



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

April 2019

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2019 Executive

President Tom VA3TVA

Vice-President... Frank VA3GUF

Treasurer..... Bobby VE3PAV

Secretary..... Peter VE3BBN

Message from the President



**Tom
VA3TVA**

It's hard to believe that just two nights ago I heard the frogs in my swamp sing for the first time this year. I suspect that they will be even more irritated by the weather than most of us are. I think this is the heaviest I've seen the ice and snow on the trees.

I'm sure that everyone has noticed that VE3OSR is back on the air. We put up a temporary antenna for the linking system. It really didn't work very well. So, once our new 2 bay antenna goes up with it's feedline, the linking system should be so much better. It will of course take a little fine tuning. But our repeater system is well on it's way to being updated.

Looking forward, there are some hamfests coming up, allowing for deals, and eyeball QSO's. The Ontario QSO party is this coming weekend. And of course, preparations for field day. Details are slowly falling in to place.

The clubs Facebook and Instagram pages are still looking for more. Anything. Picture of your shack, a review of a radio or antenna. And project really.

Any how, wishing every one good propagation,

73 Tom

Adam VE3IZS will do a presentation at the next meeting on N1MM and how it is used to practice contesting without the use of a radio. It uses CW but also good opportunity to get started in CW at your speed and your free time. Be ready for Field Day.

Minutes of Meeting March 26, 2019

Presentation by Adam, VE3IZS, on Operating Practices and Etiquette

Points made included:

- discussion of the term LIDism
- Q signals were meant to be used on CW
- use International Phonetic Alphabet where appropriate
- on round tables, explicitly hand off to next operator
- be aware of your transmission
- do not key-up on frequency
- be considerate of others

Meeting called to order at 19:45

Attendees:

Janet Double VA3EAC

Jim Reeves VE3JMD

Marvin Double VE3VCG

Rijk Van Huisstede VA3RYK

Tom VanAalst VA3TVA

Tom St. Amand VA3TS

Adam Karasinski VE3IZS

Dieter Shoepferle VA3DST

Bernie Monderie VA3BQM

Philip de Kat VE3QVC

Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV

Treasurer: Bank balance \$xxxx,xx

Field Day: Will be at Victoria Park, third weekend in June, Saturday June 22 through Sunday June 23. This is a practice for an emergency as well as an outreach to the community. Target is to be on the air by 1400.

Discussion about food; moved by Tom VanAalst, seconded by Bernie VE3BQM that the Club again order in pizza and chicken and there be an online sign up sheet for salad and desserts.

Contest logging program: will use N1MN+ as it also helps with site/operator co-ordination.

Outhouse: last year used A1 from Thornbury, good service, should use them again.

Discussion of operator contest: every 25 contacts, each operator to get a ticket for a draw. Moved by Bernie, seconded by Phil to do the contest. Actions by members to send suggestions for prizes to Tom VanAalst (t_van_aalst@hotmail.com)

Repeater: OSR is ready to go – just waiting for snow at site to melt; TomTS to co-ordinate with Randy for site access.

TomTS reports need 70 feet height to 'see' Paisley

Discussion re net controllers and GOTA setup.

Adjournment: Moved by Adam, seconded by Phil; meeting adjourned at 20:25.

Coffee session at west end Tim Horton's

How to get into DMR ... without a radio!

Are you a licensed ham who is interested in Dstar or DMR – but without the cost of expensive radios?

Here are three steps you can take to accomplish the task. This applies to the three most popular protocols.

It begins by acquiring a special USB Dongle that contains an analog to digital and digital to analog IC chip referred to as an AMBE3000. They sell for about \$100 but that's still only 1/4 the cost of an Icom IC-51HT or DV4HOME V2 SDR. <http://nwdigitalradio.com/product/thumbdv>

Because only licensed hams are permitted on each system, registration is required.

For Dstar go to: <https://regist.dstargateway.org/Dstar.do>
(Login then click REGISTER, it takes 10+- days).

For DMR registration go to: <https://www.radioid.net/cgi-bin/trbo-database/register.cgi>

You can confirm your DStar Registration later at: <http://dstar.info/query.html>

For software I recommend the free BlueDV Windows client:

<http://software.pa7lim.nl/BlueDV/BETA/Windows/BlueDV-09548-preBETA.zip>

(note: expand the BlueDV-09548-preBETA.ZIP and RUN the contained .MSI installer).

and here for the latest changes to build 9548: <http://www.pa7lim.nl/bluedv-windows-changelog/>

When you plug in the ThumbDV it should create a new “virtual” serial port. Look under Control Panel, Device Manager, Com & LPT. You must note the new COM port# it creates and use that COM# when setting up the BlueDV setup software. Also remember the ThumbDV™ Dongle works at 460800 baud (older models are at 230400).

Be aware that BlueDV build 9548 is BETA, although the Dstar and DMR operations are very stable, Fusion has yet to be fully implemented, currently limited to receive only.

I quote from David, the author: “Press CTRL+1 to activate C4FM (Fusion) on BlueDV but it currently only works in receive mode. I find BlueDV software to be superior to WinDV.

As always, install any software you download online at your own risk. Every computer configuration is different and not all software will be compatible with all systems.

<https://youtu.be/291k3VxJCv0>

<https://www.amateurradio.com/how-to-get-into-dmr-without-a-radio/>

• Thanks to **Stephen, G7Vfy** for the above information

VE3PER The Port Elgin repeater has a new home between Port and Southampton. The repeater is in test mode for the time being. 146.820- no tone

CY0C Sable Island DXpedition

Some time ago, we had scheduled fall of 2019 for Sable Island DXpedition. Due to circumstances we had to reschedule to 2020. Hopefully this will be better for propagation.

The permit process took over a year of emailing, phone calls, and furnishing documents. Sable at this point is no longer easily "permitted" for Ham Radio DXpeditions, as the policies have changed with the change in administration. In fact our permit finally was graciously authorized as a "one time special use permit". We believe that it is very probable that permits in the future may be essentially "nil" for a very long time.

Among other policies, visitors to the island are not permitted overnight stays. Thankfully, we have been authorized to stay there for 7 - 8 days (\$300 per person per day). We are grateful and excited and look forward to meeting the challenge of a sizeable operation as if it were the last one for a very long time.

The team for the upcoming CY9C St. Paul Island August Dxpediton will be the primary makeup of the Sable team. A "SABLE"

information page will be maintained on the St. Paul website, (<https://cy9c.com>).

This news update is provided at the request of Murray, WA4DAN - Sable and St. Paul Team Leader.

Special Callsign Listing

Coming VE2PEACE	VE2JCW	2019-11-01	2019-11-20	JOURNÉE DU SOUVENIR	VE2JCW
Coming VC3X	VE3SSJ	2019-10-26	2019-11-24	CQWW DX Contest	VE3SSJ
Coming VA3FIRE	VA3AHQ	2019-10-06	2019-10-12	Fire Prevention Week	VA3AHQ
Coming VX2A11	VE2DX	2019-07-20	2019-08-19	Special Event Station for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11	VE2DX
Coming XN1M	VO1NAR	2019-06-21	2019-07-21	50th Anniversary of the First Moon Landing	VO1NAR
Coming VX4WARC	VE4BB	2019-06-02	2019-07-01	100th Anniversary of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club	VE4BB
Coming VC6V	VE6SV	2019-03-30	2019-05-26	CQ WPX SSB and CW Contests	VE6SV

Coming VB3E	VA3	2019-03-30	2019-05-26	CQ WPX SSB and CW Contest	VA3RVK
Coming VC2W	VE2EKA	2019-03-30	2019-05-26	CQ WPX CW/SSB 2019	VE2EKA
Coming VB7R		2019-03-30	2019-05-26	CQ Magazine WPX SSB and CW Contests	VA7RR
Coming VC2Z	VE2BWL	2019-03-30	2019-05-26	CQWPX 2019 SSB et CW	VE2BWL
Current CY		2019-03-28	2019-05-28	50th Anniversary of the Official Languages Act of Canada - Celebrating Canada's Official Languages	VY1AAA
Current CJ		2019-03-28	2019-05-28	50th Anniversary of the Official Languages Act of Canada - Celebrating Canada's Official Languages	VY1AAA
Current CK		2019-03-28	2019-05-28	50th Anniversary of the Official Languages Act of Canada - Celebrating Canada's Official Languages	VY1AAA
Current CZ		2019-03-28	2019-05-28	50th Anniversary of the Official Languages Act of Canada - Celebrating Canada's Official Languages	VY1AAA
Current CZ1Z	VY1AAA	2019-03-28	2019-04-28	50th Anniversary of the Official Languages Act of Canada, celebrating Canada's Official Languages	VY1AAA

CANWARN 2019 Training Announcement No. 1

Folks, 2019 will mark a year of change for the CANWARN storm spotter program in Ontario. I retired last fall from Environment Canada but have returned this spring on a part-time basis to assist with the planning and some of the delivery of the training. Gerald Cheng and Peter Kimbell of Environment Canada will handle the majority of the sessions with me helping here and there. Resource pressures have demanded a stricter look at the number of training sessions that can be provided, resulting in a reduction of available sessions from previous years. Part of my duties during my part-time assignment this spring and summer will be to develop storm spotter training material that can be posted on-line and accessed at any time by interested parties. What form this material will take has not been determined yet and it is not likely it will be available by the end of this summer. However, we will keep you all posted as to the progress of this project and as material becomes available; you will be more than welcome to access it. For those of you who may not be able to attend a session this

spring but want to refresh/reinforce your severe weather knowledge, the following websites will be helpful...

National Weather Service Spotter Guide:

https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/Weather_Spotter_Field_Guide.pdf

National Weather Service Spotter Glossary: <https://www.weather.gov/oun/spotterglossary>

Environment Canada Lightning Safety:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/lightning/safety.html>

In addition, Environment Canada recently launched a weather app called WeatherCAN available for both Apple and Android devices. This app represents the most direct way to receive our various severe weather watches and warnings. The app can be found in the app store on your Apple or Android device. More information on the app can be found here...

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/weather-general-tools-resources/weathercan.html>

As an additional reminder, I have also attached the CANWARN reporting tip sheet to this email to reinforce the types of reports the Weather Centre would like to receive and the ways that information can be shared with them.

My long association with the CANWARN program has provided me with many fond memories and some of the biggest highlights of my 35-year career. The devastating tornadoes that struck near Ottawa and into parts of Quebec last September were a stark reminder of why timely and credible reports of severe weather remain essential. My thanks again to all of you for your continued support of the program and your dedication in watching the sky and reporting severe weather to Environment Canada.

Please find following the list of training venues. Each venue specifies the way to RSVP your intention to attend through either a registration web link or a contact email. Some venues only have limited space, so please sign up early if you intend to go. The session in Sudbury this year will not be a full CANWARN session but rather a 1-hour presentation on severe weather focused on marine activities. More information can be found below. Should there be other venues added in the coming weeks, this announcement will be updated accordingly.

April 25 – 7 PM – Dakota-Glenorchy Room, Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville
RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/canwarn-oakville-tickets-59771355734>

April 30 – 6 PM – Holly Community Centre, 171 Mapleton Ave, Barrie RSVP at
https://ca.apm.activecommunities.com/barrie/Activity_Search/34593

May 2 – 6:30 PM – Emergency Operations Centre, 275 Boler Road, London

RSVP to Amy Leggate at aleggate@london.ca – space is limited

May 4 – 9 AM – Environment Canada Headquarters, 4905 Dufferin St., Toronto RSVP at
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/canwarn-toronto-tickets-59774506157>

May 7 – 7 PM – RIM Park Waterloo, Forbes Room (2nd Floor), 2001 University Ave East, Waterloo, RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/canwarn-waterloo-tickets-59845612839>

May 8 – 7 PM – Niagara Region Council Chambers, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold RSVP at <https://niagaracanwarn.eventbrite.ca>

May 14 – 7 PM – Essex Centre Sports Complex, 60 Fairview Avenue West, Essex RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/canwarn-essex-county-tickets-59775334635>

May 14 – 6:30 PM – Greenboro Community Centre, 363 Lorry Greenberg Dr. Ottawa RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/canwarn-ottawa-tickets-59775547271>

May 28 7:30 PM – Spacecraft Brewery, 854 Notre Dame Avenue, Sudbury – (food and drink orders at 6:30, focus on marine severe weather)

RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/summer-severe-weather-presentation-sudbury-tickets-59775965522>

Regards, Geoff Coulson Geoff.coulson@canada.ca / Tel: 416 739-4466

Websites of Interest

Copy/Paste the urls below into your browser

Canadian Red Cross Disaster Management Volunteers

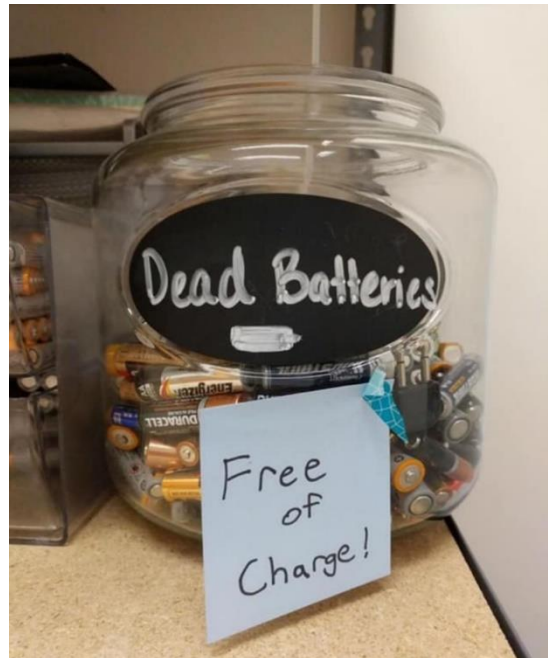
<https://www.redcross.ca/volunteer/disaster-management-volunteers>

DG7YBN ... everything about yagi's

<http://www.dg7ybn.de/>

"Elk Log Periodic Dipole Array (LPDA) VHF/UHF Antenna Review" on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/b8IL67FFehY>



A question regarding modified amateur transceivers

This is correspondence with ISED (Industry Canada) regarding amateur radio transceivers that have been modified for use on the CB (11meter) bands. I'm sure most are aware of this and have even had some in their possession including myself.

To: Spectrum Amateur / Spectre Amateur (IC)

Subject: A question regarding modified amateur transceivers

Hello, I am Tom VA3TS. This question is asked of me from time to time and I hope I can get the answer from ISED. There are plenty of examples of transceivers that are sold for use in the amateur "ham" service, that are often modified for use in the CB (11 meter) band. But let's use the TS480 as an example, with the removal of one surface mount component, the radio will now transmit on 11 meters.

So, the question boils down to equipment certification. If equipment used for amateur radio has certain exemptions for some part due to the exams we pass to obtain our qualification. CB users on the other hand, have no certification and instead are restricted to type approved equipment with power limits for the transmitter of 11 watts or so.

After a simple modification, 11 meter users now have a transceiver with the potential of a 200 watt transmitter, but there are other examples when retailers in Toronto sell so called 10 meter transceivers that are ridiculously easy to modify for use on the 11 meter band. They sell them as amateur radios, but there is no intention to use them on ham bands.

Will the modification of amateur radio equipment for 11 meters, make the equipment unsuitable for use by amateur radio operators because it is not type approved?

Can you add any further comments and guidance on this?

*best regards
VA3TS
(various links of examples were also submitted)*

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Good morning

The use of radio equipment that has not been specifically approved for use within the Canadian General Radio Service (CB/GRS) is strictly prohibited.

An Amateur Radio Operator may possess and operate equipment that is capable of operating within these bands, but must restrict the use of the equipment to frequencies allocated to the Canadian Amateur Radio Service.

Regards,

*Spectrum Management Officer, Eastern and Northern Ontario District,
Spectrum Management Operations Branch
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada / Government of
Canada*

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The email from ISED has been edited to removed the names of those involved for privacy reasons but I will supply them if someone asks.

Letters to the Editor

Hi Tom, just a quick note to let you know that the SWR video on GBARC is much appreciated. I heard from Marvin ve3vcg that you had posted and the effect of cable loss is an eye opener for me as I now have over 200 feet from transceiver to antenna.

As a past editor of a newsletter I understand how much it takes to produce. Thank you for your efforts.

73, Douglas, ve3wdz

<https://youtu.be/qSea5FjcTDE>

From Mike VE3MKX

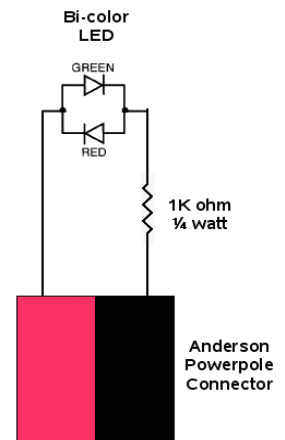
Quick and easy Power pole projects... You will end up making more than one !! ;)

Polarity checker and Voltage checker - Picture shows both items plugged into a 3d printed distribution box - available for printing from

<https://www.thingiverse.com/search?q=powerpole&dwh=215c96d14c8e4e4>

Mini Voltage checker -A great device for checking battery or power supply voltages before or during use. This project uses a cheap Ebay digital display, which is soldered to power pole connectors then hot glued to the back of the display, to be later heat shrunk.

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Black-2-wire-Mini-DC-5-30V-Voltmeter-LED-Panel-3-Digital-Display-Voltage-Meter/273119061505?hash=item3f972a2601:m:m8T8X0y-WVrAmTjUPHWu4XQ>



Polarity checker - With Power pole connectors, some ham's actually wire them backwards ! To ensure your rig is safe, plug the checker into the outlet, if it lights up Green your good. If its Red - do not connect the polarity is backwards !

Exciting Upcoming NEW Local Hamfest

HANOVER HAM HAUL

August 17th at the Hanover Drive-in

Vendors 8:30am \$5.00 per space and \$5.00 a head with one free head if more than one space is purchased.

Buyers, 10:00am \$5.00 admission.

Vendors contact [Dave VE3EBM](#) for details

Cabot Head Lighthouse 2019

I sent this message to the Cabot Head Facebook page, their response is included below.

Tom VA3TS here from the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club. Just checking in to see if there is any news regarding opening of the site in the 2019 season? Thanks

Hi Tom Well that is a complicated question at this point. Interior abatement is apparently done. They are going to start on exteriors and soil abatement at the end of April. They tell us we will have the property back by July. Needless to say, we aren't banking on that. We have also just been told that the Coastguard is planning to take down the current automated light and replace it. It is unclear if they will take over the property for that. Once we have the property back, we have considerable work to put everything back together. At this time, we are thinking IF we open it will only be weekends and not likely until September. We have mentioned you group numerous times and really want your event back. It is very possible we will still be able to host you as a special event.

<https://www.facebook.com/CabotHead/>



Field Day 2019 The signup sheet for our 2019 Field day is posted, go to the GBARC home page and click this image. All entries are auto forwarded to our Field Day Co-ordinator Frank VA3GUF. www.gbarc.ca

The Last Word



A few words of appreciation to those that contribute to this newsletter by submitting news stories or interesting web links or ideas. If you have something then send it to contact@gbarc.ca, any format, any size, anytime, but if you want it to appear in the current months newsletter, then send it by the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Help US Out *Would you like to receive email notifications when this newsletter is posted? Sign up for our mailing list. We send out only few mailings a month and you can unsubscribe at any time. No ads and no personal information, your email address is never shared with anyone else.* <https://www.gbarc.ca/lists/?p=subscribe>

Membership for details regarding membership in the club go to:

<https://www.gbarc.ca/gbarcmembers.php>

The next newsletter will be in May.