



# FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the  
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

November 2019

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MOJQC

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### [2019 Executive](#)

President .....Tom VA3TVA  
Vice-President... Frank VA3GUF  
Treasurer.....Bobby VE3PAV  
Secretary.....Peter VE3BBN

## President's Message

Hi All!!

Winter seems to have snuck in on us. And before I'm ready for it as usual. I suppose if I didn't have anywhere to go, and any work to do out side, I might think it pretty. I remember a time when winter was just about all fun. Now it seems to mostly mean more work for me.



Tom VA3TVA

We had a great turn out to the last Club breakfast with 12 around our gathered tables. And the October meeting had a great turn out as well. I'd love to see more come out, when they can.

Our Christmas luncheon is all set to go. My Thanks to TEX for taking the reins and running with it, and a job well done. The last count I saw showed 26 coming to attend. I'm looking for to seeing a few people that I've not been able to see for some time.

The Club is still accepting Dues for 2020. I know it's an expensive time of year, but I hope that our membership will rise some this year, as we have put a lot of work in to our repeaters to improve them. Of course, we're not done, there is still much to do. And it is not only time consuming, and expensive. We need to either move the Paisley Machine, or find the funds to run our own feedlines and antennas. Of course, the feed lines and antennas will be the cheap part, we'll have to have a certified (approved the site owner) to do the climb and install.

Looking forward to our meeting on the 26th. Anyhow. I hope that all are well.  
73 Tom VA3TVA

## Minutes of Meeting of October 22nd 2019

Presentation: Beth van Aalst on turning Milk Bags into sleeping mats or shopping bags

Call to order at 19:40 Quorm? No

Motion to accept last months minutes made by Phil, 2nd by Bernie

Treasurers report \$xxxx.xx in account, insurance to soon be paid.

### **Old Business :**

Report on Gran Fondo by Tom TVA – 4 hams attended, coverage was difficult, we were very well received and much appreciated it.

Report on Blue Mountains Run by Tom TVA – 6 hams attended. Coverage was spotty, had to use the banks repeater. The organizers didn't seem to care for our help, I suggested that perhaps the Club only help those that really want our help.

Christmas dinner. There was much discussion, Bernie made motion to have it at Rockford, if they were interested. Phil seconded. I was to tend to the details and make a presidential decision and report to Tom TS so that the web site could be updated accordingly.

### **New business.**

#### Gamify Club Activities

Purpose: To stimulate participation in club events by using competitive and monetary incentives.

Anyone can participate - club members, non-members, executives. Including the executives encourages the entire club to participate in the score leaderboard. Including non-members could encourage new members on a budget to join and earn their fees through participation.

All activities will be given a point score based on the popularity of past participation in the event.

An option to pay the membership fee will reward those points on the leaderboard.

Points are redeemable for club membership cost and club branded gear.

Points will also be used for a leaderboard score to be displayed publicly on the



website to show the active membership.

Example of earned points:

- 2 - Attend a club meeting
- 10 - give presentation at meeting
- 2 - Go for a coffee
- 2 - Rockford breakfast
- 3 - run the 2m net
- 2 - 2m net check-in
- 20 - Winter field day
- 6 - Help teach the radio course
- 8 - ARRL field day
- 10 - Lighthouse weekend
- 4 - Multisport race
- 6 - Terry Fox run
- 4 - Christmas lunch

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Example of spending points:

- 45 - Yearly club membership non-RAC
- 30 - Yearly club membership RAC
- 10 - hat
- 15 - shirt
- 5 - stickers

Possible concerns:

Participation by non-members at events in regards to insurance?

Loss of revenue?

Limit on spending

Asking for donations to community volunteer organization

Maureen M10 won the 50/50 ticket number 511

Motion to Adjourn by M10, second by Phil.

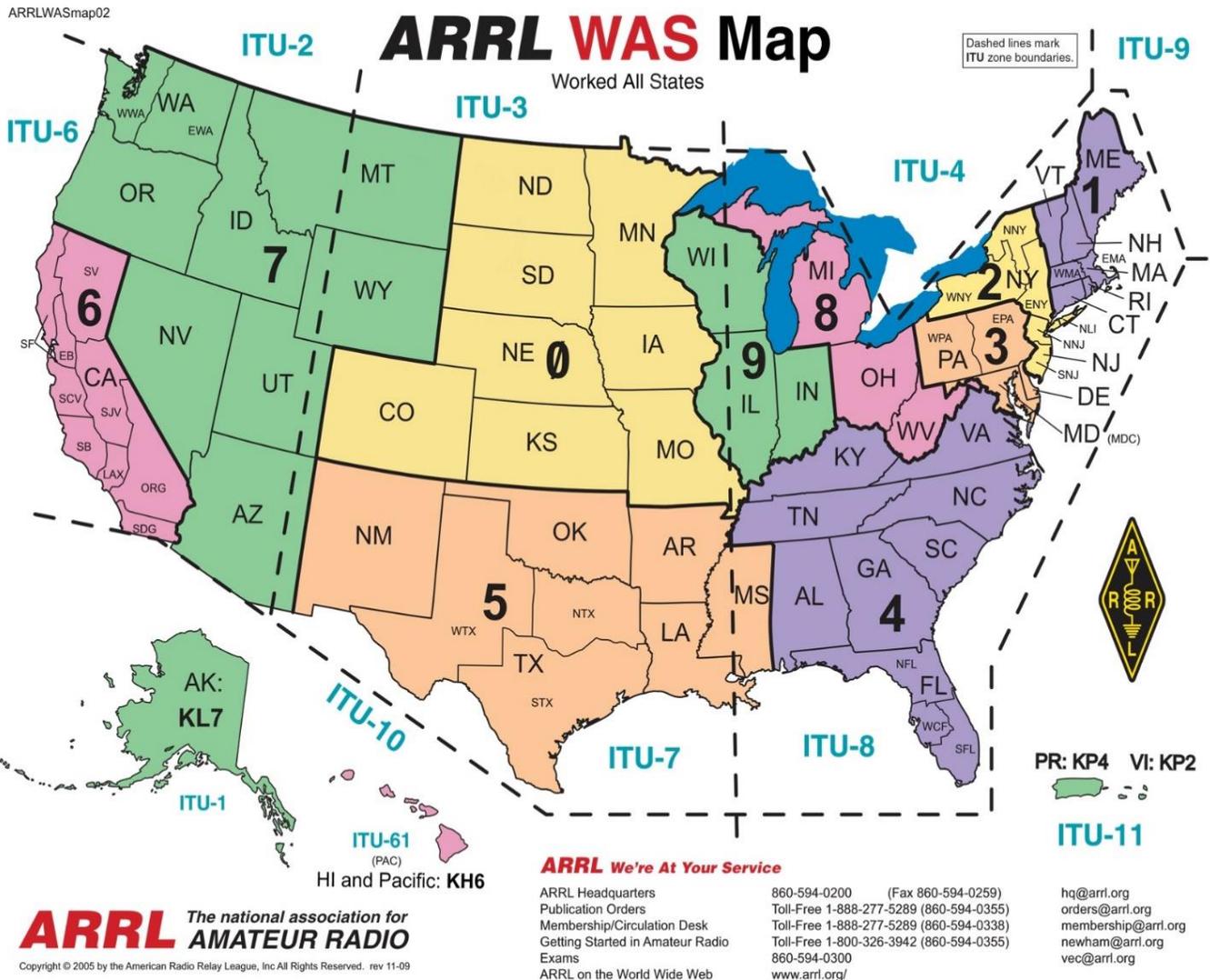
Meet up for coffee at first Timmies on west side.



# A Winter Challenge

Worked all States on 80m ... Here is a nice, friendly competition for the winter months, 1 Dec 2019 to 30 April 2020

<https://m0ukd.com/other-stuff/printable-amateur-radio-logbooks/>



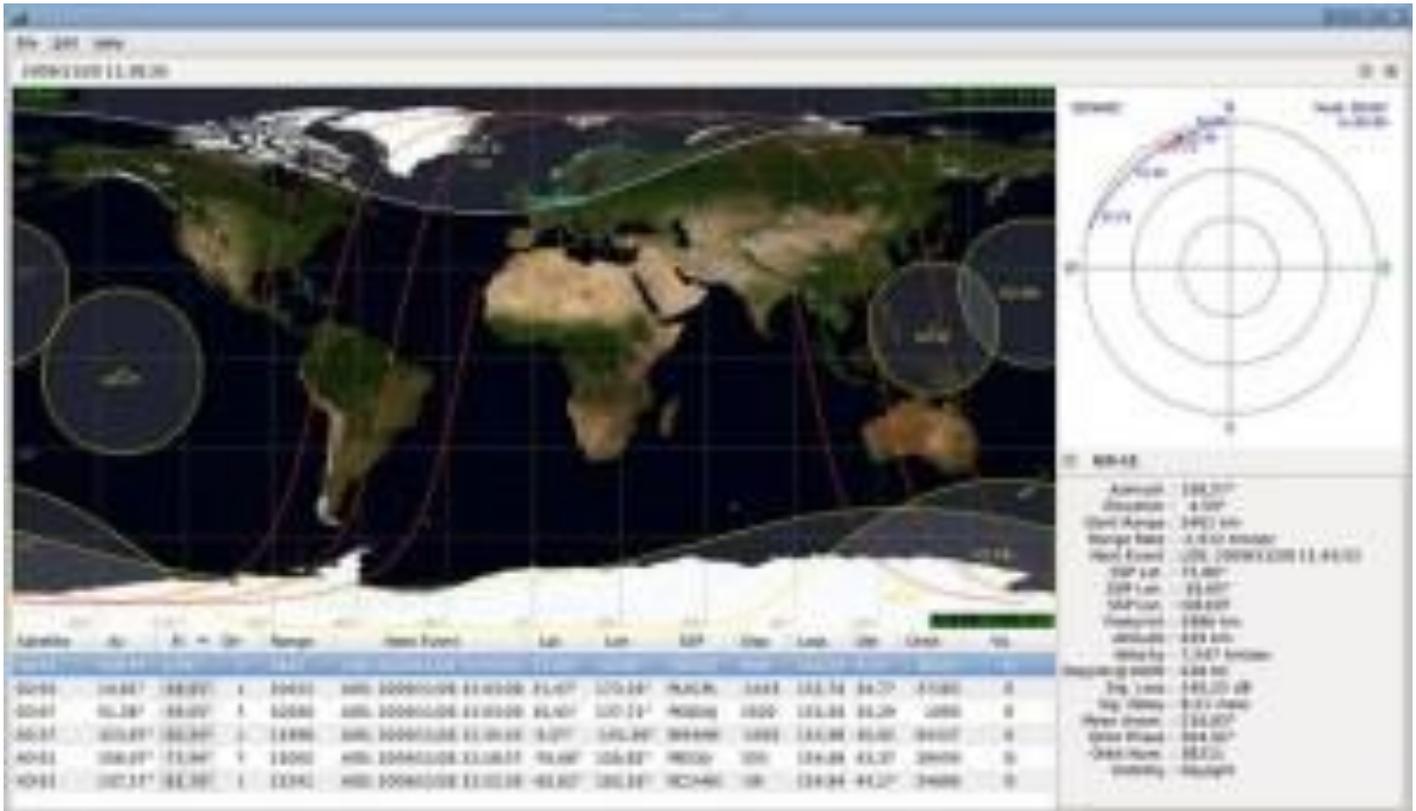
Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming



# Amateur Satellite Tracking <http://gpredict.oz9aec.net/>

## Tracking Satellites in Real Time

This is probably the easiest Raspberry Pi project you can undertake. Install the [GPredict](#) software on your Raspberry Pi and you have a very capable satellite tracker, allowing you to track every conceivable satellite across the world in real time.



It allows you to filter the type of satellites you can track, this is where you can just select the amateur radio satellites you're interested in working and see in real time which of the birds you can work through.

Of course the next step is to interface the Raspberry Pi with your antenna controller and start tracking the sats in real time, now there's a thought!

<https://jkry.org/ouluhack/PiRotator>

**Canada Winter Contest December 28th**

<https://www.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-rules-2018/>

**Winter Field Day January 25th and 26th**

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





# Websites of Interest

Copy/Paste the urls below into your browser

## RF Calculators

<https://inductivetwig.com/pages/rf-calculators>

## Shacksign

[https://www.shacksign.com/index.php?main\\_page=](https://www.shacksign.com/index.php?main_page=)

## Packet Radio with the Raspberry Pi

<https://photobyte.org/packet-radio-raspberry-pi/>

## PortableZero Tactical Carriers and Battery Pack Systems

<http://portablezero.com/>

## AMSAT news Service Bulletins

<https://www.amsat.org/ans-314-amsat-news-service-bulletins-for-november-10/>

## Raspberry Pi Ham Software

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/w3djs-raspberry-pi-ham-radio-image-v2-0-released.680336/>

## Raspberry Pi Ham Software 2

<http://www.g0hwc.com/raspberry-pi-ham-radio.html>

# Letters to the Editor

## STARLINK

Looks like maybe next year to sign up for StarLink, of course no one has any pricing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3dfnFPwIwQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z93a9OUJfOA>

SpaceX has some more StarLink launches for this year.

<https://spaceflightnow.com/launch-schedule/>

Still waiting for the slow boat from India to deliver the Antuino

<http://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/antuino/> , found a new youtube video on it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9F4AJnZcag>

Got the code at <https://github.com/afarhan/antuinov2.1> to verify with the Arduino IDE. Had to do some searching to see how to set up the directories so the modified GLCD library it uses, would not interfere with another project that used the unmodified version already in the main library. There is also a user group for it at <https://groups.io/g/Antuino>.



## ANTUINO

The Antuino finally arrived on the slow boat from India and I have been using the loop antenna to test it. It is interesting what Farhan has done with this design. It is composed of an oscillator, a narrow band receiver, a resistive Wheatstone bridge, db voltage detector, and a nano Arduino to control it all. The software is open source and you can compile it with the Arduino IDE, so you can make changes to the software if you like.

There are three major modes of the software, SWR, PWR, SNA.

In SWR mode it measures the SWR of the antenna at the frequency anywhere between 10Khz to 150Mhz. There is also a Plot action, were you can sweep through a range of Frequencies centered around the selected frequency and plot the response on the display which can give you an idea of how broadband your antenna is. As you can guess the loop is pretty narrow band.

The PWR mode measures the voltage at the antenna in db using the narrow band receiver to determine how much power is at a selected frequency. Which makes it a frequency selectable RF meter. It was sensitive enough that when I was in the cw portion of the band I was able to see a cw signal bouncing the reading. So you can measure how much the RF field is improving as you make changes to your set up. Because the readings are in db, it is possible to check how far down your second harmonic is on your transmitter compared to your fundamental. Something you could not do with a normal broadband diode type RF meter. It was also suggested in the user group, that you could use a small loop antenna on it to track down a interfering source of RF.

The SNA mode gives you an output which you send through the device you would like to test, the output of the device like a filter goes back into the Antuino to allow you to determine its frequency response. You could also check the cable loss on that bargain length of coax you got a the flea market, or tune a open stub filter.

The Antuino is housed in a sturdy metal box, which also has the option of having 6 AA batteries installed in it for portable use.

The user group is <https://groups.io/g/Antuino>

The git hub page for the software is <https://github.com/afarhan/antuinov2.1>

A review <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9F4AJnZcag>

Video of Farhan explaining how it works  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9JPqUT6mA0>

Product page <http://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/antduino/>

73 Carl  
VE3APY



# 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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<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 December.*

