



Feedback

The Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

Special Festive Season Edition

I am fairly sure everybody has better things to do during the Christmas period than read boring old ham radio newsletters. So the December edition of FEEDBACK is a much abbreviated newsletter with messages from your outgoing President (oh, that's me – blush) and our incoming President Marvin.

May you have a joyous festive season with your loved ones and, if you celebrate some other holiday at this time of year, best wishes for your celebrations too. May the bearded man in the red suit who defies the laws of physics and breaks into your home during the night on December 24th bless you with many boxes from your favourite ham radio store!



And please, take a couple of minutes to read the following messages. You'll be glad that you did!

Retiring President's Message for DEC 2022

Have you heard about the Artificial Intelligence software called ChatGPT? It is very controversial because it is so useful – to people with good as well as bad intentions! Of course I am one of the good guys (are you listening Santa?). I decided to give it a try so that I can better understand it. Here is what I asked it:

Me: *I am the retiring president of a ham radio club. Write a farewell message for me.*

ChatGPT (remember, this is a machine!) responded:
Dear members of the ham radio club,

As I step down from my role as president of this wonderful organization, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude and admiration for all of

you. Over the years, I have been fortunate to work with a dedicated group of individuals who are passionate about the hobby of ham radio.

I have seen the club grow and thrive under our collective efforts, and I have no doubt that it will continue to do so in the future. I am proud of all that we have accomplished together, and I am grateful for the friendships and memories that I have made along the way.

As I move on to the next chapter of my life, I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work, dedication, and support. It has been a privilege to serve as your president, and I will always look back on my time with the club with fondness.

I wish you all the best in the coming years, and I hope to stay in touch and continue to be a part of this wonderful community.

Sincerely, [Your Name]

Can you see the potential here? Students could use ChatGPT to do all their class assignments. Politicians (and fraudsters - oh, but I repeat myself) could use ChatGPT to write their speeches. "Experts" could use ChatGPT to write scientific papers without any personal knowledge of the topic. I wonder if I could use ChatGPT to write the entire club newsletter?

Anyway, my 2-year term as GBARC President is at an end so it is time for me to hand over the awesome responsibility of office to our incoming President whose term begins on New Years Day. (P.S. I wrote this sentence all by myself. 73 all)

John Corby VA3KOT
2021/22 GBARC President

And now a message from our new President, Marvin VE3VCG

As the New Year approaches I'm preparing to take over as the new president of GBARC. As I learn the ropes I hope you'll help me along the way to make this transition as smooth as possible.

My first message to the club is to offer thanks on behalf of everyone to our previous club president John Corby VA3KOT. Those who have volunteered as president in the past will better appreciate the effort required to keep the club operating. Many thanks again John and I look forward to working with you as vice president in the two years ahead.

Every club president will have their own ideas and operating style. Mine is to recognize that GBARC is a well established club filled with members that both technical expertise and often years of operating experience. This membership provides a solid foundation on which to build the future of the club.

As a relatively new HAM I'm still learning. I come into the hobby as it is undergoing some interesting changes. These include the growing interest in some new digital modes such as FT8 and JS8Call, and renewed interest in older digital modes like PSK. Likewise, VARA, the new software modem for Winlink has made it more functional, more reliable and almost as fast as old expensive hardware modems.

Another ongoing change in Amateur Radio is the somewhat controversial replacement of ARES with ACS (Auxiliary Communication Service). I am currently the unofficial ACS Emergency Coordinator for Bruce County, having taken over this position from Tim Eaton VE3RTE, the former ARES EC in 2021.

I've noted that I am the unofficial EC from ACS in Bruce County because the status of the new ACS organisation has been unclear. Scheduled roll outs of ACS have been pushed back several times, and are now rescheduled to roll out officially as of Jan 1, 2023. I am assuming that to become the official ACS EC for Bruce county I will be required to complete the ACS training program.

I understand that there is low interest in formally organized emergency communications in GBARC. We are fortunate enough to live in a part of the world where the need for emergency communications is rare. However, there are good reasons why all amateurs should acquire and practice the skills needed for emergency communications.

I have been working to develop a simple and informal local emergency communications plan for GBARC. I will introduce this plan to GBARC at some point in the new year. This EmComm plan will allow any operator to get on the air and participate in any local community network across Grey and Bruce Counties. The objective of such a plan is to avoid chaos during an actual emergency event. The purpose of this plan is not to directly support served agencies but rather to communicate with each other.

The objective is not to have a perfect plan, but just to have a plan. Participant input will allow us to perfect the plan going forward.

With that I wish you each a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful start 2023.

