



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



June 2024
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The New QRP Labs QMX Transceiver

by John VA3KOT

Several members of the club have invested in new QRP radios recently. When QRP Labs introduced its new QMX transceiver at a very affordable price I decided it was time for me to join them and place an order. My failing septuagenarian eyes and unsteady hands persuaded me that even though I have always been keen on building my own gear, the complexity of assembling this tightly packed complex radio was more than I should take on. So, I ordered a factory assembled unit and 6 months later it arrived.

QRP Labs custom builds every radio to order at its R&D center in Turkey. The owner, expat Brit Hans Summers GOUPL, is the brains behind the operation and employs a dozen technicians and support staff who work in the upper floor of his home. It is not uncommon for very small enterprises like QRP Labs to operate this way and long order fulfillment wait times are a characteristic of such organizations.

My cost, including an optional extruded aluminum enclosure, assembly fee and shipping came to just a little over \$200. That is an amazingly low price to pay for such a feature packed radio and compares very favourably with the much higher cost of other radios such as the Elecraft KX2 or Icom IC-705. Of course, it doesn't have all the features of the higher price radios but, as Hans told me in an email, he decided to release the hardware as soon as it was developed but continue to work on the firmware, adding new features with each new release. The QMX can be upgraded by

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2023/ 2024 Executive

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

[Club Constitution](#)

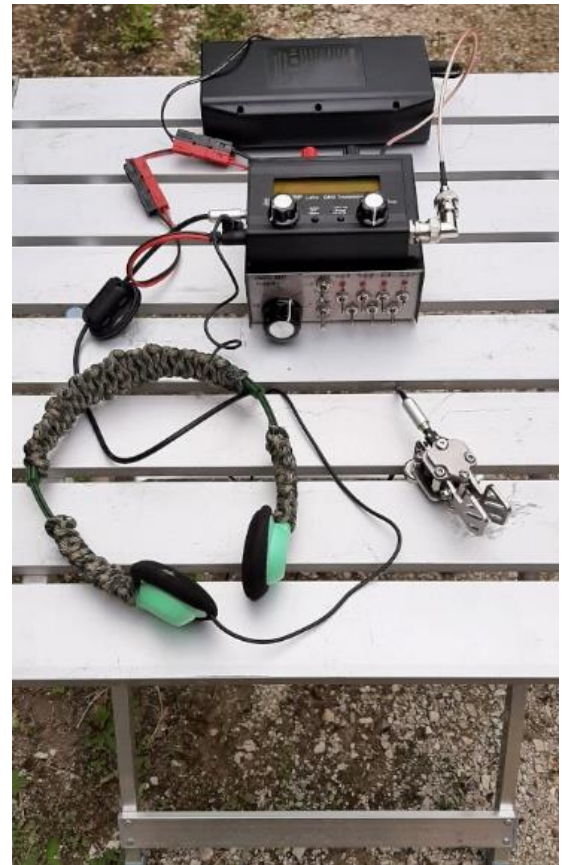
[By-Laws](#)



installing new firmware for which there is no additional charge.

The QMX comes in three versions depending on which bands are supported. I chose the low band version which supports 80m, 60m, 40m, 30m and 20m. My most used bands for field portable operations (e.g. POTA) are 20m and 40m so this version suits my needs well. I could even use it to join in a weekly CW rag chew with friends on 80m while portable if I had the opportunity to erect a suitable antenna.

The QMX is a tiny radio that fits into the palm of your hand. While cute, it does require an external battery and a tuner if not using resonant antennas and that makes the whole field kit larger than the Elecraft KX2 although still perhaps comparable with the Icom IC-705. I have used my QMX for a successful POTA activation as well as for hunting numerous other POTA activators. It is a very user-friendly radio with a huge set of features that are readily accessible by simple button clicks and rotary encoder selections. Oh,



and a big new feature is under development - SSB! The QMX currently supports CW and digital modes like FT8 and JS8call but there is a microphone already installed ready for when SSB support is available in a future firmware release. For anybody considering investing in a compact, very affordable field portable radio I highly recommend the QRP Labs QMX.

Image Notes

The pictures show the radio itself and the compact QRP tuner I built many years ago while a member of the Peel Amateur Radio Club in Brampton. The tuner successfully tunes my 41ft random wire antenna on all bands (except 80m) that are supported by my QMX. The table top layout image shows everything setup for field portable operation right after I finished a successful CW QSO with North Carolina on the random wire. The large battery at the top of the picture is a Talentcell 6500mAh Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery, but I can also run the QMX on 8 regular AA cells.





Field Day 2024

Frank VA3GUF Event Organizer

Calling all Amateur Radio enthusiasts and Friends

Come out to the Annual 24 hour North America Field Day event held by the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority located just north of Inglis Falls. Start time is 14:00hrs Saturday June 22nd thru to Sunday June 23rd. Come out and see some of the facets of emergency communications we as a club can set up away from our home stations. Some of the things you will see when you attend will be;

- Mobile Repeater
- Off grid 100W HF stations
 - > Generator powered
 - > Solar powered
- HF radio email
- Portable HF antenna Tower with rotor
- Variety of antenna types
- Variety of emergency HF station set-ups
- Group of Amateur Radio enthusiasts

This event is also open to all who wish to contribute their time to the event. Arrive prior to start time for set-up as extra hands are always welcome and see what goes into setting up an emergency station. Also operate a HF station (the schedule is still open) or just practice on our mobile repeater with your portable radio. Come and chat with some of the members that will be most happy to talk about what we are doing as well as just socialize in a setting with a group that has common interests. We will answer any and all your questions to all members and non-members. It is an event not to be missed.

For more information on this event, go to our GBARC web page (<https://www.gbarc.ca>) and select Amateur Radio Field Day. You can even contact the club using the sites Contact Us found in the menu for any event support contributions you intend to bring along or schedule your time on a HF station making contacts. No worries if you are a bit apprehensive to pick up the mike. We will pair you with a scribe that records contact information.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Till Field Day, this is Frank, VA3-Golf Uniform Foxtrot saying 73.





RAC Canada Day Contest

(July 1st, 2024)

Each year on July 1, the anniversary of Canada's Confederation, RAC sponsors the RAC Canada Day Contest and Amateurs all over the world are invited to Canada's Birthday Party on the air.

This year there are several changes including:

- In support of the new RAC Headquarters Amateur Station, RAC contests will now recognize its call sign VE3RHQ as a new 20-point bonus call sign as part of the contest scoring. All the major software authors have implemented this change, so please update your software if you have not recently done so.
- We are no longer accepting paper logs. The RAC Contest Management Teams Web Log System at <https://contest.rac.ca/> is the preferred method to submit logs and email logs will still be accepted for the near term.
- The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club and the Manitoba Repeater Society have amalgamated into the new Radio Amateurs of Manitoba. They will now be the sponsor of the Rookie Plaque.
- We have received several inquiries about how the 10-minute rule was adjudicated in the Multi-Operator Single-Transmitter both HP, and LP.

As a result we have extensively rewritten Category Note 4 to provide more clarity.

If you have questions about these rules or need help with preparing or submitting your log or have any other questions, please contact Bart Ritchie, VE5CPU at ve5cpu@myrac.ca.

Terry Fox Run

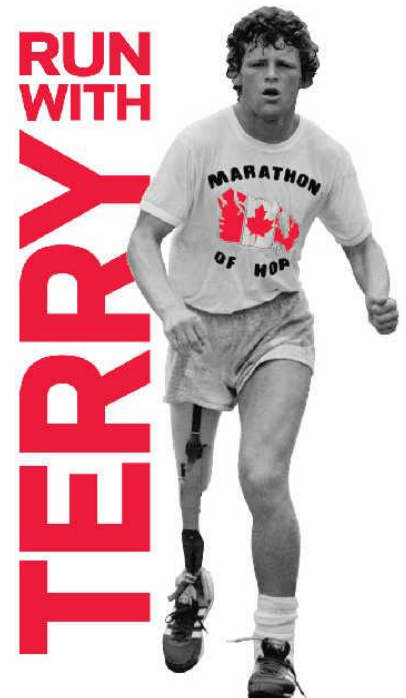
Sunday 15th September 2024

The annual Terry Fox Run has become a fall tradition in Canada, with more than 650 communities, big and small, urban and rural, English and French, fundraising for cancer research. GBARC has provided assistance to the Terry Fox Run since 1996

<https://run.terryfox.ca/3057>

If you would like to participate in the 2024 run, please send mail to the [webmaster](#). If you have a particular location in mind, we can accommodate your wishes, Go to this webpage for a map of available locations. <https://gbarc.ca/terryfox.php>

This event is sponsored by the Terry Fox Foundation, a registered charitable organization. For more information go to <https://terryfox.org/terry-fox-run/>



Elsie's Breakfast



Elsie's is now open for breakfast at 08:00. If the club would like to change to the earlier time, please let Tex VE3USI know and he will make the change. Tks Tex ve3usi @ gmail.com

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.

President's Message Marvin VE3VCG



Presidents Message June 2024

Because Field Day is actually an Emergency Communications Exercise, I thought it appropriate to provide another update on developments of ACS.

As some members of the club are aware I became the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Bruce County in June of 2020. Shortly after taking on this responsibility I was informed by RAC that ARES was to be replaced by a new organization called Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS). I was instructed to no longer reference ARES but rather to use the new ACS organizational name.

There has been some resistance to dropping the use of ARES which I understand and, perhaps concerns about this name change will be addressed in the future by ACS organizers. I'm currently getting around the problem by simply using a self-made business card which says: Marvin Double VE3VCG ACS-Bruce County, as the main line. Under that is a smaller line which reads "Auxiliary and Emergency Communications" and has my contact information.

The reason for this shift from ARES to ACS is not simply cosmetic. The structure of the new ACS organization is intended to correct some of the deficits of the ARES program.

The objective of ACS is to work with various served agencies in a more hand-in-glove manner, to create a new "EmComm" training program which better serves the needs of those agencies. This new training course will produce volunteers who are better prepared to become an integrated part of a professional emergency response team.

There are very sound reasons why this change is being made. At the top of a short list is the term professional responsibility. Emergency Managers and Municipal officers have a legally defined responsibility to maintain public safety and security. They take courses and become certified to operate using the Incident Command System (ICS) or Emergency Management System (EM). As well as other professional protocols used within the specific emergency response plans in their communities.



Put another way, Emergency Managers and Municipal Officers are not only responsible for being properly trained for their jobs, but they are also legally liable for doing that job. After all, the essence of the the job is effectively a “public trust” issue.

From that point of view, these professionals have become increasingly wary of dealing with Amateur Radio volunteers that represent a host of unknown elements into their emergency response planning. Both unfamiliarity with Amateur Radio, and uncertainty about volunteer training and competence of volunteers, have been factors which created problems for them when using ARES volunteers in the past.

The creation of ACS then introduces a different approach to developing a more professional relationship between Amateur Radio Volunteers and the agencies we serve. That relationship will be developed as a joint cooperative undertaking between ACS voluteers and served agencies.

The product of such cooperation can be seen in the development of certificate granting ACS training programs. Second is the development of agency specific “Position Training Taskbooks” (PTTB). Third in this list of ACS related developments is the requirement of agencies to sponsor amateur radio volunteers to take the relevant training courses. This provision alone speaks to the differences between the old ARES volunteer program, and the new approach used by ACS.

Trained and certified ACS volunteers will be expected to train with and be part of local simulated emergency training events and will operate as an unpaid part of the local emergency response team and under the direction of the emergency manager or their designate.

Under this new system Amateur Radio gear and volunteers will be seen as a part of the professional emergency response program for a local municipality during a declared emergency. Which is to say, ACS volunteers will not turn up during an event to “play radio”.

Further on the point of professional development: ACS is in the process of developing a vetting process to screen candidates who wish to volunteer to become part of this new system. The expectation being put forward is that, only qualified applicants will be accepted into the program.

Simply being a willing licensed operator might not be the most relevant qualification for inclusion as an ACS volunteer. The apparent objective is to build an organization which can operate effectively, reliably and professionally during an actual emergency event. Therefore other skills or qualifications may be considered for volunteer applicants in addition to radio experience.

ACS volunteers will be supporting, and working closely with, professional emergency personnel, all of whom report to Civic Officers at the municipal level. Ultimately Mayors and those they employ are responsible to the public they serve. As such. They are held to high professional standards. After all, the real mission for all Public Safety professionals and volunteers is to support and help our communities in a time of need, and perhaps event and even to save lives.

In that context, this new ACS approach to training volunteers makes perfect sense. I’m looking forward to Field Day and a great summer and doing lots of radio in the great outdoors.





Minutes of Meeting

By Dan VA3DNY

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting 28th of May 2024

Call to order by Marvin VE3VCG at 7:15 PM

ATTENDANCE

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

Members: Tom St. Amand VA3TS, Philip deKat VE3DPB, Dave Newcombe VE3WI, Jim Reeves VE3JMD, Greg Laroque VE3RQY, Larry Price VE3WDF, Janet Double VA3EAC, Adam Karasinski VE3FP, Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV, Bernie Monderie VE3BQM, Don Richards VE3IDS, Rijk VanHuisstede VA3RYK, Frank Gufler VA3GUF

QUORUM: Yes

TECH TALK:

Marvin VE3VCG gave a presentation about portable antennas including a faraday cloth fabric antenna for 2M. The other antenna was a dual band on a homemade mount designed to fit on a painter's pole and included a ground plane kit.

He also discussed using a portable rig comprised of a Baofeng HT and an external 25W amplifier along with a push up mast antenna as an alternative to a vehicle based rig.

Marvin also presented a device called Lilygo that uses an android app called Meshtastic. It can be used to create a mesh network with any other device users within range and allows off grid communication without needing a licence.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the April Meeting were published in the newsletter and on the GBARC website. The minutes were accepted as written.

(motion: Adam VE3FP, second: Phil VE3DPB)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Doug VE3DGY presented the finance report. Members:36, Transactions: 50/50 draw (\$xx.50) and Donations for equipment sale (\$xx.00), and service charges (\$xx.00), and payment for repeater fan replacement (\$xx.87) Balance: \$xx.28

The treasurer's report was accepted. (motion: Janet VA3EAC, second: Jim VE3JMD)



OLD BUSINESS:

Frank VA3GUF gave an update on the Basic Course currently underway. There has been a lot of positive feedback so far, and the students have been invited to attend our field day event.

Frank will now be the coordinator for field day and is requesting an 8:30 AM start for setup on Saturday. He will also bring his climbing gear for the yagi installation. An operating schedule will be posted on the website so operators can reserve time slots.

Doug VE3DGY provided more details about field day. It will be held at the Grey Sauble Conservation Headquarters location. The washrooms will be left open for us, the pavilion will be reserved for our use, generators will be allowed, and trailers can be used overnight in the parking area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adam VE3FP is planning to help with the computer N1MM logging connections. He requests that everyone make sure any computers being used have the latest N1MM software installed and be configured to the radio correctly prior to Saturday.

Frank VA3GUF reminded everyone about the upcoming Bruce Peninsula Multi-Sport Race on Aug 8-9. He is requesting volunteers to provide communication during the event.

Marvin VE3VCG gave an account of the Trillium Venture emergency exercise that several members participated in. The simulated emergency was "failure of electrical grid due to heat stress". He discussed a possible opportunity to using a "mesh network" for improved communications.

50/50 Draw won by Jim VE3JMD \$34.00 to him and the same amount to the club.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM

(motion: Phil VE3DPB, second: Bernie VE3BQM)

Interesting Websites

Made for DX-ers

<https://www.dx-world.net/>

Antenna Trap Modeling Tips

<http://www.on5au.be/documents/traps.pdf>

LimeNET Micro 2.0 Developer Edition board

https://www.cnx-software.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/limenet-micro-2-front-01_jpg_gallery-lg.jpg





Help WANTED at the qth of Tom VA3TS

I need a kind soul to go up my tower and secure my coax's. They have dropped down and this prevents turning the beam. A few ty-raps to hold the coax's steady should fix the issue. I also noted that the beam has slipped a bit on the mast. So, to fix that, all that is needed is to loosen the mast clamps on the rotor and re-position the beam...any takers?



Bruce Peninsula Multisport Race

AUG 10TH, 2024

Multi sport race day is getting closer!



For more details or to contact Frank, visit our forums

<https://www.gbarc.ca/ForumBB/forumdisplay.php?fid=47>

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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