



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



December 2023
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President's Message



Marvin VE3VCG

President's Message December 2023,

December is the month of celebration, a time for family and friends and perhaps a time of reflection. To borrow from the Four H organization, it is a time of Head, Hands, Heart and Health.

For Christian's December is the month of Christmas. It is a time to embrace and experience "peace and joy." This December I find myself especially reflective on the current state of the world and places where peace and joy are in very short supply.

To say that these are troubled times is an understatement. Thinking about people who've been directly impacted by conflict I'm certainly grateful to live in Canada, far removed from those places where feeling peace or joy is unlikely.

As some know, this year Janet and I have experienced some challenges. A planned ankle surgery for me, a planned kne



replacement surgery for Jan and, most recently an unplanned surgery when Jan fell in the garden and broke her hip.

We are both grateful for the friends, family, neighbours and club members who've stepped forward to help us in our time of need. We've had the good fortune to be able to cope with these challenges reasonably well. We're mostly past the worst

This Month

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2023/ 2024 Executive

President Marvin VE3VCG

Vice-President..... Tex VE3USI

Treasurer.....Doug VE3DGY

Secretary..... Dan VA3DNY

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of “it.” and are now making the needed lifestyle adjustments as we heal, and get on with life. We both look forward to being able to get out and operate both mobile and portable in the coming year.

December is also a time to remember the members of our club who’ve become Silent Key’s this year, Ron MacDonald VE3IXR and Maureen Nightengale VE3MIO. Both were energetic, active HAM’s who contributed much to our hobby, Both, will be missed.

Here’s wishing everyone genuine peace and joy as December gives way to New Year’s 2024 and obviously 73

RAC Canada Winter Contest 2023 Rules: December 30



<https://www.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-2023/>

Sam Ferris, VE5SF – RAC Canada Winter Contest Manager

In December each year, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sponsors the Canada Winter Contest. Amateurs all over the world are invited to participate.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC on December 30, 2023.

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.)

Suggested frequencies: CW – 25 kHz up from the band edge and for SSB – 1850, 3775, 7075*, 7225, 14175, 21250 and 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

**Note: For 7075 kHz please watch for conflicts in the band plan where there are overlaps with other modes of operation.*

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS(T) and province or territory. VEØs and stations outside Canada send RS(T) and a serial number.

QSOs: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØs are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are worth 20 points.

RAC official stations are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC.

You may work any station once on each of the two modes, on each of the eight contest bands. It is **prohibited** to make CW contacts in the conventional phone sub-bands and phone contacts in the conventional CW sub-bands. Contacts or soliciting QSOs through a repeater during the contest period is not allowed.



Contacts in the RAC Canada Contests also count towards the RAC Canadian Portable Operations Challenge Award. Please see page 62 for information.

Multipliers: Thirteen in total, Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Each multiplier may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands.

The multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are: Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, VA1, CY9, CY0); Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2); Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3); Manitoba [MB] (VE4, VA4); Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5, VA5); Alberta [AB] (VE6, VA6); British Columbia [BC] (VE7, VA7); Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8); New Brunswick [NB] (VE9); Newfoundland and Labrador [NL] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NU] (VY0); Yukon [YT] (VY1); and Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2).

Certain special Canadian prefixes in use at the time of the contest may also apply; however, there may be no more than 13 multipliers on each band/mode. Please use the multiplier abbreviations, in square brackets, noted above.

Note: in the event a station is unable to make a contact with a Canadian station, there will be granted a multiplier count of 1 to facilitate the proper calculation of the final score since a multiplier of zero (0) would not create a valid calculation of a final score.

Final Score: The total QSO from all bands multiplied by the total number of multipliers from all bands.

Special thanks to our sponsors for their support of the RAC contests.

Join us for our weekly get together "On the Air"

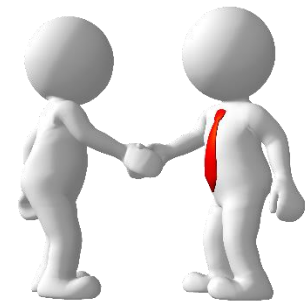
The club meets each Wednesday evening on VE3OSR 146.940 T97.4 hz at 7:30 pm local time, and on 3.783 Mhz +/- immediately following.



2024 Membership Renewals

Membership as of December 18, Total 16

Callsign	Name	Location	PD 23-24
VE3FP	Adam	Karasinski	Elmwood
VE3BQM	Bernie	Monderie	Owen Sound
VE3MPG	Bob	Baillargeon	Sauble Beach
VE3LKD	Bob	Droine	Owen Sound
VE3PAV	Bobby	Pavlovic	Lions Head
VA3DNY	Dan	Mills	Owen Sound
VE3WI	David	Newcombe	Port Elgin
VE3BAK	David	Rosenfeld	Owen Sound
Assoc	Dennis	Knott	Meaford
VA3NBP	Don	Hall	Lions Head
VE3DGY	Doug	McDougall	Owen Sound
VE3RQY	Greg	Larocque	Owen Sound
VA3FIN	Mark	Lindstrom	Owen Sound
VE3QVC	Phillip	De Kat	Owen Sound
VE3OZW	Richard	Osborne	Mildmay
VA3TS	Tom	St.Amand	Shallow Lake



JOIN GBARC TODAY

50th Anniversary Christmas Luncheon



President's Comments Marvin VE3VCG

As president of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club, it was my honor to welcome everyone to the combined, 2023 Christmas Luncheon and 50th Anniversary Celebration.

I was also honored, as part of my duties, to present the HAM of the Year Award to Tom VA3TS.

In addition, many offer personal thanks to Dan VE3DNY for his work researching and compiling results for the HAM of the Year Award. In addition, I offered my thanks to Doug VE3DGY for doing the legwork to get the physical award done as well as the hats used as some of the door prizes.

Last but not least, on behalf of the club I offered our thanks to Tex VE3USI for organizing and coordinating this event with the owners of Elsie's Diner.

The Flow of Time

A radio inspired Poem by Marvin VE3VCG

The river of time is a curious thing, sometimes slow and tranquil, sometimes rushing by in a frothing torrent. It is less a river perhaps than a carrier, an energetic wave, moving us through our lives with a relentless insistence and power.



This energy we call our life is filled with resonance, with harmonies and disharmonies. It is a place where we learn how to tune to things which make us happy and filter that which does not.

As with all things in nature, that which begins must also end. So, with time and distance our signal, once so strong and vibrant, begins to fade. Our carrier finally escapes the bounds of this world moving out into the void.

Have no concern about such change, it is just a part of the natural order. We are told that, in nature, energy is never created or destroyed, it simply changes form. So it is, as our carrier fades, and our signal becomes too subject to detect, it is never really gone, we simply lack the tuner to hear it.

What endures of course is more than what we can hear. Rather it is what we hold in memory. No matter that our signal seems lost, fading away at the speed of light, the value we have for each other remains, etched in a sense into the energetic character of the infinite.

A Brief History of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

1973

-On Thursday October 18th 18 people gathered at Georgian College Owen Sound for the first meeting of the Grey-Bruce-Huron Radio Club. Among that group were 14 HAM's 3 Cber's and 1 ex HAM.

-The Executive for the first meeting as Jam Vamplew VE3CRV President, Dick Shave VE3BIS SK Vice Pres, Jack Avis, VE3DTS SK Secretary / Treasurer.

-The Editor for, Feedback, the club news letter, was Bill, VE3EFX SK

-A weekly club net was proposed for Sunday mornings at 09:30 AM on 3.783. There was a discussion about installing a 2 meter repeater and moving the net to that repeater once it was installed. During the club meeting, it was voted to change the name to the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club.

1983

-GBARC Executive: President Don Richards VE3IDS, VP Harvey Smith VE3FOT, Secretary Treasurer Cy Weaver, Editor Harvey Smith VE3FOT

-ARPANET officially changes to use the Internet Protocol, creating the Internet.

-The first mobile phones, are introduced to the public by the Motorola Company.

1993:

-GBARC has grown to 71 members as of October 1993

-GBARC Executive: President Bob Vary VE3XOX, VP Gene McDonald VE3IJD, Nick Klaassens VE3MWU,

2003:

-GBARC was now meeting in a club house located in an industrial unit behind the Rockford Restaurant:

President Gene VE3IJD, VP Bob VE3XOX, Secretary Tom VA3TS, Treasurer Bob

-Newsletter Team: Editor, Barry VA3WBG, Steven VE3SEG, Tom VE3CV There was also a Program Director: Program Director, Jim VE3CJM

2013:

-GBARC: 40th Anniversary certificate from Bill Walker MPP





-GBARC: 40th Anniversary certificate from Larry Miller MP 2023

Leap frogging forward again, we gathered at Elsie's, a 1950's themed Diner on Highway 6 in Springmount for a holiday themed luncheon and to enjoy each other's company in the holiday season. We also came together to remember those 50 years of GBARC history and honor all the Amateur Radio hobbyists who came before us to create the club we enjoy today.

Much has changed over the years. The soft warm glow of tubes has given way to the silent efficiency of transistors. Older analog radio brands like Swan, Heathkit, Drake, have faded into obscurity. The traditional knobs and dials and buttons are now being replaced with touch screens, waterfall displays and solid state

components.

While technology changes our gear, one thing remains unchanged. The heart and soul of amateur radio is, after, all about people. It is people that make this hobby what it is, a means of connecting with each other, down street, on the other side of planet, or simply across the room as we have done at this special event.

Changes in technology and changes in society mean that the survival of the hobby is uncertain. But for now, it is a wonderful expression of what we can do, working together to communicate, educate, support each other and our communities and have fun doing it.



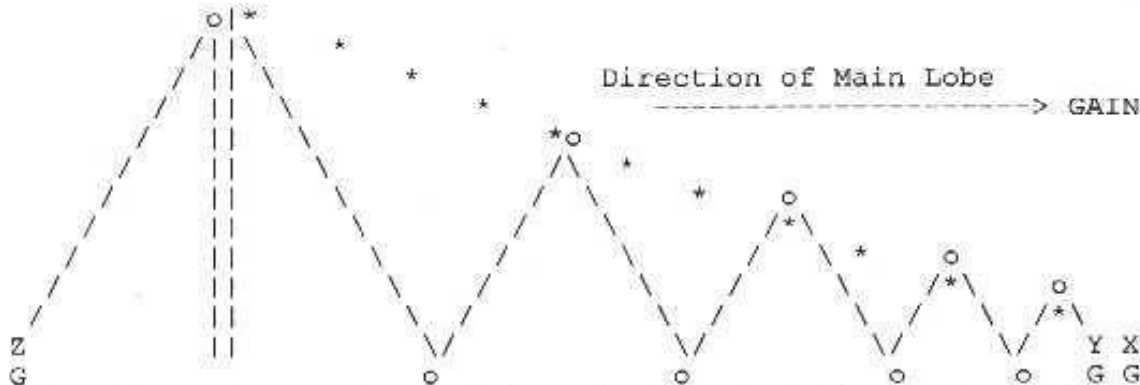
Thanks to all our club members who helped make this a memorable year. Here's wishing everyone a very happy holiday season and a wonderful new year.



The ZIG-ZAG Skywave Antenna

THE ZIG-ZAG SKYWAVE ANTENNA

Featured in the March, 1992, issue of RF DESIGN magazine, an article by Bernard Feigenbaum, A FIELD EXPEDIENT BROADBAND HF ANTENNA, shows how to make a log-periodic antenna for shortwave! THAT'S RIGHT, a log-periodic, which means several dB of GAIN over a very wide bandwidth. Yet about all you need are a hefty length of copper wire, something like a flagpole or a tree or anything with some elevation to it, and a hank of nylon cord or other insulated rope. Here's what the danged thing looks like, if I can draw it right for you:



Note: Space does not permit the display, but there are seven points "o" at ground level and eight above ground. In other words, there are eight "triangles" in the featured antenna while only five are shown above.

Not shown is a simple three-legged ground counterpoise which starts at Y and fans out approx 30-degrees along the length of the antenna. The middle counterpoise wire runs straight between the G below the Y to the G below Z. The other two fan out slightly on either side of the antenna over its length.

Legend:

- || = Mast, tree, chimney top, anything with some height, say 40' & up
- \ / = Continuous length of copper wire
- * = Nylon cord or rope, insulated
- Z = Termination resistor, roughly 400-600 ohms
- = Ground level
- o = Insulated hangers to support wire
- Y = 9 : 1 Broadband Impedance Matching Transformer
- X = Transmitter, Receiver or Transceiver
- G = True Earth Ground Connection

The far end of the Zig-Zag Skywave Antenna is terminated in the characteristic impedance of the antenna, typically 400-600 ohms, to ground. The feedpoint at the short end is matched with a 9-to-1 Broadband balun and fed with the transmitter or receiver of choice. No portion of the wire is permitted to be grounded except through the termination resistor at the far end and the balun at the feedpoint. The broadband gain of the antenna is reputed to be around 3-dB which greatly exceeds that of a random longwire and most trap dipoles. The Gain Bandwidth is at least 2-30 MHz.





Minutes of Meeting

By Dan VA3DNY

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting

28th of Nov 2023

Call to order by Marvin VE3VCG at 7:05 PM

ATTENDANCE

Executive:

Dan Mills VA3DNY Secretary, Doug McDougall VE3DGY Treasurer, Marvin Double VE3VCG President

Members:

Tom St. Amand VA3TS, Philip deKat VE3DPB, Dave Newcombe VE3WI, Jim Reeves VE3JMD, Greg Laroque VE3RQY, Bernie Monderie VE3BQM, Larry Price VE3WDF, Dennis (Guest)

QUORUM: Yes

TECH TALK:

Doug (VE3DGY) Why use FT-8.

One of the primary reasons for using FT-8 is to have the ability to make contacts all around the world without a Yagi or using CW...a simple antenna is all you need.

The process is fairly straightforward: Download WSJT-X and Gridtracker, connect radio to computer and set radio to data mode, and then configure WSJT-X to your specific radio.

FT-8 is designed for weak signal use and uses a co-ordinated 15 second transmit cycle followed by a 15 second receive cycle.

PSK Reporter can be used to see how far your signal is travelling when you operate. Gridtracker works in conjunction with WSJT-X and shows who is calling, where they are from, distance away in miles, and if you have worked them before.

Doug also presented information about his Chameleon CHA MPAS 2.0 antenna system and how he has good success using it on 20,17,15,12, and 10 Metre bands.

Bernie (VE3BQM) Tape Measure Yagi.

Bernie brought in his homebrew tape measure yagi used for 2M fox hunts for us to see. He also provided printouts of the plans he based it on so we could build our own. His was made using a rectangular piece of wood rather than PVC because he already had some on hand.

The elements of the antenna are made from a cut up tape measure. Bernie suggested looking for broken ones at a lumber yard or hardware store. A 25 foot tape measure will be long enough to make 2 antennas. The matching network in this plan uses a hairpin match from a U shaped piece of wire.

The benefit of using this type of antenna is low cost, light weight, and rolls up small for storage and transportation. It can also be used for finding sources of RF noise, or receiving signal from the ISS, etc.



PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the September Meeting were published in the newsletter. The minutes were accepted as written.

(motion: Doug VE3DGY, second: Tom VA3TS)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Doug VE3DGY presented the financial report.

The main transactions for the month comprised of a payment of \$405.26 for RAC insurance dues, bank fees, a deposit for multiple membership renewals, and a deposit from the sale of equipment and proceeds from our 50/50 draw.

The closing balance for the month was \$xxx.74

There are currently 13 members paid up for 2024.

The treasurer's report was approved.

(motion: Bernie VE3BQM, second: Marvin VE3VCG)

OLD BUSINESS:

Doug VE3DGY presented his design for the club business/QLS cards. They will be a 2 sided card with our anniversary date, QRZ info, and a QSO section on the back. There were suggestions for a different photo on the front, and Doug asked for anyone to email photos to him.

Dan VA3DNY handed out a copy of T-Shirt and Hat ordering prices and information collected by Frank VA3GUF this summer. Individual club members can go to RAM Promotional any time to select and order merchandise. Doug will go there to inquire about using other shirts and check the price to add a call sign above the logo. He will also order a couple of hats to be used at the Christmas Luncheon as a door prize.

Dave VE3WI reported that the club call sign is now registered with LOTW so we can get more contacts verified.

GBARC 50th Anniversary planning session.

Several of the main ideas were discussed and planned:

- We will have a presentation of the history of the club at our Christmas Luncheon by Marvin (President).

- Marvin would like to organize a public event at some point to bring more attention to our club...some public venues (the library?) on different dates to create more awareness of our club's activities and reasons to join. (Marvin VE3VCG and Tex VE3USI?)

Doug made a motion to finalize the date for our special event on March 23rd 2024, have Dave VE3WI apply for a special call VC3GB for the 30 days, and to select a frequency (in the US General segment) and begin to advertise it. Phil VE3DPB seconded the motion and it passed by vote.

- Tom VA3TS will create a section on the website for people to register for radio time slots during this event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dan VA3DNY provided an update to the QNI contest. He has been working to finish tabulating all of the data for the remainder of the contest year and will have the results by the Christmas Luncheon. The winner of this contest will become the Ham of the Year.

There was a discussion about what activities counted for points, and the list was reviewed for everyone. This list is also posted on the GBARC website. There should be a review and possible modifications to the point structure if this is continued for next year.



Marvin VE3VCG questioned the old plaque for Ham of the Year and should we look at something different...possibly a take home trophy or certificate for the winner. This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

The meeting 50/50 draw was held at the end of the meeting and Greg VE3RQY was the winner of the \$31 prize. The \$32 proceeds will be deposited in the club bank account.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM
(motion: Bernie VE3BQM, second: Phil VE3DPB)

QNI 2023 Final Results Dan VA3DNY



Congratulations to Tom St. Amand (VA3TS) for being this year's recipient of the GBARC Ham of the Year award!

Tom had the highest score in our QNI contest by consistently being active with the club's on-air events, weekly nets, meetings, and other activities. It is well deserved, thank you Tom for all of your contributions and efforts.

The QNI contest first implemented by John Corby (VA3KOT) was designed to encourage people to become more active with the club and participate in more events. There is a list of how points are earned on the GBARC website for reference. Please review them before the January meeting and think about any changes or fine tuning that might be an improvement going forward.

This year, I will try to keep the points tabulated on a monthly basis and report them at the meetings, or on our website. This way everyone can see where they stand for accumulated points throughout the year.

I would like to thank all of our club members for your participation in our activities...that's what keeps the club interesting! See the [Oct 2022 newsletter](#) for more details

Here are the final results for the year:

Tom St. Amand	VA3TS	171
Bobby Pavlovic	VE3PAV	162
Richard Osborne	VE3OZW	143
Greg Larocque	VE3RQY	138
Bernie Monderie	VE3BQM	126
David Newcombe	VE3WI	103
Adam Karasinski	VE3FP	102
Janet Double	VA3EAC	89
Frank Gufler	VA3GUF	54
Jim Reeves	VE3JMD	44
Phillip De Kat	VE3QVC(DPB)	25
Ron MacDonald	VE3IXR	23
Maureen Nightingale	VE3MIO	23
Larry Price	VE3WDF	20
John Gainor		5



September 1 2022 to August 31 2023, Executive member's points were not calculated. Dan Mills (VA3DNY). For a look at all recipients go to <https://gbarc.ca/hamyear.php>



Interesting Websites

Physicists create new form of antenna for radio waves
<https://phys.org/news/2023-10-physicists-antenna-radio.html>

N1MM+ on Linux

<https://www.nf8m.com/nf8m/n1mm-on-linux/>
<https://oe7drt.com/posts/2021/17-running-n1mm-logger-on-linux/>
<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/>
https://github.com/ny4i/n1mm_view/blob/master/README.md

Internet Archive of free and borrowable books
<https://archive.org/>

Moxon Rectangles and Calculator L. B. Cebik, W4RNL
<https://www.antenna2.net/cebik/content/a10/moxon/moxpage.html>

EZNEC Pro+ version 7.0 is now public domain and free
<http://www.on5au.be/EZNECPro7.html>

Standing Wave and SWR
<http://www.on5au.be/documents/Standing%20Wave%20and%20SWR.pdf>

File converter 300+ formats
<https://convertio.co/>

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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