



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

February 2018

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This Month

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Field Day 2018 Site

location is too far from a repeater or other station to reach with just a hand-held radio. This brings me to our proposed X-Band Repeat Day on Sunday April 15th. I am looking for any HAM radio operator that has a X-Band capable radio in their vehicle that would like to be the prime operator at one of the many local coffee shops sites that morning. We are choosing any Timmie's or McDonald's that is in reach of the 3 GBARC repeaters. Main communication will be with a 70cm hand-held radio communicating to your X-Band radio that is linked to a repeater on the 2m band (or 2m hand-held communicating with the X-Band radio linked to the repeater on 70cm). Let me know if you have a X-Band Repeat radio in your vehicle and we will walk through the set-up. A presentation is being prepared to show how one can do this with a repeater to extend your communication reach, to be presented at our March Meeting. For those of you interested in learning how to do this sooner, do let me know and I will be more than happy to share the process with you well before our March Club meeting. Once X-Band repeat is learned and how to use it on a radio, use of the X-Band Repeat feature would most likely become more common as it opens up more opportunities to communicate that have not been done before. I look forward to sharing with you experiences while taking a hike on the Bruce Trail using this X-Band Repeat feature and a hand-held. Where is the fun in just using a cell/smart phone after all.

Stay warm and have fun communicating.

Cheers

Message from the President

Frank VA3GUF



With the winter throws upon us, I do hope you are all keeping warm and enjoying the opportunities the bands are presenting with your radio. Winter field day has passed and was enjoyable as always. Not many contacts were made as discussions on how to get a new radio that has seen limited air time to work properly was a principle topic. The conclusion I took away was to really get to know your radio before using it at field day. Getting to know your radio is key to be able to deploy it in any situation to meet the communication needs of the day. Cross-Band (X-Band) Repeat in your radio is one such feature that can come in very handy, allowing you mobility from a remote operating station where the



Minutes of Meeting 23rd January 2018

Presentation Frank VA3GUF gave an informative presentation on the J-Pole antenna (slim Jim). The **talk** covered theory, construction, tuning with practical examples to view and discuss.

Meeting called to order by Frank VA3GUF at 19:00hrs

Attendees (Executive) Frank VA3GUF, Bernie VE3BQM, Tom VA3TS, Tom VA3TVA, Doug VE3WRF, Philip VE3QVC, Adam VE3IZS, Paul VE3EFQ, Dieter VA3DST, Bob VE3LKD, Guest Beth Van Aalst

Do we have a Quorum-YES

A QUORUM SHALL CONSIST OF AT LEAST THREE FULL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PLUS AT LEAST THREE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. NO MOTIONS SHALL BE CONSIDERED OR VOTED ON AT A GENERAL MEETING UNLESS A QUORUM IS PRESENT.

Minutes of last meeting - included in the December newsletter. Motion to accept Bernie VE3BQM, 2nd Tom VA3TVA. Carried

Treasurer's Report Bernie VE3BQM. As of Feb 28, 2017 balance is \$xxxx.xx Actual dollar amounts are only disclosed at meetings (taken out for newsletter)
Motion to accept – Bob VE3LKD, 2nd Philip VE3QVC. Carried

Old Business

VE3RTE Frank VA3GUF gave and update on the current discussion with Tim VE3RTE regarding the transfer of the Paisley repeater to GBARC control.

VE3OST A tower raising is planned for June 2nd and 3rd at the QTH of Tom VA3TVA. It is hoped that as well as erecting the tower that

installation of vhf and uhf link antennas will be completed at the same time.

Power Amp The committee leader was not in attendance so this item is deferred till the next meeting. Leader VE3PAV: VE3VEX, VE3EFQ, VA3TVA, VE3IZS

Field Day 2018 Frank VA3GUF has contacted the city of Owen Sound regarding our use of Victoria Park as our new location for field day. The location is on the west side of the park next to the Agricultural building, with lots of room for us as well as antennas, portable tower and our trailers/tents. We will need to arrange for a porta-potty and the suggestion that we rent a larger tent was discussed.

CANADA 150 As of this meeting there was but 1 log submitted for the GBARC Challenge award. It was decided to defer this till the next meeting for others to submit their logs.

Courses A course co-ordinator is needed to be the point of contact for interested individuals, to arrange venues and organize instructors. Of those present, Doug VE3WRF responded that he would help out for a long as he could due to personal matters coming up this year.

Ares Frank VA3GUF gave the group an update on upcoming meetings with Grey County regarding ARES role and responsibilities, current and future ARES equipped stations and the maintenance/testing of those stations. Frank will also inquire as to the possibility that our repeater could find a home in one of those facilities.

New Business

VE3OSR The precarious location of VE3OSR was discussed. It is apparent that we should consider an alternate location. One that was envisioned was at the new Grey County Building.

Recruiting It was discussed that we usually target younger people as students or new

members but perhaps we should offer more to older people. Frank suggested a “Cross-band Repeat Day”, which would be the demonstration of cross band repeat equipped hams, demonstrating this at local coffee shops. The 15th of April from 8am to 11:30am is planned for this. In the meantime, members are asked to check their own equipment for this feature.

GBARC Operating Manual This concept was conceived by our last president as a means to provide some turnover to a new president (executive) and to make preparations for club activities easier due to any details and lessons learned already recorded. Frank has set a deadline of September of this year to complete this.

Elections Executive elections are to take place this year. This topic was raised to allow members who are interested an opportunity to attend executive meetings and be more closely involved.

Winter Field Day Winter Field Day will be held at the QTH of Frank VA3GUF, bring sleeping bags if you are staying over, dinner is planned and the ladies are invited.

Scout Camp Doug VE3WRF mentioned the Scout Camp at Harrison park on the 27th. The scouts/guides event on February was also discussed.

Show and Tell Doug VE3WRF showed the group an emergency LED lamp he has recently purchased. The device would be great to identify members when stationary during public events like the half marathon or the multisport race.

Adjourn at 20:48, Motion by Adam VE3IZS and 2nd by Phillip VE3QVC Carried

Next Meeting February 27th, 2018 at 1900hrs at the Owen Sound Professional Building, 3rd Ave E, Owen Sound.

Minutes taken by Tom VA3TS Secretary

CANWARN Training

Grey County will be hosting another CANWARN training session this spring. This session is open to the public, but is also an ideal training opportunity.

When? April 10th, 2018

Time? 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Where? Bayshore Community Centre in Owen Sound

Geoff Coulson will be the presenter, and is a captivating speaker who knows the subject matter inside and out.

This will be a very worthwhile session and we anticipate a full house. Last year, we broke all records with an attendance of over 275 people, and as of Monday morning, we already had 100 registered for the April 10h session.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, this is the link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/canwarn-storm-spotter-training-2018-tickets-42246874539>

Upcoming Events

ONTARIO QSO Party

This event is held annually on the third full weekend of April. Beginning in 1998 under the thoughtful guidance of Bob Chandler VE3SRE it quickly became a popular event among Ontario hams and beyond. In 2006 the organization of the party was turned over to Contest Club Ontario (CCO) who now manages the event.

In the contest, stations outside Ontario make as many contacts with Ontario amateur radio stations as possible. Ontario stations contact as many amateur radio stations as possible both in Ontario and world-wide. See the full set of [rules](#) for the contest exchange, frequencies, modes and categories.

Antenna Matching

The following suggestions will reduce the difficulty in matching an antenna with a tuner:

1. Never center feed a half-wave multi-band antenna with a high impedance feedline that is close to an odd multiple of a quarter-wave long.
2. Never center feed a full-wave antenna with any feedline close to a multiple of a half-wave long.
3. If a tuner will not tune a multi-band antenna, add or subtract 1/8 wave of feedline (for the band that won't tune) and try again.
4. Never try to load a G5RV or center fed dipole on a band below the half-wave design frequency. If you want to operate an 80meter antenna on 160meters, feed either or both conductors as a longwire against the station ground.

To avoid problems matching or feeding any dipole antenna with high impedance lines, keep the lines around these lengths

[The worst possible line lengths are shown in brackets]:

160meter dipole: 35-60, 170-195 or 210-235 feet. [Avoid 130, 260 feet]

80meter dipole: 34-40, 90-102 or 160-172 feet. [Avoid 66, 135, 190 feet]

40meter dipole: 42-52, 73-83, 112-123 or 145-155 feet. [Avoid 32, 64, 96, 128 feet]

NOTE: Some trimming or adding of line may be necessary to accommodate higher bands.

WARNING: To avoid problems, a dipole antenna should be a full half-wave on the lowest band.

On 160 meters, an 80 or 40 meter antenna fed the normal way will be extremely reactive with only a few ohms of feedpoint resistance.

Trying to load an 80 meter (or higher frequency) antenna on 160 meters can be a disaster for both your signal and the tuner.

The best way to operate 160 with an 80 or 40 meter antenna is to load either or both feedline wires (in parallel) as a longwire. The antenna will act like a "T" antenna worked against the station ground

Here are a couple pictures to explain this. Normally your dipole and coax feedline are connected to the radio like this picture. The connector nut is tightened down onto the so-239 connector. This connects the dipole to the radio, the center to one side and the nut to the other.



In a pinch, to operate your 80meter dipole on 160, back off the nut and feed the antenna with just the center pin. One step better is to connect the center pin and nut on the coax together and then connect the center pin to the rig. *Your mileage may vary as will the amount of RF in the shack.*



FOXHUNT Anyone????

We used to have some fun with foxhunts in the past. For those that don't know, a foxhunt or hidden transmitter hunt is when the fox, someone with a transmitter, hides someplace, transmits a signal at interval, and the rest of the group uses their direction-finding skills to "find the fox".

All we need is a fox...are you game?

Field Day 2018

Here are a few shots of the proposed field day site. This is Victoria Park just west of the new rec center on 10th Street east. Although snow prevents a closer look at things, I see lots of trees which are good candidates for antenna supports which will give us the best opportunity I've seen in some time for lots of contacts. There is plenty of room for tents and the portable tower and beam, and any demonstrations or experimenting that the group wants to do.

This is a view from the rec center parking lot. We will be located near the tree line around where the arrow is pointing.



This is a view next to 10th street.



This is a zoomed in shot next to the horticultural building.



I've been to a lot of places. But I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently you can't go alone, you have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport, you have to be driven there. I have made several trips. A friend of mine went up a Creek, but how he got there without a paddle is beyond me. Last week I was in Denial, but I won't confirm it.

Guide to fuse replacement



Websites

Software-Defined Radios

An amazing intersection of mathematics, computer programming and radio <[READ MORE](#)>

A single atom is visible to the naked eye in this stunning photo

<[READ MORE](#)>

GBARC on Facebook

<[READ MORE](#)>

People think I go out of my way to piss them off. Trust me, it's not out of my way at all.