

**April  
1999**

# **FEEDBACK**

The OFFICIAL Newsletter  
of the  
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club  
Inc.  
P.O. Box 113, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5P1  
<http://greynet.net/~gbarc>

**GBARC meetings** are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except July and August at the Georgian Yatch Club, 2475 3rd Ave West, Owen Sound.

**Breakfast meetings** are held at the Rockford Esso at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of the month and every 2nd Saturday after.

**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.

## **Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club Minutes of March 23, 1999**

Chris VA3MUM, Jim VA3CJM

Meeting was called to order by President Kim VE3DXE at 1930. There were 26 members and 2 guests in attendance. The minutes of February 23rd were distributed and accepted as printed. Motion by Joe JNA and seconded by Jack DTS. The Treasurer, Jim CJM reported on a bank balance of \$2,556.23.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

"Code" practice is continuing most every night at 8:30 on 146.94 MHz. Code is going well. All are welcome to join in.

Field day arrangements will be discussed and finalized at the April meeting. (In discussion on holding Field Day again this year, the yacht club upper level was another idea for a possible site. Jim CJM will check into permission from the club to use this area. Jim CJM and Carl BY obtained a cost of \$150.00 to rent a construction trailer for the weekend if the club decided to use this rather than the tent. A discussion followed with some members wanting to research further to find another price for trailers. If anyone knows of alternate places to rent would you please notify either Carl BY or Jim CJM with the information.)

The QSL cards have been handed in and a vote will take place at the April meeting.

Aubrey TUQ is arranging a seminar on Lightening Protection and will try to hold the event in a central location for the area clubs to have worthwhile attendance. A possible may date late April. Kim DXE will contact Nick MWU to find out if he wishes to remain the area examiner.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Letter was received from VE3 WRM Amateur Radio Club Brantford asking for donations. We declined this and a suggestion would be to donate to the local CNIB instead, if we were going to make any donation.

A motion by Jim CJM to purchase a new scanner program, up to \$ 150.00, for Tom TSA to use for scanning the newsletters on to the web site. Seconded by Bernie BQM. Carried.

Carl BY mentioned there would be a station testing at 6.9 or 3.3 MHz on March 26 & 27th by the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program from Alaska.

VE3 EXH Earl - CANWARN date in Orillia April 12th 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. or Ray Lelievre April 21st at Bruce Nuclear (on our web site or contact Carl BY for more information) to register.

It is election time again, Kim DXE, asked for 2 volunteers to recruit executive for the next year. Bob LKD and Joe JNA will be contacting the members to fill executive positions. We need your help!

Show and Tell ...

Martha SBD brought in a new keyer she received as a gift.

The winner of the 50/50 draw was Bernie BQM in the amount of \$17.00.

Motion to close the meeting was made by Aubrey TUQ. Seconded by Joe JNA.

### **MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT: Kim VE3DXE**

Well Spring has arrived, time to get those antenna projects started that everyone has been planning all winter (or repairs). Remember that we are on a start of a new solar cycle and the higher HF bands are just booming! with great DX. This reminds me to mention that this is a great incentive to work on your 12 wpm CW.

Important meeting this month. GBARC is holding its elections. The nominating committee is contacting everyone for nominations. The voting will take place in May, but anyone wanting to volunteer or nominate someone should attend April's meeting.

This month brings a few interesting Ham related events, Wednesday April 21 is the Canwarn training session in Kincardine, anyone interested must register with Carole VE3IYY. Her Email is [clittle@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:clittle@hurontel.on.ca) April 24 is the 3rd annual Ontario QSO party Contest, for more info on this see [www.durhamradio.ca/odxa](http://www.durhamradio.ca/odxa)

If anyone has something they want to "Show and Tell" for April's meeting let me know..

73's Kim VE3DXE

# Strange Noise

From: Bob VE3LKD

I had an interesting experience yesterday with a strange noise. I was tinkering with one of the GE rigs that Bernie was giving out at the last club meeting. I had done some tracing and some Internet research to find out the pinouts of the connectors and was just trying to test the receiver portion of the rig. I had a speaker connected, a volume control connected, and 13.6V power. I had a few of the control lines grounded, for receive, and disconnected the xmit oscillator feed even though I had no power to the PA. I had the squelch turned off and had a nice low volume background hiss in the speakers.....so far so good.

I attached an outdoor antenna for a while, but either there was no activity on that frequency or the receiver wasn't working, so I disconnected the antenna and put on a short wire to act as a pickup and pulled out my RF signal generator and put a short wire on it near the pickup wire to act as a loosely coupled feed. I turned it on and ran the dial across the 30 to 110 MHz band of the generator. I didn't hear the "swoosh" that I was looking for so I turned on the AF modulation and tried it again.

This time I heard something but it wasn't what I expected. It was sort of like a fire alarm.....loud, persistent and annoying. As soon as I got over the shock, I turned off the power to the rig, but the noise continued. I turned off the RF generator. The noise was still there!

My shack is a bit crowded, some might even say junky, and I couldn't figure out what the noise was coming from. My HF rig was off. The computer in the shack is on packet. I turned it off...no change. I turned off the HT even though it's audio feeds the TNC (besides, it could never make that much noise)...no change. I killed the power to the TNC...no change.

By this time the noise had attracted the attention of my XYL, Linda, who was giving me a dirty look because she was on the phone, and asking what that racket was. I couldn't tell her. I just shrugged my shoulders. She gave me an exasperated look. I can't blame her.

By this time the cats had hidden in the furthest corner of the house away from the shack. I was expecting the doorbell to ring with complaining neighbours. I turned off the oscilloscope...no change. I even powered off the digital multi-meter, that's how desperate I was!

I started doing some audio direction finding, which is kind of hard when the noise seems to be coming from everywhere. The best I could figure was that it was coming from near a pile of papers that I had been scribbling on while testing this GE rig. I lifted them and found the source of the noise. It was a Weather-Alert radio that I had picked up at the fleamarket in Newmarket. I pressed the big button and the noise died.

It looks like I had triggered its alarm when I was sweeping the band with the signal generator and hit 162.66 MHz, but it only triggered it the second time when I was using the 1 KHz modulation. It must have happened at a lower frequency whose harmonics were 162.66 MHz.

I knew that the Weather-Alert radio worked because I had picked up the weather forecasts on it, even though they don't come in so well when you are down in the valley in downtown Owen Sound. Now I know that the alarm works too, even when the audio is turned off. Most importantly, I now know another sound that warns of an approaching tornado.

73, de Bob

# TVI

From: Gene VE3IJD

Hi All,,I've had a TVI problem here on our packet forwarding frequency of 7.100.5 for a year.I've tried dipoles,vee's and slopers.I put up a 10-40 metre vertical on the weekend and everything cleared up for about a day,,no interference to the VCR or CD unit on my stereo.After cleaning up the yard on Sunday I put the coax feeding the vertical up on a metal post to keep it off the ground.Later that day comes a scream from the living room.....yes it was Randy and the interference to Reba was back,,making the cd skip tracks etc,,,watching a tape in the VCR was impossible. Tonight after much thought I grounded everything outside at the vertical.The ground radials are on the top of the fence,,the antenna is fastened to the wooden post about 4 feet off of the ground.Of course,,I didn't want to hang myself so I lowered the coax onto the ground and worked away,,and presto no interference.....put all my tools away ,,put the coax back on the post,,came in to listen to some good ol'e rock and roll...ahhhhh...the cd skates across the disk again,,TVI,,just as bad as before....then it hit me,,what was I doing different....I put the coax back on the grass and no more interference.....so,,if the packet goes down this summer...I've hit the line with the mower..it's good to have clear music again..... 23:49Z 30-Mar ...Gene, 73

# CANWARN TRAINING 1999

**Attention all CANWARN volunteers.** A CANWARN training session has been scheduled for **Wednesday April 21st** at the Bruce Nuclear Power Development Information Center. All CANWARN volunteers and those wishing to know more about CANWARN are invited to attend. There is no admission fee. The training will run from approximately 7:30pm to 9:30pm and will be presented by Randy Mawson of Environment Canada and John Huxtra of the London Weather Office. Please ensure that you register as you arrive. There will be coffee and donuts available at a minimal fee. The usual in depth training on the life cycle of a tornado will be covered plus the new grid map atlases will be available. In order to ensure that we have enough training material available we must know the number of people in your party. Please contact Ray Lelievre at (519) 396-2051 after 4:00pm (or leave message) .

The BNPD Information Center is located on Bruce County Rd 20 just west of Highway 21.

There are signs posted on Highway 21 indicating the turnoff.

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