

February 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 The On The Air
GBARC Meeting 27th January
2004**

**ARRL to Propose New Entry-
Level License, Code-Free HF
Access**

Youth Group

Swap Shop

Ham Radio Trivia

**Message From The Newsletter
Team**

GBARC Mail Box

**NEXT MEETING will be on
March 23 at the Rockford
Restaurant**

President

Gene VE3IJD



Vice-President

Bob
VE3XOX



Secretary

Tom VA3TS



Treasurer

Bob
VE3LKD



Newsletter Team

Editor
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Steven VE3SEG
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Program Director

Jim VE3CJM



Minutes of The On The Air GBARC Meeting

27th January 2004

Checkins:

Gene IJD, Merv MVS, Tom TS, Bob LKD, Jim CJM, Chris MUM, Bill HMZ, Bill DIQ, Stan ZON, Bob DRB, Aubrey TUQ, Dave DXO, Percy BBD, Norm NBJ, Norm MTV, Bob NX.

The meeting was brought to order by Net Control Gene VE3IJD at 7:00 pm

Minutes:

The minutes of the last GBARC meeting were read by Tom TS. A motion by Jim CJM to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Stan ZON, carried.

Treasurers Report:

Bob LKD delivered the treasurers report and updated the net with membership changes indicating that 38 members have renewed for 2004 thus far. Bob also gave a report on our post office box and its upcoming annual fees. Motion to accept the minutes and to authorize payment of the PO box fee, raised by Tom TS, Seconded by Bob LKD, carried. A further motion by Norm MTV to send the RAC QSL Bureau \$10 to cover postage etc, seconded by Stan ZON, carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Flower Pot Callsign:

Gene inquired as to the status of the callsign purchase as outlined in last months minutes. Bob NX reports the forms are filled out and will be sent out at the end of February.

Adult Learning Festival:

Gene has contacted the group and as they firm up their plans we will be contacted sometime in June.

ZEHR's Tapes:

Just a reminder to use the GBARC box at Zehr's for your grocery tapes. Thanks to Susan TLK for all her efforts.

WNYSORC:

Recent communications with the WNYSORC have not been constructive. They have demanded changes to the hardware on the repeater and so far have been unmoved by any requests to the contrary. It appears that the move from Barrow Bay to Wiaraton is considered a major move by WNYSORC and therefore the original arrangement is not suitable. It was the opinion of the President that we would keep things as they were.

Boy Scouts Harrison Park:

This weekend is the date for this annual scout outing. It will start Saturday at noon, so if you are coming, come by the Harrison Park parking lot around 10:30 am.

GOTA:

Is planned for Feb 21st and 22nd. Volunteers are always welcome.

Youth Group:

Norm NBJ informed the group that a report was sent to the College Manager which was discussed with the teachers and the student council. It was the opinion of this group that the idea of an Amateur Radio Youth Group would not work out and suggested some alternative schools.

International Plowing Match (IPM) :

Gene has the loan of 2 BELL tents for the IPM if we take part in this event. Other groups that have offered their services have been granted free admission to the grounds and it was the feeling that this should be granted to our group also. Apparently the admission is steep for the whole event which would make it less than desirable to some members. Gene also communicated that the callsign VE3REX would be loaned to us by the Ottawa ARC as well as some sample graphics for a QSL card. <http://www.ipm2004.ca/>

NEW BUSINESS

RAC Membership:

Gene initiated a discussion on the benefits of RAC Membership. The fact that RAC is our only national voice for amateur radio would make one think that the majority of Canadian hams are RAC members. Sadly this is not the case. Considering that most hams have lots of opinions and plenty to say, it seems odd that they see no need for a voice on the world stage. A few ideas to encourage RAC membership were tossed around with Tom TSA and Chris MUM suggesting we ponder this for a while and discuss it again at the next meeting.

VE3GBT WIARTON Repeater:

Gene reports that he has not heard from NAV Canada about the VE3GBT repeater and the positioning of our antenna on their tower. There was also an idea of having a breakfast in our room at the Warton Airport. That being said, we could do with a few tables and some chairs for the room. The room is always locked but the key is available at any time.

Flower Pot:

Chris and Jim have contacted the Lighthouse Executive and are happy to report their continued support of GBARC and the Flower Pot Island DXpedition. A discussion followed and it was agreed to keep the same weekend as last year, July 31st to August 2nd. Lighthouse hunters have the added enjoyment of the annual "Lighthouses On the Air" the following weekend, August 7th & 8th. Keep an eye on the DX Cluster.

SPLITRAIL FESTIVAL:

This year the Splitrail Festival in Flesherton will be September 26th to 28th. Due to a recent fire it's likely the arena area will change somewhat. All members are encouraged to attend and be part of the GBARC display at the Splitrail. <http://www.splitrailfestival.com/>

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Tom TS inquired as to why the membership levels seem lower than last year. The treasurer explained that since several members have not been to club meetings in the past few months and so haven't had a reminder to renew. A motion was raised by Tom TS to produce a mailing to those former members who have not yet renewed for 2004. Seconded by Bob DRB, carried.

Motion to adjourn by Gene IJD, 8:27pm

ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 19, 2004--The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals--developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July--are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international *Radio Regulations* at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring *Report and Order* (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

The ARRL has addressed frequently asked questions (FAQs) concerning this proposal.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" The plan adopted by the Board departs only slightly from the Executive Committee's recommendations.

The "New" Novice

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "It was also seen as important to limit the scope of privileges so the exam would not have to include material that is inappropriate at the entry level."

As an introduction to Amateur Radio, the Novice license served successfully for most of its 50-year history. The FCC has not issued new Novice licenses since the 2000 license restructuring, however. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

Anticipating assertions that the new plan would "dumb down" Amateur Radio licensing, Harrison said those currently holding a ticket often perceive the level of complexity to have been greater when they were first licensed than it actually was. "Quite frankly," he said, "if you review the questions presented in our license manuals throughout the years, you will be surprised how they compare to those of today."

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be consolidated into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants. ARRL already has proposed additional phone privileges for Generals in its "Novice refarming" petition, RM-10413, but the FCC has not yet acted on that petition.

Morse Code Testing Retained for Extra

At the top rung, the Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. The League's plan calls for current Novice, Tech Plus and General class licensees to receive lifetime Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said. "It also simplifies the FCC database by conforming to the current Universal Licensing System (ULS) structure and does not mandate any modifications to it."

Sumner concurred. "The Board started out by recognizing that three license classes was the right number when looking down the road 10 or 15 years," he said. "We need a new entry-level license."

"On the other hand, there's nothing particularly wrong with the existing Extra class license," he continued. "The change in the international regulations notwithstanding, the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment in the FCC's amateur licensing structure should include basic Morse capability."

Sumner and Harrison say the current Technician entry-level ticket provides little opportunity to experience facets of ham radio beyond repeater operation. "The quality of that experience," Sumner said, "often depends on the operator's location."

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

Proposal Includes "Novice Refarming" Band Plan

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter the current HF subbands. The Novice refarming proposal would eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand phone/image subbands on 80 and 40 meters.



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.

SWAP SHOP

For Sale

Icom ICA20 for sale.....good condition

including charger, and HS10 SB headset and service manual plus operating manuals

Asking \$200.00 if you are interested contact John at ve3amz@sympatico.ca or

John J. Riddell, VE3AMZ
451 Cedarcliffe Dr.,

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
N2K 2J1

Do you have some ham equipment for sale or are you looking for something, well then what better place to do that than 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 brand of whiskey is indirectly responsible for the advent of radio?

Bushmills
Glenfiddich
Jameson
Johnny Walker

2. What does the loading coil in a mobile antenna do?

Makes the antenna electrically longer
Adds inductive reactance
Adds capacitive reactance
Reduces capacitive reactance

3. Amateur Radio Field Day was first held in what year?

1929
1933
1936
1939

Answers for the January edition of Ham Radio trivia

1. Device that compensates for voltage drop due to current flow

2. Yaesu TM-2100

3. Determining radial spread

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