



Feedback

The President's newsletter to members of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GBARC is a registered Ontario corporation and is required by law to hold an Annual General Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is primarily to elect the officers of the corporation. Since this is an election year - and while we are still able to meet in person - our club election will be held at the September meeting with the results announced before the end of the meeting.

Date: Tuesday 27th September 2022 at 7:00pm

QTH: Harrison Park, Owen Sound (meet at the bandshell)

M'Wikwedong meeting place.

1045 3rd. Ave West. Owen Sound (former Dufferin school).

Parking in north and south lots.

Election of Officers

President: Nominations invited

Secretary: Rob VE3RWY has agreed to stand again. Rob has been prevented from fulfilling his office for medical reasons during 2021/22. A confirmatory vote will be required to waive GBARC's constitutional ban on sequential terms of office.

Treasurer: Doug VE3DGY has agreed to continue in office for another term as the Treasurer is allowed to do by the constitution.

Nominations for the office of President for the 2023/24 term should be sent by email to executive@gbarc.ca. The executive will validate the nominations and, in the event of a contest, will prepare ballots to be distributed at the AGM.

NB:

*We are required by law, as a registered corporation, to have a President who may also serve as Secretary and/or Treasurer. The laws of Ontario override any consideration in our constitution or club by-laws. In the event that no nominations for the office of President are received and validated, the office will be offered first to the Secretary and then to the Treasurer. If neither accept the office of President then GBARC will have a constitutional crisis that may ultimately result in the dissolution of the corporation. Let us hope it will not come to that.*barc

IT IS CRITICAL THAT OUR AGM IS QUORATE - AT LEAST 3 EXECUTIVES AND AT LEAST 3 ORDINARY MEMBERS MUST BE PRESENT TO TRANSACT ANY BUSINESS.



President's Message for September 2022

On Saturday 29th October the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club will have been in existence for 50 years. "Oh frabjous day, callooh callay" (*from my favourite poem Jabberwocky, by Lewis Carroll*). But, before we hang out the bunting and plan unbridled celebration parties, perhaps we should take a sobering look at the club as it is now compared with what it has been in the past.

I have taken some time for reflection over the summer. It has been a very difficult time for us all due to the events of 2020, 2021 and even the early part of this year. Our ability to gather in person for meetings, community events and other activities normally associated with a vibrant, active amateur radio club have been significantly curtailed.

It might have been expected then that a pent-up desire to get back to normal would have been seen when government restrictions were suspended this spring. Sadly that did not materialize as was most abundantly evident at our Field Day 2022.

During the summer I have solicited the thoughts of some GBARC members whose opinions I respect. A common theme has surfaced that the club has fallen into a rut. I have also tested the waters by holding out token opportunities for others to grab hold of small responsibilities that could trigger renewed activity - without success.

Yes, we can blame the catastrophic events of the last two years but is that the whole story? I think I am probably living in the past. My own passion for the hobby equates more closely with the way the club used to operate. "In the old days", hams were experimenters; they built their own equipment; they understood circuit theory and had

to prove it to get a licence. Read some of the old newsletters on the club website and you will see what I mean.

Today, it is much easier to become a ham. Has that improved the hobby? Can our hobby's future be assured by lowering entry requirements to boost our numbers? Or will it swell our ranks with "appliance operators" with no particular interest in the technology itself?

In order for a club to thrive there must be a critical mass of enthusiastic active members. I don't just mean people who turn on a radio at least once a week. "Active" means ready and willing to keenly get involved with club activities. As we approach our 50th anniversary, that critical mass is sadly absent.

There is an endemic attitude I have also witnessed elsewhere, that it is the job of the executive to do all the work. Whereas "I'll maybe come out - if I'm not doing anything" seems to describe a common feeling among some others. "Oh, I'm too busy already" – "great; if you want to get something done ask a busy person". GBARC's executive is just four busy members; they may well be the keenest of the bunch, the natural leaders, but four members does not constitute a critical mass.

So, as we go forward towards our 50th anniversary let's try to turn this around. I have seen the suggestions in the net reports for activities members would like the club to do. There are some very good ideas there. Now, who wants to take the initiative and get the ball rolling on those ideas? No pressure, but the future of our great club may depend on it!

And now the good news ...

Here are some activity suggestions from net participants; all **YOU** have to do is pick **ONE**, recruit a committee (if required) and start working on it. Our club has built up a healthy bank balance so if you need a budget just let me know (president@gbarc.ca):

- A group field trip to the Hammond radio museum in Guelph
- A "show and tell" at every club meeting
- A TechTalk at every club meeting
- A GBARC sponsored hamfest
- Monthly emergency preparations exercises
- A club news section during every net
- Recruit candidates and run a Basic course

DON'T WAIT FOR SOMEBODY ELSE TO DO IT!

Remember the GBARC Special Interest Groups (SIGs)?

Here is a link to my forum post on 18th December 2020:

<https://www.gbarc.ca/ForumBB/showthread.php?tid=298>

We haven't heard a squeak from any of the SIGs (except perhaps the repeater group) but quite a few club members showed interest in the activities. Please click the link and take another look at the forum post and get involved!

An active club begins with **YOU!**

Remember the TechTalks?

Here is a link to my forum post on 6th February 2021:

<https://www.gbarc.ca/ForumBB/showthread.php?tid=349>

The TechTalk program stalled due to a lack of speakers. I arranged an external speaker - the much sought after prominent ham personality Tim Duffy K3LR, the CEO of DX Engineering. Even this presentation was not particularly well attended and generated very few questions.

Whoever suggested a TechTalk at every meeting should get personally involved either by presenting a topic at a future meeting or by encouraging others to do so.

NB: I would like to thank Adam VE3FP who has volunteered to give us a talk on contesting in the fall.

I will be personally contacting club members in the near future asking for contributions to the TechTalk program. Check your inbox!

John Corby VA3KOT
2021/22 GBARC President





Minutes of the June General Club Meeting
Held 26 JUN 2022 at 19:00 local time
Location: Harrison Park

Rob Walker VE3RWY, Secretary

Attendance: Philip VE3QVC, Dan VA3DNY, Nick VE3MWY VA3HV, Bernie VE3BQM, Doug VE3DGY, Bobby VE3PAV, John VA3KOT, Marvin VE3VCG, Janet VA3EAC, Rob VE3RWY, Tom VA3TS

We have a quorum

Presidents Report (John VA3KOT):

We have some decisions to make. Motion made and passed to remove the \$5.00 discount for paying membership dues early. Renewal is \$30 for existing members and \$45 for new members.

The renewal of the Zoom conferencing license was brought up. The license is \$200 and will we be meeting in person this fall or will we resort to Zoom online meetings. The general consensus is we plan to meet in person this fall and if the need arises, we can always take out another Zoom license.

Greg suggested some meeting venues for the fall including the old post office, the old Dufferin School and the United Way building.

Secretary's Report (Rob VE3RWY):

Motion made to accept and carried.

Treasurer's Report (Doug VE3DGY):

Current balance \$3452, \$237 to rent toilet for Field Day, \$650 income from equipment sale and \$30 from new member Norm.

Motion made to accept and carried.

Old Business:

Marvin updated us on the proposal presented to the Marine Heritage Foundation about participating in the Lighthouse and Light Ships at Chantry Island August 20 and 21st.

The foundation is looking for a \$200 donation from GBARC in order to participate in the Lighthouse and Light Ships at Chantry Island and have field operation. We also need a minimum of 10 people to sign up for the ferry ride and tour. If we can't meet the quota within GBARC it was suggested maybe we could invite another club.

New Business:

The Bruce Peninsula Multisport Race runs 6th August and they will be looking for volunteers from GBARC. Marvin will send out a mailing.

Next club meeting (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)

27 SEP 2022 at 19:00 local time

Location: Harrison Park, Owen Sound





GBARC Nets

Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club meets on-the-air each Wednesday evening at 19:30 EST/EDT, except during the summer break in July and August. Check-ins from all licensed amateurs are welcome.

- Linked repeater VE3OSR (146.94 – CTCSS 97.4) in Owen Sound, Ontario
- Linked repeater VE3GBT (146.73 – CTCSS 97.4) in Paisley, Ontario
- Echolink node #333014
- Immediately after the VHF portion of the net we move to HF on 3783KHz +/-

GBARC nets are directed nets with a Net Control Station. Net Controllers are experienced hams who are skilled in coordinating on-air discussion and guiding newer hams in procedures that may be called upon during an emergency, or in support of a community event.

NET REPORTS are available at:

<https://www.gbarc.ca/ForumBB/forumdisplay.php?fid=15>

NCS Schedule (auto-schedule): <https://www.gbarc.ca/meet.php>



ARES/ACS Reports

Grey County Emergency Coordinator: Frank Gufler VA3GUF

Bruce County Emergency Coordinator: Marvin Double VE3VCG

More information available at: https://www.gbarc.ca/acs_ares.php

Bruce Peninsula Multisport Race

Marvin Double VE3VCG EC Bruce County

On Saturday August 6th Janet, VA3EAC, Marvin VE3VCG, Tim VE3RTE and Eric VA3FYB provided amateur radio support for the Bruce Peninsula Multi-Sport Race in and around Wiarton, Ontario. Tim VE3RTE is the veteran of this event and served as our net control station.

This was the second year supporting the event for Janet, Marvin and Eric.

GBARC volunteers: 3

The race is promoted as being a 100 Kilometer event and includes paddling, biking and running. The paddling portion of the course is the first event. This stage of the race takes place on Colpoys Bay.

The race is in fact three different events. There is a long course, a short course and a duathlon. Each of these different races involve paddling, biking and running. The duathlon is running only. Only the long course is 100 Kilometers. The short course, as the name suggests is shorter and the duathlon is shorter still.

Armed with an advance map of the rough course I had driven the route in the week prior to the event. Based on that test I confirmed that it was possible to cover the event using the club repeater, VE3OSR, in Owen Sound. Because the BPMR course was laid out south and west of Wiarton the Lionshead repeater, which has been used in the past, was not accessible from certain locations on the course.

Tim Eaton VE3RTE set up the net control station using a vertical dual band VHF/UHF antenna with aerial radials on a 30 foot sectional aluminum mast. This was attached to a large open utility trailer. As with past years Tim ran a dual band VHF/UHF mobile Kenwood with a dual watch feature.

Marvin VE3VCG used a newly created 2-meter go-box to create an independent remote station which is not vehicle mounted. This station was powered entirely by a 20Ah battery with solar recharging from a 100 watt folding solar panel and cheap charge controller. This battery/solar combination powered a 25 watt QYT dual band VHF/UHF QYT radio.

The antenna used was a VHF 2 meter DIY Moxon mounted on top of a 30 foot sectional fiberglass mast. The mast was supported by mounts on an aluminum utility trailer. Detaching the trailer from the truck would have allowed the truck with its mobile VHF/UHF radio to move to other locations or operate as a rover if needed.

Eric VA3FYB operated at the location of Bruce's Caves parking lot using a vehicle mounted dual band VHF/UHF radio and mag mount antenna.

Janet VA3EAC and I worked together at one of the busiest locations on the course at the corner of Coles Road and Concession 24. This location is roughly 25Km South and West of the net-control station at Bluewater Park. This location is a crossover point in a part of the course where riders transitioned from riding to running and then back to riding. Racers passed through our location 3 times during this part of the event, twice on bikes and once running. We were also an important water station where racers stopped to drink or refill water bottles or personal hydration systems.

Race day was sweltering hot and by mid-afternoon our station saw a lot of rehydration activity. Amateur radio proved its value as, working with 2 different teams of race marshals, we were able to provide near-real-time updates on each racer as they passed.

We were very gratified by the number of racers who thanked us for being there. All together it was another successful public service event.

Once the event finished we packed up the station and returned to event HQ. After returning signage from the course and water containers we had burgers and fries at Dockside Willies, compliments of the organizers and sponsors. We were able to watch as many competitors that had passed our location hours before ran across the finish line. It was a nice end to a nice but long and busy day.

I close my summary with an important observation. We've used VE3OSR very successfully to cover this event for the two years I've been involved. However I feel that covering any public service event using a public repeater, especially one with an Echolink node such as VE3OSR poses possible problems for interference from other users.

It's my opinion that what is needed at any public service event is an exclusive non-public repeater such as our mobile club repeater. Working out the details for bringing the club repeater to an event should be a part of ongoing advanced planning. There might be the need for a subcommittee that

will be responsible for such event planning. This would include responsibility for the transport and setup of the club repeater at an event.



No Antenna? No Problem!

John Corby VA3KOT

You would think I might have learned from experience. Never rush out to do a POTA (Parks On The Air) activation without first checking that all the necessary parts of my portable kit are packed. The last time I made this mistake it was the power cable that was missing. This time I arrived on site without an antenna!

My local library has Ontario Parks day passes that can be borrowed at no charge. I had just picked mine up and was excited to get out and use it.

It was about a 45-minute drive from home to Craigleith Provincial Park on the south shore of Georgian Bay. Shortly after arriving I unpacked my radio, battery, CW paddle and earbud phones. I grabbed the modified aluminum ski pole that I use to support my portable vertical antenna and drove it into the hard ground with a rock that was lying nearby.

Then, suddenly, I had one of those "oh no!" moments when I reached for the antenna and realized I had left it at home! "What the heck am I going to do now?" I thought. My first reaction

was to shrug my shoulders and forget about the activation. But then I thought, "what would MacGyver do in this situation?"

My mind was processing all kinds of ideas for saving the day. None seemed practical until I remembered the 33ft counterpoise wire in my pack. "Hey, maybe I could make a dipole". But I had no means for connecting a dipole to my coax feedline.

I used to know a guy who claimed to be a purveyor of the hardest organ in your body - he was a dentist. I am sure he would not have approved of the way I stripped the insulation off my Macgyver-inspired dipole after I cut that 33ft wire in half.

Next problem: how to connect the two wires to the coax. One wire had a big alligator clip on one end that I clipped to the coax shield. The other wire was wrapped around the centre pin of the PL-259 plug on the coax.



The centre of the dipole was only about 4ft above ground. I threw the ends of the wires into nearby trees but they were only 8 to 10 feet above ground. There was no way I was going to be heard with an antenna like this!

Well I was wrong! I keyed up and saw the SWR was less than 1.5:1 and felt a surge of hope. After self-spotting on the POTA website I started calling CQ. The responses came thick and fast. I logged stations from the US west and several in Texas and Florida. Then, with mild astonishment I logged a station in Sweden, followed shortly afterwards by another station in Belgium!

So, the moral of the story is never give up and never underestimate a simple makeshift antenna. Use whatever you have and think positive!

First published on VA3KOT's "Ham Radio Outside the Box" blog at:
<https://hamradiooutsidethebox.wordpress.com/>



GBARC Word Puzzle

P D M E P D V T D I P O L E M J L
A Y A A M L V L R X M K B B X J G
N N Y R T F U Z I P R M R M H N G
N M D P C T N G G E G Q O P M L H
O E A H J O K B P L L M A W K Q L
U D Y O I W M O A E Q R D N M N T
N I P N M N O M N N G P B M R Z H
C A H E W L T I U E D R A J A Z M
E H M V B Q Z E L N O C N N D S K
M L B F O A J E R T I R D A Y R T
E J B Y G R T S S C R C A Z L L X
N J P A K O I I N K E N A X L E F
T K M Y I S S D L R M P M T L V T
C B T D S N Q D V Y M L T F I R D
R T A A A L I X G H K M E N X O B
R R H R L F J C O V E R A G E T N
P C T P R R A T I N G O P E N T T

Rob Walker VE3RWY

announcement

Air

band

blooper

broadband

chassis

communication

coverage

dipole

earphone

intercept

magazine

mast

Mayday

media

open

plug

radiotelegraph

rating

RCA

reflex

RFID

rig

transistor

VOR

Images from Field Day 2022 (h/t Tom VA3TS)





Comments, suggestions, content submissions to: president@gbarc.ca
73 all!