



# FEEDBACK

## The Official Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



February 2021  
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## President's Message

John VA3KOT

At this time of year many of us are suffering from the mid-winter blues. This year it's made even worse by the pandemic restrictions. So how about supporting an idea that will kick start the spring cleaning and benefit our club too?

The Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club announces the very first Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Hamfest. Yes folks, it's a virtual hamfest with a difference. You won't make a penny out of it, but it will raise funds for our club. Come on guys and gals, admit it, you have a whole bunch of junk in your shack, in the basement, in the garage, buried in the backyard, stashed away in the storage locker, out in the hangar, down below in the boat, in the RV pass-through, up in the attic and as much again up at the cottage. Your club needs that junk. It will be offered for sale to other club members, members of other clubs, clubs with other members and members with clubs.

The funds raised will be used to buy stuff. Stuff that will benefit all members. For starters, we could pay for a real Zoom account and no longer have to limit our meetings and talks to a measly 40 minutes. We could buy bulk Powerpole connectors, antenna wire, coax cable and connectors for sale to members at discount prices with immediate collection or delivery. We could buy club test equipment available for loan to members who can't afford, or justify, the expense on their own. We could buy a club station available for members to operate and maybe even a trailer to put it in. Your ideas are welcome.

### This Month

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by Don VE3IDS

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### 2021/ 2022 Executive

President ..... John VA3KOT

Vice-President..... Tom VA3TVA

Treasurer.....Bobby VE3PAV

Secretary.....Rob VE3RWY

[Club Constitution](#)

[By-Laws](#)



So please, scour the shack and make a list of all the items you have that could be sold to raise funds for the club. Hang on to those items, take a picture, and post it in the "For Sale or Wants" section of the club forums. The highest bidder collects the goods and sends the money to club Treasurer Bobby VE3PAV. Be generous and let's make this initiative a great success for our club.

And, by the way, please make a point of checking the forums regularly. Or, you can subscribe to each of the forums that interest you and receive an email whenever there is a new post. You can find the forums by going to our club website and clicking on "Forums" in the menu at the bottom of the page.

Hang tight, Spring's a-coming!



# 1929 Transmitter

by Don VE3IDS

This year I have been using 160 metres more since I built a 1929 transmitter. There is a small group of builders that recreate rigs from the time period 1929. This is the time when spark gap was superseded by cleaner single frequency transmissions but before crystal control became common. These transmitters are built using period tubes which at the time were usually just receiving tubes and often audio output tubes. The audio tubes were suitable as they were the highest power tubes in a receiver. The lads of the day often liberated the tubes from the family parlor radio receiver.

The chassis of the '29 rig usually was a simple board, even an old actual breadboard, hence the term breadboarding for building a prototype. The circuits included single tubes and dual tubes and push pull dual tubes. The common feature on these radios is the lack of a crystal or vfo. The whole radio was just an oscillator that the RF was taken off by an adjustable link to supply an antenna with a transmitted signal. It is a balancing act to first get the tube to oscillate cleanly and get a decent note.

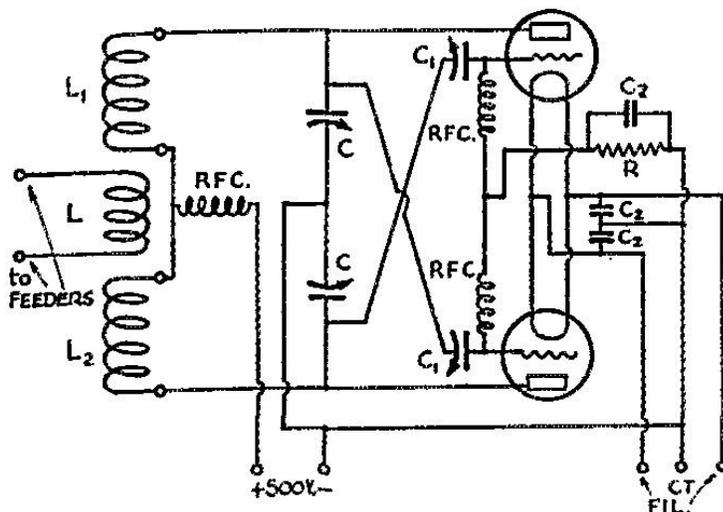
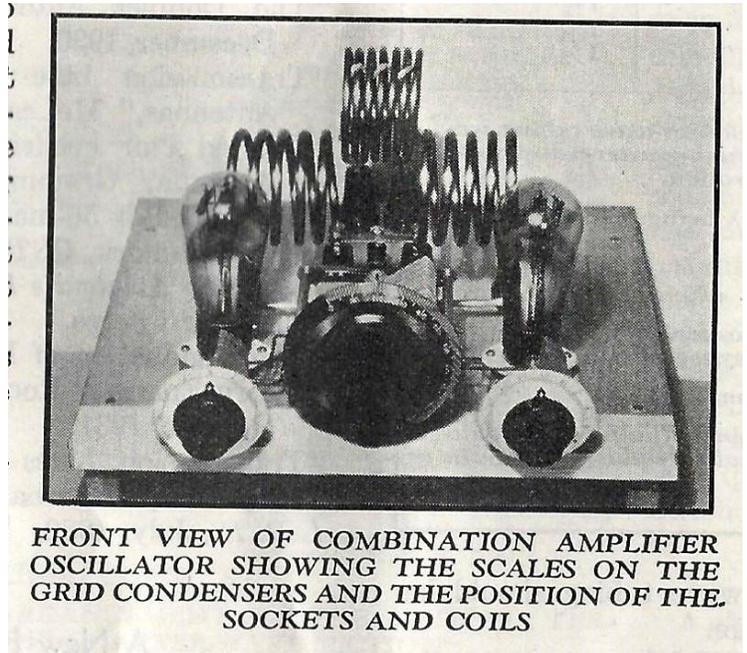


FIG. 1 — THE OSCILLATOR CIRCUIT

- C — 1000- $\mu$ fd. split stator two 500- $\mu$ fd. sections in series making 250  $\mu$ fd. as used (Cardwell 156B).
- C<sub>1</sub> — 50- $\mu$ fd. grid condensers (National SE-50).
- C<sub>2</sub> — 0.01- $\mu$ fd by-pass condensers.
- L — Antenna coupling coil; 7 turns 3/16-inch copper tubing 2 1/2 inches in diameter.
- L<sub>1</sub> and L<sub>2</sub> — Tank coils, both identical and wound in the same direction. 3.5-mc. coils each 10 turns of 3/16" copper tubing; 7-mc. coils each 5 turns of 1/4-inch tubing; 14-mc. coils each 3 turns of 1/4-inch tubing. All tank coils are 2 1/2 inches long and 2 1/2 inches in diameter.
- R — 7000-ohm grid leak, 25-watt size.

Then you have to increase the loading to the antenna without removing too much and stopping the oscillator or disturbing the note. Increasing loading alters the frequency of the oscillator as do the parameters of the antenna. A windy day makes a big difference to the oscillator transmitter as the antenna swaying will shift the frequency around as well. The tank coil is wound from copper tubing and the number of turns and diameter combined with the parallel air variable is what determines the frequency. Adjustable capacitors in the grid feedback part of the circuit are important to get the rig oscillating cleanly and start up reliably on key closure. Everything is open on a board, typically with



300 volts b+ and high voltage on the key, so safety practices are definitely required.

The antique wireless association has a groups io page that is quite active with guys discussing builds and setting up skeds and locating period parts. There are a few relaxed contests on the winter season for these rigs when most of their on air activity happens. You will recognize them by their old time sounds, chirp, warble and drift. This is what radio was like 90 years ago. It has been fun to learn and participate in this facet of the hobby and experience what it might have been like to be a ham in the early days.

Steve VE7SL has some beautiful examples of these rigs and great info about them as well.

Here is the colpitts twin #45 tube transmitter that I built. I have coils for 160, 80 and 40 meters that I can install in it.

<https://qsl.net/ve7sl/tnt.html>

<https://qsl.net/ve7sl/29gallery.html>



**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.



## Websites of Interest

Copy/Paste the urls below into your browser

### ICOM Microphone reference list

[https://www.qsl.net/icom/download/mic\\_ref.pdf](https://www.qsl.net/icom/download/mic_ref.pdf)

### Raspberry PI Pico

<https://www.raspberrypi.org/products/raspberry-pi-pico/>

### SeaTTY v2.60

<https://www.dxsoft.com/en/products/seatty/>

### Amateur Radio Repeaters - Quick Search

<https://www.repeaterbook.com/repeaters/>

### Ham Radio School

<https://hamradioschool.com/advanced-topics/>

### Ham Radio is Doomed

<https://youtu.be/ildYZ5R93YY>

### Antenna -- Feed line Matching Simplified

<http://hamuniverse.com/w4bwsmatching.html>

### Radio Garden

<http://radio.garden/live/toulouse/radiopresence>

### Kick Microsoft off your PI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7jLVgnnUW0>



I wonder what story he's dreaming up to tell the xyl

## Minutes of Meeting

### GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting January 26, 2021

#### Roll Call of Attendees:

VE3BBN Peter, VE3DGY Doug, VE3WI David, VE3BQM Bernie, VA3TS Tom, VE3MIO Maureen, VE3FP Adam, VE3JMD Jim, VE3OZW Richard, VA3DNY Dan, VA3KOT John, VE3PAV Bobbie, VA3TVA Tom, Paul Edgley, David Rosenfeld

Tom VA3TS noted that we have an up-to-date list of members posted on the web site at:

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

We have enough members for a quorum

#### Secretary's Report (VE3RWY Rob)



Rob read the “New Business” part of December’s minutes. Motion to accept by VE3BQM, second by Peter VE3BBN. Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report** (VE3PAV Bobbie) Balance \$xxx. Two expenses, mailbox (\$1xxx) and RAC insurance (\$xxx) Motion to accept by VE3FP Adam, second by VE3RWY Rob. Motion passed. John VA3KOT noted that Bobbie VE3PAV and himself were working on a budget.

**ARES Report** Frank VA3GUF was not available for the ARES report as he prepared for his technical presentation later.

**Repeaters:** Tom Va3TS said the Owen Sound repeater was working as it is expected to. The Paisley repeater has a UHF line defect. Tom did a few test and determined it is the feedline or antenna. The next trip out, he has UHF parts. We have Heliac so we just need a 20’ ladder and a clear pathway. When the weather clears, Tom will get at it. He will likely need help in Paisley but we will also need help at the Owen Sound repeater (VA3OSR) conducting audio tests. John VA3KOT said there will be a call for volunteers when we are ready. Progress can be found on our GBARC forum.

### **Special Interest Groups**

John VA3KOT mentioned our special interest groups and directed us to the poll on the forums. John has been exploring various ways of sending email through amateur radio. Winlink was one method but it does not seem to fit the need. The Linux versions for email also don’t seem to be working. PSKmail is quite robust for sending email and John and Marvin VE3VCG are working on that.

### **HF Nets**

Rob VE3RWY gave a small talk on his experience with HF nets

### **Contesting**

Adam VE3FP talked about contesting. Adam is a big CW fan and explained the sport of contesting and setting goals for himself for the number of contacts he wants to make. He prefers CW because it helps him improve his Morse code. Adam is a member of the CW Operators Club which has a requirement of 25 wpm or better.

### **New Business**

Maureen VE3MIO asked if we had IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project). We don’t at present but had it a while back. It was privately owned. We do have EchoLink in Owen Sound. Today is Maureen’s birthday and Maureen was elected last month as the Ham of the Year.

Bernie VE3BQM suggested leaving ‘lobby’ open in Zoom so John did not have to manually let members in.

Our next meeting is February 23 and we will have a guest speaker Marvin VE3VCG. Marvin will be talking about computer radio networks.

Since we were down to a few minutes left on Zoom, John VA3KOT declared the meeting closed.

Rob Walker VE3RWY Secretary



# February 2021 Online Meeting

Time: Tuesday Feb 23, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85018750938?pwd=bmlNYm5YYzJld3ZlUplS1kwbzZSQ09>

Meeting ID: 850 1875 0938

Passcode: MRH5cQ

## February 2021 Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order at 19:00ET prompt - John VA3KOT
2. Introduction of guests and new members - John VA3KOT
3. President's report - John VA3KOT
4. Treasurer's report - Bobby VE3PAV
5. Secretary's report - Rob VE3RWY
6. Motion on the floor - Frank VA3GUF: To keep and maintain the club Facebook page. Motion requires a seconder willing to update and maintain the page. If the motion fails the chair will call for a second motion to delete the page. If that motion fails the page will remain in place but will not be updated or maintained.
7. New Business - all members present
8. Meeting to be closed promptly by 19:40ET (Zoom time limit)

## Emergency Preparedness Points to Ponder

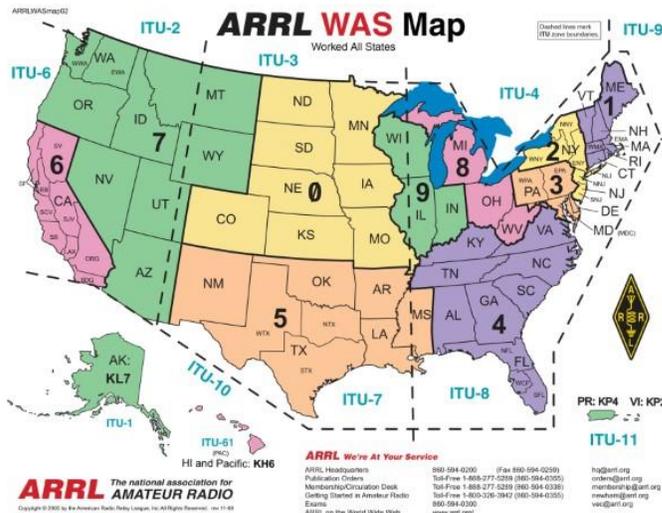
- Emergency Communications have to work every time they are called on. No exceptions.
- Emergency Communications have to be prepared in advance. No jury rigging on the spot. If you are then you need to evaluate your planning skills.
- Emergency Communications have to be versatile in that they may need to do more than you originally expected of them.
- Emergency Communications have to be plentiful. If they are so unique that you can only have 1 or 2 then that might not fill the need when you need more.
- Emergency Communications have to be relatively simple to use. Not setup or configuration to use. During an emergency you don't want to be fiddling with details.
- Emergency Communications have to be used on a regular non-emergency basis. Familiarity breeds efficiency.
- And last for this list, Emergency Communications have to fit you and your members needs.



# Current Membership

as of February 10th 2021, Sorted by lastname

- VE3MPG Bob Baillargeon, Sauble Beach
- VE3USI Tex Brown, Flesherton
- VA3KOT John Corby, Owen Sound
- VE3QVC Phillip De Kat Owen Sound
- VE3VCG Marvin Double, Paisley
- VE3LKD Bob Droine, Owen Sound
- VE3UOK Dwight Dyson Thornbury
- VA3SDY Sonja Dyson, Thornbury
- VE3PQ Paul Edgely, Georgian Bluffs
- VA3GUF Frank Gufler, Owen Sound
- VA3NBP Don Hall Lions Head
- VE3WRF Doug Hall St.Mary's
- VE3FP Adam Karasinski, Elmwood
- VA3DFL Daphne Lorch, Teeswater
- VA3STG Fred Lorch, Teeswater
- VE3IJD Gene McDonald, Honey Harbour
- VE3DGY Doug McDougall, Owen Sound
- VE3NX Jim McLaren, Sauble Beach
- VA3DNY Dan Mills, Owen Sound
- VE3BQM Bernie Monderie, Owen Sound
- VE3WI David Newcombe, Port Elgin
- VE3MIO Maureen Nightingale, Wiarton
- VA3SDA Seann O'Donoughue, Owen Sound
- VE3OZW Richard Osborne, Walkerton
- VE3PAV Bobby Pavlovic Lions Head
- VE3JMD Jim Reeves, Port Elgin
- VE3BBN Peter Richards, Port Elgin
- VE3BAK David Rosenfeld, Owen Sound
- VE3ZDZ Don Ross Clarksburg  
Doug Ryan, Wiarton
- VA3TS Tom St.Amand, Shallow Lake
- VA3TVA Tom Van Aalst, Owen Sound
- VE3RWY Rob Walker, Owen Sound
- VE3APY Carl Wall, Durham
- VA3ILT Mary Watson, Flesherton



Click the image for a larger view

## Letters to the Editor

Nothing this month



## For Sales / Wants

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Tom VA3TS (519-371-9805) in Shallow Lake, OnFor Sale: Estate of VA3DST, VX-150 2 meter handy, wall and vehicle charger,a new FBA-25a AA battery case. No manual. Buttons show some signs of wear, works ok.Call or email for more detailsPrice: \$25, this just covers the cost of the new battery holder, the rig is basically free. [http://www.rigpix.com/yaesu/vx150\\_manual.pdf](http://www.rigpix.com/yaesu/vx150_manual.pdf)

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## 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.



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

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

**Check us out on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/GBARClub>

*The next newsletter will be in March 2021.*

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**Our National Voice**

<https://www.rac.ca/>

