



# FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the  
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



December 2024  
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## President's Message

Marvin VE3VCG

## Winlink Tuesday Announcement December 24 2024,

The Winlink Tuesday Project has officially started. All those on the GBARC mailing list should have received several emails from Marvin VE3VCG AuxComm Coordinator for Bruce County.

These initial Winlink emails are part of the first phase of a longer multi-phase program. This first series of Winlink emails demonstrate how Winlink can deliver email to any valid email address. However, the real value of Winlink is that, in the absence of the internet, Winlink can continue to deliver email to anyone with a Winlink email address.

The objective of this project is to encourage amateur radio operators to get Winlink software, activate an account and then actively use Winlink as part of your normal operations.

In this initial phase of this project I encourage any operator who already has Winlink and an active account to please use it to send an email to my Winlink account VE3VCG@winlink.org I will then add your address to my Winlink only mailing list.



I wish all GBARC members and friends a Happy New Year. May you keep your resolutions that you have made. Looking forward to the activities of the new year.

73s Tex ve3usi

## This Month

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### 2023/ 2024 Executive

President ..... Marvin VE3VCG  
Vice-President..... Tex VE3USI  
Treasurer.....Doug VE3DGY  
Secretary..... Dan VA3DNY

[Club Constitution](#)

[By-Laws](#)





Hi everyone.

The last few months I was thinking about a different way of doing a Fox Hunt.



My vision was to have a Fox Hunt available when you are, especially this time of year. Not everyone lives in town, everyone is very busy shopping and may not be able to dedicate an afternoon of a specific day for a group search, but what if the fox keeps calling you out for your moment to do a hunt, a few minutes here and a few minutes there. No pressure, just try out and see what you can find in your box of goodness and experiment using different antennas to get the best results. Go get that Fox.

Where to start with my build; you guessed it; Google and YouTube.

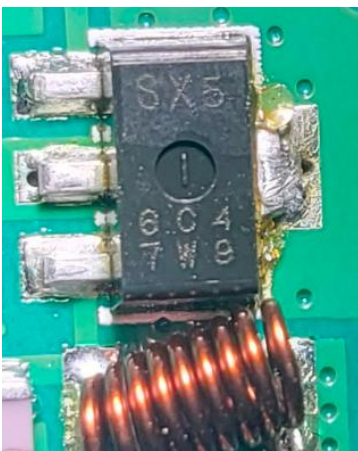
First step is to make a Fox with things I had in my toolkit. I got a Baofeng Radio, Arduino UNO, batteries, waterproof Box and a Drok Buck Converter, simple enough.

I first searched using Miss Google and came across this; <https://www.hackster.io/nfarrier/auto-keyer-for-radio-fox-hunting-e89b99>

Cool, I can do this, so I did. After putting it all together, programmed the Arduino UNO using the Arduino software from code on that website, setup the CW message, all tested just fine. Great my vision begins.

Tested everything, boy this is great, 1 watt output from the radio, good range, packaged it all up and outside I go. I found a good hiding place for it, needed easy access and safety for the fox.

I could hear it from the east and west side of town. All is good. ...darn... a few days later.



Because I could no longer hear it until I was just beside it, took the fox home and discovered the TX was no longer putting out power, battery was still good,

My Fox SX5 Mosfet transistor failed. Must be spending too much time in the TX mode, so I replaced the radio, Changed the transmit message reducing the time by almost 50 percent.

Put the Fox back in its DEN and he was happy again calling everyone to get searching. ....Darn... A few days go by and once again, he stopped his TX. I was thinking it must be batteries, Out he comes and yes the batteries were depleted, however the Fox SX5 Mosfet transistor also

failed. There goes the fox hunt, second radio blown, how disappointed all of you would be.



I talked to a fellow Ham about their Baofeng radio, he uses them more often than I, he showed me in the manual that the duty cycle is very small, 03 / 03 / 54 minutes (RX / TX / Standby. My fellow ham had a spare radio he was not using so I purchased it.

Did a few more programming Duty Cycle changes, I also decided to add "MORE POWER" {Tim Allen} So I added a second Makita battery for a longer stay in the den.

I relocated the fox to be closer to home just for the fact I know I will need to replace the batteries in a few day.

I hope you all get a chance to find the fox. Happy Fox Hunting.

73 and Season Greeting

The Silver Fox

Ve3bqm



## Christmas Luncheon 2024

It was a blustery day but some 14 members and their XYL's attended and shared our seasons good cheer. There was the usual turkey dinner with all the fixins as well as a ham dinner. Salads and dessert all around. Thanks to the organizers for another successful event and the hope that we can do this again next year. At the end there was a drawing for multiple door prizes which were donated by club members.



## Elsie's Breakfast



Elsie's is now open for breakfast at 09:00. (*Winter Hours*)

[Read More](#)

## Tech Talk Doug VE3DGY



Each month at our club meeting we start off with a Tech Talk. Members are encouraged to offer their presentations. Subject can be anything of interest in Ham radio, maybe you installed a new radio or antenna, or discovered something new on you-tube. Don't assume that what you have isn't good enough. Bring it along for discussion.



**Silent Key** Jack Seaman VA3SEA Not an active member in recent years but had many get togethers with him and his son Aden.

[obit](#)



**Silent Key** Jim Vamplew VE3CRV, VA3CRV One of the last founding members of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

[obit](#)

## GBARC Winter Challenge 2024/2025



This is our annual fun challenge for members and non members. A friendly competition to work Canadian stations during the winter months.

[Read More](#)

**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.







# Minutes of Meeting

By Dan VA3DNY

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting 26th of November 2024

Call to order by Marvin VE3VCG at 7:00 PM

## ATTENDANCE

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

Members: Greg Larocque VE3RQY, Janet Double VA3EAC, Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV, Tom St.Amand VA3TS, Jim Reeves VE3JMD, Dave Newcombe VE3WI, Richard Osborne VE3OZW, Philip deKat VE3DPB, Mark Lindstrom VA3FIN, Marc MacDonald VE3MMJ, Mary Watson VA3ILT

QUORUM: Yes

## TECH TALK:

Richard VE3OZW - HamClock on the RaspberryPI

Richard presented an overview of HamClock, what all it can do, and some configuration tips. It can be set up to display a lot of current band conditions, solar flux, dx cluster info, satellite information, etc. One of the most useful options is to access it remotely from any browser on the same network. This means you can use your phone to quickly look at band conditions etc.

All of the information and links from this tech talk will be posted on the forum.

## PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the September Meeting were published in the newsletter and on the GBARC website. The minutes were accepted as written and passed by vote.

**(motion: Dave VE3WI, second: Tom VA3TS)**

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Doug VE3DGY submitted the finance report up to the November meeting.

Transactions: Dues received (\$210), Donated equipment sales (\$100), 50/50 earned (\$35), service charges (\$7), and Winlink and VARA Licence (\$129.00). Balance: \$xxx.65

The treasurer's report was accepted and passed by vote.

**(motion: Tex VE3USI, second: Janet VA3EAC)**

## OLD BUSINESS:



Marvin VE3VCG presented an update on Winter Field Day. Bobby VA3PAV has made the reservations for us in Ferndale. Marvin has asked for volunteers to assist with the organization of the event. Last year there weren't any tables so Marvin will bring one.

Marvin also updated us on the Christmas Luncheon on December 7th seating at 12:30 and meal at 1:00 at Elsie's Diner. The meal selections have been submitted to the Diner.

Dave VE3WI and Doug VE3DGY have indicated that the LOTW account corrections are still underway.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Doug VE3DGY explained to us that GBARC passed its financial audit and presented the letter from the auditor.

Marvin VE3VCG introduced the beginning of a WinLink & Digital Modes Development Group. He plans for it to become a weekly digital net for people to develop skills with digital modes. Please contact Marvin if you are interested.

Marvin also indicated that there have been new developments for ARES and ACS. There will be a big announcement in the new year and we will get more details at that time.

Greg VE3RQY suggested that the club should consider a gift to the Executive Director who allows us to have access and use of our meeting space free of charge. Dave VE3WI made a motion for Greg to buy a suitable gift for approximately \$100. Phil VE3DPB seconded the motion and it was passed by vote.

The 50/50 Draw winner: Dan VA3DNY amount: \$30.50

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:05 PM

(motion: Janet VA3EAC, second: Richard VE3OZW)

## **Interesting Websites**

**Send your interesting web finds in and they will be posted here**

Installation Manuals & Tuning Instructions Sinclair

<https://www.sinctech.com/pages/installation-manuals-tuning-instructions>



# Membership as of 20<sup>th</sup> Of December

## 2025 Membership Paid

VE3BQM	Bernie Monderie	Owen Sound
VE3LKD	Bob Droine	Owen Sound
VE3PAV	Bobby Pavlovic	Lions Head
VA3WBO	Bruce Poirier	Wasaga Beach
VA3DNY	Dan Mills	Owen Sound
VE3WI	David Newcombe	Port Elgin
VE3BAK	David Rosenfeld	Owen Sound
VE3DGY	Doug McDougall	Owen Sound
VA3GUF	Frank Gufler	Owen Sound
VA3STG	Fred Lorch	Teeswater
VE3RQY	Greg Larocque	Owen Sound
VA3EAC	Janet Double	Paisley
VE3JMD	Jim Reeves	Port Elgin
VE3VCG	Marvin Double	Paisley
VA3NIR	Norman Reintamm	Flesherton
VE3NBJ	Norm Pratt	Owen Sound
VE3QVC	Phillip De Kat	Owen Sound
VE3OZW	Richard Osborne	Mildmay
VA3SGZ	Sheldon Greig	Chatsworth
VE3USI	Tex Brown	Flesherton
VA3TS	Tom St.Amand	Shallow Lake



**JOIN GBARC TODAY**

## 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 us a an email with <https://gbarc.ca/contact.php>, and we will get back to you.

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

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

