



# FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the  
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



May 2023

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## President's Message

Marvin VE3VCG

In Canada, Preparedness Week this year is or was May 7 to 13. I had planned to set up an amateur radio demonstration "booth" at some public venue this week. Regrettably personal matters made doing that all but impossible so I put it aside for another time.

I feel that preparedness week offers our club a golden opportunity to promote amateur radio in general and our club specifically. This official government sponsored event gives us both the reason to talk about amateur radio and nicely produced, professionally printed materials to hand out.

This is also a point in time when we should be reaching out to our community and specifically to local municipal governments, and specifically to those who are responsible for executing their municipal emergency plan.

Every municipal government is required by law to have an official emergency plan. The person who has the ultimate authority for the emergency preparedness in any municipality is the "warden". Typically, this will be the mayor. Each year every municipality is also required to "review" their emergency plan. This is sometimes done by creating a simulated emergency event and walking through each aspect of their emergency preparations and planned response.

These simulated emergency response events are generally table top exercises where department heads and involved staff, report on their readiness to meet the requirements of the official emergency plan.

### This Month

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VA3TS

### 2023/ 2024 Executive

President ..... Marvin VE3VCG

Vice-President..... Tex VE3USI

Treasurer.....Doug VE3DGY

Secretary..... Dan VA3DNY

[Club Constitution](#)

[By-Laws](#)



Because amateur radio communications is part of every municipal emergency plan, local amateur radio volunteers should be invited to participate in these yearly events but often are not invited. The reason why amateur radio volunteers are often not invited to a municipal Simulated Emergency Test's (SET's) are numerous. At the top of the list is the dominant reason, a lack of understanding about how amateur radio is used in emergencies and what is required to maintain readiness.

It has been stated by various club members that over the last 40 years our local ARES group was never called on to deploy. This is of course understandable given that we live in an area where there are few of the large scale, emergency events. This of course is a good thing. However, on the other side of that coin is something not so good, a dismissive attitude about the need for emergency communications.

As I see it, learning and practicing emergency communications develops a skill set that should make us each better operators. The bonus of course is that if we are subjected to an emergency event, we will be ready to just get on the air and work the emergency effectively and with confidence.

Hopefully we'll continue to enjoy the benefits of living in such a beautiful, peaceful safe and secure part of the world. On preparedness week we're told by our government(s) that it is good idea to plan ahead for a time when perhaps the unexpected changes all that and we really are confronted with an emergency. Food for thought.

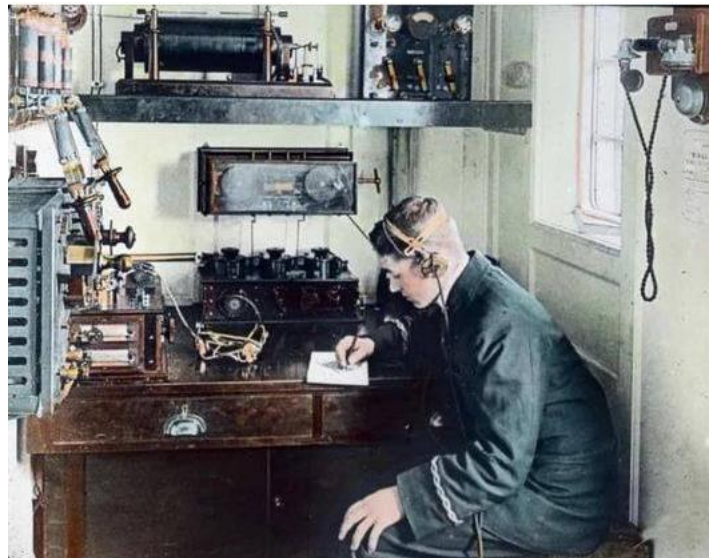
## Early Codes in Wireless Telegraphy

by Paul H. Bock, Jr. [Commercial radio operator – Radiotelegraph (T), GMDSS Maintainer (DM), Radiotelephone (PG), Radar] [Amateur Radio operator - K4MSG]

<https://www.qrz.com/db/K4MSG>

In a New York Times interview dated 19 April 1912 the surviving wireless operator of RMS Titanic, Harold Bride, made some interesting comments regarding his difficulties in achieving efficient wireless communications after his rescue and delivery to RMS Carpathia. In the interview Bride singled out the wireless operator on the American Navy cruiser USS Chester for the latter's ineptitude, particularly his inability to copy "Continental Morse" rapidly and efficiently. In order to clarify the problem of differences in telegraphic codes at the time of the Titanic disaster the following historical background and explanation may be of help.

When Samuel F.B. Morse invented his land-based telegraph around 1840 he also developed (with the possible assistance of his able assistant, Alfred Vail) a "code" made up of dots and dashes to represent letters, numerals and punctuation. This code, which came to be called "American Morse Code" or simply "Morse Code," was used on American railroads and by the land-line telegraph messaging services until it was eventually phased out in the 1960s. It is also sometimes referred to as the "railroad code."



In Europe in 1848 a similar code was created by Friedrich Clemens Gerke and initially used on telegraph circuits in Germany. First known as "Continental Code" (since it was developed on the continent of Europe) it was eventually adopted by the International Telecommunications Union and renamed "International Morse Code." It is of similar construction to American Morse code - 15 of the 26 letters of the alphabet are identical in the two codes but there are also significant differences. Eleven of the letters, nine of the numerals, and all of the punctuation marks use different dot-and-dash combinations in the two codes, and American Morse uses a different timing relationship between the various elements of the code (dot, dash or space).

These differences make it more difficult for an operator to become proficient in both codes.

As maritime use of wireless began to grow in the period between 1900 and 1912 the Continental Code (or International Morse Code) became the default standard for transatlantic ocean-going vessels while in America there was a tendency to cling to maritime use of American Morse code. This created the possibility of confusion that might hinder communications between vessels during an emergency.

A further complication was the fact that in the early 1900s the U.S. Navy developed its own code for use by Navy wireless operators. This code shared only four letters with Continental Morse and three with American Morse, and in a few instances the same dot-dash combination was used for multiple characters, the theory being that a Navy operator would know which character was meant by the context. The not-too-surprising result was that Navy operators, while proficient in their own code, could hardly be expected to know both American Morse and International Morse as well and in fact this shortcoming was evident at the time of the Titanic disaster. The Navy operator on the USS Chester – and perhaps other Navy operators on

WIRELESS CODES			
LETTERS	MORSE	CONTINENTAL	NAVY
A	• —	• —	— —
B	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
C	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
D	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
E	•	•	•
F	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
G	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
H	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
I	• •	• •	• •
J	• • • • •	— • • • •	— • • • • —
K	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
L	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
M	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
N	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
O	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
P	• • • • •	— • • • •	— • • • • —
Q	• • • • •	— • • • •	— • • • • —
R	• • • • •	— • • • •	— • • • • —
S	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
T	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
U	• • • •	— • • •	— • • • —
V	• • • • •	— • • • •	— • • • • —
W	• • • • •	— • • • •	— • • • • —
X	• • • • •	— • • • •	— • • • • —
Y	• • • • •	— • • • •	— • • • • —
Z	• • • • •	— • • • •	— • • • • —
&	• • • • •		
1	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
2	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
3	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
4	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
5	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
6	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
7	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
8	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
9	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
0	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
.	• • • • •	• • • • •	
:	• • • • •	• • • • •	
?	• • • • •	• • • • •	

ABBREVIATED NUMERALS USED BY CONTINENTAL OPERATORS.									
1	• • • •	2	• • • • •	3	• • • • •	4	• • • • •	5	• • • • •
6	• • • • •	7	• • • • •	8	• • • • •	9	• • • • •	10	• • • • •

WIRELESS ABBREVIATIONS.	
G. E. - GOOD EVENING	4 - PLEASE START ME, WHERE
G. N. - " NIGHT	13 - UNDERSTAND
G. M. - " MORNING	25 - AM BUSY NOW
G. A. - GO AHEAD	30 - NO MORE
O. S. - SHIP REPORT	73 - BEST REGARDS
D. H. - FREE MESSAGE	77 - MESSAGE FOR YOU
M. S. G. - MESSAGE	92 - DELIVERED
O. P. R. - OPERATOR	99 - KEEP OUT

-DISTRESS SIGNALS-	
S. O. S. MORSE	C. Q. D. CONTINENTAL





other unnamed U.S. ships – was singularly inept in “Continental” Morse as reported by Harold Bride in his interview.

All of this confusion regarding codes came to an end after the Titanic disaster when the international community adopted the International Morse Code as the universal code to be used for maritime wireless (later called “radio”) telegraphy, eventually extending to all wireless communications.

American Morse was confined to land wire-line and U.S. coastal vessels, the latter until just after WWI, and the Navy Code disappeared completely.

POSTSCRIPT: U.S. Navy radio operators were still required to know American Morse Code even after the Navy’s adoption of the International Morse Code for wireless use after 1912, primarily because U.S. coastal ships continued to use American Morse until about 1920.

The code tests for Navy Radiomen during WWI were 25 wpm International & 15 wpm American Morse for Petty Officer 2nd Class, 27 wpm International & 20 wpm American Morse for Petty Officer 1st Class, and 28 WPM in both codes for Chief Petty Officer.

## Right angle wooden bug By Don VE3IDS



Hello all,

I enjoy CW and in particular I like bugs. I built a second wooden bug about a year and a half ago. This one is quite nice to use and has been my primary bug since I finished it. It is a right angle layout which saves a lot of space on the desk. It is made from a piece of Osage Orange wood that I was given. It is a nice hardwood with a high natural oil content. It is unfinished, no varnish or wax. The bearings for the pivots are simply stainless rod in clearance holes in the wood. The natural oils in the hardwood make for good natural bearing surfaces. I used a magnetic reed switch for the dot contact

and a pair of brass screws for the dash contact. There are no springs, magnets do that job nicely. The brass thumbscrews are for adjusting the dash contact, the dot stop and duration. It is quite light in weight but I didn't need to add weight to the base. It is light in feel to operate and the right angle design has a natural tendency to not "walk" across the desk. The main spring is a piece of 10 thousands feeler gauge material. It seems to have about the right amount of spring. The bug will slow down to about 15 wpm but I can get it down to 12 wpm with a heavier



weight. Top speed is about 30. If you wanted to have a faster bug, I would use a stiffer main spring material, likely 12 or 14 guage.

It has been a fun project and it's nice to use it on the air especially with homebrew rigs. I had a good chuckle during a QSO the other day when I was using it with a homebrew rig and doublet with homemade open wire. The op said " now are you going to tell me you are pedaling a generator too? Hi hi.

I have a short video on youtube of it:

<https://youtu.be/GD0t-TsTYsq>

I hope this adventure may inspire others to get creative. 73 Don ve3ids

## Tech Talks

One of the fun things about being in a Ham radio club is to learn from other Hams, and there's just no end to what can be learned. GBARC has a club meeting every month and we start the meeting with a presenter doing a "tech talk". To make it easier for all who join our meeting we'd like to publish a schedule of these talks to all of you.

The purpose of this is to ask you to offer a talk on a subject of your choosing, here are some ideas of general categories:

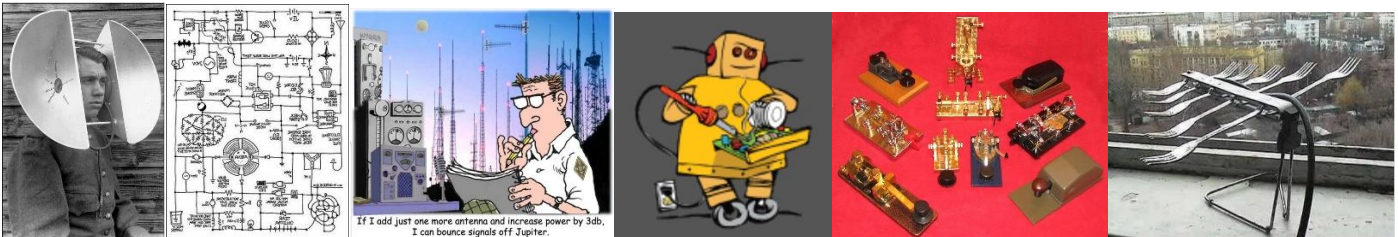
- show and tell of your new radio, antenna, shack setup
- demonstrate one of your build projects
- share some tech info that you have just studied
- share experience in SOTA, POTA, digital, satellite work
- share any experience you've had on the air



To name a few. Please let us know and we'll set you up with some dates, the more we have, the more fun we have. Looking forward to receiving your suggestions



73 Doug VE3DGY







## East Ridge School - Morse Code

John VA3KOT



Back in the depths of winter an email inquiry came in from Mark Lindstrom VA3FIN seeking assistance with a proposed Morse Code demonstration at the East Ridge Community School in Owen Sound. Mark's son attends this school and Mark himself is a regular volunteer there. Class teacher Madame Jenkins strongly supported the idea and was willing to set aside several hours during regular classroom time for the activity.

I volunteered to act as Mark's assistant since I am a keen CW operator. Frankly I was skeptical that a bunch of young, grade 7 students would have even the slightest interest in Morse Code. My skepticism was misplaced; the students actually showed a great deal of enthusiasm and some of them picked up the code very quickly and became quite adept at both sending and receiving. Mark modestly denied that he has any teaching skills but proved otherwise by structuring the course in a way that made learning a difficult subject easy and fun. Even Madame Jenkins complimented him on his natural flair for teaching.



The course was divided into three sessions, each lasting over an hour. The first session began with Mark's presentation on the history of Morse Code. At each session new characters were introduced until all 26 letters, 10 numerals and even some prosigns (e.g. IMI - dididahdidit; "?") had been covered. The students were divided into four groups and enthusiastically sent and received secretly selected words to each other. Some of the exercises included a timer to increase the fun element.

Mark and I brought along CW training equipment for the students to use. As the course leader Mark used a code practice oscillator with a paddle key. He also brought a practice oscillator with an MFJ practice key. I supplied the other three sets (seen in the pictures). Each of the three kits I brought comprised a piezo-electric sounder powered by a 9V battery, with an LED that flashed as the key was pressed. Each key was an old or antique straight key from my collection.

By the end of the third session, it was becoming apparent that some students showed exceptional skill and interest while others had perhaps decided that Morse Code wasn't for them - just like in the ham radio community. Those whose interest waned may have been stimulated more by a demonstration of digital modes. That's maybe an idea somebody else would like to pick up on.

--

John Corby, VA3KOT  
HamRadioOutsideTheBox.ca



# HamShack Hotline

by Richard VE3OZW



Ham radio enthusiasts often gather in groups to share their passion for the hobby, and one such group has come up with an innovative way to stay connected – the [Hamshack Hotline](#).

The Hamshack Hotline is a [network](#) of telephone lines dedicated to ham radio operators. It is a non-profit organization that provides a free service to the ham radio community. The hotline is available 24/7, and anyone with a valid amateur radio license can use it to connect with other operators around the world. One of the great things about the Hamshack Hotline is that it is completely free to use.



The Hamshack Hotline has been around since 2008 and has grown steadily in popularity since its inception. It was created as a way for ham radio operators to stay connected even when they are not near their radios. This is particularly useful for operators who live in areas with poor radio reception, or for those who may not have access to a radio at all times.

The hotline is available to all licensed operators, regardless of their level of experience. It is a great way for newer operators to connect with more experienced ones and to learn more about the hobby. It is also a useful tool for emergency communications, as it provides a reliable way to stay in touch during times of crisis. The hotline also has a directory of registered users, which can be searched by call sign or by location.

Initially, I contacted Al Dee VA3DZZ to purchase an available Cisco SPA303 phones at a cost of \$15 plus an adapter for \$10. When it arrived, I used the Help Desk form the Hamshack Hotline website to setup an “HHUS new line request.” Within 24 hours, I was up and running after receiving an email with instructions to provision the phone. I called Al and thanked him for his help.

As an upgrade, I installed the Orbitz Groundwire app on my mobile phone and entered another help desk ticket to setup a “HHUS soft phone request.” Within hours, the app was setup on my iPhone and works extremely well. Al called me to test it out.

I enjoy technology, especially with a touch of “eye candy,” I decided to upgrade the hard line phone to a better model (one with a better display). I found a Cisco SPA 525G2 on eBay and entered an “HHUS Phone replacement” ticket in the Hamshack Hotline help desk system. The Cisco SPA 525 is not only more aesthetically pleasing, but it also has improved functionality with WiFi, Bluetooth, backlit display plus more. I highly recommend it.



Personally, I have received a couple calls from ONTARS net controllers to update their schedule for ONTARS. The service works well and is a wonderful enhancement to my hamshack. I really like that a caller can leave a voice message and I can pick it up later. Another bonus is that there are not any telemarketing calls. If you sign up for Hamshack Hotline please give me a call at 861814 (I'm in the [phone directory](#).)

Overall, the Hamshack Hotline is a great resource for anyone interested in ham radio. It provides a reliable way to stay connected with other operators, regardless of their location or level of experience. It is also a useful tool for emergency communications, and it is completely free to use. If you are a ham radio operator, or if you are interested in becoming one, be sure to check out the Hamshack Hotline

Wiki <https://wiki.hamshackhotline.com/doku.php?id=start>

Forums <https://www.gbarc.ca/ForumBB/showthread.php?tid=721&pid=1753#pid1753>

## Join the Radio Amateurs of Canada - Our National Voice

<https://www.rac.ca/>



### HOMEMADE MOSQUITO TRAP *For Outdoor Hams*

Items needed:

1 cup of water, 1/4 cup of brown sugar, 1 gram of yeast, 1 2-liter bottle

HOW:

1. Cut the plastic bottle in half.
2. Mix brown sugar with hot water. Let cool.  
When cold, pour in the bottom half of the bottle.
3. Add the yeast. No need to mix. It creates carbon dioxide, which attracts mosquitoes.
4. Place the funnel part, upside down, into the other half of the bottle, taping them together if desired.
5. Wrap the bottle with something black, leaving the top uncovered, and place it outside in an area away from your normal gathering area. (Mosquitoes are also drawn to the color black.)





# World Amateur Radio Day

Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2023



Janet VA3EAC and Marvin VE3VCG invited us to their QTH, a cool day but the club signs were placed and banner hung to advertise our event location and invite those interested in radio to stop by. Marvin reported that he had a group from the Elmwood area

who were interested and spent some time answering their questions and providing guidance. An antennas was placed by Doug VE3DGY and operated on 20 and 15 meters. Club members also assisted in installing N1MM+ on the club laptop and verified the communication with the IC-707. Janet and Marvin had a nice lunch for us so a big thanks for hosting.



This is from the RAC website

The [Radio Amateurs of Canada](#) has organized a special on-air event to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. Every year on April 18, Radio Amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of Amateur Radio and to commemorate the formation of the



[International Amateur Radio Union \(IARU\)](#) on April 18, 1925.

Radio Amateurs of Canada is once again holding a "Get on the Air on World Amateur Radio Day" special event in which we encourage as many Amateurs as possible to get on the air and contact as many RAC stations as possible. The RAC

official station call signs are VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC.



# Minutes of Meeting



## GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting

25th of April 2023

Call to order by Marvin VE3VCG at 7:10 PM

### ATTENDANCE

#### Executive:

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

#### Members:

Janet Double VA3EAC, Jim Reeves VE3JMD, Larry Price VE3WDF, Tom St. Amand VA3TS, Adam Karasinski VE3FP, Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV, Richard Osborne VE3OZW

**QUORUM:** Yes

### TECH TALK:

Is Ham Radio Still Relevant? - Presented by Marvin VE3VCG

Define Ham Radio to a non-user...key selling points:

- email with radio
- digital modes
- Emcomm
- community service
- talk around the world
- make new friends
- use science and technology

Marvin pointed out that our relevance in the community is "essential"

He also invited everyone to sign up for and use Winlink and presented a "how to" including using client software on different platforms:

**Winlink Express** on a computer. <https://winlink.org/WinlinkExpress>

**WoAD** on Android. <https://woad.sumusltd.com/download>

**RadioMail** for iOS. <https://radiomail.app/>

**Emergency Preparedness Week** is May 7-13, 2023 and Marvin suggested setting up a table with information handouts for community members.

Part 2 of the presentation was a demonstration of a portable delta loop antenna. Marvin challenged the club to come up with ideas on a portable support structure so the antenna could be safely used at a public event. Several good suggestions were made including using bamboo, top rails from a chain link fence, and a drive over mast support.

Jim VE3JMD indicated that the Port Elgin club had made a drive over base that could be available for GBARC to use. Bobby VE3PAV offered to provide pieces of steel for a project if needed.

Please email Marvin if you have any additional ideas. [president@gbarc.ca](mailto:president@gbarc.ca)



### **PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Minutes of the March Meeting were published in the newsletter. The minutes were approved.  
(Motion: Doug VE3DGY, second: Richard VE3OZW)

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Doug VE3DGY reported that there were 3 transactions for the month comprised of a deposit of \$45.00 from a membership renewal, a payment of \$225.00 for equipment bought and sold to club members to raise funds, and a bank fee of \$1.50.

The closing balance for the month was \$3714.33

Currently there are 33 members.

The treasurer's report was approved.

(Motion: Janet VA3EAC, second: Tom VA3TS)

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Nothing to see here...please keep scrolling.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Executive Vacancies:** Two members have volunteered to fill the vacant Executive positions:

Vice President: Tex Brown VE3USI

Secretary: Dan Mills VA3DNY

**Greeting Cards:** Doug VE3DGY made a motion for the club to purchase for \$50 or less a supply of GBARC greeting cards that are blank inside. They will be used for various occasions as needed. The motion was seconded by Richard VE3OZW and was passed by vote.

**Tech talks:** Doug has also volunteered to oversee a list and schedule of tech talks to be held at future club meetings. The intent is for everyone to be involved and take turns in sharing what interests them in Ham Radio. Richard commented that it could be like "show and tell" in school. This list will possibly be integrated with the notices and activities list on the website.

**Membership Ideas:** Adam VE3FP initiated a discussion on what we can do to keep club members and reminded us that there are MANY areas of interest in Amateur Radio. Tom, Richard, Doug, and others provided ideas of focusing on the activities that we find "fun" as a priority...if the current members are enjoying the meetings and events, so will new members.

**Mailing List:** Tom VA3TS pointed out that we have a mailing subscription list of around 100 people and that we can use that to send out information about events without violating anti-spam laws. Richard VE3OZW suggested that we can all share the GBARC webpage on our own social media feeds to increase awareness.

**Field Day:** Adam VE3FP voiced his concerns over preparedness for this year's field day event...it's getting close! Marvin reported that he was waiting to hear back from Frank VA3GUF about a possible site near Inglis Falls Conservation Area and possibly a Kelso Beach location.

Tom VA3TS generously offered to use his QTH this year. He has lots of trees, parking for people to stay over, and garage space if the weather is less than ideal. Antenna options could include 2 caged dipoles for 40M and 80M plus the club's tri-band yagi-uda for 10M 15M and 20M.





Adam would like to know how many 24-hour stations we will have, and if we will have a signup sheet for time slots. Also, it is critical that all stations are using N1MM plus be able to network together. Please contact Adam if anyone needs assistance in setting up and linking N1MM ahead of field day.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 9:05 PM

(Motion: Jim VE3JMD, second: Marvin VE3VCG) **Minutes by Dan VA3DNY**

## Websites of Interest

Some amazing newsletters.... Lots of time and effort went into these.. submitted by VE3MKX

**FARC: y2023m04-D.cdr (dwepe.com)**

<https://www.dwepe.com/FARCNewsletters/y2023m04.pdf>

**Fairlawn: "The Friendliest Club Around" (fairlawnarc.com)**

[https://www.fairlawnarc.com/Newsletters/v08-nr03\\_2023-03\\_.pdf](https://www.fairlawnarc.com/Newsletters/v08-nr03_2023-03_.pdf)

**CWops: Solid-Copy\_2023\_March\_FINAL.pdf (cwops.org)**

[https://cwops.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Solid-Copy\\_2023\\_March\\_FINAL.pdf](https://cwops.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Solid-Copy_2023_March_FINAL.pdf)

**PowerPole Connector Instructions**

<https://www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/PWRcrimpmanual.pdf>

**Schematics Unlimited**

<https://www.schematicsunlimited.com/>

**Join us for our weekly get-together, "On the Air"**

Wednesday 7:30 pm on VE3OSR, VE3GBT and on 3.783 Mhz

## 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. Send articles, pictures, websites etc to [webmaster@gbarc.ca](mailto:webmaster@gbarc.ca)



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