



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



February 2025
© 1973 - 2025 GBARC



President's Message

Tex VE3USI

Hope everyone is surviving the ongoing blizzard.

As we somewhat house bound it may be a good time to check out our emergency equipment and make sure it is in working order.

73s. VE3USI



Ham of the Year 2024

Congratulation to Bobby VE3PAV as the 2024 recipient of the coveted GBARC Ham of the Year Award. This award is presented annually to that Club member who has exhibited exemplary support for the club and amateur radio.

Winter Field Day 2025



Tom VA3TS Greg VE3RQY VE3DGY
VE3FYB VE3FP VE3PAV VE3BQM
VA3DNY VE3QVC Luke, Kirk & Linda
IN3IJO/VE3 Roberto and son Fred.

This Month

Presidents Message

Ham of the Year 2024

Winter Field Day

[Basic Qualification Course](#)

[Commonwealth Contest](#)

[IC705 QRP Go Backpack](#)

[Special Events](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

[Interesting Websites](#)

[Membership](#)

[AUXCOMM GREY BRUCE](#)

[The Last Word](#)

2023/ 2024 Executive

President ... Tex VE3USI
Vice-President... Marvin VE3VCG
Treasurer..... Doug VE3DGY
Secretary..... Bobby VE3PAV

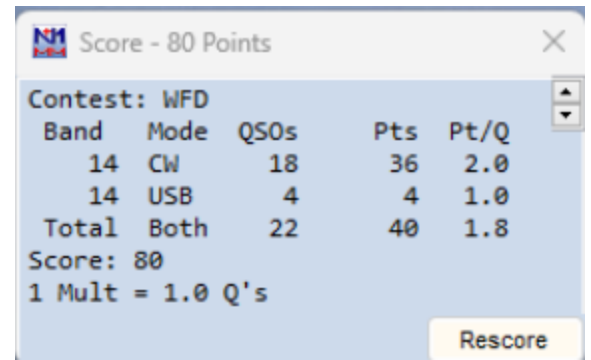
[Club Constitution](#)

[By-Laws](#)

The information and articles presented in this newsletter may be used by other organizations so long as permission is given by the author and a link to www.gabrc.ca is included.



We didn't spend a lot of time operating but a lot of "rag chewing" and munching on pastries. Band conditions were not the most exciting, really had to dig through the QRN and our limited antennas played a part in not making many Qs. Club radio was the only one used but Bernie VE3BQM and Doug VE3DGY demonstrated their setups to all including some visitors that also showed up. Next major radio events are Ontario QSO Party and ARRL/RAC Field Day.

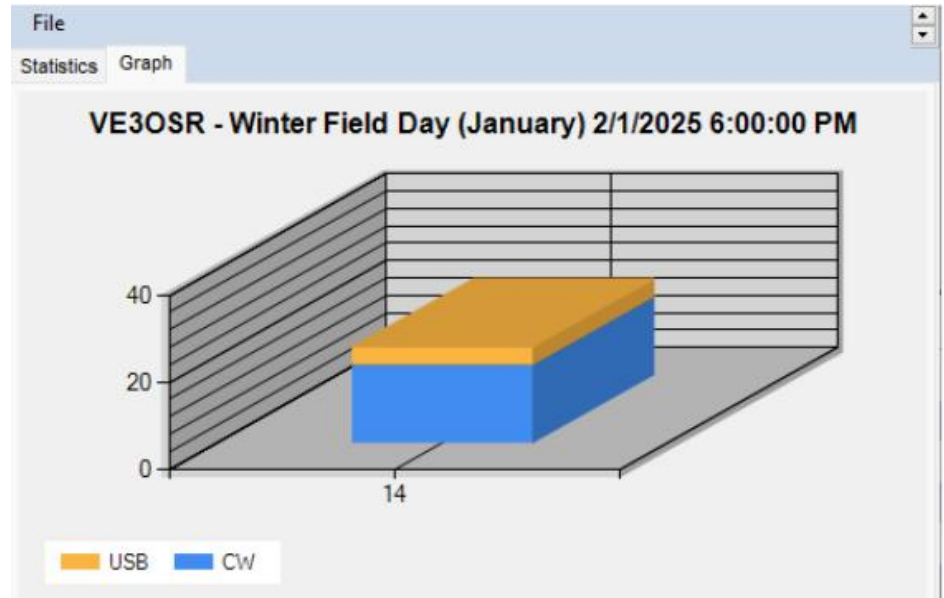


Score - 80 Points				
Contest: WFD				
Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Pt/Q
14	CW	18	36	2.0
14	USB	4	4	1.0
Total	Both	22	40	1.8
Score: 80				
1 Mult = 1.0 Q's				

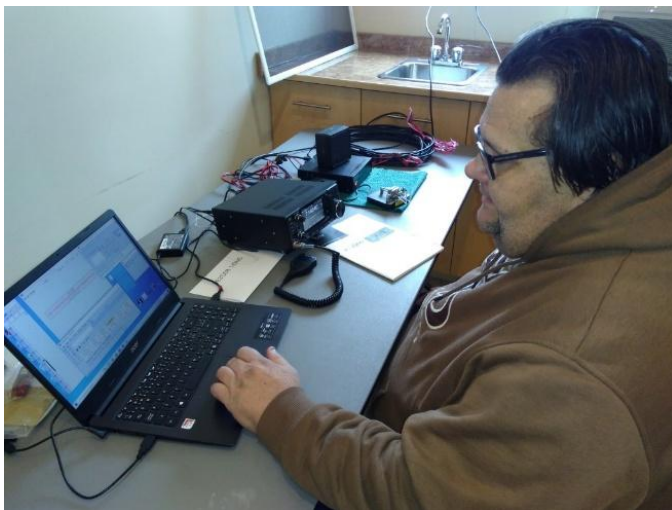
Rescore

Total Operating time was 2 hrs 15min ...VE3FP

Thanks to all who came out and especially to Bobby who arranged for us to use the Visitors Centre in Ferndale. We had tables and chairs to use so it was a better setup from last year. If I may offer a suggestion, maybe we could go there during the summer weather and put some strings up into the trees for antennae. Roberto won the door prize (Led lights donated by Bernie)



...VA3TS



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.



Basic Qualification Course Starting 2nd April 2025

Grey County Emergency Coordination is hosting another [Basic Qualification course](#) this spring.

Some Grey Co. staff will attend, and possibly Bruce Co., but **THERE IS LOTS OF ROOM FOR OTHER TRAINEES**

The course runs for eight Wednesday mornings starting Apr 2. Sessions run from 0830-1230. Exact dates: April 2, 9, 16, 30, May 14, 28, Jun 11, 18 (no class Apr 23, May 7, 21, Jun 4)

Location: The Sydenham Campus, 1130 8th St E, Owen Sound.

Course instructor is Frank VA3GUF (Frank will be back home in time for session 3, yours truly will be doing sessions 1 & 2). The exam will be on Jun 18. Our Accredited Examiner Norm VE3NIR will administer the exam in the same room as the classes. The exam is 100 multiple choice questions. It will be based on the existing question bank (the new bank won't start being used until July 15).

There is no fee for the course but trainees will have to provide their own copy of the Coax Publications Basic Study Guide (about \$50.00). <https://www.coaxpublications.ca/ord0001.php>

If you know of anyone wishing to take the course, please put them in touch with Frank (va3-guf@outlook.com), or me (candu.nuke@gmail.com).

73 Dave, VE3WI



Commonwealth Contest

8th - 9th March 2025

Dear VE3OSR,

Some of you may have already received an email regarding the 2025 Commonwealth Contest, so apologies if some of this information is redundant.

This year, the 88th running of the Commonwealth Contest (formerly BERU) has a number of changes that have been made in order to boost participation in this, the longest running Amateur Radio contest. The first contest was in February, 1931 and has run each year with the exception of the war years of 1940 to 1946.

The RSGB has recruited national radio organizations to assist in promoting the contest and for IARU region 2, this has fallen to Radio Amateurs of Canada. A brainstorming session was held earlier this month with the various contest clubs of Canada and a number of actions are taking place.

There will be a dedicated page on rac.ca - this is currently under development.

CCO will do the following:

1). Certificates from CCO will be awarded in the following categories:

First time participant

Operator under the age of 21

For a total number of QSOs of 88 or more (to celebrate the 88th year).

2). For CCO members who participate in the sCCOre award, there will be an additional 25% bonus on your earned sCCOre points for this contest.

The RSGB has included two major changes in the rules for 2025.

1). Contacts within the same continent count for 5 points but contacts in other continents count for 10 points.

2). The UK countries now count as separate bonus areas, i.e. GM, GW, GI, GD, G, GJ, GU. The first 3 QSOs with a bonus area count for 20 points .

The complete set of rules are here: <https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2025/rcwc.shtml>

I hope to see a lot of you in the contest - lets show just how many VE3 stations we can get on the air!

73,

Tony, Ve3rz

President, Contest Club Ontario.



QRP Go Box IC-705 Tom VA3TS **PART 2**



The [January](#) issue of Feedback had a writeup on the construction of a QRP backpack using the Icom IC-705. This month we can talk about an HF antenna that seems to be made for neat stuff like POTA, camping or basically anything outdoors.

The Comet HFJ-350 Series Portable Telescopic Antennas

I was looking for a suitable portable antenna that I could use with the 705, that didn't take up much space and was easy to set up and most importantly, transport around. Is this comet antenna better than an end fed antenna, a dipole or one of the many examples that are out there? Maybe not, but this is the one I chose, fingers crossed and maybe it was because no one else had tried this one, at least in our club.

It turns out that the antenna seems to behave well and fulfills the wish list I had at the get go. The kit comes with everything you need to work 160m thru to 6 m along with instructions for radials and the length of the telescopic element for each band.



Comet Antenna HFJ-350M specs:

Frequency: 3.5 – 50 MHz (9 bands)

Max. Power: 75 W PEP SSB on 3.5 MHz; 100 W SSB PEP 7.0 – 50 MHz

Length: Min. 14.57 in. (370 mm), Max. 63.39 in. (1610 mm)

Weight: Approx. 0.55 lbs. (245 g)

Antenna Base Mount Type: UHF (PL-259 style)

Mounting this antenna on a 6' tripod with 3 12' radials achieves a SWR of 1.1:1 to 1.3:1 from 20m through 6m.

This is great for 20m and above, but what about below 20m. The hunt was on for information on the counterpoise itself and details. The search in more recent ARRL handbooks was not successful as there seems to be no current info on this. I had to go back to antenna books from the 1950's where I find that the descriptions for "ground radials" and "counterpoise" seem to be used back and forth. It should be noted that the $\frac{1}{4}$ wave length comes up and so if I consider the comet as a vertical antenna and therefore the "counterpoise" of $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength should work. Ya but, I want an easy to calculate



solution that I can use and tell others. So off the web I went and I found an equation on a Reddit post that I used and it worked well for this antenna. So the counterpoise can be calculated by dividing 180 by the frequency in Mhz... $180/f(\text{Mhz}) = \text{length in feet}$.

This is what I calculated my counterpoise lengths to be. I also made them from different coloured hook-up wire and added spade connectors on each end.

Band	Freq(Mhz)	Lngh(ft)	Colour
160	1.9	95	
80	3.75	48	Red
40	7.16	25	Grn
20	14.18	12.5	Vio
15	21.23	8.5	Wht
10	29.5	6	Brn
6	52	3.5	Gry



If you connect all the individual wires together, then you have a 160m counterpoise.... Want 2 for 40m? Use the grn wire for the 1st, and connect vio, wht and gry together for the 2nd counterpoise. Similarly, for 80m use the red and join all the rest for the 2nd.

So how about mounting antenna on something to make it easy to set up. I made a mount using plumbing pvc pipe and an so-239 panel connector which mates up with the pl-259 on the antenna itself.



Nothing special here, I didn't even glue the parts together as the friction fit seems to be ok. So the RG58 coax just goes into the body through a drilled hole straight to the connector.

This was mounted on tripod that started ff its life as a laser level...that went south so lets repurpose the tripod. It isn't quite 6 feet tall but it works and its light to carry. There is a couple of spade connectors near the base for connecting the counterpoises.

Remember, the counterpoise must be elevated by a few feet to be effective and signals seem to propagate in the direction of the counterpoise. I may call the actual antenna a loaded counterpoise and assume the counterpoise is the radiating element. Who cares its just works!



The instructions that comes with the comet antenna also tells you the length of the telescopic section for each band . One thing to include in the toolkit would be a tape measure to set these lenghts. The good news is that once set, the [MAT705](#) tuner does a good job of matching the antenna to the IC705, has lots of memories and lasts about 7 hours on a charge. As I said in the last installment, I have the charge cable connected to the packpack 12v battery via a switch and a 12v to 5vdc block converter.

Standard value of adjustment length L	
1.8 MHz : 1170 mm	18 MHz : 1070 mm(※)
3.5 MHz : 910 mm	21 MHz : 750 mm
7 MHz : 960 mm	24 MHz : 530 mm
10 MHz : 990 mm	28.5 MHz : 1000 mm
14 MHz : 800 mm	51 MHz : 950 mm

(※) Length when using terminal 3



Click the pdf icon for a download of the complete Comet instructions.

In this series we have discussed the backpack project and the Comet HFJ350 antenna and the connection of both.

Next time we can look at remote operations.

73 VA3TS



Special Events

Call Sign	Start Date	End Date	Name of Event
VE2JAZZ	2025-06-22	2025-07-07	FESTIVAL JAZZ DE MONTREAL
VC250UMS	2025-05-01	2025-05-31	UNION METROPOLITAINE DES-SANS-FILISTES
VB2QC	2025-04-20	2025-04-20	QSO Party du Québec
VC9A	2025-04-19	2025-04-20	Parks On The Air - Support Your Parks Weekend
VC9C	2025-03-15	2025-03-16	World Wide Flora & Fauna Spring Fling
XL3A	2025-03-01	2025-03-31	150th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada

[ISED](#)



Minutes of Meeting

The January meeting was cancelled due to weather, therefore there were no minutes. Click [HERE](#) to view recent minutes.



Interesting Websites

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

The FREE repair Manual

<https://www.ifixit.com>

Deepseek

<https://ollama.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/961446289268971>

Start my Car

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

Canada's anti-spam legislation

[Click Here](#)

Climbing an 11000 foot super tower in St Louis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGuu7PjiVU>

Microsoft PowerToys

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/powertoys/>

This is that old Heathkit scope of Dieter's that you gave me one time? I finally put it on the repair bench. I replaced 3 tubes and a resistor and cleaned the tube sockets etc and it is working well now.

73 Don ve3ids



Membership as of 28th Of January 2025



JOIN GBARC TODAY

Membership as of Jan 28/25 Total 25

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
VE3BQM	Bernie Monderie	OwenSound
VE3MPG	Bob Baillargeon	Sauble Beach
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
VE3DGY	Doug McDougall	OwenSound
VA3GUF	Frank Gufler	OwenSound
VA3STG	Fred Lorch	Teeswater
VE3RQY	Greg Larocque	OwenSound
VA3EAC	Janet Double	Paisley
VE3JMD	Jim Reeves	Port Elgin
Associate	Luke Bagatto	Shallow Lake
VE3VCG	Marvin Double	Paisley
VA3NIR	Norman Reintamm	Flesherton
VE3NBJ	Norm Pratt	Owen Sound
VE3QVC	Phillip De Kat	OwenSound
VE3OZW	Richard Osborne	Mildmay
IN3IJOVE3	Roberto Bertolli	Owen Sound
VE3RWY	Rob Walker	Owen Sound
VA3SGZ	Sheldon Greig	Chatsworth
VE3USI	Tex Brown	Flesherton
VA3TS	Tom St.Amand	ShallowLake



<https://www.iaru.org/on-the-air/world-amateur-radio-day/>



AUXCOMM Grey Bruce

AUXCOMM Grey Bruce has a new home. Auxcomm has its own section on the GBARC forums for anything to do with emergency communications in our local area. Check there regularly to keep up to date. [AUXCOMM Forums](#)



Bruce County
[Marvin Double](#) VE3VCG

Grey County
[Frank Gufler](#) VA3GUF

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.

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/>



**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.

