



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



April 2023

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President's Message

Marvin VE3VCG



In our last club meeting in March, I did a presentation which focused attention on the future of the club. In my presentation I quoted from the club's mission statement as shown on our website. This statement clearly lays out a kind of a general guide for what we should be doing as a club.

Mission statements are fine as far as they go but fall well short of doing what is necessary to create a plan that converts words into actions. Putting words into action is always the more challenging aspect of any plan.

Getting from A to B is something we all understand. Too often, the best laid plans go unrealized. This is especially true in groups that rely on volunteers to move the ball up the field, so to speak. Too often the burden of doing things falls to a few and what follows is an imbalance leading to discontent, resentment and bad outcomes. Put more simply, too few doing too much is never a good situation.

Amateur radio is all about communicating. The question I pose here for consideration is how well are we communicating within the club? How well do we turn thoughts and ideas into a workable plan? Are we using our communication skills to their best effect?

For me a central question to ask is, how can we help each other get more from our radio club experience? What great things can we share that will reinforce the positive benefits we get from

This Month

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2023/ 2024 Executive

President Marvin VE3VCG

Vice-President..... John VA3KOT

Treasurer.....Doug VE3DGY

Secretary.....Vacant

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being HAM's? How can we build camaraderie and create experiences which are rewarding and fulfilling for everyone.

We are a small club and as such don't have unlimited resources or a large pool of members to draw from. This is why every volunteer that steps forward to help get things done is important. To actually accomplish the objectives outlined in our mission statement will require a commitment by all members of the club. The necessary effort to get things done will need more time and energy than can be provided by an individual or small group of volunteers.

We each need to ask ourselves what we want GBARC to be today and in the future. My view of the club is one I hope others share. I believe that we need to see our club as an important community resource. GBARC is, or should be, a place of both learning and teaching, but also sharing. The value of amateur radio in this modern age of cell phones and the internet can be difficult to see. I feel that a part of our immediate challenge is to find a way to make that value as clear as possible to as many as possible, as often as possible.

Radio clubs like ours are the places where the future of amateur radio is formed. We hold that future in our hands. What we pass on to the next generation of amateur operators will be our legacy. From that point of view, everything we do individually or as a group helps to ensure that that legacy represents the best part of us.

Executive Vacancies

GBARC NEEDS YOU

Due to health issues, we are absent two members of our executive board. We are looking for volunteers for the position of Vice-President and Secretary.

If you would like more information or to volunteer, please send email to Marvin VE3VCG, president@gbarc.ca



May 7-13 Emergency Week

Emergency Preparedness Week - 1st full week of May

This year May 7-13 is Emergency Preparedness Week in Canada. You can find out more about the week from the Canadian Government Website <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/ep-wk/tlkt-en.aspx>

This site deals with general topics related to how to prepare for various kinds of emergency situations. The information is practical and well thought out. It is not comprehensive but a good place to begin.



There are three important bullet points on this website which more or less outline the content

Know the risks

Make a Plan

Get an Emergency Kit

All amateur radio operators should be prepared for emergencies. Because we have the capability to communicate when others can't, we should each think of the many and various ways we use our skills and our radio gear to help friends, family, neighbours and our communities as a whole during emergency events. This of course takes advance planning and being prepared to join with other HAM's to create a pre-planned emergency on-air-network.

Preplanning is the key to having an emergency communications network that is well organized and useful. The idea that emergency communications is just a matter of getting on the air in the midst of an emergency has proven to not work many times in the past. Without preplanning the result of everyone jumping on the air is chaos.

Over the past two years I have been working on developing such an emergency plan for Bruce County. This will be useable in Grey County or anywhere else as the plan is universal in nature.



However, I had pulled back development of my plan waiting for the new ACS program to be fully rolled out. Because this is happening at a glacial pace I've decided to continue creating a simple plan that any operator can follow. The objective is not to have a perfect plan, but something that works. The primary objective of such a plan is to have a schedule of times and frequencies and ways to share on-the-ground reports and information in a systematic and organised manner. This will be available to share with the club, hopefully at the club meeting at the end of May.

In the meantime I encourage everyone to make a personal emergency plan which involves you and those you care about during the week of May 7-13. Don't get caught without a plan, the life you save could be your own. Marvin VE3VCG

<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/ep-wk/index-en.aspx>

https://gbarc.ca/env_canada.php

Remote DC Power through your Coax Cable

Phil Salas – AD5X (ad5x@arrl.net)

Introduction

Do you need to get DC from your shack out to your antenna for a remote antenna tuner, remote relay, etc.? If so, the DC IN/OUT boxes discussed here will let you inject 12VDC power into the rig end of the coax, and recover it at the remote end of the coax cable.

The Design

Injecting DC onto a coax cable requires RF isolation between the signal and DC source since the DC source looks like a short, to the RF signal. So, an inductor must provide a high RF impedance, and also handle the DC current required. The JW Miller 4632 (Mouser 542-4632-RC) inductors used handle 400ma and provide high Q and high impedance such that full legal limit can be used from 160-2 meters. No inductor resonances occur over this range. The 0.01uf coupling capacitors are 2KV rated. While the voltage rating is not critical, the large physical size of these capacitors ensures adequate power dissipation under high current (legal limit) operation. If 160 meter operation is not needed, you can parallel two capacitors instead of three.

The rest of the design is straightforward. I fused the input at ½-amp since this is the just above the current rating of the inductors. A 1N4001 diode oriented as shown in Figure 1 protects against reverse voltage. Both high-and low-frequency bypass capacitors (0.01uf, 0.1uf and 4.7uf) are used on the DC side of the inductors as shown in Figures 1 & 2. On the output box, a 15 volt zener diode clamps any voltage spikes should they occur. If you want to inject +/- polarity DC or AC, simply eliminate the diode, zener and electrolytic capacitor as these are not really necessary. Fusing is also not essential.



Refer to the photos to help with your assembly. I used a pig-tail coax cable in one case, but most will probably use SO-239 connectors shown on the schematic. I labeled the two boxes with Casio “black on clear” tape. I also used a permanent marker pen to draw an RF/signal flow direction arrow on both boxes.

I build the DC output circuitry into a weatherproof electrical 3-hole ½-inch outlet box. The blank panel comes with a weather resistant seal. Two ½-inch plugs are supplied, so you need a third plug – that’s the reason I show an additional package of plugs in the parts list. All circuitry is built onto the blank cover as is seen in Photos C and D. I also connected a ground wire between the panel and the outlet box ground, though the panel screws are probably fine for providing ground between the two assemblies.

The screws that come with the blank panel are NOT stainless steel, therefore replace these screws with #6 stainless steel flat-head screws. Also use #6 stainless steel hardware to mount the terminal strip to the blank panel. To weatherproof the DC output cable, punch a ¼” hole in the blank panel and pass the DC cable through it. Apply hot glue to the inside of the blank panel, letting a little hot glue seep through the hole. Then apply liquid electrical tape to the outside of the blank panel around the exiting DC cable. Also apply epoxy and/or liquid electrical tape around the SO-239 connectors to weatherproof them as well. Finally, install the three ½” plugs into the outlet box.

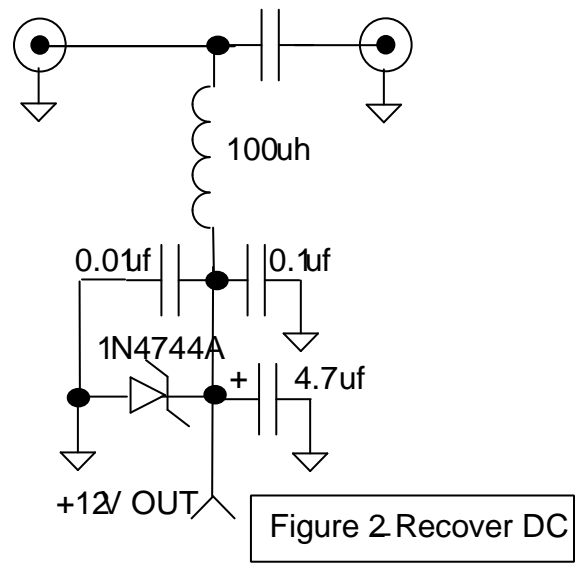
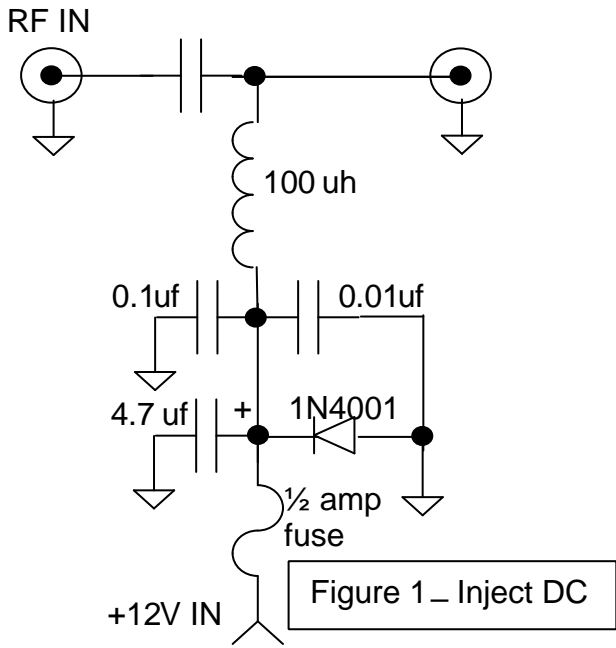
Conclusion

This article describes simple circuitry for injecting DC voltage on the rig side of your coax, and recovering the voltage at the other end of the coax. Measured performance is excellent from 1.8-148 MHz at up to full legal limit.

Parts List

<u>QTY</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	0.01uf 2KV cap.
2	100 uh RF choke
2	0.1uf 50V cap.
2	0.01uf 50V cap.
2	4.7uf elec. cap.
1	15V zener diode
1	5x20mm ½-amp fuse
1	5x20mm fuse holder
1	Aluminum box
1	Terminal strip
4	SO-239





RF/DC OUT

Photo A: DC In (internal view)



RF/DC IN

Photo B: DC In (external view)



C: DC Out (internal view)



Photo D: DC Out (external view)

Photo



Websites of Interest

HF Antenna Traps, 1kw

<https://www.radioworld.co.uk/antenna-traps-high-power>

SolarHam by Amateur Radio Station VE3EN

<https://solarham.net/>

JasonKits QRP

https://www.tindie.com/stores/jasonkits_qrp/

What is PGP Encryption and How Does It Work?

<https://www.varonis.com/blog/pgp-encryption>

History of the car radio

<https://www.titlemax.com/articles/the-history-of-the-car-radio/>

**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.

[Contact GBARC](#)

Minutes of Meeting

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

28th March 2023, Meeting convened at 7:00pm EDT

Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

ATTENDANCE

Executive:

Marvin Double VE3VCG President, John Corby VA3KOT Vice-President

Absent: Rob Walker VE3RWY Secretary (sickness)

Doug McDougall VE3DGY Treasurer (apologies and report received)

Regular members:

Jim Reeves VE3JMD, Dave Newcombe VE3WI, Philip DeKat VE3DPB, Richard Osborne VE3OZW, Bernie Monderie VE3BQM, Tom St Amand VA3TS, Dan Mills VA3DNY, Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV,



Janet Double VA3EAC, Adam Karasinski VE3FP Guests: Larry Price VE3WDF

Total attendance: 13

No quorum (3 exec + 3 reg required).

Marvin VE3VCG called the meeting to order at 19:05.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the February general meeting were published in the newsletter. Marvin VE3VCG inquired whether anybody wished him to read them. A reading was not required so a vote was called. Proposed by Bernie VE3BQM, seconded by Richard VE3OZW. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Doug VE3DGY (absent) had submitted a report to President Marvin VE3VCG prior to the meeting but the report was not available for reading to the meeting.

Old Business

It was noted that during the previous meeting there was discussion about the use of the M'Wikwedong Centre for various club activities such as Ham radio demonstrations, classes for the indigenous community and/or other members of the public, and ARRL Field Day. Greg VE3RQY (absent) volunteered to explore these options.

At the previous meeting it was proposed that the club acquire a lockable cabinet in which to store club radio equipment. After discussion with M'Wikwedong staff an offer to host the cabinet in the boiler room was made. Tom VA3TS offered to donate a Motorola cabinet to the club for this purpose.

No voting on these matters took place due to the meeting being inquorate. Discussion ensued about various ways to overcome the problem of inquorate meetings with no agreement being reached. Marvin VE3VCG was tasked with speaking to Secretary Rob VE3RWY about the status of his recovery from oral surgery and about whether it would be necessary to appoint an interim Secretary to cover for him. Marvin agreed to do so and report back to the club.

New Business

Owen Sound Street Sale 8th July 2023

Tom VA3TS raised the issue of a possible GBARC table at this event to publicize the club and seek to attract new members. He has posted a poll on the club forums and asked members to check-in and respond.

Club VHF/UHF Radio

Marvin VE3VCG advised the club that the executive has unanimously agreed to purchase a Kenwood dual-band radio from Jon VA3CIC at a generously discounted price. The radio will be used as a demonstration unit at public events and as part of a potential club Winlink station.



Ontario QSO Party

Tom VA3TS has offered to host club participation in the Ontario QSO Party at his home near Shallow Lake. The club event will take place from 2:00pm until midnight on Saturday 16th April.

Future of GBARC

Marvin VE3VCG talked about a GBARC mission statement and how it could be used to steer the future activities of the club. He also proposed starting an activity called Winlink Wednesdays.

TechTalk

Marvin gave a presentation and demonstration of Rattlegram, an audio frequency text messaging service that can be relayed through handheld transceivers and even FRS/GMRS walkie-talkies.

Meeting Adjourned at 20:35, proposed by Adam VE3FP, seconded by Tom VA3TS.

John Corby, VA3KOT

Special Event Stations to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III

Innovation Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada has approved the use of special prefixes for Canadian Special Event Stations to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III on takes place on May 6th at Westminster Abby in London England. Special event call signs may be used by special event stations for a period beginning May 5th to July 2nd. For more information and to register a special event station use the following link

<https://www.rac.ca/special-event-call-signs-for-the-coronation-of-king-charles-III/>

Anyone who wants to operate their own special event station is obviously free to do so. My question to the club is if we might setup a special club event station? If, as of the publication of this April edition of the newsletter a decision has not been made, please consider the matter and then email me directly at VE3VCG@winlink.org

If we were to setup and operate a station in a public location, we would provide us with another opportunity to promote the club. Operating from a location such as a community centre as an example would provide good exposure and special even signage would attract attention and possibly stimulate questions.

Handouts with information about the club and amateur radio in general could be provided to interested parties.



Members Corner

Tom VA3TVA was recently in a serious vehicle accident and is now back home. Best wishes for a speedy recovery. <https://www.facebook.com/tom.vanaalst.7>

Rob VE3RWY is also recuperating from surgery. Best wishes

Our condolences to Phillip VE3QVC on the loss of his father Bert VE3DBP of Troy Ontario. <https://www.carsonfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/details/46787>

Send any news to webmaster "at" gbarc.ca

Delegated Examiner

Our new delegated examiner is Norman VA3NIR. To request an exam contact Norm at examiner@gbarc.ca. For more information click [here](#)

Biography-Norman Reintamm started his musical career at age 4 with piano lessons at the Royal Hamilton Conservatory of Music. His undergraduate work was done at the University of Toronto and McMaster University. He completed his postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Music (London, England) under Sir David Willcocks, Sir Norman del Mar, and Sir Richard Popplewell. Following apprenticeships with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Norman worked for many years in opera houses in Northern Europe and was a coach/conductor in the opera departments of the Sibelius Academy (Helsinki, Finland) and the Estonian Academy of Music (Tallinn, Estonia), holding the position of "Dotsent" (Associate Professor). After holding the position of Senior Conductor at the Estonian National Opera for many years, he returned to Canada to work as a conductor with the National Ballet of Canada and eventually took the position of Principal Conductor and Music Director of the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra. Equally at home in the choral and orchestral fields, Norman leads the Barbados Classical Music Festival Chamber Choir and is the Conductor and Music Director for the Georgian Bay Concert Choir. As a recitalist, Norman has performed on the concert stage both in North America and Europe.

In 2021 he was a recitalist for the Royal Canadian College of Organists Organ Festival and in the summer of 2022, he was a guest soloist for the Summer Market Music Festival in Kenora. He has recorded for the CBC and Estonian National Radio and Television. When he is not making music, he can be found at his home in Ceylon (Ontario) sending out Morse code on his "Ham" radio to various distant parts of the world or teaching young pilots how to fly at the Brantford Flight Centre.



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 webmaster@gbarc.ca, any format, any size, anytime, but if you want it to appear in the current month's newsletter, then send it by the 3rd Tuesday of the month.



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Membership for details regarding membership in the club click here: [Membership](#)

The next newsletter will be in May 2023.

Join the Radio Amateurs of Canada

Our National Voice <https://www.rac.ca/>



NOTES TO MYSELF:

1. Stop spending more money to get free shipping.
2. Your coffee is still in the microwave.
3. Don't throw the box with the directions away until it's 100% done.
4. Glasses are on top of your head.
5. Wearing headphones does not make your farts silent.
6. Just because it pops in your head doesn't mean it should come out of your mouth.
7. Don't use your phone as a flashlight to look for your phone.
8. You're never going to remember to do that thing later. Do it now.

