



# FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the  
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

April 2020

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26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

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### 2020 Executive

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



**The April Meeting is cancelled**

## President's Message

Hello Members and Subscribers



Tom VA3TVA

Happy April to everyone. The weather certainly has been fantastic. I hope that everyone's health has been as good as or better than the weather.

It's my understanding that RAC has issued a number of special call signs. Something to the effect of STAYHOM to encourage more radio use and to distract some from their boredom.

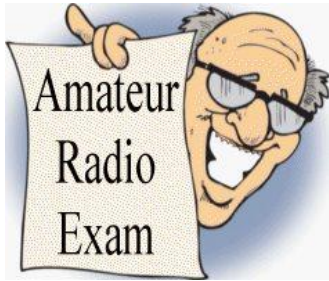
I feel fortunate to live as I do, out in the country, rather than in an apartment. As such, I always have more to do, than I do have time. That's what I get for buying a fixer upper on my budget. I have been able to finish a couple of small jobs that have been lagging. Have done some yard work that has gone a couple of years having not been done. Having gotten some of the higher priority jobs done. I'm now looking to some of the more pleasurable tasks that I have had in mind.

I have an antenna that needs a new mast, I have two towers that need completing. I have some old

Aluminum Tubes that were given to me a number of years ago. He had thoughts of making vertical antenna's out of them, and has such planted that seed in my mind. I have also always wanted to get on 160M. I always figured that my best option was to make an inverted L antenna. I have been thinking about using one of my towers to make it. Use the tower it self as the vertical section and then run a wire off of it to the south to the Peak of my barn roof. Thus giving me as much height as I can manage. I should start a thread in the forums to get the Elmer's opinion's on it.

I do hope that everyone is staying well, and occupied. And if anyone has come down with a serious problem, and then need something picked up and delivered to them, please. Let us Executive know. I'm sure that we can arrange something.

73 Everyone, take care  
Tom



## Would you like to write the amateur radio exam

or upgrade the qualification you have? The pass mark for a written examination is 70%. However, a pass mark of 80% provides the candidate with additional HF operating privileges (< 30 MHz). This is referred to as "Basic with Honours" or "basic +.". Just send an email and we will get back to you... 73 Tom VA3TS (*Delegated Examiner*)



*Congratulations to the recent successful students from the course.  
Listen for Dan VE3ZDZ Clarksburg, Don VA3NBP Lions Head and Peter VE3PMR Warton.*

## Emergency Numbers

**211**

Information and referral helpline for community, government, social and health services

**311**

Customer service and municipal information for large urban centres

**411\***

Information on residential and business listings from publicly available local telephone records \*Not government funded

**511**

Provides traveller information such as traffic volumes, weather conditions, travel times, accident details, and construction

**911**

Emergency hotline to reach police, paramedics or fire service in life-threatening situations



## What your dues pay for.....

Have you wondered what dues are used for? Here is a concise accounting with the caveat that I likely forgot something. The clubs' main goal is to promote and encourage the hobby of amateur radio, all our activities can be reduced to this in one form or other, whether it be Field day or radio courses, meetings or community service, it doesn't matter. Our group sees an importance in helping others. If you aren't a member yet or have not renewed, then please consider joining up.

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

**Our insurance policy** - many groups operate without any protections, no judgments herin, but this is a worthwhile thing to have. The costs are an annual premium paid depending on the number of club members anticipated in the fall of the year for the next year. We get this because the (RAC) Radio Amateurs of Canada has brokered an arrangement with an insurance company. We also get a fair discount if the member is also a RAC Member. So, when we have a public gathering, a rider on the policy that costs in and around \$60 is applied for. A location like Victoria Park or the Bayshore or the Conservation Authority at Inglis Falls or Cabot Head are free as we have used them before and the rider has already been paid. This covers us when we are with the general public, as well as our equipment while there. The Club executive can provide specific details if requested.

**Repeaters** - fixed and portable, antennae, feedlines, batteries, transceivers, duplexers, upgrades, echolink, donations to tower owners for their space as may be appropriate.

**Meeting Room** fees - Donations for the custodians of the public places we use for monthly meetings or Field day or Cabot Head Lighthouse weekend, radio course venue, Christmas Luncheon as appropriate.

**Field day** – Portable toilet if needed, the club usually contributes to the Saturday meal from a local restaurant. This in addition to what club members bring as pot luck.

**Health and welfare** - a silent key or sometimes a club member or their family member needs acknowledgement of a milestone of sorts, perhaps a bouquet of flowers or a greeting card or a donation that would be welcome

**Amateur of the year award** – the club assumes the cost of maintaining the award trophy and cost of the keeper trophy given to each recipient.

**Portable Tower** - The club maintains a portable tower, capable of being placing in most locations, including the HF tri-band beam, rotor, controller and associated control cable.

**Web Presence** - the club maintains an internet webspace with domain name, and publishing software.

**ARES** – the club provides the AresGrey group with webspace as a service. The ARES group is separate from the club but many ARES members are also club members.

**Christmas Luncheon** – The club also arranges the venue and assumes the cost of door prizes in excess of member donations.



**Radio Courses** – The club assumes the cost of instructor training materials and tools to facilitate the education of new amateur radio operators. The club will also assist the delegated examiners for out of pocket expenses as required.

**Advertising** - The club provides signage and banners for use at any public gathering to promote the club and amateur radio.

**Friends of GBARC**  
**weekly get together ... On the Air**

The club meets each Wednesday evening on VE3OSR 146.940 T97.4 hz at 7:30 pm local time and on 3.783 Mhz +/- immediately following.

## **CANWARN Training Announcement**

### **Spring 2020**

Good day CANWARN Members,

This email is to regrettably inform you that we will not be proceeding with in-person CANWARN (severe weather spotting) sessions this year in light of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

We spent much of February and early March coordinating with partners and planning sessions. We likely do not need to tell you in detail, that the current COVID-19 situation changed quickly and dramatically; governments at all levels are responding to this crisis and encouraging everyone to do what they can to “flatten the curve” (such as physical distancing). As such, we will not be scheduling group-training sessions in order avoid the spread of the virus.

We do have some capacity for doing online webinar-style sessions. Given the current situation, and resource allocation, preferential consideration for these webinar-style training sessions will be given to those working in emergency management or critical infrastructure, and those with the ability to convene a group of participants (remotely). If you feel this style of training might meet your local safety training requirements, do let us know and we will work with you to organize something.

We are sorry for this disappointing news. We are grateful for your support. You can contact us at [ec.canalerteontario-canwarnontario.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.canalerteontario-canwarnontario.ec@canada.ca) if you have any questions or would like to coordinate a virtual session; someone on our team will triage your request.

Take care and stay safe!



In the meantime, here are some websites that may be of interest to you:

National Weather Service Spotter Guide:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/Weather\\_Spotter\\_Field\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/Weather_Spotter_Field_Guide.pdf)

National Weather Service Spotter Glossary: <https://www.weather.gov/oun/spotterglossary>

Environment Canada Lightning Safety:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/lightning/safety.html>

In addition, Environment Canada has a weather app called WeatherCAN available for both Apple and Android devices. This app represents the most direct way to receive our various severe weather watches and warnings. The app can be found in the app store on your Apple or Android device. More information on the app can be found here...

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/weather-general-tools-resources/weathercan.html>

## Websites of Interest

Copy/Paste the urls below into your browser

### The Balun and The UNUN

<http://www.philipstorr.id.au/radio/technical/Balun%20and%20UnUn.pdf>

### N1MM+ using Linux

<https://www.nf8m.com/nf8m/n1mm-on-linux/>

### Update your qrz.com page

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

**Join us for our weekly get together “On the Air”**

The club meets each Wednesday evening  
on VE3OSR 146.940 T97.4 hz at 7:30 pm local time.  
and on 3.783 Mhz +/- immediately following.

## Minutes of Meeting

Due to covid-19, the March meeting was cancelled



# 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 <https://gbarc.ca/mailus.php> , 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.



**Help US Out** *Would you like to receive email notifications when this newsletter is posted? Sign up for our mailing list. We only send out a few mailings a month and you can unsubscribe at any time. No ads and no personal information, your email address is never shared with anyone else. <https://www.gbarc.ca/lists/?p=subscribe>*

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

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

**Is there an error on this list? let us know please**

*The next newsletter will be in May.*

