



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



September 2023
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President's Message

Marvin VE3VCG

I hope everyone had a nice summer and lots of on air fun. As we slide into the fall winter season there are many interesting and fun things we can do as a club.

Already in consideration is a 2 meter fox-hunt, yagi building event, an idea I support.

I think it is far to easy to get into a rut and simply continue to repeat the same activities over and over. The fun of being in a radio club is being able to do interesting things together and share both information and experiences. For that reason, I encourage everyone to give some thought to the many interesting and fun things that we can do as a group in the season to come.

Ideas are the foundation for having a motivated and energized club but, turning an idea into something fun or interesting to do requires effort and often planning. We don't want to fall prey to the 80 / 20 problem where 20% of the people do 80% of the work. This of course happens all to often in clubs and other kinds of organizations. To get the most out of our club everyone needs to do their bit to help out. Every contribution to the end result, no matter how small is valuable and appreciated.

With those points in view, I wish to thank everyone who came out to support the three races GBARC worked this

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2023/ 2024 Executive

President Marvin VE3VCG

Vice-President..... Tex VE3USI

Treasurer.....Doug VE3DGY

Secretary..... Dan VA3DNY

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season. I feel that doing this is critically important for maintaining the relationships we have in our communities.

As we progress through the end of 2023 and into 2024, I will be talking with other members of the executive on ways we can improve both organization and communications in GBARC. I will also be looking at various ways we can maintain interest and participation for all members.

One area of special interest to me, which I have openly expressed previously, is the new RAC ACS program (Auxiliary Communications Service) Now that this is finally being rolled out, I feel it is important to have an open discussion about this program and if GBARC will support it. I understand that this is not something of interest to many but, as a major undertaking by RAC, I feel it deserves our attention.

I am not certain if I will be physically able to attend our first club meeting in September. If I can't be there I will either designate someone to run the meeting or try to do it via Zoom or another such platform. I will discuss the technical aspects of this idea and work out what might be possible.

Items for Sale

The two local Amateur Radio Clubs (Georgian Bay and Port Elgin) are fortunate to have received donations of used equipment from current hams or the relatives of Silent Keys. The sale of some of the equipment has raised funds for club activities, while other pieces are available for use by club members.

At the September GBARC meeting we will have a quantity of donated test equipment, a radio, tools and accessories available for sale to members. The smaller items can be had by a donation (of the buyer's choice) to the club, while larger pieces will have posted asking prices (open to offers, of course).

I hope the items offered will be of interest; please note that donations/payment in cash would be greatly appreciated.

73 Jim VE3JMD

Join the Radio Amateurs of Canada

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



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.





Field Day 2023

Tom VA3TS

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC (2:00pm) Saturday and running through 2059 UTC (2:00pm) Sunday.

This year there was a threat of rain but it did not amount to anything to speak of. Turned out to be warm and nice. The sun was out and I ended up with a bit of a sunburn. There were quite a few in attendance, we had our June meeting there also and the dinner meal was pizza. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to it again next year.

All the information regarding attendees, submitted scores and feedback, and lessons learned are all contained on our 2023 field day webpage so it won't be repeated here.

<https://gbarc.ca/fd.php>





Servicing Jackson drives in older gear

Don VE3IDS

Jackson drives are the mechanical 3 to 1 reduction drives typically found in vintage rigs, usually behind the vfo knob. They were quite popular in the 60's to the 80's. They can get in poor operating condition due to wear and hardened grease inside them. Most guys maintain that you cannot fix these and replacement is the only option. Replacement drives are hard to find and expensive. I have found a method of bringing them back.

The Jackson drive has an input shaft that rolls multiple ball bearings on an internal plate and an output shaft which is driven on the other side by the ball bearings. The input shaft has to do three rotations to provide one rotation of the output shaft. Some rigs like the Heathkit HW 101 use two drives, one after the other to get a 9 to 1 reduction. If the grease gets crusty or the bearings don't have the correct tension, the drive can slip or become jumpy.



To service them, remove the drive and wash it out with solvent or WD 40. Then pack new grease such as white lithium or Lubriplate into the bearings. This can be done by packing the shaft hole on the output side with grease and using the mating shaft to force the grease on through. Repeat the process until you get nice new grease coming through. Then clean up the outside mess. The second step is to tension the bearings. On the drive body there are metal tabs bent over from the body of the drive to hold it all together. The position of these tabs are very important. Not enough pressure will allow slippage and too much pressure will make the operation of the drive too tight. If the drive seems to loose and spins too freely, you can adjust the tightness. I use a pair of vise grips. This may sound like using a claw hammer in

watch repair but used properly, vise grips can be a precision tool. Close the vise grip jaws and use the adjuster knob on the back to gently grip over the tab and body of the drive. This is your calibration reference point. Then open the jaws and advance the adjuster knob 1/4 turn. Then clamp over the tab and body again to pinch the tab a little tighter. Without changing the adjuster knob, repeat the process on all the other tabs, one at a time. Check the drive operation and if you want more tightness, advance another 1/4 turn on the adjuster knob and crimp the tabs again. Do this in small increments so you don't have to release the tab tension and start all over.

When you are done, that drive will probably be in good operating condition for the next 40 years.

73 Don ve3ids





Bruce Peninsula Multisport Race

On Saturday August 12th our GBARC team once again did emergency / community event support for the Bruce Peninsula Multi-Sport Race in Wiarton. The event includes kayaking on Coploys Bay, biking and running. Running and Biking segments of the race take place over both roadways and off-road trails.

Many thanks to our radio support team, Tim VE3RTE, Marvin VE3VCG, Janet VA3EAC, Frank VE3GUF, David VE3WI and Bobby VE3PAV.

Our team assembled in the main pavilion in Bluewater Park at about 07:00 Tim VE3RTE, our net-controller for the event, had already setup the net control station which used a dual band / dual watch 50 watt Kenwood VHF/UHF radio. Also included in this station was a dual band vertical attached to the top of a 30 foot sectional aluminum mast.

The event was delayed because of an approaching thunderstorm. Race organizers monitored the storm using weather radar and specifically lightening activity. Once the storm arrived it delivered a massive downpour of rain in very short time with thunder and lightening. However, the storm was quick to arrive, very intense then quick to depart, allowing the race to proceed with a late start.

The BPMR involves both a short course and a long course. Once the storm had departed a decision was made to eliminate the short course on the south side of Coploys Bay. As a result, our planned operating locations were changed and all our locations moved to the long course, which routed to the North and East of Wiarton.

The course is a circuit, which includes various smaller side trails where racers do off-road biking or running. Our station locations were worked out to allow our support team to monitor both overall traffic around the course but also to keep track of racers entering and leaving these various side trails.

This year we began working the event using simplex on 146.550 At some point once the event was underway it was agreed that we would begin using the club's new mobile repeater. This repeater was to be located at a high point along the course. However, it was discovered that the repeater was missing a critical cable and so it could not be used and we carried on using simplex.

Simplex operations were successful but required on the fly adaptation as more distant stations needed relays to and from net-control.

It is my belief that when doing events, we should plan to work simplex or use the clubs' portable repeater where possible. The BPMR offered a good test for this idea. Public repeaters might become unavailable for various reasons outside our control and so should not be used. Using our own dedicated club repeater for race coverage should, in theory, be a reliable way to maintain control over communications within our support team.

For events such as the BPMR, advance planning and group practice will help determine what gear to use and allow the team to work out problems before the event.





QRP Guys Antenna

Mike VE3MKX

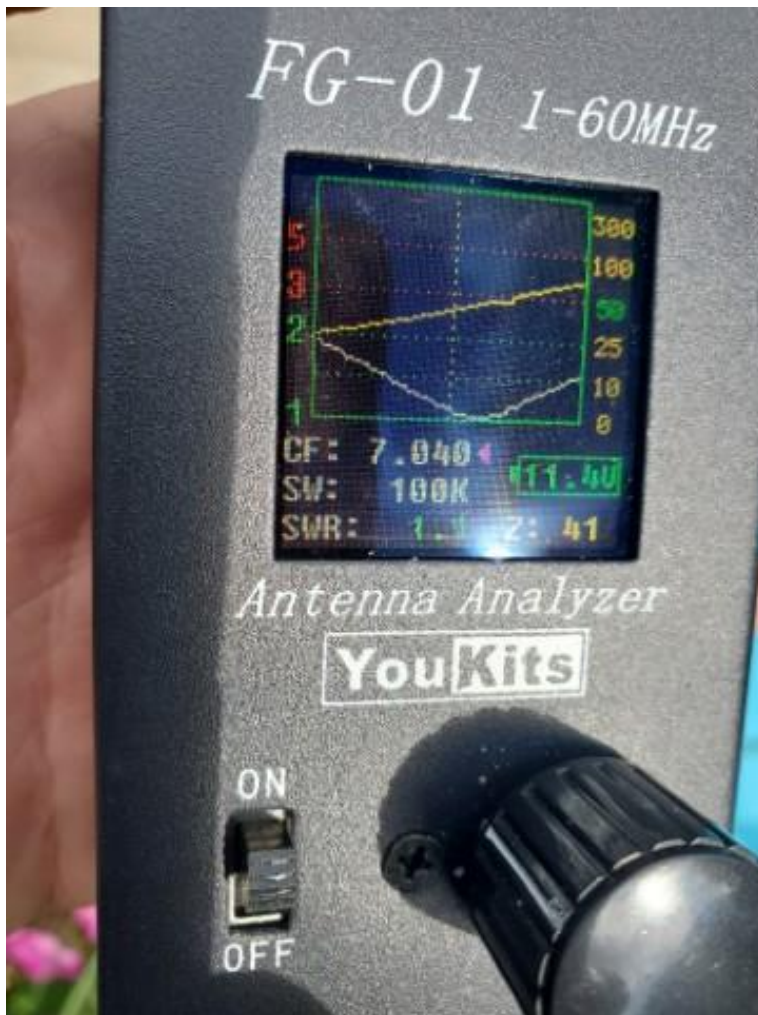
Hi, I finally had some time to play with my homebrew QRP guys antenna.

https://qrpguys.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ds1_ assy_ 041722.pdf

<https://qrpguys.com/ds1-antenna>

The set up The antenna was on a patio table, mounted on a small tripod --- on a raised deck about 3ft off the ground with a 16ft counterpoise...

Here are my results for 20m and 40m... see pics for SWR (using both coils at the same time !!). WOW



Funny thing, with the 20m coil only, I really had to shorten the whip... to get a 1:1 match Changing the flat match frequency was seconds to do, raise or lower the telescopic antenna by inches... the bandwidth was pretty good...

I forgot to check the other bands ... I had it in my mind that it was just a dual band.

I do remember that it did match pretty well on 30m but didnt make any effort to improve that....

More time is needed to play around with the antenna...

Overall it was very easy to match .. Very cheap and easy project to build at home.

Next time I'll try the different bands and get it on the air !

73 Mike VE3MKX





**Congratulations to Adam VE3FP
for his excellent score in the Ontario QSO party**



2023 Ontario QSO Party

This will certify that **VE3FP** has achieved:

First Place Single Op Grey County

With a Score of **40,352** points

**Thanks for Another
Record Breaking Event
Complete with Sunspots!**

The Contest Club Ontario 2022 BBQ and General Meeting. Photo courtesy VA3MW



Local EMCOMM Directory

Name	Winlink Address	Hamshack Hotline#
Bernie	VE3BQM@winlink.org	
DOUG	VE3DGY@winlink.org	
FRANK	VE0GUF@winlink.org	
MARVIN	VE3VCG@winlink.org	
NORM	VE3NBJ@winlink.org	
RICHARD	VE3OZW@winlink.org	6100000814
ROB	VE3RWY@winlink.org	6100000753
TOM	VA3TS@winlink.org	6100001824

[Vara HF Download](#)





Minutes of Meeting

By Dan VA3DNY

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting

24th of June 2023 (At field day event)

Call to order by Marvin VE3VCG at 12:25 PM

ATTENDANCE

Executive:

Marvin Double VE3VCG President, Dan Mills VA3DNY Secretary, Doug McDougall VE3DGY Treasurer, Tex Brown VE3USI Vice President

Members:

Larry Price VE3WDF, Tom St. Amand VA3TS, Adam Karasinski VE3FP, Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV, Philip deKat VE3DPB, Dave Newcombe VE3WI, Frank Gufler VA3GUF, Norman Reintamm VA3NIR

QUORUM: Yes

TECH TALK:

No tech talk presented due to it being Field Day.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the May Meeting were published in the newsletter. The minutes were accepted as written. (motion: Dave VE3WI, second: Phil VE3DPB)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Doug VE3DGY presented the financial report.

The main transactions for the month comprised of a payment of \$254.25 for the port-a-potty, a bank fee of \$5.00, an e-transfer fee of \$1.50, a deposit for 2 memberships, and a generous donation of \$100.00 from Norm VA3NIR.

The closing balance for the month was \$xxxx.00

Currently there are 36 members.

Doug also informed us that the corporate director's list was updated to reflect the executive changes.

The treasurer's report was approved.

(motion: Philip VE3DPB, second: Dan VA3DNY)

OLD BUSINESS:

Bernie VE3BQM will pick up the portable repeater from Frank VA3GUF to keep it more available. (waiting on a time that works for both parties)

Doug VE3DGY turned the GBARC greeting cards over to Marvin VE3VCG.

Tom VA3TS has the account information for the GBARC page at QRZ.com and will send it to Doug VE3DGY who will take over updating it.

There was continued interest by some members in placing an order for GBARC hats and shirts.

Frank VA3GUF volunteered to do some research for an order at RAM Trophies and will report back.



After another discussion about getting business/QSL cards printed, Marvin VE3VCG called a vote and it was passed. Doug VE3DGY will proceed to design and place an order (1000 cards for \$99 expected).

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion about St. John's Ambulance protocol took place as a result of the Huron Shores run. (Calling 911 vs. First Aid)

Tom VA3TS recommended that we don't accept any responsibility for first aid or safety...we provide communication only!

Norman VA3NIR suggested that GBARC should be providing our own waiver to a group, not the other way around.

Marvin VE3VCG indicated that he has prepared information to be sent out by Winlink during Field Day for extra points.

Tex VE3USI explained to us the difficulties with making reservations at the Rockford Restaurant for the Saturday breakfast gatherings. He has been in contact with Elsie's Diner in Springmount and they are much more welcoming and flexible. There was a vote that passed to try the new location for the next two months and decide from there if it should be a permanent change. Tex will follow up with them about a Christmas lunch if the trial works out.

A fox hunt was organized for the 3rd Saturday of June. Approximately 7 people expressed an interest in participating. Tom VA3TS has volunteered to be the "fox" but also said the transmitter can be borrowed at any time if someone else wants to be a "fox" and let him join the chase group.

Doug VE3DGY proposed that he could host a "mini" field day type event on his property later in the summer if there was enough interest. He will send out messages to the group with details later. Richard VE3OZW had also offered to host an event like this at his QTH at a different time.

Marvin VE3VCG presented information about a possible event to be held on Chantry Island this summer for Lighthouses on the air. It could be a day trip or an overnight event and the lighthouse can support a wire antenna. There would be a cost for each person going across by boat plus a donation to their organization. There was not enough interest by the members present so the event will not move forward.

Marvin VE3VCG made a quick reminder about the Bruce Peninsula Multi-Sport race and he may be looking for volunteers for that day.

Dan VA3DNY reminded the group about the 50/50 draws we held at meetings prior to COVID and asked if anyone was interested in them starting up again. There was positive feedback and Doug VE3DGY said that he has the tickets we can use. We will start holding draws at our meetings going forward.

Meeting Adjourned prior to the official start to Field Day (motion: Frank VA3GUF, second: Norman VA3NIR)



Interesting Websites

Image Resizer for Windows

<https://image-resizer-for-windows.en.lo4d.com/download>

160 and 60m antennas

http://www.dx.nl/pa2s/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PA2S_60m_tips.pdf

<https://topbandhams.com/tech-page/6-22-different-wire-antennas-for-the-160-meter-band>

<http://www.pg1n.nl/articles.php?lng=en&pg=104>

Batteries for portable use

<https://vk3ye.com/grp/batteries.htm>

GO bags and cases

<https://qrper.com/tag/go-bag/>

POTA

<https://www.huyetm.net/pota---parks-on-the-air.html>

<https://wb0isg.com/blog/>

Daily Amateur Radio News

<http://www.hamradiodaily.com/>

Amateur Radio Newline

<https://www.arnewline.org/>

DX News Ham Radio Amateur Radio News

<https://dxnews.com/>

This Week in Amateur Radio

<https://twiar.net/>

Top 80 Ham Radio RSS Feeds

https://rss.feedspot.com/ham_radio_rss_feeds/

AI Noise Filtering

<https://ournetplace.com/rm-noise/>

QSO Today presentations

<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/presentations.html>

Canadian Battery Supplier

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





Fox Hunt Antenna

Tom VA3TS

I was puttering around the garage one day and came across an old corner reflector antenna. The arms which hold the elements, are moveable so the angle or aperture can be changed at will and as a bonus, it can be folded down flat for storage. The antenna was already UHF so I shortened the element lengths to be resonant at 439.695 mhz, the 3rd harmonic of 146.565 mhz that we use for fox hunting. A few tests were conducted at my qth and it seems to function as required although the real test will be an actual fox hunt. The picture below show the antenna connection point. It was originally using 75 ohm coax so I think it started out life as a UHF TV antenna. I used the same balun and made up a short cable to connect it to the handheld. It ended up that one can use with one hand using a handle I added just under the radio. Not bad for a first attempt.



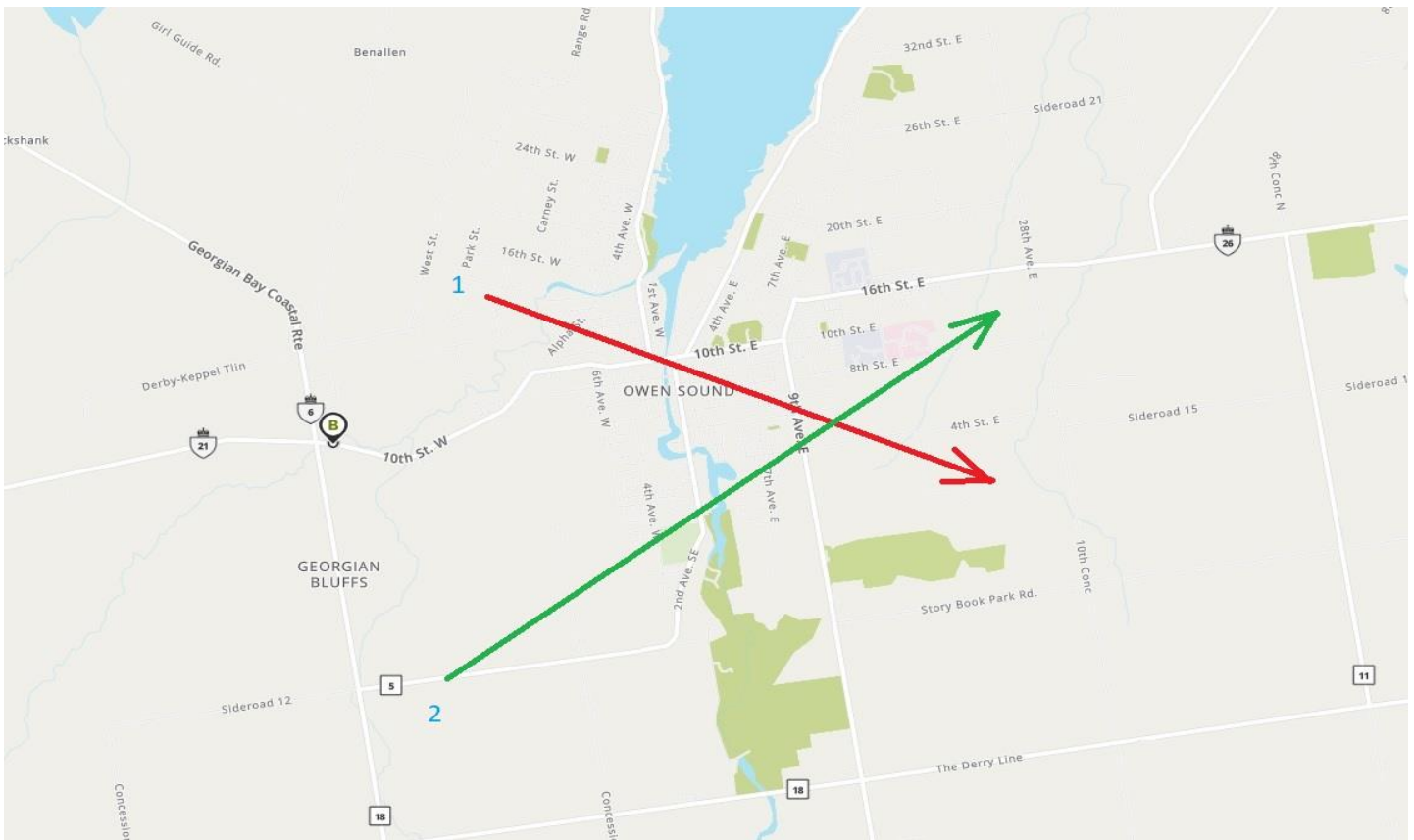
I found that the signal could be reduced by moving the arms closer together. Fox hunting is all about attenuating the signal you are looking for especially when you are close to the fox. Signals bounce around and are easily mistaken. My xyl,

Gloria made us a fox mascot ...thanks



Like other activities we do, there is a certain strategy that will help in

finding the fox and improving our skills. For example, it is helpful at the start to find the general location of the fox. A few readings using a high gain beam at a higher elevation to make a general triangulation by plotting beam heading on a map. In the example below, start at point 1 and take a reading, doing the same at point 2 gives a general location of the fox. Have fun.



[Mapquest](#)

[VHF 3EL Tape Measure Yagi](#)



Cambridge Radio Club appeals for help after thieves' trash clubhouse

After their club house storage shed was robbed and vandalized last week, the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club is putting the call out to the community to help them find their equipment.

The shed, located off Eagle Street in a commercial area, acted as the club's headquarters before vandals stole equipment and tried to burn it to the ground.

"They smashed computers, stole a generator and literally tried to set the place on fire," said club president Scott Mitchell.

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"They smashed computers, stole a generator and literally tried to set the place on fire," said club president Scott Mitchell.

[Read More](#)

Terry Fox Run 2023

Thanks to all who attended to help out the annual Terry Fox run in Harrison Park in Owen Sound, Sunday the 17th of September. John VA3KOT took on the duties of net control to keep the event moving smoothly.



L-R Bobby VE3PAV, Norn VE3NBJ, Frank VA3GUF,
and welcome to Paul VA3HYM a new ham to the hobby



L-R Dave VE3WI, Mark VA3FIN,
and John VA3KOT



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](#)

Membership Renewals

2024 membership renewals can be paid from Sept 1st till Dec 31st 2023
[Read More](#)

Mini Field Day Saturday September 23rd

Doug VE3DGY is inviting club members to his place in Dornoch (hwy 6 and 25, 15 min north of Durham) it's 100 acres of bush and trails.

We can go in via ATV or you can take a 15 min walk. Lunch and drinks will be provided just bring a chair, radio gear (and maybe some bug spray, though they're not bad).

We'll meet at 10am and I can ATV you back to your car whenever you want to leave.

RSVP to ve3dgy@gmail.com

K2EZ's Ground Reference

