



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

March 2024
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President's Message



Marvin VE3VCG

I watched a video recently which inspired this President's Message. The video creator likes to operate QRP. In his video he "debunks" 12 QRP myth's. Last on his list is not really a myth, but rather

an opinion; "Life's too Short for QRP".

Perhaps, for some, life is too short for QRP, after all, if you are one who is always running legal limit the very idea of using QRP might seem ridiculous. Everyone has their own idea about how to operate and the hobby is certainly deep enough and broad enough to have room for everyone.

If you want to use a pack mule to haul several hundred pounds of gear up mountain to do a SOTA activation, I say go for it. On the other hand, if you really are keen to test how to make contacts using the lowest possible wattage, that's cool with me too.

Buy or make an antenna, I have no issue with either choice. I feel that the real action is on the air and how you get there is just a means to an end. There is fun to be had in different ways and for different reasons. Preferences or other factors may determine the choices we make in pursuing our hobby. If this hobby is about having fun, where's the problem is we are doing things that make us happy?

Apparently, there is a problem, and it surfaces from time to time online, even on the air. If one dares to violate some inviolate rules. various self-appointed HAM police will give you a tongue lashing with admonitions as to what is, or is not HAM radio. Now go put on your dunce cap and sit with your nose in the corner until you learn your lesson.

This Month

Presidents Message

[The Amateurs Code of Conduct](#)

[GBARC 50TH](#)

[World Amateur Radio Day](#)

[Club Apparel](#)

[MURS VHF Channels](#)

[AH4 Tuner Interface Box](#)

[Membership](#)

[Why Become an Amateur Radio
Operator](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

[Interesting Websites](#)

[The Last Word](#)

2023/ 2024 Executive

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

[Club Constitution](#)

[By-Laws](#)



There is this natural human tendency to be critical of others. It is part of the character traits that make us human. The fact that we hold different views, have different ideas and are interested in different things is what makes the world a more interesting place. But, these differences are also a mixed blessing because they can give rise to conflict when differences are mixed with judgment.

I'm one of those who thinks the challenges of operating QRP are part of the fun of amateur radio. Making a contact with 5 watts, in Australia is an accomplishment to be sure but not something that appeals to everyone. To each their own, as the saying goes.

The key to keeping HAM radio fun, is to keep it civil. Each time we're on the air, using any mode, we have an opportunity to be ambassadors' civil discourse not judgment and confrontation. The world, at this moment, is a divisive place where civility seems in short supply. I encourage everyone to be inclusive and encouraging on the air on when commenting on videos or in forums Do what we can to keep amateur radio fun and civil.

The Amateur Radio Code of Conduct

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE... never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the Radio Amateurs of Canada, through which Amateur Radio is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of all Men, Women and Children. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC... station and skills always ready for service to country and community when possible.



50th Anniversary Celebration

Anyone who would like to help us operate, is welcome to join us.

October 18th 1973 was the first meeting of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club. This year, starting in October 2023 is our 50th anniversary and the club has decided to hold some celebratory events, both social and operating.

On March 23rd 2024 the club will use a special callsign **VC3GB** to commemorate our anniversary and operate HF 80m 40m and 20m SSB and CW. **12 noon to 8pm**. If you would like to join us, this event will be held at the QTH of VA3TS. Send email and we will add you to our list of operators. It is anticipated that each station will have 2 operators, one on the air and the other to log. It will be up to those operating to decide if they will use SSB or CW or a mix.

There are 2 stations to use as listed below. 80m likely won't be useful till 4 or 5pm

Station Complement

Station # 1 IC-7300 TH6DX Tri-band Beam, N1MM+ Logger

Station # 2 Anan 7000DLE, Ameritron ALS-600 amp, Double Extended Zepp antenna 315 Feet, N1MM+ Logger

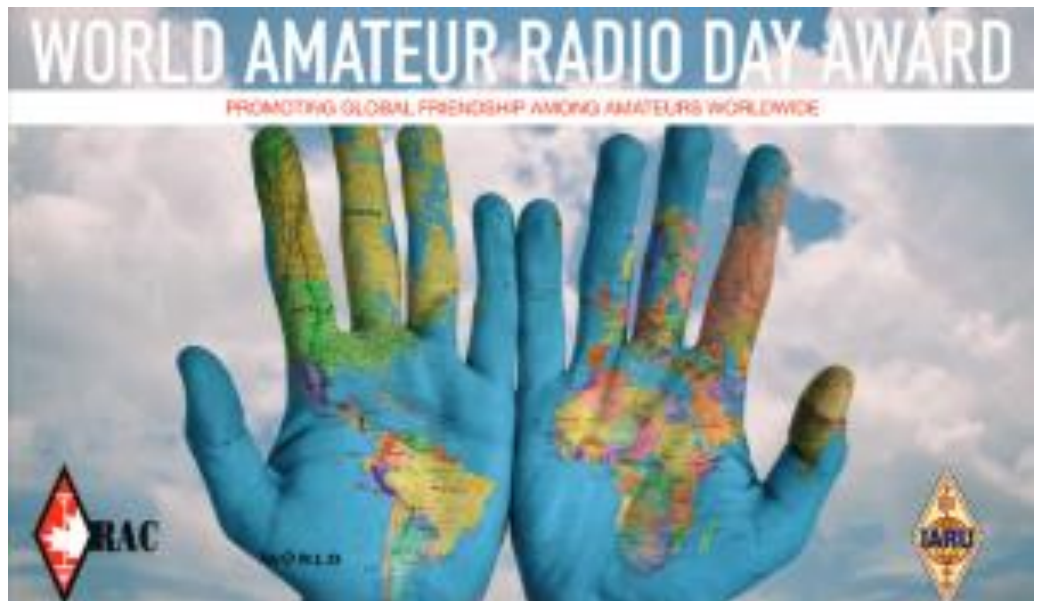
There are time slots available from 2 to 8pm

For more details go to <https://gbarc.ca/gbarc50th.php>

World Amateur Radio Day

(Thursday, April 18)

The day for all of Amateur Radio to celebrate and tell the world about the science we can help teach, the community service we can provide and the fun we have. To be held at the QTH of Marvin VE3VCG and Janet VA3EAC in Paisley, On.



Club Apparel

T-shirts, Golf Shirts, Ball Caps

The Club has contacted a supplier of T-shirts and hats and made arrangements for us to use our club logo on the items. The contact details are listed below.

Safety Green is a nice background for the club crest.

In the past we have gone with either a navy blue or safety green for colours.

Check our webpage for sizing charts and full details. Verify pricing with RAM promotional as these change without notice to us. These prices do not include the addition of our club crest or callsigns.

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

MURS Channels

In the United States, the Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) is a licensed by rule (i.e. under part 95, subpart J, of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) two-way radio service similar to the Citizens band (CB). Established by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission in the fall of 2000, MURS created a radio service allowing for licensed by rule (Part 95) operation in a narrow selection of the VHF band, with a power limit of 2 watts. The FCC formally defines MURS as "a private, two-way, short-distance voice or data communications service for personal or business activities of the general public." MURS stations may not be connected to the public telephone network, may not be used for store and forward operations, and radio repeaters are not permitted. [WIKI](#)

In 2009, Industry Canada (IC) established a five-year transition plan, which would have permitted the use of MURS in Canada starting June 2014.[2] In August 2014 IC announced a deferral of MURS introduction, as "the Department does not feel that the introduction of MURS devices in Canada is warranted at this time, and has decided to defer the introduction of MURS devices in Canada until a clearer indication of actual need is provided by Canadian MURS advocates and/or stakeholders.

[Details](#)

US licensed by rule for anyone apart from representatives of a foreign government. There are five MURS channels and the channels are either 11.25 kHz or 20.00 kHz each. The channel frequencies and (bandwidth) are:

151.820 MHz (11.25 kHz)

151.880 MHz (11.25 kHz)

151.940 MHz (11.25 kHz)

154.570 MHz (20.00 kHz)

154.600 MHz (20.00 kHz)

Having operated a business radio system on 155mhz this is a very practical spot on the spectrum for short range comms although we did have a 25w base and payed a license. The US system provides for CTCSS which we added and found useful to keep the noise down. The antennas are a sensible size.

The bad news is, they are not permitted in Canada.



UNIVERSAL INTERFACE (CONTROL BOX) FOR ICOM AH-4 ATU Part 2



by Gaspar Delfavero-Cristian YO2LGX

<https://www.radioamator.ro/articole/view.php?id=561>

(Translated from Romanian and edited by Dave VE3WI)

In last months' newsletter, a control interface for the Icom AH4 autotuner designed by Gaspar, YO2LGX was described. At VE3WI, I want to control my remote-mounted AH4 either from a compatible Icom rig (IC-7300), or from a non-Icom rig (ANAN-100), without the need for plugging and unplugging the control cable to the tuner. This requires additional circuitry.

The switchover circuit is shown on the left side of the schematic. It consists of:

- A 4PDT toggle switch (SW1), generously donated by VA3TS- Two 4-pin Molex connectors for tuner control cables to the Icom rig, and the AH4

- Anderson PowerPoles for a 13.8 VDC supply (needed when using a non-Icom rig)

When SW1 is selected to "ICOM", the Icom rig is connected directly to the AH4. The rest of the circuit is inactive. Power for the AH4 is supplied from the rig. Control of the AH4 is via the TUNER pushbutton on the rig in the normal manner.

When SW1 is selected to "NON-ICOM", the Icom rig is disconnected from the tuner. Power for the AH4 is supplied from the PowerPole connectors. The control circuit is powered-up (green POWER LED lit), and can now control the AH4.

(Not shown on the diagram, but hopefully obvious to all, the RF output to the tuner must also be switched to the rig to be operated. At VE3WI, an Alpha-Delta coax switch is used.)

Tuning Process for a non-Icom rig:

The rig must first be adjusted to emit a 10 watt CW carrier when keyed. This provides a small RF signal to the AH4 for tuning. The AH4 will abort if the RF input is outside the range 5 - 15 watts. When the TUNE pushbutton on the interface is pressed, power is supplied to optocouplers U1 and U2 by grounding the supply line at the pushbutton. This turns on the transistors in the optocouplers. Each optocoupler has a snubber diode to prevent switching damage.

U1 is provided in the design to key the transmitter, but it is not used in my application. (The ANAN-100 software has a Tune button on the screen, which when clicked causes the rig to emit a 10 watt carrier. I can just click the ANAN's Tune button at the same time as pressing the TUNE button on the control box.)

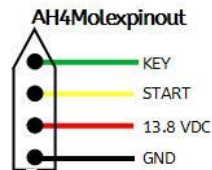
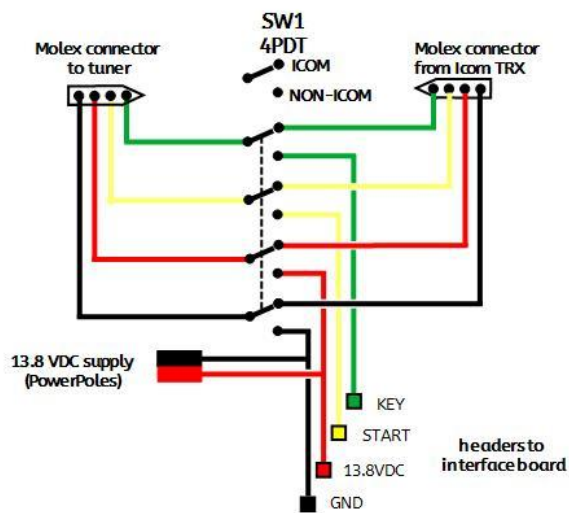
U2 pulls the START line low, which commands the AH4 to start the tuning cycle. The AH4 then pulls the KEY line low. (When connected to an Icom rig, this would key the transmitter.) In this application, it turns on the transistor in optocoupler U3, sealing in the START signal, allowing the TUNE pushbutton to be released, and lights the red TUNE LED. The AH4 then starts adjusting its capacitors and inductors to find a match. When a match is found, the AH4 pulls the KEY line high. This turns off the red TUNE LED, and also turns off U3, which releases the seal-in and turns off U2. This ungrounds the START line, resetting the AH4 logic. If the AH4 can't find a match it pulls the KEY line high and low twice, which flashes the red TUNE LED.

Status:

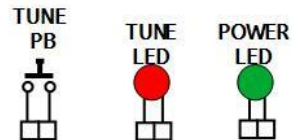
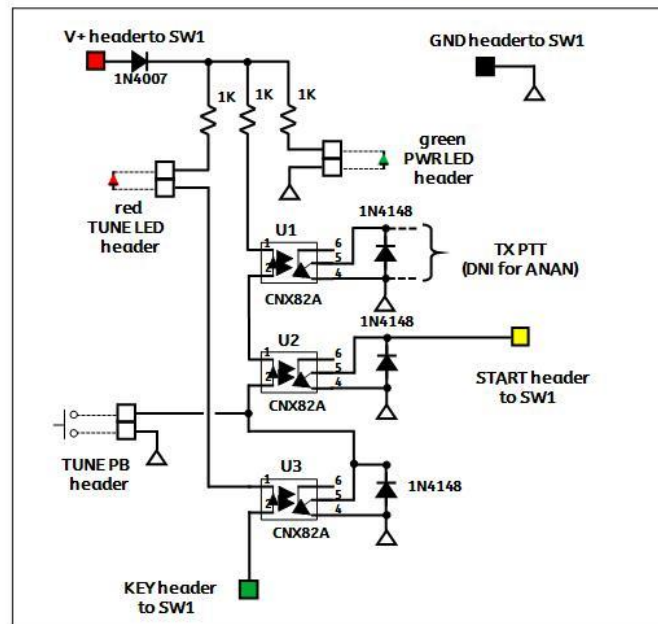
Construction of my interface is underway, as usual taking longer than I'd like. I'm building it in a small Hammond box. The headers shown on the schematic are needed because components are mounted on both halves of the box. I'll show the working model in next months' newsletter.



ICOM to NON-ICOM SWITCHOVER



YO2LGX INTERFACE BOARD (adapted by VE3WI)



THINGS YOU SAY AFTER 50

1. Where the h*** is my phone?
2. How did I get this bruise?
3. That isn't my password either? WTH!?
4. How do they expect you to read this small print?
5. Where did I put my glasses?
6. I don't care if it doesn't look fashionable, it's comfortable!
7. Who the heck is calling at 9:30pm??
8. Does anyone say please and thank you anymore?
9. Geez, how do you throw your body out of whack just sleeping wrong?? WTH?
10. This scale can't be right!!
11. WTH is wrong with people nowadays??
12. Why did I come into this room?



Membership as of March 14, Total 32

Callsign	Name	Location
VE3FP	Adam Karasinski	Elmwood
VE3BQM	Bernie Monderie	OwenSound
VE3MPG	Bob Baillargeon	SaubleBeach
VE3LKD	Bob Droine	OwenSound
VE3PAV	Bobby Pavlovic	LionsHead
VA3WBO	Bruce Poirier	Wasaga Beach
VA3DNY	Dan Mills	OwenSound
VE3WI	David Newcombe	PortElgin
VE3BAK	David Rosenfeld	OwenSound
Assoc	Dennis Knott	Meaford
VA3NBP	Don Hall	LionsHead
VE3DGY	Doug McDougall	OwenSound
VA3GUF	Frank Gufler	OwenSound
VA3STG	Fred Lorch	Teeswater
VE3RQY	Greg Larocque	OwenSound
VA3EAC	Janet Double	Paisley
VA3KOT	John Corby	Owen Sound
VE3JMD	Jim Reeves	Port Elgin
VA3RCA	Kevin Adams	Alliston
VE3VCG	Marvin Double	Paisley
VA3FIN	Mark Lindstrom	OwenSound
VA3NIR	Norman Reintamm	Flesherton
VA3HYM	Paul Peters	Ayton
VE3QVC	Phillip De Kat	OwenSound
VE3OZW	Richard Osborne	Mildmay
VA3RYK	Rijk Van Huisstede	Owen Sound
VE3RWY	Rob Walker	OwenSound
VE3USI	Tex Brown	Flesherton
VE3/IN3IJO	Robert Bertoldi	Owen Sound
VA3TS	Tom St.Amand	ShallowLake
VA3TVA	Tom vanAalst	Owen Sound
VA3TFW	Tom Welden	Port Elgin



JOIN GBARC TODAY

73 Doug VE3DGY

*** It's not the Class of the Licence that the Amateur Holds. ***
 *** BUT, the Class of the Amateur that Holds the Licence.. ***

VE3OUI



Why become an amateur radio Operator

Chatbox AI

Here are five compelling reasons why becoming an amateur radio operator can be a rewarding and enriching experience:

Community and Camaraderie: Amateur radio, also known as ham radio, fosters a tight-knit global community. Connecting with fellow operators across borders, sharing experiences, and collaborating on projects creates a sense of camaraderie. Whether you're chatting with someone in your neighborhood or reaching out to a station halfway around the world, the bonds formed through ham radio are unique and enduring.

Emergency Preparedness: Ham radio operators play a critical role during emergencies and natural disasters. When traditional communication channels fail, amateur radio remains resilient. As an operator, you'll learn emergency protocols, practice communication drills, and contribute to public safety. Being part of this vital network ensures that you can assist your community when it matters most.

Technical Exploration: Ham radio is a playground for tech enthusiasts. From building your own antennas to experimenting with different modes of communication (voice, Morse code, digital), there's always something new to learn. You'll delve into electronics, radio propagation, and antenna theory. Plus, the satisfaction of troubleshooting and fixing your equipment is immensely rewarding.

Exploration of the Ether: Imagine tuning your radio dial and stumbling upon mysterious signals from distant lands. Ham radio provides a passport to explore the electromagnetic spectrum. You'll communicate via HF (high-frequency) bands that bounce signals off the ionosphere, VHF/UHF (very high frequency/ultra high frequency) for local contacts, and even satellites orbiting Earth. Each band offers a unique experience, and the thrill of making contacts across continents is unparalleled.

Lifelong Learning and Licensing: Obtaining an amateur radio license involves studying regulations, electronics, and operating procedures. The licensing process encourages continuous learning. As you progress from Technician to General to Extra class licenses, you'll deepen your knowledge and gain access to more frequencies. Lifelong learning is at the heart of ham radio, and it keeps the hobby intellectually stimulating.

So, whether you're fascinated by technology, passionate about community service, or simply curious about the invisible waves that connect us, amateur radio offers a fulfilling journey. Grab your call sign, tune in, and join the vibrant world of ham radio!



Ham Radio Operator uses coaxial cable he placed in his garage in 1976 just in case he needed it





Minutes of Meeting

By Dan VA3DNY

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting
27th of February 2024
Call to order by Marvin VE3VCG at 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Executive:

Dan Mills VA3DNY Secretary, Tex Brown VE3USI Vice President, Marvin Double VE3VCG President

Members:

Tom St. Amand VA3TS, Philip deKat VE3DPB, Dave Newcombe VE3WI, Jim Reeves VE3JMD, Greg Laroque VE3RQY, Larry Price VE3WDF, Rijk Van Huisstede VA3RYK, Janet Double VA3EAC, Adam Karasinski VE3FP, Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV, Mary Watson VA3ILT (Guest)

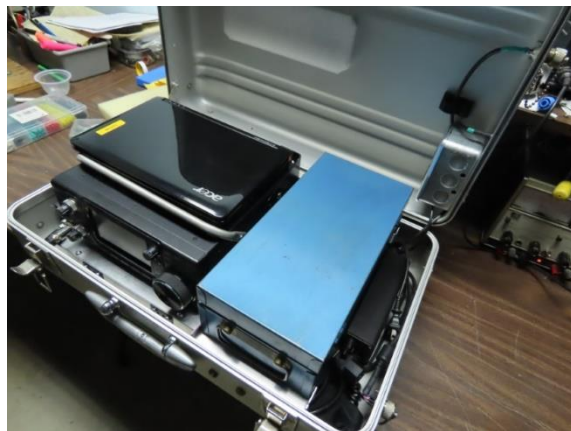
QUORUM: Yes

TECH TALK:

Tom (VA3TS) Icom 7300 Go Box.

Tom presented his own Go Box that he created from a leftover metal carry case. He built a tray fastened to drawer slides on pivots so the 7300 transceiver can be lifted up and slid out to an operating position while still connected to the case. The rig connections stay in place all the time and use jumpers to ports he installed in the side of the case. There are connection ports for Antenna, Key, Mic, Power, and USB. Tom used screw on caps to cover the antenna and mic ports when not in use.

There is a storage box for accessories such as the Mic and Bencher Iambic Paddle that nicely fits inside the case for transport. The complete package weighs approximately 35lbs and is well planned and constructed. Nicely done Tom!



PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the January Meeting were published in the newsletter. The minutes were accepted as written.

(motion: Tex VE3USI, second: Phil VE3DPB)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Doug VE3DGY was absent from the meeting.

The treasurer's report for February will be deferred until the March meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dave VE3WI started a discussion about the Anniversary Event. There are empty time slots still available, please sign up if you are available. Tom VA3TS informed us that he will have 2 stations set up that can be operated simultaneously for more operators to use.



The Anniversary event will be held Saturday March 23 from 12:00 until 8:00PM at Tom's QTH. Please bring your snacks, drinks, and chairs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marvin VE3VCG will be hosting the World Amateur Radio Day event at his QTH on April 18th. We will be able to use the club's special call sign for this event as well. Dave suggested that we can try to contact as many of the RAC stations as possible during this event.

There was a discussion about holding an event for the Ontario QSO Party on April 20th/21st. It will also fall within the time window to use our event call sign. Some possible locations were suggested, mostly outside public locations, but due to possible cold weather an inside location would be safer. Is anyone willing to host the event at their QTH? We are still looking for a suitable location.

A public event to be held later in the year was also talked about. Some possible locations were tabled such as the Library, the Mall, Kelso Beach Park, the park along the river by the Library, etc. Marvin will contact Parks and Recreation to find out about requirements for an event. Dave and Marvin will look into graphic boards to fit over our existing A-Frames. This will be followed up with during future meetings.

Marvin brought the club's Icom IC740 and Pyramid PS25 to the meeting and asked what should be done with them considering we purchased a much newer Icom 7300 as an upgrade. After a discussion Adam VE3FP made a motion that they should be sold. It was seconded by Tex VE3USI and it was passed by vote. Dave offered to take it home and test it to make sure it all worked properly before it is sold.

Marvin asked for some volunteers to do tech talks at upcoming meetings. Please give it some thought and sign up!

Tex asked for anyone to let him know if our monthly breakfast get together would conflict with any other event. He will try to reschedule the Breakfast if needed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM

(motion: Marvin VE3VCG, second: Tex VE3USI)

Interesting Websites

Open Source Alternative To

<https://www.opensourcealternative.to/>

Chinese Fire Drake - The Worlds Most Powerful Radio Jammer!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MP2-NaRGaf8>

Real Time Lightning Maps

<https://www.lightningmaps.org/#m=oss;t=3;s=0;o=0;b=;ts=0;z=7;y=43.1932;x=-80.5408;d=2;dl=2;dc=0;>



How to Make a Word Document Fillable

<https://pdf.wondershare.com/word/make-a-word-document-fillable.html>

Securely Wipe the Free Space on Your Windows PC

<https://www.groovypost.com/howto/securely-wipe-free-space-windows-pc/>

VERO Board Template

<https://www.bestsoldering.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/standard-veroboard-template-download.pdf>

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](#)

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.

