the cable before soldering the plug.

Haynie suggested that today's older hams also need to consider that technology is changing, and the questions appearing on the ham radio examinations of tomorrow will be ones "that haven't been thought of yet." In 1972 when he took his General, he said, his test included questions on Hartley and Colpitts oscillators. In contrast, today's examinations cover topics such as phase-locked loops, satellite operation and digital technology.

The ARRL president asserted that many Amateur Extra class licensees couldn't pass today's Element 4 examination if they had to do. Haynie said that if and when the FCC changes Amateur Radio licensing requirements in response to various petitions for rule making--including one from the League--it will not be a matter of "dumbing down" Amateur Radio. "It's not that Amateur Radio is dumbed down," he said. "People like me have failed to keep up, and if you look in your heart, you're going to say the same thing."

"Amateur Radio is what you make of it once you get your license," Haynie continued. Getting a ham ticket doesn't make anyone more intelligent, and learning the ropes usually begins after someone already has a license in hand. "You learn by doing," he said. "Just because you passed the exam does not make you an MIT grad. If you want the tests harder--if you want people to come out of that examination room in here to be able to design circuits--you're in the wrong hobby."

Haynie told the Hamvention forum that he learns something new every day, even though he's been licensed for more than 30 years now. "I love the nuts and bolts of Amateur Radio, but I'll never be an engineer," he said.

Haynie said the ARRL Board did not take lightly its latest restructuring proposal, and he acknowledged that the League's petition has not won universal praise. "It was not an overnight decision," he said, adding that the Board wanted to take a fair and evenhanded approach to restructuring.

"I said, if we come down on the side of code, we're going to make the no-code people mad, and if we come down on the side of the no-code, we're going to make the code people mad, so the best thing for us to do is be evenhanded, and make everybody mad," Haynie said, tongue-in-cheek. "And I think we're doing a good job of it."

How the FCC will act on the Morse code requirement and restructuring "is anyone's guess," Haynie said, but he predicted that the Commission will never reinstate higher code speed requirements as some have requested.

"The FCC is not going to go back to 13 and 20 words per minute, and you can take that to the bank," he predicted. "It's not going to happen." The Commission went with the single 5 WPM requirement because it was "sick and tired" of dealing with medical waivers, he said.

"Whatever you enjoy about Amateur Radio, it's not going to change" as a result of any restructuring Haynie said. While the FCC might take "the path of least resistance," he believes it's more likely to take bits and pieces of the various petitions to come up with something that's would be workable and "give Amateur Radio a shot in the arm."

"We need that," Haynie said.

Whether newcomers stay with Amateur Radio is not totally the point, because the younger licensees will be the leaders of the future, assuming positions of responsibility in business and government.

"We don't have a Barry Goldwater today," he said, referring to the late Arizona senator who was K7UGA. "And maybe that's our fault."

Given the pressure on amateur spectrum today--which he called "the greatest I've ever seen"--he also urged amateurs to take the time to visit their congressperson. "They love to see the voters," he said.

Despite good progress on several fronts, "we can't do this ourselves," Haynie concluded. "We've got to have grassroots support." He also strongly encouraged amateurs to spread Amateur Radio's message to the news media and within their communities.

The Amateur Amateur: A Wealth of Possibilities

What do you say when someone asks, "What is Amateur Radio?"

My guess is that you give some brief overall description and then start describing what interests you the most. Or maybe you skip the general stuff and jump right into your favorite part.

"It's about . . .

talking to people all over the world."

looking for hidden transmitters."

getting together for Field Day."

earning my Worked All States award or DXCC."

When someone asks *me* that question, I never seem to know what to say. A million answers flood my brain, and I just stand there looking like they've asked me to solve a complicated physics problem. Oh, I know what Amateur Radio *is*; I just can't think of a *simple* way to explain it to someone.

I have not yet settled into some comfortable niche and stuck with it. I'm still fascinated by many aspects of the hobby--*too* many of them, in fact. Almost every time I read an article in *QST*, I find myself saying, "I'd like to try that!"

There are half-finished (and half-started) projects all over my house. If we begin the tour in my garage, you'll see that my car and my wife Nancy's have dualband Amateur Radio transceivers in them. At first glance, you'd think that these were completed projects, but, face it, is any mobile setup ever *really* finished? They work. They do what I want them to do. But there is always this nagging feeling that there should be *more*.

Also standing in the garage is a ladder. We will use it to climb up to the roof where we will see my antennas. Nancy and I have spent a lot of time up here. Our neighbors have seen us erect and remove many strange-looking objects. We are moderately happy with what's there now. (I'm happy, because the current antennas work. Nancy is happy, because she hasn't had to help me put up any more new ones recently.) Still, there is an itch. Could we put up something *better*? (I already know Nancy's answer.)

Climbing down from the roof and going down to the basement (remembering to put away the ladder first), we'll make our way to my shack. There are two transceivers there. One is my primary station transceiver. The other is a 10-meter mobile rig. The 10-meter radio is part of a now-abandoned project to extend our mobile-to-mobile range. I figured out how to do *that* with our existing 2 meter transceivers. But I still feel that I should do *something* with that 10-meter radio.

I love my HF transceiver and have done all manner of things with it. Some of my happiest moments were when I made overseas contacts. But I have yet to really get *into* DXing. I've never participated in a contest. I haven't sought any awards. I've never marked off grids on a map. And I've yet to receive a single QSL card (of course, I've sent out only two.)

I don't want to go overboard with HF, but I don't feel I'm quite where I want to be either.

There is a computer sitting in my shack. I bought it for the specific purpose of doing digital modes on the amateur bands. This was another case of, "Gee! That looks interesting!" I had heard about PSK31, and after seeing a station use it last year at Field Day, I decided to give it a try. With only a minor hiccup or two I managed to connect the computer to my HF transceiver and make several PSK31 contacts (including one of my two DX contacts). It has been fun, but it has not become an all-consuming passion. Let's consider this one a work in progress.

Now let's move on to a case where my interests and Nancy's overlap. I really, *really* want to understand electronics better. I want to be able to take something apart, look at its guts and know precisely how it works. (Actually, I'd settle for knowing "more or less" how it works.) Nancy would simply like to build a working radio. Although she hasn't said it in so many words, I'm pretty sure she'd like to know what makes it tick as well.

This brings us to the field of kit building. Theoretically, that should satisfy both our needs. Sadly, though, our initial attempts were very unsatisfying. Although we've both vowed not to quit, the urge to try again has never been strong enough to overcome inertia. Several unbuilt kits remain in the basement--*more* undone projects!

Ah, and then there is ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). I belong to the local group, and I am active. But even here there are so many potential paths to take that it makes my head spin. I've made a start at setting up my station for emergency power, but I haven't finished that one yet. I've started to put together a jump bag, but it has a long way to go before it could be considered useful. I've taken some training (the three Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses), but there is so much more to learn that I hardly know where to begin. And in what field should I specialize? Traffic handling? Net control? Field work?

There are other aspects of Amateur Radio that also have caught my attention--including Morse code (CW), Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS), Amateur Television (ATV), packet radio and more. What should I do? *Decisions! Decisions!*

By now you've probably become convinced that I have some form of attention deficit disorder. I could counter by saying that I'm a "radio renaissance man." But the truth is that I'm just a kid who has wandered into the Amateur Radio candy store and is bedazzled by the possibilities.

I've concluded that what makes Amateur Radio hard to pin down in *words* is that it represents such a vast world of possibilities, and I've yet to explore nearly enough of them.

Swap Shop

For Sale

TS-690
HF plus 6 Meters
Asking \$1000.00
John Fox
R.R.#2
Tara, Ontario, Canada
N0H-2N0

Kenwood TS-520
HF Transceiver
Asking \$275.00
Bob Vary
R.R.#8
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada
N4K-5W4
519-376-8060

REIS 25 Amp P.S.
German Made
Asking \$100.00
Bob Vary
R.R.#8
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada
N4K-5W4
519-376-8060

Icom IC-551d
100 watt 6 Meter All Mode
\$550
Bob Vary
R.R.#8
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada
N4K-5W4
519-376-8060

MFJ Antenna Tuner
MFJ-901b
Asking \$40.00
Bob Vary
R.R.#8
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada
N4K-5W4
519-376-8060

Do you have some ham equipment for sale or are you looking for something, well then what better place to do that then in the GBARC feedback. If you are looking for something or have something for sale just send your name Callsign and what you have for sale to ve3seg@rogers.com where it will be posted in the swap shop section of the GBARC feedback and on the GBARC Web Page.

HAM RADIO TRIVIA

1. What MHz band is 23cm?

222-225

420-450

1240-1300

902-928

2. Up until the early 1970's, Novices were limited to what power input in the final amplifier?

250 watts

100 watts

75 watts

25 watts

3. What is the earliest age someone in Russia may be and get their own HAM license?

8 years

10 years

12 years

16 years

Answers for the March edition of Ham Radio trivia

1. Hallicrafters SX-110

2. 468 divided by the frequency in Megahertz

3. 1940-45

MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

Have you made an interesting contact or read a really interesting article that you think others would like? well then what better way of doing that then in the GBARC newsletter. The GBARC newsletter is always looking for interesting stories so if you have one done be a chicken be a ham and send it to Steven VE3SEG and Barry VA3WBG at ve3seg@rogers.com

From The Mailbox

ZEROBEAT

THE BRUCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

IS NOW POSTED 73 DE JIM COVERLEY VE3OVV

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

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