

April 2004

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 in our CLUBHOUSE, Unit 6 Rockford Plaza, Rockford On. 5km S of Owen Sound. 7:30 p.m.

Breakfast Anyone?

Any Saturday 9:00 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

Minutes of GBARC Meeting 23rd March 2004

Ham Radio for Dummies

Youth Group

Swap Shop

Illinois Amateurs Support Tornado Relief, Recovery Efforts

Ham Radio Trivia

Message From The Newsletter Team

GBARC Mail Box

NEXT MEETING will be on May 25 at the Rockford Restaurant

President

Gene VE3IJD



Vice-President

Bob VE3XOX



Secretary

Tom VA3TS



Treasurer

Bob VE3LKD



Newsletter Team

Editor

Barry VA3WBG

Steven VE3SEG

Tom VE3CVL



Program Director

Jim VE3CJM



Minutes of GBARC Meeting 23rd March 2004

Attendance:

Bob DRB, Gary FV, Bob LKD, Bob NX, Stan ZON, Bernie BQM, Steven SEG,
Barry WBG, Dieter DST, Aubrey TUQ, Gene IJD, Tom TS

Guests:

Percy BBD, Len Bruce, Jon CIC, Bob Zapf

The meeting was brought to order by Gene IJD at 7:12 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and organize our effort for the upcoming IPM. As a result the minutes of the February meeting were not read. Gene opened the meeting with some information on the Lanark County ARC's effort on last years IPM. Gene also informed the group that he was able to book 2 tents (20'x30'), free of charge from Bell Canada. Also included is hydro hookup at the 100'x100' IPM site. He then opened the floor for input from the group. The following is a summary of that discussion.

Objective: To promote Amateur Radio and to assist those IPM groups whose role it is to provide emergency services.

Budget: After discussion on this matter a motion to set a budget of \$750 put forward by Bernie BQM and seconded by Jon JON. Carried

Participants: Participants will receive free admission to the site, beverages but not meals. There was discussion on GBARC Jackets or T-shirts to promote the club, paid for by who was not decided.

Bob LKD suggested any display materials should be professionally done. Bernie BQM suggested replacement of the GBARC banner.

Bob NX identified the need to have handouts available for the public. GBARC handout and magazines like TCA or QST, possibly the attendance of the QSL bureau.

Chart of tent display area topics and volunteers

Packet Radio VE3IJD	HF Station VE3TUQ, VA3BBD, VA3CJM Setup Schedules TP Net, Ontars QSL Cards	IRLP VE3NX	CANWARN VA3BBD
Radio Promotion VE3IJD Guestbook, Course info, Handouts	Theatre VE3BQM, VA3DRB	Youth Group VA3JON	Display Boards VE3BQM, VA3DRB Plexiglass Poster Holders GBARC Banner, Flag
ARES VE3LKD	Vintage Radio Display	Flower Pot DXpedition	Tower Prep VE3TSA

Motion to adjourn by Bob DRB, 9:20 pm. Next meeting will be April 27th .

Ham Radio for Dummies

"I wanted to write the kind of book that I wanted when I was starting out," Silver said. "*The ARRL Handbook* can be a little intimidating for someone who's just starting to learn about ham radio, and a lot of the little books don't give enough information."

Silver says his book is intended to be a bridge. "For someone who's just passed his or her first exam, this can be a 'desktop Elmer.' Utility was incredibly high in mind as I wrote this book."

The 384-page book is also intended for people who are inclined to be attracted to things like Amateur Radio, Silver said. Those who are into technical gadgets, want to expand their use of wireless communication or are just looking for a fun new hobby can benefit from the book, he said.

Ham Radio for Dummies got its start last year when representatives of Wiley Press, which owns the *For Dummies* series, approached the ARRL in search for an author. ARRL Media Relations Manager Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, suggested Silver--a prolific author on all things ham radio. Silver was up to the challenge of writing for the series that covers--among other things--computers, finances, leisure, health and travel. They even have new books called *Sleep Disorders for Dummies* and *Being Vegetarian for Dummies*.

"They asked me some questions about marketing, and I let them know what ham radio is and what it is not,"

Silver said. "I proposed an outline, and, after several reviews I started writing in September [2003] and was finished by Christmas. They gave me their well-known *Dummies* structure with icons, lists and humor to work within, which fit well with my natural and breezy writing style. I wrote it so it would feel like someone was just sitting down with the reader and answering their questions. There's a lot of reference material, pointers, tips and other useful stuff. It's an open and friendly type of book."



YOUTH GROUP

Those of you who attended the Field Day version of the general GBARC meeting heard me speak of a youth group supported by GBARC. In the past, too much time and effort putting together very good training sessions resulted in new hams (young & old) not getting on the air or some not even being heard from again. Some of these fine recruits were sons or daughters of our own members. We all recognize that topics heard on most of our repeaters are not youth related. I'd like you to try and help me change that.

My ideas would be to:

- 1 Have a meeting of the "minds" with some interested young attending
- 2 Organize a group of youth with a maximum age limit (19)
- 3 Have them run for office and set up a typical slate of Officers, including a Pres, vice Pres, Sec, and Program director and a liaison back to the main GBARC
- 4 Have GBARC show a financial commitment to them for funding of start-up projects (set up a limit)
- 5 Have a meeting place and time to possibly coincide with our general meetings with the youth splitting away for their own meeting
- 6 Give them time for CW practice on the GBARC repeater for those who want to upgrade licenses
- 7 Have a GBARC committee that will assist with projects and general youth activities other than the present GBARC executive
- 8 Any other ideas that arise from point # 1

Now that you're reading this, please think about how YOU can commit to such a worthy cause such as keeping this club alive with youth.

Illinois Amateurs Support Tornado Relief, Recovery Efforts

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 23, 2004--UPDATED: Illinois ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, reports Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) team members and local radio amateurs in LaSalle County--nearly 100 miles southwest of Chicago--are supporting American Red Cross relief and recovery efforts in the wake of tornados April 20 that left at least eight people dead. Illinois Gov Rod Blagojevich surveyed the damage and designated LaSalle, Putnam, Kankakee and Will counties as disaster areas. Especially hard hit was the LaSalle County town of Utica, where the storms devastated the downtown area.

"There was an outstanding turnout by local and nearby hams," Ryan told ARRL. "Many local hams are assisting in recovery efforts and damage assessment." In addition, SKYWARN teams and severe weather spotters "helped greatly throughout the area to spread the word of the approaching tornado tracking across many counties.

Jim Stefkovich, KD5HLE, the meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service (NWS) Chicago Forecast Office, expressed gratitude for Amateur Radio's assistance in providing storm information. "This was a true team effort, and I truly appreciate everything that was done from everyone in the Amateur Radio Community," he said. "I could not be more proud of everyone's efforts."

LaSalle County ARES Emergency Coordinator Frank Carraro, KF9NZ, said he'd settled down to read a book when he began hearing weather-spotter reports of approaching tornados. He said it soon became obvious that Utica had been badly hit. "All the electric power was out, the roads were clogged with debris and panicked residents of the area--some trying to get in, and some trying to get out," he said. "Soon, every public safety agency for miles around was in or around Utica."

Ryan, who lives in LaSalle County, reports that after the N9OUW Tri-County repeater was knocked off the air, owner Rich Grimshaw, N9OUW, and Kurt Clausen, KB9RKU, installed a deep-cycle battery from the Starved Rock Radio Club to get the machine back up. "This essential ham repeater then provided ideal coverage to link the downtown Utica area below the Illinois River bluff for further operation by the many amateurs responding," he noted. "It was the critical link for this area."

The reactivated repeater has been supporting disaster recovery efforts coordinated by the Illinois Valley Red Cross chapter in Peru. Ryan says he has a back-up battery on charge at his home for use as needed. Simplex nets were activated in the Utica area on 2 meters to support shelter operations and disaster assessment and to minimize battery drain at the repeater. Grundy County amateurs also turned out to assist in LaSalle County.

LaSalle County Assistant EC Joe Tokarz, KB9EZZ, said some 30 amateurs responded in his county alone, providing some 8000 "ham hours" worth of assistance. He said April 23 that with telephone service now being restored, Amateur Radio's role has begun to wind down. He encouraged hams to take advantage of ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Communications on-line classes, weather-spotter classes as well as other available emergency preparedness training to be ready. In this situation, he noted, there wasn't much advance warning.

"It was a rapidly developing storm. We went to a warning almost immediately," he said. "Because of that there wasn't a lot time to give warning to the citizens."

Ryan reports "outstanding assistance" from Community Emergency Response Teams throughout Northern Illinois. Twisters also hit the town of Granville in Putnam County, where Ryan's brother lives. "Unfortunately, my brother and sister-in-law lost the roof and the use of their house," he said, although no one was injured. Ryan says he's had to take time off from assisting in the local disaster net to help his family with salvage and cleanup efforts and get his relatives resettled.

Ryan said non-amateur community volunteers in the stricken communities have been turning out to help clear streets and board up or cover damaged homes and businesses.

Salvation Army Team Emergency Network National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, reports Salvation Army canteens have been roving stricken neighborhoods providing food, beverages and respite. Salvation Army volunteers also have assisted with damage assessment and cleanup.

"We used SKYWARN and our SATERN folks to keep us abreast of reports as the weather conditions turned sour, and they turned out to be invaluable assets in determining the course of the tornados," said McPherson, who's headquartered in Chicago. "Amateurs also provided valuable information regarding the circumstances in Utica and pointed me to a state frequency that I could monitor regarding responders' efforts." McPherson said that channel offered accurate information he was able to relay to his own responders so they'd have a better idea of what they'd be facing in the stricken communities.

McPherson said he would personally serve as incident commander for Salvation Army relief operations in Utica this weekend and planned to use Amateur Radio to support operations if possible. He expected the Salvation Army's Utica operation to last at least two weeks.

Near Chicago, Will County ARES Emergency Coordinator Rob Sobkoviak, K9NYO, said tornados destroyed one house damaged dozens of other homes and businesses in Joliet. He said the Salvation Army--with support from SATERN--was called in to assist with damage assessment and cleanup and to provide meals to affected residents and emergency personnel.

Sobkoviak cited the efforts of Bolingbrook AEC Toni Hamilton, WX9WRN, who coordinates her county's ARES Severe Weather Net, as well as those of numerous weather spotters. "All of those spotters who sat watching the skies, often in harm's way, are definitely the heroes," Sobkoviak said.

"In particular, I would like to recognize the reports of Plainfield EMA Lt Dennis Hamilton, KC9DVI, whose spotter report of a tornado heading toward the City of Joliet directly resulted in the saving of lives in that community of 106,000," he said. Other Will County amateurs staffed ARES stations at a Bolingbrook fire station and at emergency operations centers in Plainfield and in Joliet, where the county's EOC is located.

"Hams at the Will County EOC can instantly get reports from the Will County ARES Net and NWS into the hands of county emergency management personnel to disseminate over the county-wide 'WILLWARN' system," Sobkoviak said. Other amateurs staffed the amateur station at the National Weather Service Chicago Forecast Office.

"These guys are true heroes," Sobkoviak said of his ARES team members.

ARRL Illinois Section Manager Shari Harlan, N9SH, said radio amateurs in her section "are on top of things" in the affected communities. "We are on standby so that when and if they need additional help because of fatigue and so forth, we can move in," she added.

Swap Shop

For Sale

TS-690
HF plus 6 Meters
Asking \$1000.00
John Fox
R.R.#2
Tara, Ontario, Canada
N0H-2N0

Kenwood TS-520
HF Transceiver
Asking \$275.00
Bob Vary
R.R.#8
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada
N4K-5W4
519-376-8060

REIS 25 Amp P.S.
German Made
Asking \$100.00
Bob Vary
R.R.#8
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada
N4K-5W4
519-376-8060

Icom IC-551d
100 watt 6 Meter All Mode
\$550
Bob Vary
R.R.#8
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada
N4K-5W4
519-376-8060

MFJ Antenna Tuner
MFJ-901b
Asking \$40.00
Bob Vary
R.R.#8
Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada
N4K-5W4
519-376-8060

Do you have some ham equipment for sale or are you looking for something, well then what better place to do that then in the GBARC feedback. If you are looking for something or have something for sale just send your name Callsign and what you have for sale to ve3seg@rogers.com where it will be posted in the swap shop section of the GBARC feedback and on the GBARC Web Page.

HAM RADIO TRIVIA

1. What radio was the Heathkit SB-100 reversed engineered from ?

KW electronics KW-100
Collins KWM-2
Yaesu FT-101
Hallicrafters SX-110

2. What is the mathematical equation for a 1/2 wave dipole?

291 times the frequency in Megahertz.
468 divided by the frequency in Megahertz.
937 plus the frequency in Megahertz
Frequency in Megahertz divided by 2, then times 4

3. Coaxial cable came into general use during which years?

1935-40
1940-45
1945-50
1950-55

Answers for the March edition of Ham Radio trivia

1. Resistance

2. Russ Farnsworth

3. Hallicrafters

MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

Have you made an interesting contact or read a really interesting article that you think others would like? well then what better way of doing that then in the GBARC newsletter. The GBARC newsletter is always looking for interesting stories so if you have one done be a chicken be a ham and send it to Steven VE3SEG and Barry VA3WBG at ve3seg@rogers.com

From The Mailbox

ZEROBEAT

THE BRUCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

IS NOW POSTED 73 DE JIM COVERLEY VE3OVV

<http://www.brucearc.on.ca>

When in Barrie stop in at the **Barrie Amateur Radio Club Meeting**

Georgian college, Rowntree Theatre

Date: TBA Time: 7:30 PM

73 de ken ve3kpp