



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



September 2024
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President's Message

Marvin VE3VCG

Now that our summer break is over and we'll get back to our normal schedule for club events. Looking forward there is a lot of potential for us to explore many more aspects of Amateur Radio and to help the hobby grow and develop.

There is no doubt that changes in technology are taking our hobby in different directions as is the case with virtually everything else in society. In my view this is a good thing for many reasons. It is true of course, that having good foundational knowledge of amateur radio basics is essential for having success as an amateur radio operator.

After all, the underlying physics of electromagnetism do not change. Understanding electromagnetic principles, is more than just a matter of passing a test to get an operating certificate; rather, it is simply a fun, and interesting way to expand as a person. Taking on the challenge to learn new things is, in my opinion, the essence of what amateur radio really is.

Some of you already know that I do not have a background in electronics. In fact, I went to art school and eventually went on to become a professional photographer. It might seem odd that I would become involve in a hobby which is heavily dependent on electronics and the world of science. For me, amateur radio bridges over the gap between science and technology and, what universities call the "arts and humanities".

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2023/ 2024 Executive

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

[Club Constitution](#)

[By-Laws](#)



I touch on this point for a singular reason. It is easy to spend too much time focused on the technical aspects of the hobby. It is easy to become isolated within the HAM radio community and so become HAM's talking mostly to other HAM's. This kind of isolation becomes a trap which, in my view, threatens the future of amateur radio.

I think it is important to recognize the value of HAM radio clubs like ours to have active community engagement. More precisely, that means more than simply supporting community events like the Terry Fox Run, the Huron Shores Run or the Bruce Peninsula Multisport Race.

Being out and seen at a public event offers brief visibility and exposure. However, it is not the kind of exposure which will help us attract potential new HAM's into the hobby. I believe that, what is needed now, more than ever, is an active and ongoing type of community engagement that is deliberately designed to make GBARC as recognizable as the Rotary, the Shriners, or the Lion's club.

I feel strongly that, our club needs to find a way of getting this kind of focus and a strong sense of community engagement which allows us to really become a recognizable and memorable brand. This, I feel needs to be our primary mission in the months and years ahead. It is a way of exposing our communities to the fun aspects of the science and technology of amateur radio while also making amateur radio socially relevant and a valuable community resource.

Field Day 2024



Hello to all members of GBARC,

July 10, 2024

Field Day has come and gone for another year. It is pretty easy to say that this one was interesting, in terms of wild weather. At one point while gathered in the big white tent, tornado warnings going off on many phones every few minutes creating a sense potential threat.



Fortunately, those with live radar weather apps were able to check for activity near to us which helped allay concerns. The often, torrential downpours which later happened were however another matter of some concern to all inside the big tent.

The fabric of the tent around the outside edge caught and held buckets of water which posed the threat of pulling the fabric loose and then running inside the tent through such gaps. Quick work with hand or brooms to push up from the inside causing water caught in those areas to be drained outside



helped solve that problem. I was very pleased that we Greg was able to borrow this large event tent. It certainly did help keep us and our gear dry during Field Day.

I was also pleased with the number of volunteers who came to help setup and take down our Field Day setup. It was a real example of “many hands make lite work”. This was a genuine team effort, and much appreciated by me. Having Frank climb the tower, to put up the beam, as he has done, is always impressive and also appreciated. His ability to craft a Swiss Seat for safety while climbing is also a testament to his skills as a sailor, if it was only on land and not sea. Once again, many hands made putting up and taking down the tower fairly straight forward.



The pot luck supper seemed to be a highlight of the social part of Field Day. Of special note was Gregs Moose Chili, which seemed to be enjoyed by all who had some. I did not, and yes Greg, I do know that Moose are vegetarians, but I will continue to avoid eating them. All the food was excellent as were the snacks. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say, it's

always nice to be well fed and when the food is delicious, that's a bonus.

As the afternoon wore on and people left, eventually the number of operators was reduced to Adam, Frank, Janet and myself. We were able to carry on with Field Day operations even midst continued rain and often more intense downpours, largely owing to Franks Truck and Adam's station in the back



of his truck. I operated from the cab of my truck, using an EFHW 10-80 antenna strung from a fiberglass mast on the back.



There is a saying that, “it's never too early to be planning for Field Day”. I think this is a wise saying and perhaps we should take more to heart. To accomplish advanced planning for Field Day I think it is useful to have a standing committee, perhaps





members of the executive, who spend an hour a month drawing up Field Day plans. Such meetings can be done via Zoom and need not be difficult or unduly complicated. We make notes, create a to do list and simply ask others to help with specifics we can't handle ourselves.

Other Photo's by VE3VCG



Field Day 2024, my view Adam VE3FP

As many of you know, Field Day holds a special place in the hearts of Amateur Radio operators across North America. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills into a singular, impactful event. Having been a licensed Advanced Amateur Radio operator for the past 46 years and participating in numerous Field Days, I feel compelled to share my thoughts on this year's event.

Unfortunately, Field Day 2024 did not meet the standards we have set in the past. The preparation was rushed, with minimal planning and last-minute decisions that led to organizational chaos rather than the seamless operation we strive for. This was deeply disappointing, especially considering the potential this event has for showcasing GBARC's capabilities and fostering community engagement.

Despite these challenges, I commend everyone who participated for their dedication and resilience, especially given the unpredictable weather conditions. Moving forward, I believe it is essential for us to reflect on this experience and work collaboratively to improve our planning, communication, and follow-through for future Field Days.

Let's use this as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to excellence in Amateur Radio and community service. Together, we can ensure that future Field Days not only meet but exceed our expectations.

Current results from our 3A ONS log.

Contest: FD					
Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Pt/Q	
3.5	CW	5	10	2.0	
7	CW	52	104	2.0	
14	CW	7	14	2.0	
14	USB	33	33	1.0	
21	CW	5	10	2.0	
Total	Both	102	171	1.7	
Score: 342					
1 Mult = 1.0 Q's					
Rescore					

Statistics		Graph				
Mode	3.5	7	14	21	Tot	Accum
CW	5	52	7	5	69	69
USB			33		33	102
Total	5	52	40	5	102	102





GREY COUNTY Employee Amateur Radio Basic Course

by Frank Gufler [Grey County ARES/ACS EC](#)

As part of the ARES/ACS county relationship, Grey County had accepted the idea of getting some of GREY County staff amateur radio certified. Four County employees raised their hands and showed interest in participating in emergency communications for the County by taking the May to June Basic Radio course. Basic Radio courses typically have been held once a week with half day sessions. This Basic course was at an accelerated pace with 2 sessions a week, first and last week only 1 session and a 1 week reading intermission after 3 sessions. Each days session consisted of 1/2 day standard course material presented in the morning with the afternoon spent reviewing material covered to date, answering questions the students had, multiple choice review questions with multiple choice answering techniques as well as hands on practical practice of radio procedures using call signs and the phonetic alphabet. Practical hands on practice in this accelerated course was a key component for learning retention.

With the willingness to learn and individual desire to succeed, each of the four students passed the certification test given on the last day, one with Honours. Please welcome to the Ham Radio community the following 4 certified Radio Operators.

Mischa	VE3HKD
Kyla	VE3KSY
Rodney	VA3YFY
Sarah	VE3YRB

All four came away from the course enthused with their new learning and a far better understanding of emergency radio communications. These four radio operators will be receiving annual update sessions as it relates to Grey County emergency radio activation & operations within their Emergency Operations Centre. In particular, future presentations and practical sessions will focus on the Grey County EOC Radio activation in the event of a significant infrastructure wide failure, Emergency NET activation, Radiogram format and use as well as Winlink email via HF radio.



JOIN GBARC TODAY

Membership renewals can be paid anytime
between the 1st of Sept to the 31st of December for the 2025 year



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.



Here is a low cost fun transmitter that actually works.

Don VE3IDS

It is a one tube crystal controlled rig that will output a few watts. The 50c5 tube is very common as it is the audio output tube from a AA5 (all American 5) receiver. They were common as dirt in the sixties. They were a low cost transformerless table radio that were in most homes. The 50C5 tube likely will be available at a local ham flea market but can be bought online at a premium.

You might even find an old 5 tube AA5 receiver at a thrift store or yard sale for a few bucks. The chassis is just a scrap of wood. You can use nails as solder points. I used narrow staples from a cable stapler. I separated the 80 metre coil winding to use either one section for 40 meters or use the added miniature toggle switch to use the total winding for 80 metres rather than plugging in separate coils. You can find crystals at hamfests or try Earl at Netty electronics.

I have had nice fun QSOs with this little rig and the note is quite good for a crystal rig. There is just enough vintage note to it that you may get a reply from an OP wanting to find out what vintage gear you are running.

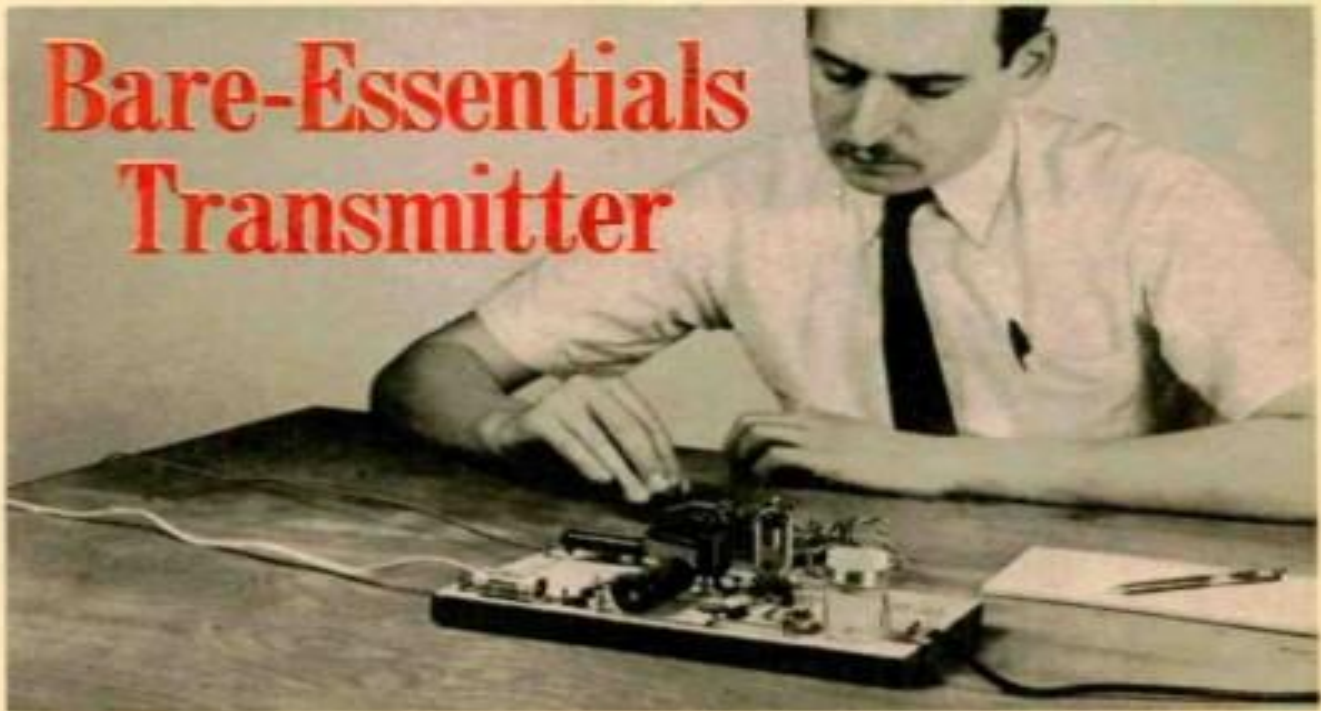
This is a tube rig so high voltages are present. If you are new to tubes, be aware that voltages up to 350 VDC are present. Reviewing high voltage tube safety practices in a radio amateurs handbook is a great idea.

Have fun!

72 Don ve3ids



Bare-Essentials Transmitter



By JIM WHITE, W5LET EVERYBODY talks about inflation these days. According to the experts, we're spending too much and driving the price of everything sky high. Washington now threatens us with higher taxes to stop our spree.

But for hams on a budget there's a way to have your cake and fight inflation, too. You do spend a little of the green stuff but it won't make much of a dent in your wallet or the national economy. The way out: our Bare-Essentials Transmitter. This little 40- and 80-meter rig takes the prize as *the* anti-inflationary CW transmitter of the year. You spend only \$7 to get it on the air.

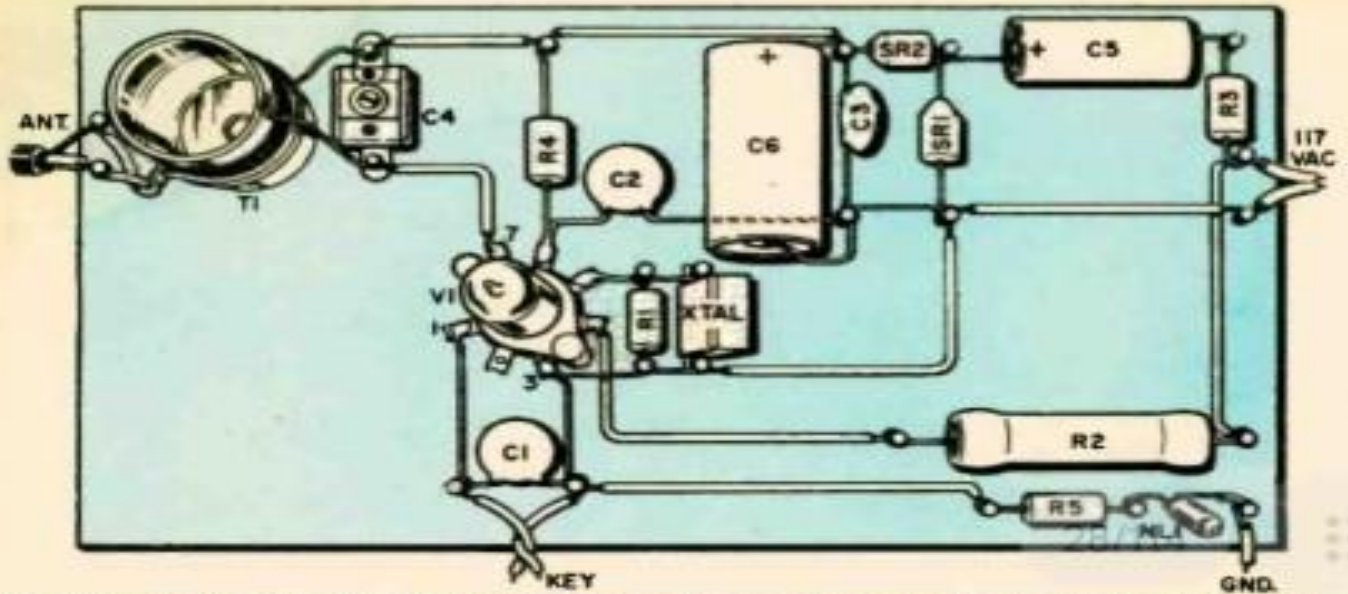
There's no chassis. The rig is built on a piece of wood—any kind, like the end of an orange crate, will do. And for tie points you use finishing nails. The 50C5 (or a 50L6) tube can be salvaged from an old AC/DC radio. You'll have to spend 11¢ for a tube socket but you won't have to buy a socket for the crystal. It's not fancy but it packs a wallop for its price.

Used with a mediocre antenna, it has worked stations all over the U.S. When conditions are right and with a good antenna there is no reason why it can't work some real DX.

The Circuit. The transmitter consist of a 50C5 crystal oscillator, which operates on either 40 or 80 meters. Since the 50C5 has a 50-V filament it uses a 400-ohm 20-watt dropping resistor instead of a filament transformer.

The power supply for the plate and screen voltages is a doubler which provides about 350 VDC. Two capacitors, two silicon rectifiers and a 1-watt resistor complete the power supply.

Building The Transmitter. First thing is the chassis, which is simply a 10 x 6 x 3/4-in.-thick piece of wood. Take a close look at the pictorial



Our model, built on 6 x 10 x 3/4-in.-thick piece of pine, has 23 finishing-nail tie points. V1's socket sits on 3/8-in. spacers; carpet tacks hold it in place. Contacts from discarded tube socket hold crystal.

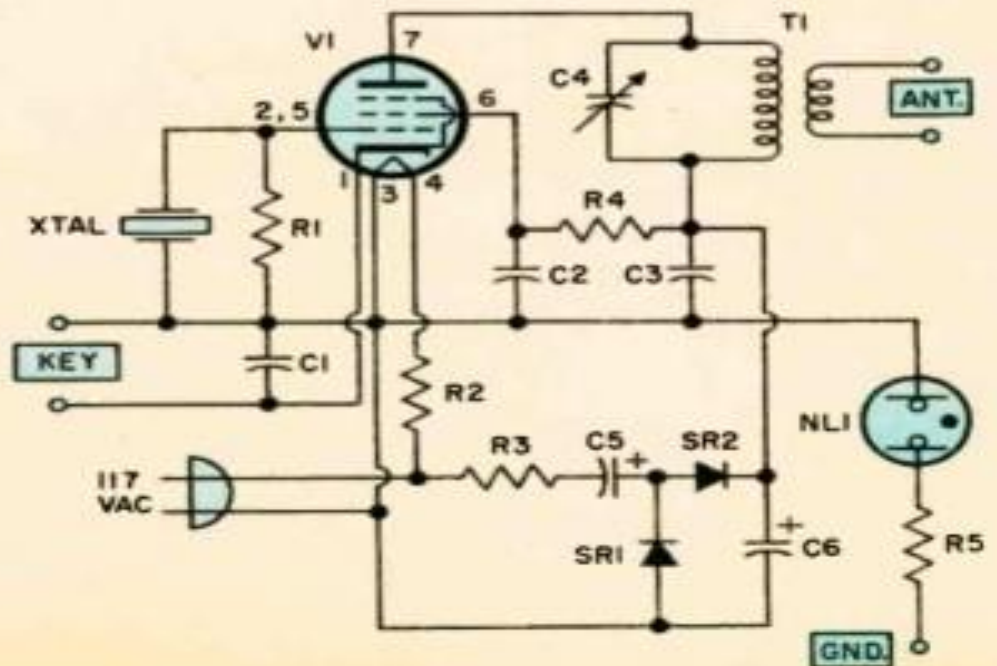
Bare-Essentials Transmitter

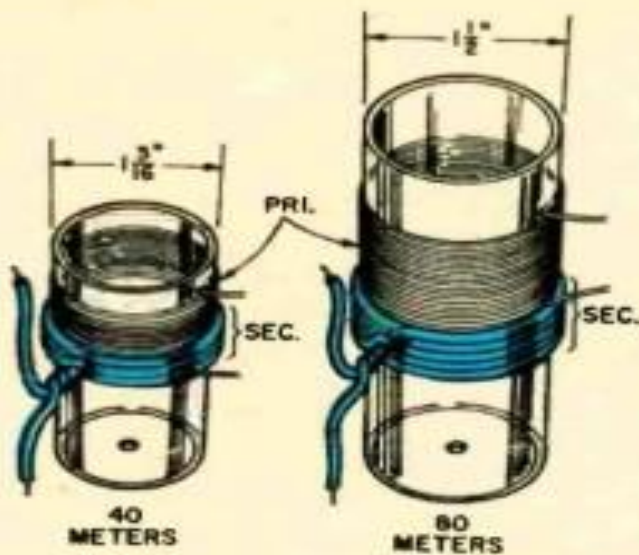
to see where each part goes. The tube socket is mounted on short spacers so that its lugs clear the wood.

The rest of the parts are soldered to finishing nails in the board. The power-supply components are located in the upper right corner of the board. There is no power switch so the AC leads go directly to the nails.

Nails again are used for connecting points for the antenna and for the key. Another nail, located at the lower right of the board is for a ground connection for neon lamp NLI. If the AC plug is in the wrong way, the hot side of the line will be connected to the key. This will mean that 117 V exists from the key to ground, enough to cause a severe shock. However, if the plug is reversed, the ground side of the AC line will be connected to the key circuit and a shock hazard will not exist.

Transmitter schematic. Power supply is a voltage doubler whose output is about 350 V. Output circuit is inductive-link type. Purpose of NLI is to warn you if AC plug is inserted incorrectly. Be sure to connect R5 to water-pipe ground. If NLI lights, reverse the plug.





Coils. Our 40-meter coil was wound on 1 3/16-in.-dia. plastic pill bottle; however, 1 1/4 in. would do. Primary is 1/2-in. wide; 80-meter primary is 1 1/4 in.

By connecting a water-pipe ground to the nail, the neon lamp will light if the AC plug is in the wrong way. Observe carefully the polarity of the silicon rectifiers and the electrolytics.

The coils are wound on plastic pill bottles. The 80-meter coil is wound on a 1 1/2-in.-dia. x 3 1/2-in.-long bottle. The 40-meter coil is wound on a 1 3/16- or 1 1/4-in.-dia. x 2-in.-long bottle. First drill a small hole in the bottom of each of the bottles for the mounting screw.

The plate winding (primary) for the 80-meter coil is 45 turns of No. 24 enameled

PARTS LIST

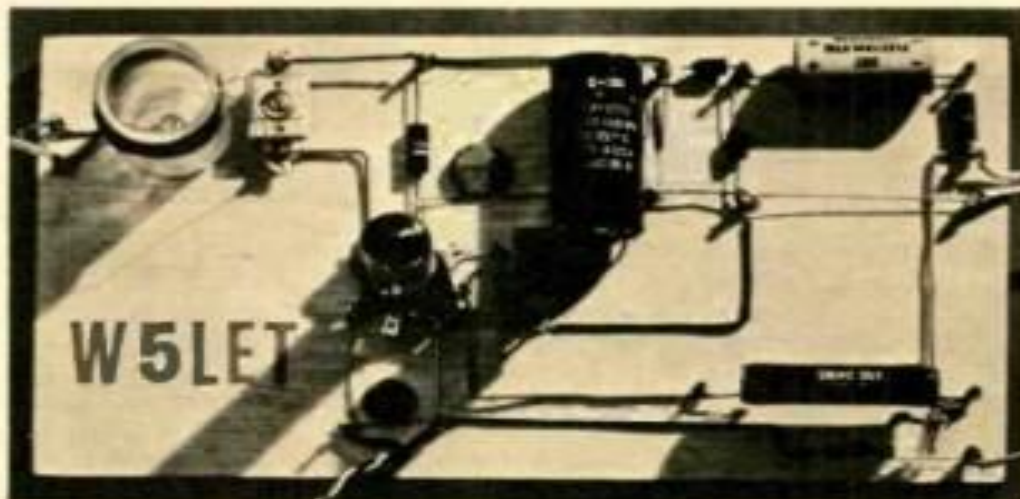
C1,C3—.005 μ f, 1,000 V ceramic disc capacitor
 C2—.01 μ f, 1,000 V ceramic disc capacitor
 C4—2-30 μ f trimmer capacitor
 C5—40 μ f, 150 V electrolytic capacitor
 C6—40 μ f, 450 V electrolytic capacitor
 NL1—NE-2 neon lamp
 R1,R5—100,000 ohm, 1/2 watt, 10% resistor
 R2—400 ohm, 20 watt wirewound resistor
 R3—10 ohm, 1 watt, 10% resistor
 R4—10,000 ohm, 1 watt, 10% resistor
 SR1,SR2—Silicon rectifier, 400 PIV, 750 ma
 T1—Transformer; 40- and 80-meter primaries wound of No. 24 enameled wire; secondaries wound of No. 20 solid hookup wire (see text)
 V1—50C5 tube
 Xtal.—40- or 80-meter crystal
 Misc.—plastic pill bottles (see text), 10 x 6 x 1/4-in.-thick piece of wood, finishing nails, 7-pin tube socket, AC cord

wire, closewound. The 40-meter primary is 23 turns of No. 24 enameled wire also closewound. Both secondaries are No. 20 solid hookup wire; the 80 meter is four turns, the 40 meter three turns.

Before winding the primaries drill four small holes (two at the top and two at the bottom of the primary winding) in each form. Then thread the ends of the primary wire through these holes.

The secondaries are wound over the primary coils and are held in place by twisting the ends together as shown in the coil pictorial.

On The Air: After mounting a coil mount
[Continued on page 109]



Ready to go on the air. Layout is wide open; there should be no construction problems. Power supply is in upper right corner, neon lamp and current-limiting resistor R5 are in lower-right corner. Lugs of trimmer capacitor C4 are soldered to heads of finishing nails. T1 (upper left) is screwed to board.


Bare-Essentials Transmitter

Continued from page 31

and connect its four leads, then check your work once more. If you're going to work 40, plug a 40-meter crystal into its pin connectors. Plug in the tube, connect an antenna (using 50-ohm coax) to the antenna nails and a key to the key nails. Be sure that you have a water-pipe ground connected to NL1.

Now plug in the transmitter. If NL1 glows, reverse the AC plug. Wait about 30 seconds for VI's filament to reach operating temperature and press the key. Quickly adjust C4 until oscillation starts. Oscillation can be determined by listening to a receiver tuned to the crystal frequency. Or hold a neon lamp against the plate transformer. If the transmitter is working the lamp will glow. Adjust C4. When the lamp glows at maximum brilliance, tuning is correct.

In loading the transmitter into an antenna some adjustment of T1's secondary may be necessary. Closer coupling can be achieved by moving the coil higher up over the primary winding. An input of about 50 ma at about 350 V (17.5 watts) is about right.

Do not operate the transmitter without an antenna because this may cause C4 to break down if the key is held down for an extended period of time. 

Elsie's Breakfast



Breakfast at Elsie's is a fun meet-up with no set agenda. Discussions and topics are not determined in advance and so are free ranging and open ended. Elsie's, located on highway 6 just north of 21 in Spingmount, is a fun place to meet. Elsie's has a slightly eclectic, 1950's theme and a menu that reflects that theme. Portions are generous and food is good and includes vegetarian (lacto-ovo) options.



Pictured is the breakfast group from Saturday September 14th and includes, (left to right) Janet, Mary, David, Philip, Dan, Tex, Frank, Marie Clade, Marvin, behind the camera.

Elsie's is now open for breakfast at 08:00.
For more info contact 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.

This month Frank VA3GUF will speak on Optimizing Digital RFI Suppression



Minutes of Meeting

By Dan VA3DNY

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 22th of June 2024

Call to order by Marvin VE3VCG at 1:15 PM

ATTENDANCE

Executive: Dan Mills VA3DNY Secretary, Marvin Double VE3VCG President

Members: Greg Larocque VE3RQY, Janet Double VA3EAC, Adam Karasinski VE3FP, Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV, Bernie Monderie VE3BQM, Frank Gufler VA3GUF, John Corby VA3KOT

QUORUM: No

TECH TALK:

There was no tech talk at the Field Day meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the May Meeting were published in the newsletter and on the GBARC website. The minutes were not accepted yet because we did not have a Quorum. (motion: none, second: none)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Doug VE3DGY submitted the finance report to Dan VA3DNY who presented it on his behalf.

Members:36, Transactions: 50/50 draw (\$34.00), and service charges (\$6.50), and payment to Grey Sauble for Field Day location (\$266.00) Balance: \$2878.78. The treasurer's report was not accepted yet because we did not have a Quorum. (motion: none, second: none)

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business discussed at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tex VE3USI requested to let everyone know that the Saturday breakfast meetings were moving to 8AM rather than 9AM because the restaurant now opens earlier.

Frank VA3GUF requested a discussion about purchasing a winlink licence. This will be carried forward to the next regular meeting when we have a Quorum. He also is looking for volunteers to help with the Bruce Peninsula Multi-sport Race.



Bernie VE3BQM brought a Yaesu FT-77 HF rig and an older Kenwood VHF 2M rig (doesn't have the tone required for the GBARC repeater). He would like to sell them and donate the proceeds to GBARC.

A collection was taken up to express our condolences for Tom VA3TS whose brother sadly passed away. The remainder of the meeting was used to finalize the operating plans for Field Day. The 50/50 Draw was not held at the Field Day meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:55 PM (motion: none, second: none)

Interesting Websites

Andy's Ham Radio Linux

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/kb1oiq-andysham/>

Made for DX-ers

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

Antenna Trap Modeling Tips

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

Virtual Serial Ports Emulator

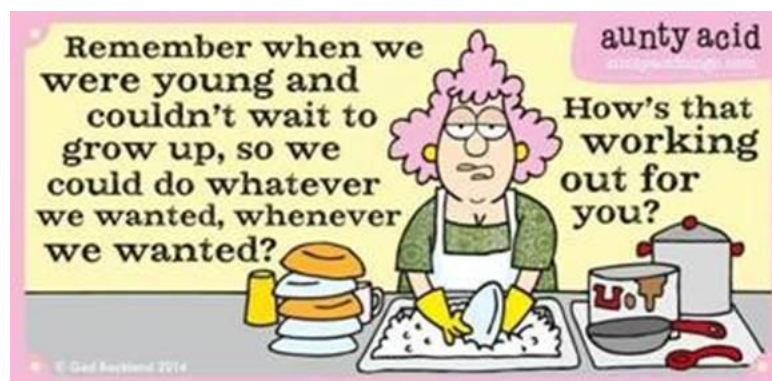
<https://eterlogic.com/Products.VSPE.html>

VB-CABLE Virtual Audio Device

<https://vb-audio.com/Cable/>

ASUS NUC 14 Pro+ --- looking for size small but big performance

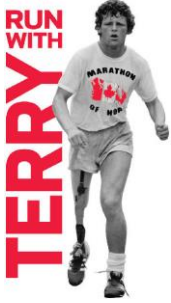
<https://www.asus.com/ca-en/displays-desktops/nucs/nuc-mini-pcs/asus-nuc-14-pro-plus/>





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



Terry Fox Run 2024 (L-R) John VA3KOT, Fred VA3STG, Bobby VE3PAV, Frank VA3GUF, Dave VE3WI, Kathy B TF Run organizer, Tom VA3TS, Sarah VE3YRB



We had an excellent day for the run, the weather was nice and no rain forecast. All volunteers took up their assigned locations and everything ran smoothly for the duration. Feedback and lessons learned will be posted on our [Terry Fox page](#) as a reminder at next years run.

At the Net Control Position, John KOT used this Arrow Antenna dual band J-Pole. The 3 tall driveway markers around the antenna were simply to keep onlookers from getting too close.

Thanks to all who participated, Jon VA3CIC is not present in the above photo.

[Owen Sound Sun Times](#)



RAC/ACS Pilot AuxComm Training Program Marvin VE3VCG



RAC, with funding support from the government of Ontario, sponsored a pilot communication training program. This program called Aux-C, which took place in Sudbury on September 7th and 8th, is built around the concept of Auxiliary Communications, a civilian EmComm strategy which leverages the emergency communications potential of Amateur Radio.

This is an idea which I also support and endorse.

I think this RAC pilot program is the correct approach for developing a group of amateur operators who could, if asked, help maintain communications in a true declared emergency.

I think many HAMS have the false assumption, that AuxComm/EmComm requires volunteering to operate in only in an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). In fact, licensed amateur radio operators, with AuxComm certification(s), might be used in the field to supervise other comm's groups or community communications hubs. These might also include GMRS/FRS or CB groups.

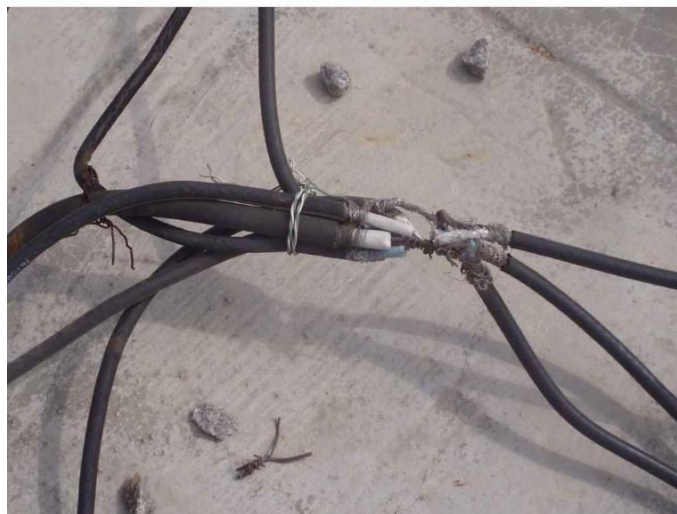
AuxComm training provides HAMS with a basic understanding of the "Incident Command System" (ICS) and how this is used during emergencies. It also provides an overview of the structure of the emergency response system(s) and how AuxComm volunteers will operate in that system, if asked.

I have already posed the idea that, if this pilot program is successful, GBARC should support RAC/ACS to continue this training initiative. To do that we could host/sponsor one of these weekend programs locally at some future time. This could be easily accomplished at low cost, and I think the benefit will greatly out weight the effort.

To learn more about this recent pilot program please read the official webpage from RAC.
<https://www.rac.ca/rac-auxiliary-communications-communicator-course/>

So I'm trying to connect all of my radios to all of my antennas, this is my splice. My radios keep shutting off when I key up, and one even smoked.

Any ideas?



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

Help US Out *Would you like to receive email notifications when this newsletter is posted? Sign up for our mailing list. No ads and no personal information, your email address is never shared with anyone else.* [Subscribe](#)

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

Join the Radio Amateurs of Canada

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



Club Membership Dues



Membership renewals can be paid anytime after 1 Sept to 31st of December for the 2025 year
Click [HERE](#) for more information

