



Feedback

The Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



**Marvin Double VE3VCG President
GBARC**

President's Message

As I ease into the position of President for GBARC I look ahead to the coming year with a mixture of feelings. There is a sense of excitement about the potential we have to do a wide range of interesting and fun things together.

However, I am working to figure out the best way to maintain a good balance of activities that will sustain the interests and involvement of our membership.

I'll be looking to members for ideas and suggestions that will keep everyone interested and engaged.

find it all interesting and love learning new things.

January 2023

Amateur Radio is a hobby with so many aspects there is virtually no shortage of inspiration; from restoring old radios to experimenting with microwave frequencies and DX-peditions to remote and exotic places, Parks on the Air, Summits On The Air, Islands On The Air, etc. Topics to explore can seem endless.

I'm not forgetting the builders in the group or ignoring those of us involved in the world of digital communications or ACS/ARES.

As the year ahead goes along, I will do my best to keep things positive and engaging.

Since I've been involved in amateur radio, I've become aware of controversies within the hobby. Some of these I've found silly and others confusing. Because I'm a new HAM I don't have any bias about various radio modes or methods. I

In this month's Feedback:

GBARC Announcements:

In Memorandum

In December of 2023 Ron MacDonald VE3IXR a member GBARC was involved in a tragic vehicular accident while on a trip to visit relatives in the USA. Regrettably Ron did not survive the accident and so is now as Silent Key. Ron was new to the amateur radio hobby and very keen to learn new things participate in club events. Prior to his passing I was discussing with Ron various ways to blend together his love of Geocaching and amateur Radio.

On behalf of the club, I send our condolences to Ron's wife Charlotte, his family and friends. I extend to Charlotte an open invitation that she may to attend any of our club meetings or events if she wishes to do so.

Those who have not done so may visit an obituary page for Ron at the following URL
<https://www.mightonfuneralhome.ca/obituaries/2726/Ronald-Ron-MacDonald> Marvin
Double VE3VCG / President GBARC

Breakfast at Rockford

I've taken the initiative to change name of the Saturday Breakfast Meeting to the **Saturday Breakfast Meet-Up (AKA Breakfast at Rockford)** The reason for making this change is to indicate that this monthly event that it is not a formal meeting but rather a more informal social gathering. This might seem a small change but I think it may be useful for several reasons.

A meeting suggests a scheduled event for members only. Meetings follow an agenda while meet-ups are trendy and inviting, less stodgy and less formal both in form and function. Having a meet-up instead of a meeting might make it easier to encourage potential members to just drop in, hang out, have some good food and find out something about amateur radio. Being an informal format encourages free exchange of ideas and open conversations.

Proposal to Rename the Newsletter:

John has now stepped aside as Editor of the GBARC Newsletter and Marvin is stepping in as a replacement. You can submit ideas or suggestions for articles to Marvin at mdoublester@gmail.com.

I recognize that Feedback has become a part of the GBARC band and has a long history with the club. However, I will be proposing that we change the name to News and Views because it should feature News and Views and more than just Feedback. I will offer this idea for discussion at the January club meeting.

GBARC Delegated Examiner:

Tom VA3TS has been the club's designated examiner for some time now. In a recent email he expressed his intention to step aside from that role. He has asked for others who are qualified to please step forward to take his place. Tom has all the information needed for those who might wish to take this position and can provide details about what is involved. Please contact me if you have an interest mdoublester@gmail.com

Congratulations ONTARS "51" and still going strong:

On Sunday January 8th ONTARS celebrated 51 years on the air. Over 11 hours operators logged 777 contacts during this event.

Club Business

Minutes of the last meeting

Next Club Meeting

GBARC Nets

TechTalks

ARES/ACS reports

Social events

Feature Articles

Hard Line Splicing

How to Identify Carbon-Composition Resistors

Power Outage Surge Protector Damage

Minutes from Last Club Meeting November 2022

Attendance: John VA3KOT, Rob VE3RWY, Marvin VE3VCG, Janet VA3EAC, Ron VE3IXR, Jim VE3JMD, Greg VE3RQY, Adam VE3FP, Bobby VE3PAV, Bernie VE3BQM

Call to order at 7:08pm. We do not have a quorum. Introductions around the table.

Presidents Report (John VA3KOT):

John reviewed our QNI contest for selecting Ham of the Year. Our current leader Greg followed by Bernie.

John VA3CIC is 82, lost his wife and also lost his spark for amateur radio. He is selling off most of his equipment through the club with GBARC receiving 30% of the proceeds. John presented us with some of the equipment from the collection and proposed it be used for a club GOTA setup. By show of hands, it was unanimous that everyone thought this would be a good idea.

After discounts, it would cost the club \$250.

John raised an issue that requires a quorum. Doug, our treasurer, has other commitments that many affect his attendance at our monthly meetings. Without three executive members, we are unable to vote and make changes. John is suggesting with change this to one executive and three members for matters requiring a quorum. Jan suggested two executives and two members. John will pass this on to our new, incoming president, Marvin.

Secretary's Report (Rob VE3RWY):

Motion to accept by Adam, second by Jim. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Doug VE3DGY):

Treasurer was unable to attend tonight.

\$3466 Balance

\$204 to Bernie for repeater expenses

\$79 HAM plaque (to replace HOTY Trophy)

\$90 dues received

We have six paid members so far. Payments can be sent directly my EMT to payments@gbarc.ca

Bernie suggested we need an easier method for paying membership dues. He also suggested we do not publish our financials in the newsletter.

Some web sites have a portal for members. John said he would mention it to our webmaster New Business:

Marvin asked if we have to join RAC. RAC asks you to estimate

Marvin is looking for an 8-pin ICOM mic for someone. Please contact him if you can help.

Reminder the Christmas lunch is 1:00 and we have 24 reservations.

Motion to adjourn Bernie, seconded by Marvin.



Next club meeting

Tuesday January 24 at 19:00 local time Location:

M'Wikwedong meeting place. 1045 3rd. Ave West. Owen Sound (former Dufferin school).

Parking in north lot and enter via the north side doors.

The door will be open at 6:30pm We will be using the Resource room which is in the south hallway past the kitchen on the left (second room).

For additional directions click here [Directions](#)



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>



Net Control Schedule: January / February 2023

- Jan 11 - Bernie VE3BQM
- Jan 18 – Marvin VE3VCG
- Jan 25 – Richard VE3OZW
- Feb 1 – Tom VA3TS



TechTalks

Tuesday January 24

Presenter -Marvin VE3VCG

Topic: Off-grid and Portable Power Solutions

From cheap and simple to expensive and complex.



Social Events

GBARC Breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of each month at the Rockford Restaurant (Highway 6 and 10 at County Road 18, Owen Sound). Next GBARC Breakfast Meet-up:



ARES/ACS Reports

Grey County Emergency Coordinator: Frank Gufler VA3GUF

Grey County: Frank continues to be away on his sailing adventure and is not available to report on ARES / ACS activities in Grey County.

However, in December 2022 Frank send a request by email to Marvin VE3VCG. His request was that Marvin make contact the Fire Chief CEMC for Hanover with regard to getting a cache of older analog radios, offer to us by the Fire Chief. These older radios are being replaced by newer radios with digital capabilities.

Frank and the Fire Chief discussed the idea that, in the event of a failure of the new communications system in Hanover, the newer radios would not be useable as they rely on the internet to function. In such an instance “we”, having held the older radios in storage, could then redistribute the older analog radios and re-establish Hanover’s emergency communications system using these older analog radios.

Marvin will be following up on this request to contact the Hanover Fire Chief this month.

Bruce County ACS Emergency Coordinator: Marvin Double VE3VCG

On January 1st 2023, addition information with regard to the roll out of ACS, was provided by Jason Tremblay, the RAC Community Services Officer, via an article in The Canadian Amateur Magazine. For those who have not been following the over all development of ACS in the US and Canada the article will seem a bit cryptic.

What is being disclosed in this article is that the expected “roll out” might be described a the “roll out” of the continued development of this program and not a fully fledged field ready organization. In point of fact the “Field Organization” itself is being rebuilt and, one must assume the development of the ACS program along with it.

In the article is the announcement for the establishment of a National Advisory Committee made up of volunteers from across Canada. The committee will be made up of full time volunteer positions and those positions will be announced at a future date.

Positions Training Task Book (PTTB)

Eventually, once completed, ACS operators will be trained a “Positions Training Task Book”. This book will have been developed in cooperation with various Government and NGO groups such as the Emergency Management Consortium of Canada.

The objective of developing this book then, I assume from my reading of the article, is to create a training book which establishes certain training criteria for amateur radio volunteers which is standardized and acceptable to those responsible for emergency communications in various government and non-government agencies.

Sign Off Authority

A term which is used to describe the relationship this PTTB will create is “Sign Off Authority”. After the book is fully developed and in use, those who have liability for emergency response would have “sign off authority” for amateur radio volunteers working with their agency or organization. The assumption here is; amateur radio volunteers would need to be qualified against a standardized training protocol as defined in the PTTB and then be signed off as having met those standards by someone in the agency or organization.

Origins of Sign Off Authority and AuxComm

The key words to take from this article are “liability and Sign-Off”. As someone who has followed along with development of the AuxComm training program in the USA I’m also intimately aware of some of the larger issue which came to the surface in that process. At the top of a very short list of primary concerns is the liability which emergency responders and municipal administrators have for execution of their duties and responsibilities during an actual emergency event.

The professionals ,who have responsibility for managing the response of their organization, have become highly sensitive to issues related to dealing with volunteers under their direction. The development of the AuxComm training program and related materials has been one way to ensure that, amateur radio volunteers in the USA are trained to provide an universal level of competence.

I am certain that the slow roll out of ARES / ACS and rebuilding the Field Organization is now working out how to best to provide a uniform level of training for amateur radio volunteers. Such training then will satisfy the issue of professional liability for those who need to “sign off” on those volunteers.

My Response

As someone who has owned and operated various businesses over the last 50 years I understand responsibility and liability. I certainly would not have employed those who are not trained for the job especially where they were responsible for the health and well

being of others. I know others in the club have been in responsible positions in their careers and so understand the obligations which come with such positions.

As amateur radio volunteers we should expect to be held to a certain standard if or when we offer our services to Emergency Managers in any community. If we are called on to actually stand up a proper volunteer emergency amateur radio response, that response should be part of a well-defined program.

Just having an amateur radio operators license is not sufficient to be able to operate in an Emergency Operations Centre under the direction of an Emergency Communications Manager during an Emergency Event.

Nor should we expect Emergency Managers to understand the capabilities or limitations of Amateur Radio as it relates to their needs. Both sides of that equation need have a well-established working relationship and understand of the needs and expectations of the other if amateur radio is to be accepted as a viable part of municipal emergency planning strategies.

This is not a simple subject and can't be covered in a single article. I will have further comments about Emergency Communications in Bruce and Grey counties in future newsletters. The story does not begin or end with ARES / ACS.

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

ARES/ACS Planned Activities

Current Month:

- No Activity Planned **Next Month:**
- Winlink Wednesdays
- Announcement of new “Community Based Emergency Communications Plan”
- Review of available analog radio equipment at Hanover Municipal Offices.



Other Club Business

Ongoing open discussions on the following topics:

- Encouraging active participation in club events
- Attracting new members to GBARC
- Improving club visibility and public awareness of amateur radio

- Public outreach and engaging with our communities
- Encouraging youth participation in amateur radio
- Engaging with other amateur radio clubs



Feature Articles

Hard line splicing by AK2O

Shared by Tom VA3TS



Hard line is a term used for RF transmission with hard and stiff materials used. Simple coaxial cable is found in most "hamshacks" which typically has a center, stranded conductor with a stranded outer, shield for transporting RF power.

For repeater and mountain top use you need better shielding than simple coax can offer. LMR-400 and 9913 are improved versions of this coax and does help shield the RF transport to and from other stations at the site. Commercial and some Amateur repeater stations use

hard line, which is far better than the mentioned coax types with much better PIM rating.



It does come with a high price; mainly, because more copper is used for such a line. If you happen to salvage some scrap pieces you can splice them together for that long run you may need for your repeater's antenna way up on a tower. Hard line splice kits are expensive. They are like two connectors on the ends but specifically for just a splice. A cheaper way to do this is using some copper tubing and



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Thanks to Tom VA3TS for sharing this article

How to Identify Carbon-Composition Resistors

ByBernieMonderie

If you come across carbon-composition resistors with funky colour band, and your not sure how to read them, check out this web site <https://www.allaboutcircuits>. then select the proper tab "4 Band, 5 Band, and yes 6 Band.

I got a project kit and in the kit they included 1% resistors, they had 5 bands and the colour did not match my 4 band tradition configuration ,

4 band 10K ohm resister is brown black orange gold right ... well if the resister has 5 bands its brown black black red brown, that's also 10K but 1% confusing but true



Remember your colours

"Big B oys R ace O ur Y oung G irls B ut V iolet G enerally W ins"



Comments, suggestions, content submissions to: president at gbarc dot ca 73 all!

Power Outage and Surge Protector Damage

By BernieMonderie

Rogers had power issues at the [repeater] site. Isolator blew on the [Hydro] transformer and shorted, blowing the main pole line fuse, and the backup generator was acting up as well so there was a lot of power bumps happening.

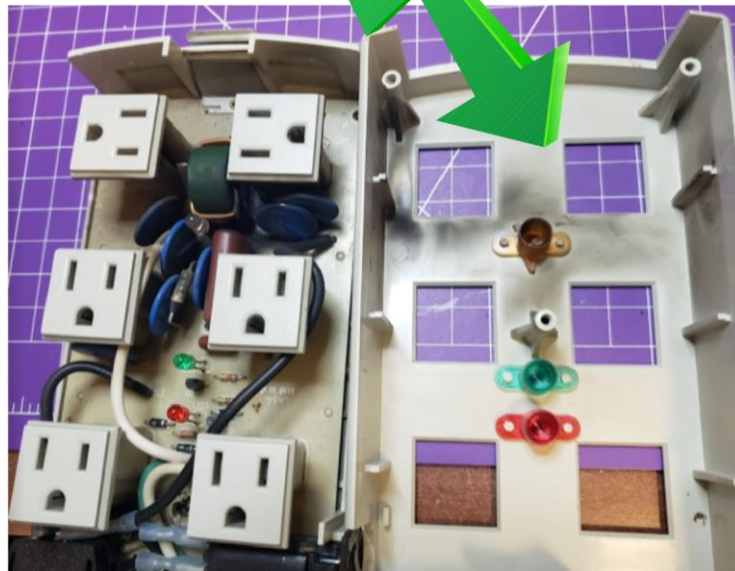
We were lucky to have access at the site because the snow got cleared out to get hydro trucks in to repair the transformer.

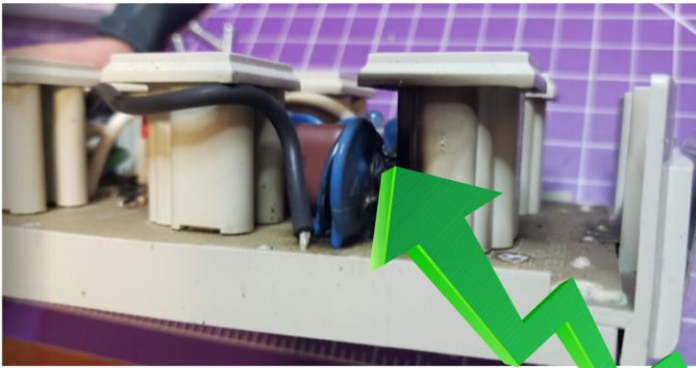
I was happy that the [repeater] equipment did not get hit with surges, mostly because we had protection

on the line that took the hit. Lets hope that repeat itself will be OK until a replacement Power Protection can be purchased and installed.

VE3OSR and Link Repeater is back on the air.

Carbon Deposits inside Cover





Evidence of Arching

Editors note:

While the surge protector did its job, the protection it provided might not have been exactly as intended by the design of the unit. It appears that because the unit was damaged by the power surge it was this damage which actually prevented the additional line voltage from the spike from reaching the repeater.

Discussion about this led to speculation that the unit might in fact have been designed to sacrifice itself if an incoming voltage spike exceeded the design limits of the clamping capacity of the unit. However, this was just speculation. What I carried away from this incident is that it is wise to get a good quality surge protector to protect our repeater. Surge protectors are less expensive to replace than repeaters.

Many thanks to Bernie for his work in keeping our repeaters operational