

July 2005

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

Rockford Restaurant Closing

Field Day 2005

Amateur Radio Course

Impedance One of the Most Confusing

**NEXT MEETING will be on
September 27 2005 at the Grey
Roots building**

President

Gene VE3IJD



Vice-President

Bob
VE3NX



Secretary

Tom VA3TS



Treasurer

Bob
VE3LKD



Newsletter Team

Barry VE3SEG
Tom VE3CVL



Program Director

Jim VE3CJM



Rockford Restaurant Closing

As some of you may know the Rockford Restaurant is closing its doors in September. This has been the location of our monthly meeting and our Saturday morning breakfasts. As of this time we have not decided on a new place for Saturday morning breakfast. The September GBARC meeting will be held at the Grey Roots building on the bypass

Field Day 2005

Field day is a chance for the amateur public to get on the air and try to make as many contacts as they can in a 24 hour time frame. Field day is a time to show the public a bit about amateur radio and also to practice in the event of an emergency. This years GBARC field day was on June 25/ 26 and was held at the QTH of Randy and Gene (VE3IJD). We had many members attend and were able to get all of our newly licensed members out to see and even participated in the field day activities. We worked about 650 contacts between the two radios. We even decided to put the beam together right this time. It was a well enjoyed event for everyone who attended and I don't know of any one who walked away hungry after Saturday's supper.



Bob, XOX and Gene, IJD



The set up



Bob, LKD on 40

Amateur Radio Course

This year's amateur radio course ran from April 27 till June 15. Much effort was placed in changing the course so that it was much more practical and less technical. All of the instructors did a wonderful job at training and introducing the class into amateur radio. Special thanks goes to Tom TSA and Bob XOX for their efforts. All of the students who wrote the exam past. Here is a list of our new members:

VE3FKB Florence Bristow VA3RGO Robert Oliver VA3RWM Bob McGregor VA3SLS Steve Sired
VA3WGO Bill Oliver

Impedance One of the Most Confusing

There are many tricks to the ham radio game you can play with and this is one you can try and grin with excitement.

I have a vertical antenna designed for the 20-meter band; 16.6 feet height, with just 12 radials, not buried, same length of 16.6 feet, but placed upon the ground. I use this antenna on the following bands: 20, 17, 15, 12 and the 10-meter bands with just one single coax line.

All that is needed is a matchbox to match the impedance from your transmitter to the impedance of the antenna. The one I use is the MFJ 941B for less than 100 watts. For higher power I use my MFJ 962 or my MFJ 961, which is modified for 3 KW

Should you want to go for the lower bands as well, make your vertical at 25 feet and you will be able to work the 80 through the 10-meter bands with the same 20-meter length radials.

Now for the tuning of such for each band:

You must place the matchbox at the base of the antenna, therefore; you will not need to have the matchbox indoors, as the coax will run from your transmitter to the matchbox outdoors.

You will have to run your transmitter with a series of dots at 5 or so watts and then run out doors and match the antenna for the lowest VSWR, or use the AM at lower power to do the same.

Make note of the numerals on the matchbox for each band and the capacitor settings, which will be used for future band changing. If you decide to leave the matchbox outdoors permanently, then build a waterproof box and place the matchbox within.

This set up will compete with Butternut and Cushcraft at much less cost. It has been tried and proven to work by yours truly, but at times I have to let my secrets out of the bag.