



# **FEEDBACK**

## The Official Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

March 2019

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#### **2019 Executive**

President .....Tom VA3TVA

Vice-President... Frank VA3GUF

Treasurer.....Bobby VE3PAV

Secretary.....Peter VE3BBN

## **Message from the President**

Hi All.



**Tom  
VA3TVA**

Winter is winding down. Spring is easing in. Time to freshen up the house, the yard, the shack, the tower. Look for storm damage, and plan repairs. Maybe install that new antenna you've been perfecting all winter.

The club has posted an event on our Facebook page for field day. Please share it around far and wide. We also have a new Instagram

account.

User name is g.b.a.r.c If anyone has any pictures or information, they wish to post send to:

little-bears@hotmail.com

If a club member would like to take over this account please contact me. Willing to show/teach anyone how to use Instagram if they would like to take over.

<https://www.instagram.com/>

The Basic course has started, with a smaller turn out then the past few years, but still a great opportunity to add more in to the fold.

Preparations and planning is underway for Field day. We will be back at Victoria Park where we were last year. I'm looking forward to that.

I can't speak for any one else, but I am really enjoying the bit of sun shine that I have been able to experience. And am looking forward to much more of it.

Wishing everyone health and wellness,

73

Tom

# Minutes of Meeting February 26, 2019

## Presentation

Frank made a brief presentation on the "Open Spot 2". This is an interesting device that, for example, receives your handheld signal, translates to cell phone, which connects to internet, which sends to wherever, receives and translates back to handheld. Requires 5V supply, cell phone, data plan. Fits in your pocket and costs about 200 Euros. For more information Google Open Spot 2 by Shark

## Sale of 50:50 tickets

Brisk, winner Peter VE3BBN donated to Club

## Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 1930.

## Quorum?

Quorum established. Attendees: Adam VE3IZS, Tom VA3TS, Frank VA3GUF, Peter VE3BBN, Phillip VE3QVC, Greg VE3RQY, Dieter VA3DST, Tom VA3TVA, guest Beth

## Treasurer's Report

Not available at this time.

## Minutes of November Meeting

- Acceptance moved by: Frank, VA3GUF
- Seconded by: Phillip, VE3QVC

## Old Business

### Field Day

Frank to run and organize, needs some volunteers to help with media contact (some discussion on this) food organization (more discussion, bbq vs order in, site dependent), station(s) organization and layout and antennae (more discussion, hex beam, 160 m? 40 m dipole, 20 m beam, erection/stringing)), safety considerations, especially as open to public (discussion), sanitation (porta-potty may be required, site dependent).

We need to start planning for the 2020 Field Day if we wish to change location as the process to request, get approval via City Council, co-ordinate with other users etc, takes (calendar) time

A wide ranging discussion about advertising the club and events like Field Day; topics raised included a FaceBook Event Page, flyers, radio and radio websites, Owen Sound Events Page, declaring Amateur Radio Week locally, 'Y' parking lot for demonstration vs City Hall raised the concern about insurance

Bring your handy talkies for on site communication.

## **Volunteers**

Media contact, food organizer, station organizer, safety, porta-potty?

## **OSR Repeater Update**

A thank you card is to be sent to Carel and Randy thanking them for help with access to the OSR site.

Antenna for 70 cm – we have it and one of 3 cables, Tom VA3TS can test at home but will need more length for site connection.

Mounting brackets to be ordered; requires site visit to see what type of brackets are required

## **2M Net Coordinator**

If you are the first one on, you are encouraged to be the Co-ordinator!

## **Course Update**

Frank reports ready to start on March 09 at Owen Sound Library, 0930 to 1330, with 5 students. He will send update and links to YouTube videos to all students and to Tom VA3TS to update website.

Tom VA3TSA has about 10 older copies of the Coax book; these are still useful and valid for the course

## **Membership**

## **New Business**

Tom VA3TSA submitted invoice for items bought for repeater equipment.

## **Fundraising**

## **Adjourn**

# **Instagram for GBARC** submitted by Beth Van Aalst

Please share this information with all your members. User name is g.b.a.r.c

If anyone has any pictures or information, they wish to post send to: little-bears@hotmail.com

If a club member would like to take over this account please contact me. (I won't do this forever, but will keep it up for a bit, AND!!! more than willing to show/teach anyone how to use Instagram if they are willing to take over. <https://www.instagram.com/>

Beth van Aalst

# A Short Tutorial on Using Echolink from your mobile

Most of the instructions you read are about accessing the echolink system of repeaters using a laptop and a usb mic and some software. This article will lean towards using the echolink system from your mobile transceiver using DTMF tones.

The only required equipment is of course your radio and a DTMF mic, luckily these are common and the steps to use them are documented in your radio's manual.

**A little background.** EchoLink is a computer-based Amateur Radio system distributed free of charge that allows radio amateurs to communicate with other amateur radio operators using Voice over IP (VoIP) technology on the Internet for at least part of the path between them. It was designed by Jonathan Taylor, a radio amateur with call sign K1RFD.

The system allows reliable worldwide connections to be made between radio amateurs, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. In essence it is the same as other VoIP applications (such as Skype), but with the unique addition of the ability to link to an amateur radio station's transceiver. Thus, any low-power handheld amateur radio transceiver which can contact a local EchoLink node (a node is an active EchoLink station with a transceiver attached) can then use the Internet connection of that station to send its transmission via VoIP to any other active EchoLink node, worldwide. No special hardware or software is required to relay a transmission via an EchoLink node.

In our case the Echolink node is the VE3OSR repeater and has had this facility for some time although it is usually operated by remote stations connecting to VE3OSR via the internet.

The instructions in this article can also be used by anyone with an internet connection and the appropriate equipment, but they would need to register their callsign to do it. To connect with your radio, the system assumes you are an

Figure 1

Google Earth View (requires Google Earth software) [\[More Info\]](#)

**All Links (Online only)**  
 As of: 02/08/2019 23:52 UTC  
 Showing Results: 1 To 100 Of 2113 Jump to page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) [15](#) [16](#) [17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#) [21](#) [22](#)

Call	Description	Node	Latitude	Longitude	Grid Square	Freq (Mhz)	Tone (Hz)	Pwr (W)	Haat (ft)	Ant	Last Status	Comment	Last Update (UTC)
<a href="#">2E0EVP-R</a>	Rotherham England [1/20]	917690	53°25.96' N	1°21.81' W	<a href="#">IO93hk</a>	.000		0	10	0dB omni	Online	On @ 2343 [1/20]	2/8/2019 23:43
<a href="#">2E0RVV-L</a>	Elston, England [0/20]	854631	53°01.40' N	0°51.84' W	<a href="#">IO93na</a>	430.025	77.0	1	40	6dB omni	Online	On @ 2340 [0/20]	2/8/2019 23:40
<a href="#">2E0UKH-L</a>	[0/10]	571873	0°00.00' N	0°00.00' E	<a href="#">JJ00aa</a>	.000		4	10	5dB omni	Conn	000/000 On @ 2339 [0]	2/8/2019 23:39
<a href="#">2E0VX-L</a>	UK-Cluster HUB [0/100]	579534	52°29.26' N	0°55.69' W	<a href="#">IO92ml</a>	.000		4	160	4dB SW	Conn	000/000 On @ 0112 [0]	2/8/2019 23:42
<a href="#">2E1SKY-L</a>	WORLDHUB TEXAS [0/20]	199513	0°00.00' N	0°00.00' E	<a href="#">JJ00aa</a>	.000		0	10	0dB omni	Online	On @ 2344 [0/20]	2/8/2019 23:44
<a href="#">2M0EJT-L</a>	Allstar Node [0/5]	252097	55°00.86' N	3°14.74' W	<a href="#">IO85ja</a>	.000		4	160	4dB omni	Conn	000/000 On @ 1602 [0]	2/8/2019 23:47
<a href="#">4F7FDM-L</a>	Mandaue City	242646	10°00.00' N	123°00.00' E	<a href="#">PK10ma</a>	144.720	88.5	16	40	3dB omni	Online	On @ 2341	2/8/2019 23:41
<a href="#">400UKO-R</a>	Lovcen, Cetinje, MNE	971568	42°23.95' N	18°49.11' E	<a href="#">JN92tj</a>	438.675		16	40	7dB omni	Online	On @ 2343	2/8/2019 23:43
<a href="#">400VBA-R</a>	Bjelasica, Berane, MNE (1)	971571	42°51.05' N	19°40.70' E	<a href="#">JN92uu</a>	145.700	77.0	16	40	7dB omni	Conn	=400VKO-R 2342	2/8/2019 23:42
<a href="#">400VKO-R</a>	Lovcen, Cetinje, MNE (2)	971575	42°23.95' N	18°49.11' E	<a href="#">JN92tj</a>	145.675		16	40	6dB omni	Online	On @ 2342	2/8/2019 23:42
<a href="#">4X1ZQ-L</a>	P.Tikva 145.275+pl (2)	583322	32°06.23' N	34°52.23' E	<a href="#">KM72kc</a>	145.275	91.5	9	10	0dB omni	Conn	=425SL at 2339	2/8/2019 23:39
<a href="#">4Z1JZ-R</a>	KM72OR93 Haifa Rep. R12	169676	32°42.59' N	35°13.59' E	<a href="#">KM72or</a>	144.700	91.5	16	640	4dB omni	Online	On @0054	2/8/2019 23:49
<a href="#">7L1GVP-L</a>	In Conference *TSQLJP*	217328	35°40.76' N	140°17.04' E	<a href="#">QM05dq</a>	430.760	88.5	4	20	2dB omni	Conn	=EL-CONF at 2339	2/8/2019 23:39
<a href="#">7L4ICI-L</a>	In Conference *JH7GLZ*	127072	35°48.90' N	140°17.04' E	<a href="#">PM95st</a>	438.440	110.9	4	20	5dB omni	Conn	=EL-CONF at 2344	2/8/2019 23:44

amateur radio operator so the registration step is not required.

So first things first, lets see which repeaters around the world are using echolink and therefore I can connect to. To display the Echolink Status click on this link <http://www.echolink.org/links.jsp>

The echolink status screen (Figure 1) will be displayed and its quick to see all kinds of stations all over the world. You can also display the listing by different parameters like country or grid. The red arrow in the figure points to a nice feature if you have Google Earth installed on your computer.

To download Google Earth go here <https://www.google.com/earth/versions/#download-pro>

Figure 2 has a screen shot of google earth showing a part of Ontario with the Echolink capable stations shown. The normal view is a globe with echolink nodes placed worldwide. Just click on any pushpin and the node number will be displayed. You can move or rotate the globe with your mouse.

Google Earth can also be used with rig control programs like DXlab to show visually the station you are working as well as the path. This can be very interesting when showing the shack to guests.

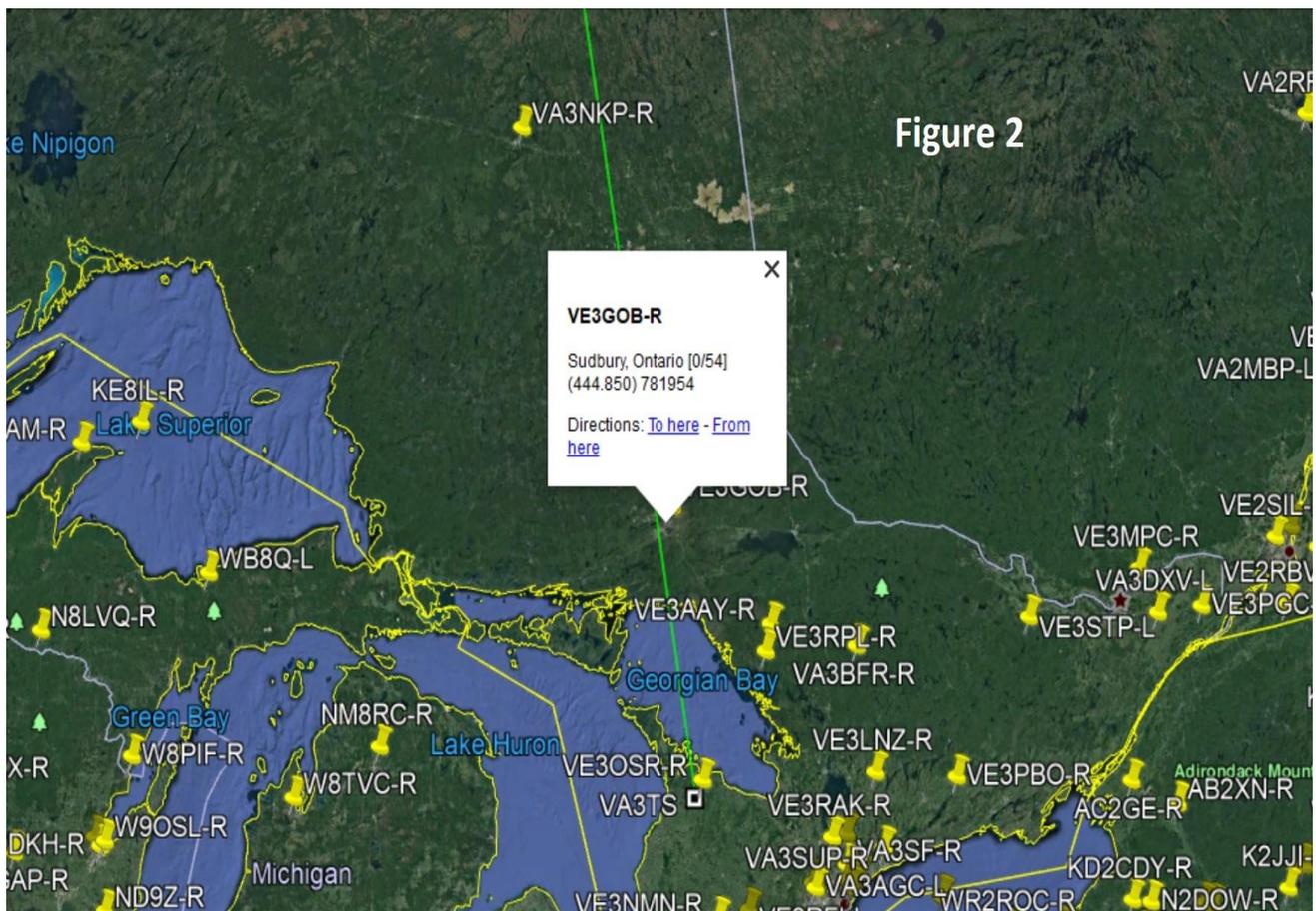


Figure 3 below lists the easy commands to send with your radio. Just pick a node number from the echolink page or from the Google Earth globe. Common courtesy says we should ID our station, then send the DTMF sequence (starting with the prefix \* and wait for the other end to acknowledge. You

then key up and give your callsign to whomever may be listening on the other end. To end the connection simply key up and send # and of course ID again.

**Figure 3**

Command	Description	Default
Connect	Connects to a station on the Internet, based on its node number. Each node number must begin with a prefix of *	*+num
Disconnect	Disconnects the station that is currently connected. If more than one station is connected, disconnects only the most-recently-connected station.	#

### Connect

The default for the Connect command is to simply enter the 4- 5-, or 6-digit node number to which you wish to connect. To prevent interference with other DTMF functions, a special prefix \* is added before the node number. This is sent all at the same time ie: \*12345

### Entering Node Numbers

To enter a node number (for the Connect or Query by Node commands), enter the 4-, 5-, or 6-digit node number. If the specified node is not among the stations currently logged on, EchoLink will say "NOT FOUND".

[http://www.echolink.org/Help/dtmf\\_functions.htm](http://www.echolink.org/Help/dtmf_functions.htm)

## Canada: Amateur Radio Statistics

It is reported that The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine published by the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) contains an update on the number of amateurs as at December 2018

According to a tweet by KE9V TCA magazine says:

*"During the period from October 2013 until December 2018, the number of people authorized to operate Amateur Radio in Canada grew from 63,317 to 70,198, continuing a growth rate more than twice that of the population as a whole"*

<https://twitter.com/ke9v/status/1101474294280916994>

While the figure is presented with a positive spin some may be concerned it hides an underlying problem that affects many countries - a long-term decline in the number of active amateurs.

In 2000 Canada was one of the first countries to make amateur radio "license-exempt". The license was abolished and replaced by an authorization to operate which lasts for 125 years from the holders date of birth.

This means the statistics will continue to show the many thousands of Canadian amateurs who've died since 2000. Additionally, all those who took up the hobby but then decided to give it up to pursue a different interest will still be in the figures.

An RAC submission to IARU said that in 1999 they had 6,573 members and there were 45,000 individual amateur radio licenses in Canada. It may well be the real total of active amateurs is now significantly less than it was 20 years ago.

Questions and Answers on Canada's Authorization Certificates  
<https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf01812.html>

AH0A amateur radio statistics for some other countries  
<http://ah0a.org/AH0A.html>

## Websites of Interest

Copy/Paste the urls below into your browser

### March GEO Newsletter available for download

The March PDF of the weather satellite publication **GEO Newsletter** produced by the Group for Earth Observation is now available for free download

The Group for Earth Observation's aim is to enable amateur reception of weather and earth imaging satellites that are in orbit or planned for launch in the near future. Membership of GEO is free. Among the articles in this newsletter is How to Receive X-Band Weather Satellites by **Jean-Luc Milete**

Download the March 2019 GEO Newsletter from <http://www.geo-web.org.uk/geoquarterly.php>

### RF Coaxial Cable Connectors

[https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/electronic\\_components/rf-connectors/coax-cable-connectors.php](https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/electronic_components/rf-connectors/coax-cable-connectors.php)

## Letters to the Editor

I remember reading this phrase somewhere, describing how early aviation pioneers developed better aircraft (I think it was really more like "fly-crash-fix-fly").

This article: <http://www.tomthompson.com/radio/ant/ant.html>

shows the same principle applied to a homebrew amateur radio tower! Gotta give the guy top marks for determination though!

73

Dave, VE3WI

=====

Hi Tom

As you know I have been following the development of the QRP Labs QSX all mode transceiver but QRP Labs also has a mono band CW transceiver kit called the QCX.

<http://qrp-labs.com/qcx>

The CW OPS news letter has a nice write up on the building of one by K3PP which I thought might be an informative read for any one thinking of building one.

<https://cwops.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/solid-copy-2019.03.1.pdf>

For 50.00 US dollars it seems to be an interesting build for not much money. I have seen many comments that Hans has done a great job on the construction manual for it, which comes in at 142 pages. So a lot of work has gone into creating the manual that is of "Heathkit" quality. Normally you just get a bag of parts and a schematic for some kits you get on-line.

[http://qrp-labs.com/images/qcx/assembly\\_Rev\\_4.pdf](http://qrp-labs.com/images/qcx/assembly_Rev_4.pdf)

They also have a news group where you can get help if your build does not work.

<https://groups.io/g/QRPLabs>

73 Carl  
VE3APY

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## **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada responds to petition about interference**

For immediate release:

<https://wp.rac.ca/ised-canada-responds-to-petition-about-interference/>

On June 6, 2018, Martin Bérubé of Louiseville, Quebec initiated a petition involving a radio station that was “generating interference on purpose”. The petition attracted 1,135 signatures and was presented to the House of Commons on January 30, 2019.

The Government of Canada tabled the following response on March 18, 2019.

“Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) was informed of the individual’s conduct in December 2015 by a group of Amateur Radio operators from Quebec. The individual was operating an Amateur Radio station without proper authorization and was known to insult, threaten and impersonate other Amateur operators.

As the individual disregarded ISED’s written and verbal warnings, the department took action to enforce the Act. Due to repeated offences, ISED carried out three searches of the individual’s residences and issued seven notices of violation totalling \$2,500 plus fees.

On October 17, 2018, the individual was found guilty of these seven violations of subsection 4(1) of the Radiocommunication Act, pursuant to subsection 10(1) of the Act, by Justice of the Peace Annie Vanasse at the Trois-Rivières Courthouse.

ISED also called upon a federal prosecutor to obtain an injunction against the individual. This injunction is currently at the interlocutory stage. ISED understands that the individual has not been heard on Amateur Radio since August 8, 2018. ISED is closely following this case.”

The text of the petition and the Government Response can be found at the following link:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1631>

Alan Griffin  
RAC MarCom Director

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## 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday of the month.



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**Membership** for details regarding membership in the club go to:

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

*The next newsletter will be in April.*