



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



January 2021

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President's Message

John VA3KOT

What a great time to be involved in ham radio! We are surrounded by bad news every day that never seems to end. But, turn on a radio and you enter a different world. A world full of friends, a world where you can meet new and interesting people.

If chatting with local friends is your thing, simply hit that push-to-talk button on your handie-talkie or your shack rig and throw out your callsign on one of the club's repeaters. Enjoy a good rag chew while melting the winter ice off the repeater antennas.

Have you tried calling on "52"? That's 146.52 MHz. A lot of hams routinely monitor "52"; it's a good way to meet new friends.

If you enjoy HF, as many of us do, there is a lot more activity going on there than usual. The Parks On The Air (POTA) program is becoming very popular. Hams take their portable rigs out to national, provincial and state parks to "activate" the park, as I did back in the summer and fall. In winter I am a "hunter" seeking out activators and scoring points for contacting them.

And then there is DX hunting. I came across a special event station in Bulgaria on 80m this week. Bulgarians are celebrating the 1340th anniversary of the first Bulgarian Empire – believe it or not.

This Month

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2021/ 2022 Executive

President John VA3KOT

Vice-President..... Tom VA3TVA

Treasurer..... Bobby VE3PAV

Secretary..... Rob VE3RWY

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So we begin a new GBARC year on an up note. The solar cycle is slowly (very slowly) emerging from the lowest point of its 11-year cycle. From here on propagation will improve and more contacts will be made. At the same time, due to what is going on in the world, more hams are on the bands than I have heard in a long time.

I have met and spoken to quite a few club members recently and I am hearing a lot of enthusiasm for our hobby. New ideas are springing out and people seem to be eager to put them into action. You are going to hear about an exciting new radio initiative for community support. You will also hear how GBARC hams are going to send email – without using the Internet.

Keep your headphones on and your finger on your key because it truly is a great time to be in ham radio. As always, may the Morse be with you.

Amateur of the Year **Maureen VE3MIO**

This ham of the year can regularly be found at GBARC club meeting and breakfasts. Actively contributes good ideas to the executive during these events. Has participated on a very regular basis at the weekly GBARC nets. Can be found on ONTARS on a regular basis. Often times is the GBARC or ONTARS net operator and is very good at it. Has picked up on the digital radio presentations from the club meetings and is using some of these items for digital comm's. Can be found using digital to participate in other amateur radio club nets. I can honestly say that this ham of the year is very sociable and promotes the virtues of Ham Radio.

The GBARC 2020 amateur radio Ham of the Year is: VE3-MIO - MAUREEN NIGHTINGALE

By VA3GUF

Trophy presentation to follow



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.



A SHORT POW WOW CLUB STORY Paul VE6FEX

Back in the early eighties I worked a lot of DX on 80 meters but one night I called CQ on 75 meter SSB. Well, some VE5 6s and 7s came back to me with good signals. Then it occurred to me that maybe there are some eastern provinces that could join in on the QSO. The response was overwhelming.

So each night I made the invited stations from across the country to join in the discussions.

VE1CHA helped with his organizational skills to bring everything together. We didn't have a name for the group until VE6PW came on using the phonetics POW WOW which VE2RP said 'that's it!' We all agreed.

Many nights saw all ten provinces showing up on frequency. Often the band opened up nicely to Europe and other continents and we made more new friends. G3ZTK was an avid fan and he came to Canada and met many of the PWC hams. VE7ZG VE7TX VE7CX VE6QK VE3NKW VE3MTM VE3GAN VE2RP VE2CV VE1CHA V01AG were some of the early members.

I've been fortunate to have travelled from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland

and met so many of the folks who I met via amateur radio and the PWC. Many of them visited me in Niagara as well. I was pleased to have G3ZTK come to the PWC BBQ one year...Len "took tea" with Marconi once!

Over the years the PWC has had a number of hams keeping things going, and although I'm no longer involved, I am pleased to know that it's still running, thanks to control stations Les VE3LTX, Larry VE5LBD and Bob VE3RVA.



[Paul VE6FEX](#) formerly VE3FEX



This is the original Pow Wow Club certificate that I hand made and sent.

[Trans Canada POW WOW Club](#)

Paul VE6FEX

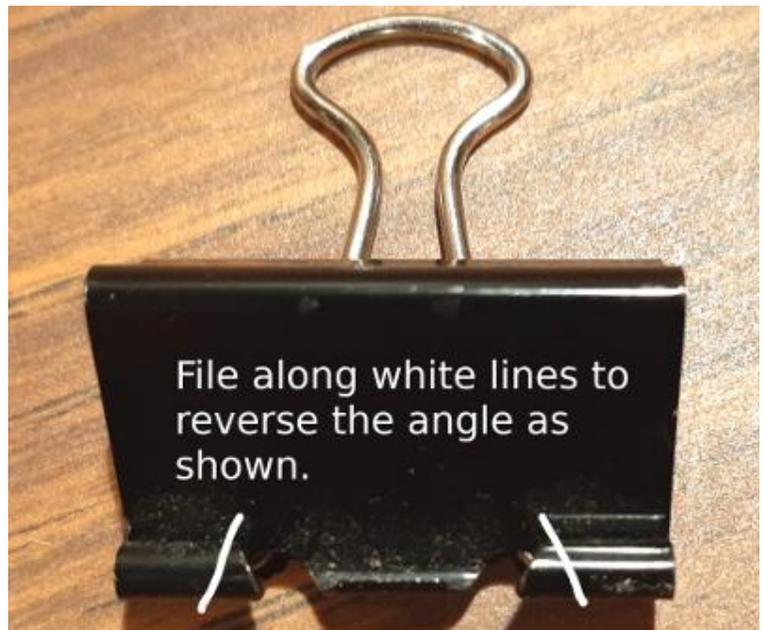


Redesigning The Bulldog Clip Paddle

John Corby, VA3KOT

Adam, VE3FP, presented his Bulldog clip paddle at a club meeting about a year ago, then I discovered him using it during one of his portable outings. Adam is a CWOps member (which is a fairly prestigious qualification among CW operators) so we have to take this simple paddle seriously.

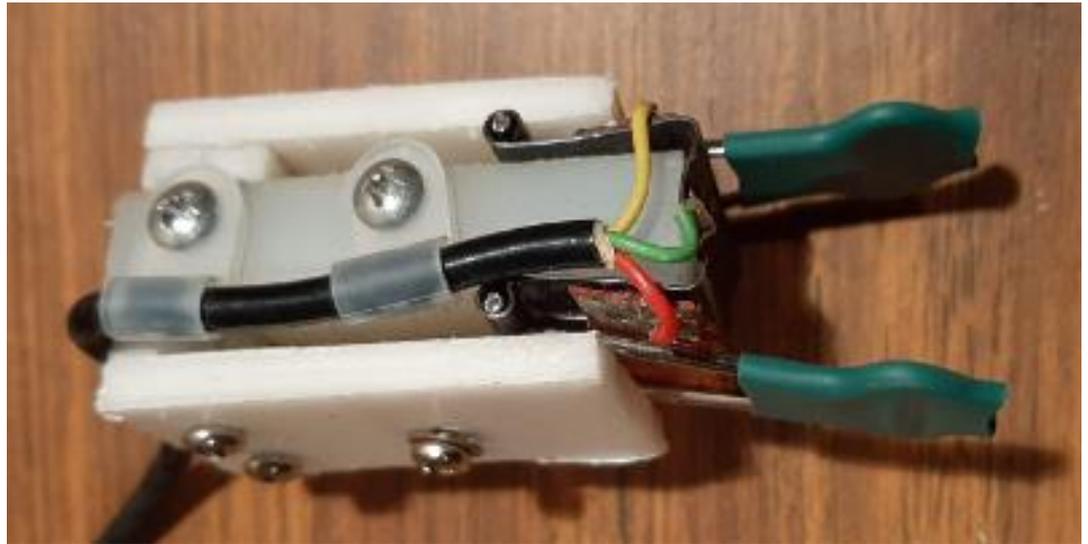
I had already built one myself but wasn't using it regularly because I felt it wasn't rugged enough for throwing in a backpack for my trail hiking style of portable ops. I have been rebuilding my backpack radio kit recently and found I needed 2 paddles. One paddle (a 3D printed design) is permanently mounted to a custom cut sheet of plastic kitchen cutting board along with the radio and tuner. When I am camping I pull the whole kit out of the backpack and operate from a picnic table.



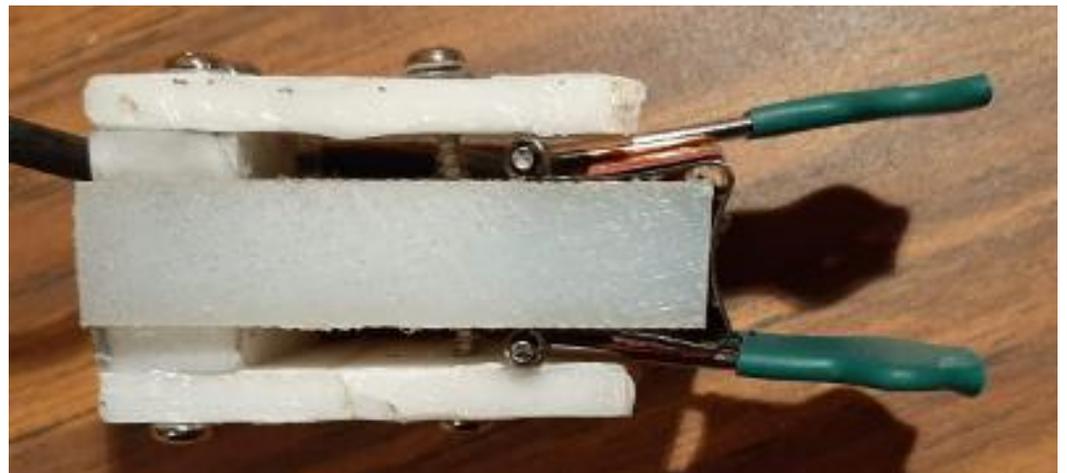
The second paddle is needed when I am operating pedestrian mobile. I haven't actually tried operating CW while hiking down a trail yet but I am told it is a lot of fun. A telescopic whip antenna is mounted on the backpack, the radio head unit on my chest and the paddle in my hand. The paddle needs to be rock solid reliable!



The chrome handles of a bulldog clip are forced up towards the thick end of the clip by a bevel. To make them work as paddles it is necessary to file the clip so that the bevel is reversed, forcing the handles to go towards the thin, opening end of the clip. A conducting strip, such as a thin piece of copper clad circuit board is bonded to each side of the clip at the thick end. The whole clip becomes the centre conductor and the two conducting strips form the "dit" and the "dah" pads. Pressing the chrome handles against the pads completes the circuit for CW operation.



In the original design I obtained online, a bent paperclip is employed to hold the chrome paddles in place. That was the design flaw I needed to eliminate. That bent paperclip works fine for stationary operating but would never survive the rigours of pedestrian mobile.



The design change I developed can be seen in the accompanying pictures. It replaces the bent paperclip with plastic "cheeks" made from kitchen cutting boards. The new, redesigned Bulldog clip paddle key is rugged enough that any keying errors will be human not mechanical.

So next summer, if you are monitoring the bottom end of 20 or 40 metres and you hear incoherent, garbled Morse Code, that will be me struggling through the bush with a heavy pack on my back trying to operate my paddle while simultaneously swatting at mosquitoes and tripping over tree roots. Yep, it's gonna be fun!



Winter Field day 2021 Jan 30th 2021 starting 1900 UTC (2:00 pm EST)



RAC Advanced Course for RAC Maple Leaf Operators: Winter/Spring 2021

Registration is now underway for the RAC Advanced Course Winter/Spring 2021
[https://www.rac.ca/rac-online-advanced-c...nter-2021/](https://www.rac.ca/rac-online-advanced-course-winter-2021/)

[*READ More*](#)

The RAC Advanced Qualification Amateur Radio course is being offered at no charge to RAC Maple Leaf Operator Members – both current and future as described below.

Websites of Interest

Copy/Paste the urls below into your browser

VE2DX Electronics

<https://ve2dx.com/>

VA2SFQ Control software

<http://www.ontars.com/Special%20Events/VA2SFQ/index.htm>

QRPGuys – Unique ham radio kits

<https://qrpguys.com/>

The Flying Pigs QRP Club

<http://www.fpqrp.org/>

Another way to stack VHF/UHF yagis

<https://www.robkalmeijer.nl/techniek/electronica/radiotechniek/hambladen/qst/1996/02/page32/index.html>

TNC-Pi9k6

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/775608115/tnc-pi9k6-raspberry-pi-hat-wteensy-32>



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



Minutes of Meeting

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

GBARC Dec Meeting, conducted via Zoom, 2020 December 19 at 1330

Roll call of Attendee's

Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV, Frank Gufler VA3GUF, Peter Richards VE3BBN, Adam Karasinski VE3FP, David Rosenfeld VE3BAK, Jim Reeves VE3JMD, John Corby VA3KOT, Rob Walker VE3RWY, Tom St Amand VA3TS, Doug Ryan

We have Executive Quorum and membership Quorum.

Accept last meeting minutes? First Jim VE3JMD, Second Tom VA3TS

Treasurers report; We have approximately \$xxxx in bank account. Upcoming expenses will be about

insurance \$ xxx,

post office box \$ xxx,

HAM of the Year award \$ xx

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer reports on getting member payments? Etransfer too expensive. Frank volunteered to enable the transfer via his membership. Individuals will be able to eTransfer money to him and he will deposit to our account with appropriate notifications; he will post details on the Forum part of the GBARC website. Follow the instructions posted on the GBARC forum.

Winter field day; Sat Jan 30/Sun Jan 31 - This year, for COVID reasons, it will be an individual contest but our members can bundle results in on entry – for details see the GBARC website Forum.

Ham of the year award announcement: This ham of the year can regularly be found at GBARC club meeting and breakfasts. Actively contributes good ideas to the executive during these events. Has participated on a very regular basis at the weekly GBARC nets. Can be found on ONTARS on a regular basis. Often times is the GBARC or ONTARS net operator and is very good at it. Has picked up on the digital radio presentations from the club meetings and is using some of these items for digital comm's. Can be found using digital to participate in other amateur radio club nets. I can honestly say that this ham of the year is very sociable and promotes the virtues of Ham Radio.

The GBARC 2020 amateur radio Ham of the Year is: VE3-MIO - MAUREEN NIGHTINGALE

Congratulations Maureen. We will be arranging some time in January a socially distance presentation of the award with photo's. Obviously we will be following the pandemic guidelines.



NEW BUSINESS

With members familiar now with ZOOM, next meeting will be in two parts, the regular meeting and a technical presentation. Have something technical you want to share or inform your fellow hams about, here's your chance. First presentation, after the January Meeting, will be by Frank Gufler on his observations of a 4-bay antenna.

Transfer of Presidency, VP & Secretary to New executive, effective start Jan01/2021

From President Elect John Corby.

Club documents review; The new exec will be reviewing and, if necessary, proposing updates to essential club documents such as the constitution and bylaws and ensuring all essential documents, including the Articles of Incorporation, are secure. These were last reviewed four years ago. Input from club members will be requested. As a registered non profit organization, the Articles of Incorporation is an important document. Where is original? All originals will be held by the Secretary. Contributions to review and suggest changes will be welcomed.

The new exec will be compiling a comprehensive and detailed budget to facilitate financial planning. Input from club members will be requested.

John could not establish if/how member to one-to-one member conversations could be available on a Zoom meeting.

Frank forwarded a thank you to GBARC members from Grey County for our readiness to participate in ARES. We are an integral part of the Grey County Emergency plan and what we do as amateur radio operators with our commitment and support of emergency radio communications is much appreciated even though we did not have any emergencies or practice events this year.

Close the meeting; First Peter VE3BBN, Second Tom VA3TS

Meeting adjourned at 1356.
Season well wishes to all members

How to prepare for a Zoom meeting



January 2021 Meeting

The January GBARC general club meeting will be held on Zoom at 7:00pm on Tuesday 26th January. Please join us.

Join GBARC Zoom **General Meeting**: Host John VA3KOT

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85328008586?pwd=S3h6dU95MEN2czhpZmREckVUa3Z4UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 2800 8586 Passcode: EnjM0W

The Presentation is a separate meeting because of the 40 minute time limit on zoom.

Join GBARC Zoom **Technical Presentation**: Host Frank VA3GUF approx. 7:45pm

The workings of a 4 bay dipole antenna.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76082343726?pwd=VXc1Z1F0Zm8zQzFIMW1ORGJVNZ4UT09>

Meeting ID: 760 8234 3726 Passcode: M6eWeF

January 2021 Meeting Agenda

19:00 ET January 26 2021 Meeting start

Welcome guests and new members – John VA3KOT

Introductions – John VA3KOT will call on attendees in turn to give their name, callsign and QTH

President's report - remarks and quorum - John VA3KOT

Secretary's report – approval of minutes of previous meeting – Rob VE3RWY

Treasurer's report – Bobby VE3PAV – approval – John VA3KOT

ARES report – Frank VA3GUF

Repeater Status report – Tom VA3TS/Richard VE3OZW

HF report – Rob VE3RWY

Digital Modes report – Marvin VE3VCG

Contesting/CW report – Adam VE3FP

New business - all members

Announcement of next meeting – John VA3KOT

Next meeting speaker topic intro – Marvin VE3VCG

Business meeting closed 19:40 ET

Guest speaker – Frank VA3GUF

Adjournment



Audio Isolation Transformers Tom VA3TS

Sooner or later, everyone tries to connect their radio to some sort of external interface to handle things like digital modes or interfacing transceivers. The instructions and diagrams that come with them are usually good at wiring details and how to get things working.

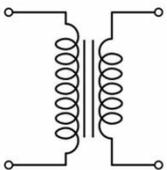
But sometimes, problems arise, other than basic wiring errors the next thing can be hum or noise on the audio signal. Not to say this happens every time, it doesn't but when it does, here's a solution.

Usually the hum is either a power supply problem or a ground loop.

A ground loop occurs when two points of a circuit are intended to have the same ground reference potential but instead have a different potential between them. Long story short, whenever there is a difference of potential, a current will flow depending on the resistance. When these wires are part of the audio circuit is when the problems arise. Many mobile transceivers will complain and sometimes let the smoke out if you ground the audio output.

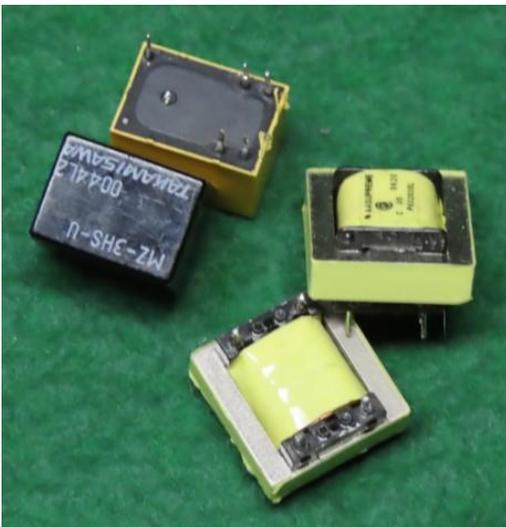


So when connecting 2 radio's or your radio to an accessory, think about the audio portion and if isolation is needed. This article is a easy source of audio isolation transformers that work great for this. Our repeaters have these devices between the link transceiver and the repeater controller.



Usually these are 600ohm and 1:1 ratio and are depicted on schematics with this symbol. They are found on most if not all, computer modem boards. Geeks will have a box of these because nothing can be thrown out.

In this picture, the red arrow is showing the transformer. It wasn't too hard to get it off the board, a good soldering iron and a [Soldapult](#) is needed, but any ham should already have one, I find these better than solder wick, but that's my preference. Once you have them off the board, there is only 4 connections, I have used a piece of vero board to mount them and attach wires. Lots of different ways to connect them into your own particular needs. An ohmmeter will easily sort out each winding.



This picture shows them off the card, the modem boards also have 3vdc SPDT relay so I grabbed that as well. Lots of good parts on these boards, surface mount components, electrolytic capacitors, transient suppressors and even a little buzzer.



Letters to the Editor

If you're thinking of participating in Winter Field Day (Jan 30-31) and don't want to pay for a logging program, I've developed a free online logger specifically for Winter Field Day. It works on any device or computer, all you need is an internet connection and a web browser. Designed for the casual contester who is looking to have some fun on the bands. For more information go to <https://qrqsp.org/>

Thanks, 73 VA3NED Andrew Rivett <https://qrqsp.org/va3ned>

For Sales / Wants

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Rob VE3RWY [519-373-7077] in Owen Sound ON

For Sale: ZeroFive-Antennas 43GP

Multiband Groundplane 10-80 Meter Freestanding Vertical Antenna. Like new condition, only used for two months. Sells at GPS Central right now for \$984.99. eHam rating 4.9 stars. Owen Sound, ON. \$700

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Tom VA3TS (519-371-9805) in Shallow Lake, On

For 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 details

Price: \$25, this just covers the cost of the new battery holder, the rig is basically free.

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 3rd 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>

The next newsletter will be in February 2021.



MURPHY'S LAW	If something can go wrong, it will.
TIORNER'S FIVE THUMB POSTULATE	Experience varies directly with equipment ruined.
CAHN'S AXIOM	When all else fails, read the instructions.
GUMPERSONS LAW	The probability of a given event occurring is inversely proportional to it's desirability.
THE ORDERING PRINCIPLE	Those necessary supplies for yesterday's experiment must be ordered no later than tomorrow noon.
The TRANSCRIPTION SQUARE LAW	The numbers errors made is equal to the sum of the "squares" employed.
CHISHOLM'S LAW OF HUMAN INTERACTION	Anytime that things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something.
RIDDLE'S CONSTANT	There are coexisting elements in frustration phenomena which separate expected results from achieved results.
RULE OF ACCURACY	When working toward the solution of a problem, it always helps to know the answer. Provided, of course, that you know there is a problem.

The foregoing was stolen from the pages of HIGH Q , official organ of the LAKEHEAD A.R.C. Thanks are due to Bill, VE3EEW, whose permission to reprint would probably have been given if he had been asked.



L-R Dave VE3WI, Dieter VA3DST, Carl VE3APY, Greg VE3RQY, Carson VA3OSO, Bobby VE3PAV, Doug VE3WRF, Tom VA3TS

Fox Hunt 27th July 2015

