FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

June 2025

The Editor Tom VA3TS

Nominations for President are currently underway, all club members have been sent details and instructions to send your choice to the nomination committee which is Doug VE3DGY and Tom VA3TS. The link will not be posted here as it is for club members only. Suffice it to say, if you are a club member, and you did not receive the information then send the club mail and we will look into it. Good luck to the next President, whoever that may be.

RAC Canada Day Contest 2025 reminder

Celebrating Canada's Birthday on Confederation Day, July 1st. Amateurs all over the world are invited to join us in this celebration.

RAC official stations are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC, VY2RAC and VE3RHQ (RAC HQ in Ottawa)

Please review the contest rules provided at:
https://www.rac.ca/contesting-results/

We look forward to your participation in the RAC Canada Day Contest.

-- Bart Ritchie, VE5CPU canaday @ rac.ca

This Month

2025/ 2026 Executive

President … Vacant
Vice-President… Marvin VE3VCG
Treasurer…..... Doug VE3DGY
Secretary…..... Bobby VE3PAV

Club Constitution

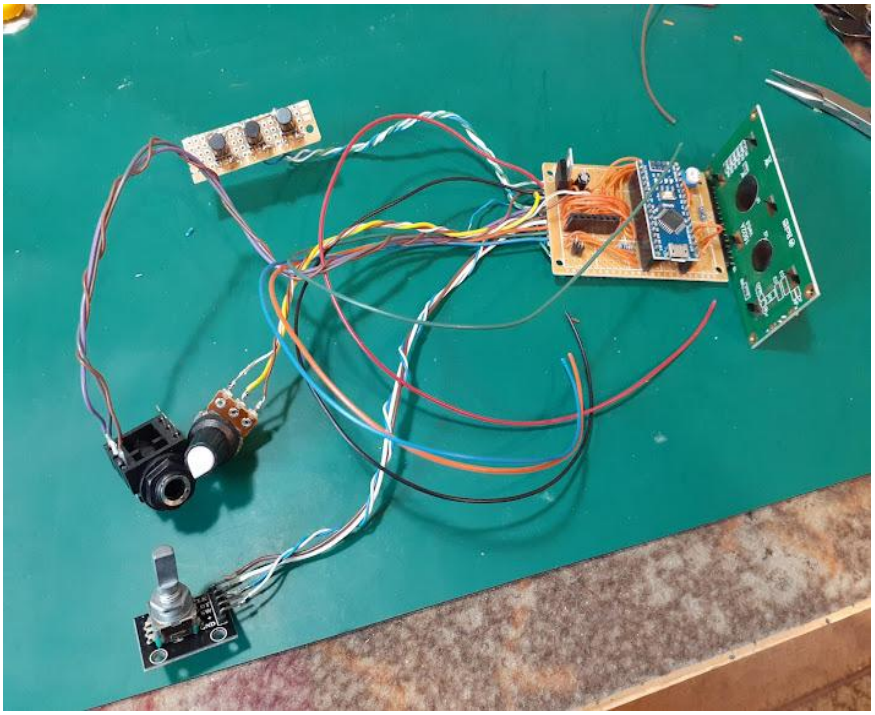
By-Laws

New life for the HW-8

I happened across a Heathkit HW-8 that had a damaged vfo air variable capacitor. This is not uncommon in these rigs. The air variable is operated by a reduction drive behind the vfo knob which has a high torque and there is no stop limit on the rotation of the capacitor. If you keep turning past the limits of the end of the dial, you can peel the moving vanes right off the shaft of the capacitor. A replacement capacitor is available but the cost of the assembly is more than the rig's value these days. I didn't want to scrap this one, so I replaced the vfo with a digital replacement. Nick Kennedy WA5BDU has written an excellent vfo sketch for the Arduino. In consultation with Nick, he graciously added to his sketch to customize it for the HW-8. The new vfo tunes the whole band now and you can select either upper or lower side band. This is handy with a direct conversion receiver to get away from potential QRM. It also has RIT and split frequency capability so you can chase that DX. The tuning rate can be set to 10 Hz, 100 Hz or 1 kHz with the push of a button. Nick's sketch also includes a keyer with three memories. Here is the original format and the following picture is the updated rig.

The new vfo uses an Arduino Nano and a SI5351a module with a common 1602 LCD display and digital encoder. These parts are commonly available on AliExpress, Amazon and Ebay for a low cost. I removed the air variable and plastic dial and used this same location for the new vfo. I cut the curved dial window cutout to a rectangular shape for the new LCD and mounted the encoder with a home-brew bracket so I could still use the original knob with the encoder. You will also need to cutout the front chassis

behind the front panel for clearance for the display. I removed the front panel and covered it with duct tape and clamped my handheld jigsaw upside down in a vise. This allows careful and precise cutting of the front panel without scratching the paint and the cut stroke is down so you don't get burred edges at the display rectangular hole. I mounted twin push buttons on either side of the tuning knob and used the encoder push button as button#2. I added a 10K pot in a previously drilled hole in the front panel for the keyer speed control. The Nano etc are wired on a small perf board that is supported by the display.



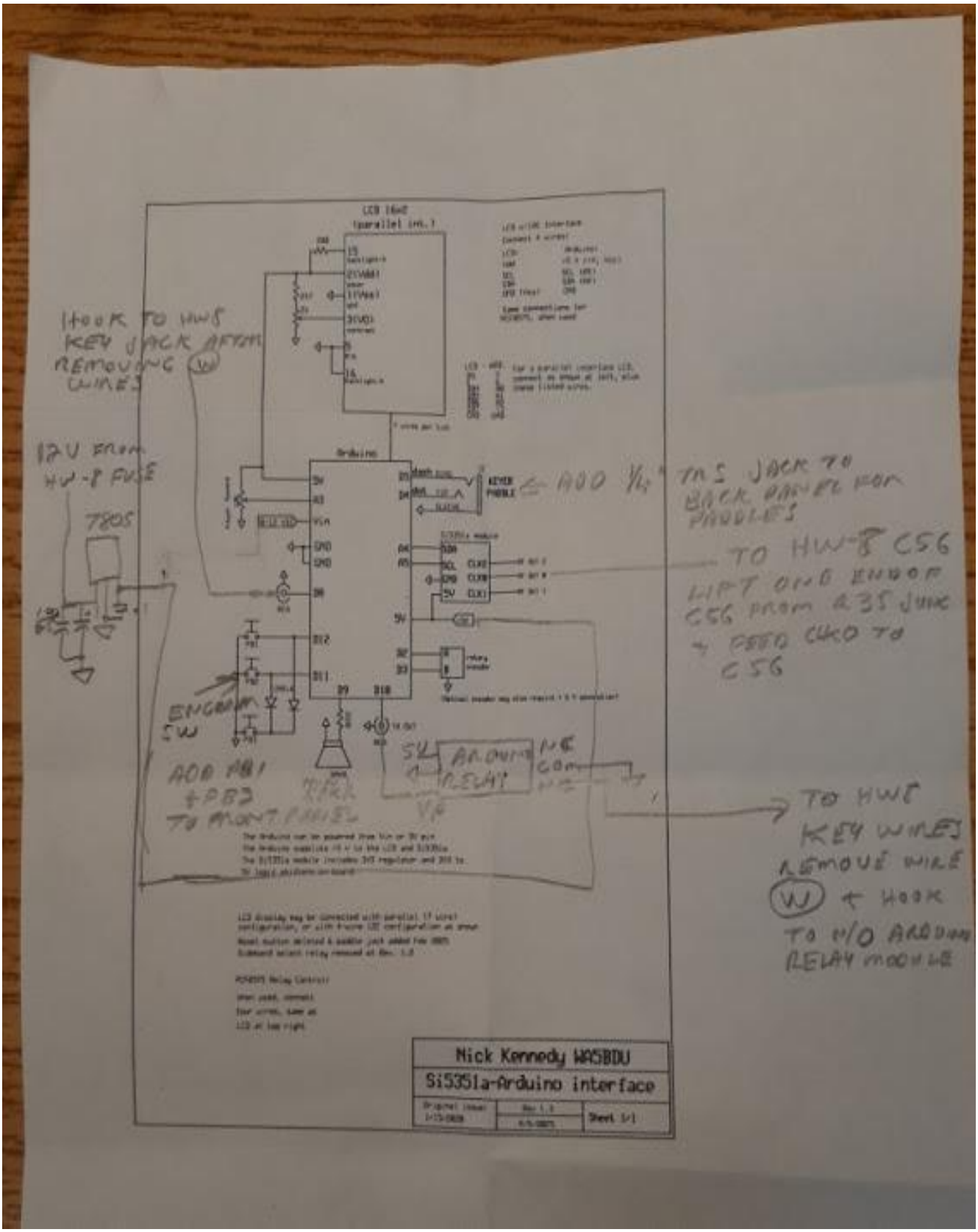
Here are my napkin notes for the project.

You need to add a stereo 1/4” jack on the rear apron for the keyer paddles. Add a 5 volt relay and wire the N/O contact to the wire that was on the original HW-8 key jack. Take the common of the relay to ground. The 5 volt coil of the relay is wired to D10 on the Nano. To disconnect the original vfo output and feed your new DDS vfo into the rig, unsolder one end of C56 in the HW-8. Lift the end that is connected to R35 and feed this free end of C56 with CLK0 on the SI5351a board. Add a 7805 three terminal regulator to power the new DDS VFO board and run this from the switched 12 volt power in the HW-8.

The Arduino sketch and manual for the vfo project are on Nick's GitHub page.

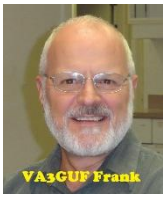
https://github.com/nick6502/Si5351a_quad

This vfo can also be used in other projects. I have one built to replace crystals for various boat anchor transmitters. It is very stable and accurate and has a huge advantage in that it mutes the output when the key is up. Most other vfo projects run all the time and swamp the receiver at your station with the vfo output during receive.



Have fun and keep the iron warm!

73, Don VE3IDS



Summer FIELD DAY 2025

To all Amateur Radio operators and anyone interested in seeing operational radio stations set up in an OFF GRID outdoor location, do join us or come by our annual FIELD DAY event;

9AM Saturday June 28th to 2PM Sunday June 29th at Victoria Park (next to the OWEN SOUND YMCA) by the tree line.

FIELD DAY is the annual North American radio event where we contact operators throughout Canada and the United States for a 24 hour period starting at 14:00Hrs, Saturday till the same time Sunday. All public are welcome as well as any local or visiting radio operators. Set-up for the two proposed stations will start at 09:00Hrs Saturday.

Two radio stations will be set up in Utility trailers with one using the GBARC portable tower and Yagi. Tower climbers have been arranged by Frank, VA3GUF with the other station running a Random Wire system. Power for the weekend is provided by a portable 120VAC, 2000 watt generator with a back-up generator available to ensure power continuity for the weekend event. One radio station will have battery back-up arranged for demonstration purposes to demonstrate cycle charging potential permitting longer station operations with a limited generator fuel supply.

A Marquis Tent is being set-up for shelter and potluck food where additional portable tables could be used so if you got them, bring them along. A propane BBQ will be available to heat food and I have heard that Greg's (VE3RQY) famous Chilli will be available as well.

Anyone interested in getting on the air with one of the two radio stations, now is the time as operator slots are always available offering newly certified operator or those interested in possibly getting into the Amateur radio hobby to learn more by watching and doing. Assistance in setting up and Sundays dismantling the remote OFF GRID radio stations and antennas including our GBARC portable tower, generator 120VAC grid and shelters are always welcome. It is an active, fun and learning experience for all ages.

If you have not already replied to the GBARC Forum **Summer Field Day 2025** found in the **Operating --- Get ON the Air>Field Day** section of the forum. Do let us know your level of participation for the 7 event items you will attend on site.

Participation Items:

1. Operate a Radio?
2. Scribe for the operator?
3. Assist with set-up?
4. Assist with site dismantling?
5. Contribute to Pot-Luck Supper?
6. Contribute to Sunday Breakfast?
7. See Amateur Radio in action?

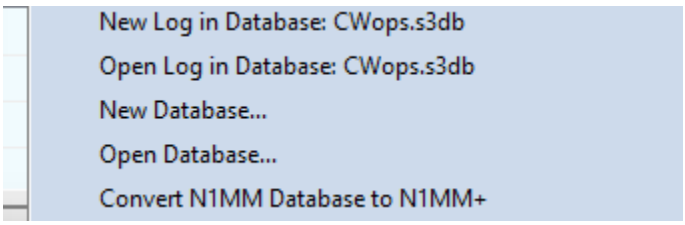
Looking forward to seeing you there and chatting.

N1MM Setup

Hi all, Here is an easy N1MM setup for Field Day. I believe that you already have a database FD2024.s3db on the computer used for last year's Field Day. You can just add to it. This method will be simpler and keep upcoming Field Days in the same database.

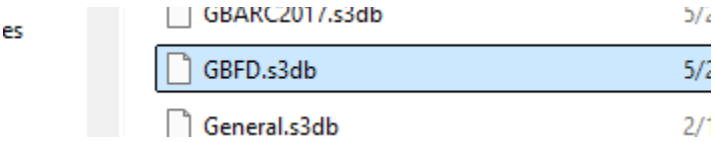
1. Open N1MM on your Windows PC

2.Goto File/Open Database

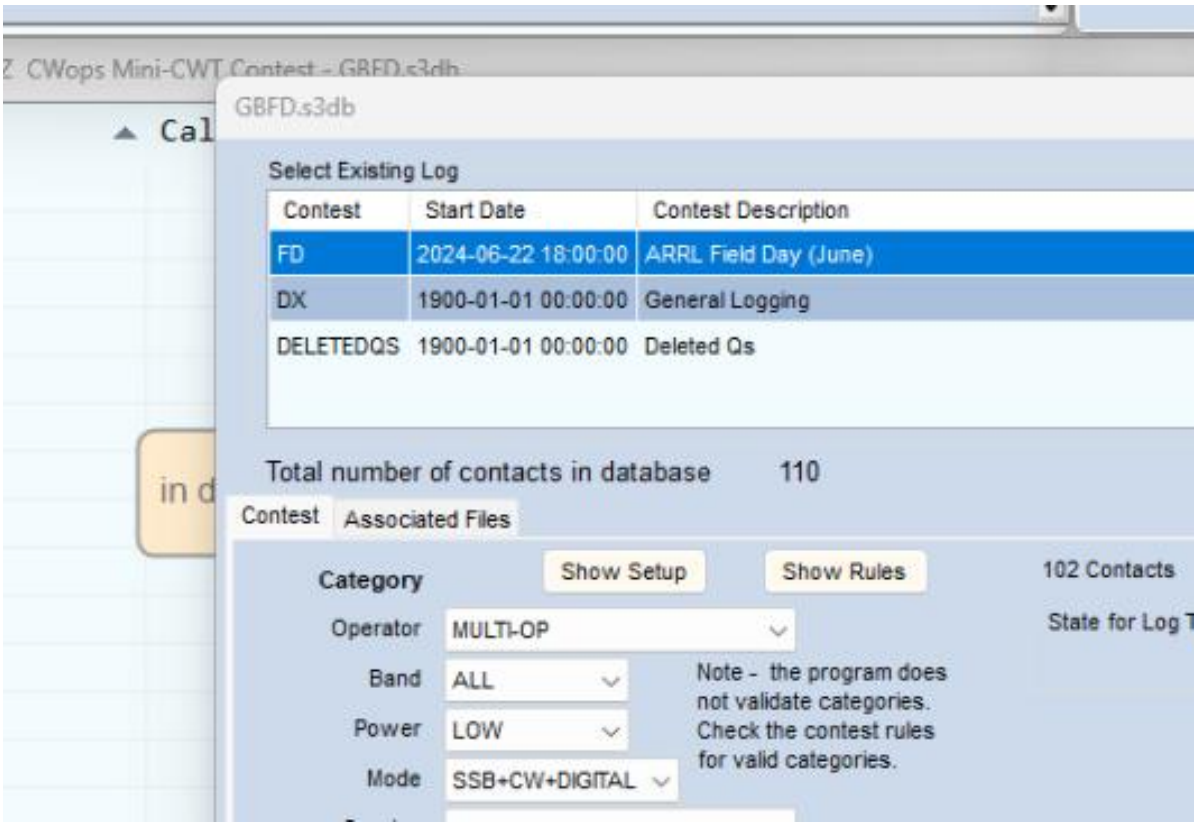


3. Locate FD2024.s3db

4. Rename it to GBFD.s3db (*right click on the filename to rename it*)

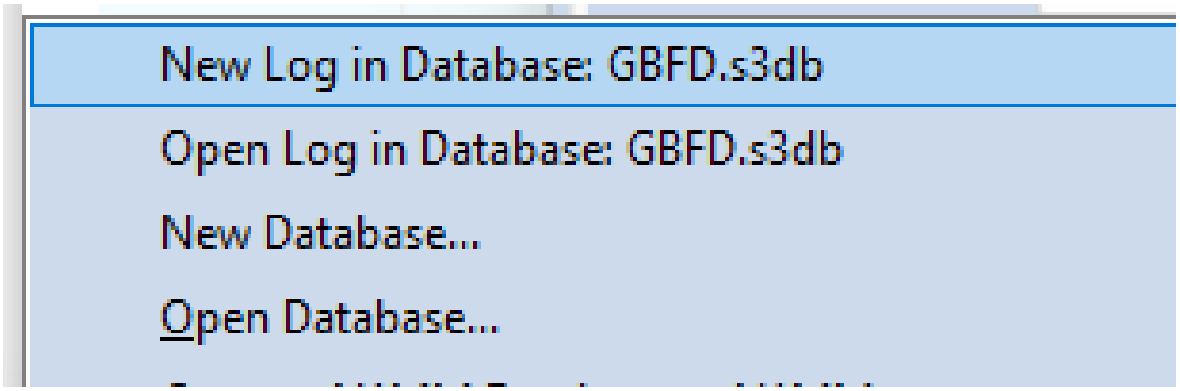


5. Double Click on GBFD.s3db to open "database" and this screen will pop up which is last year's setup.

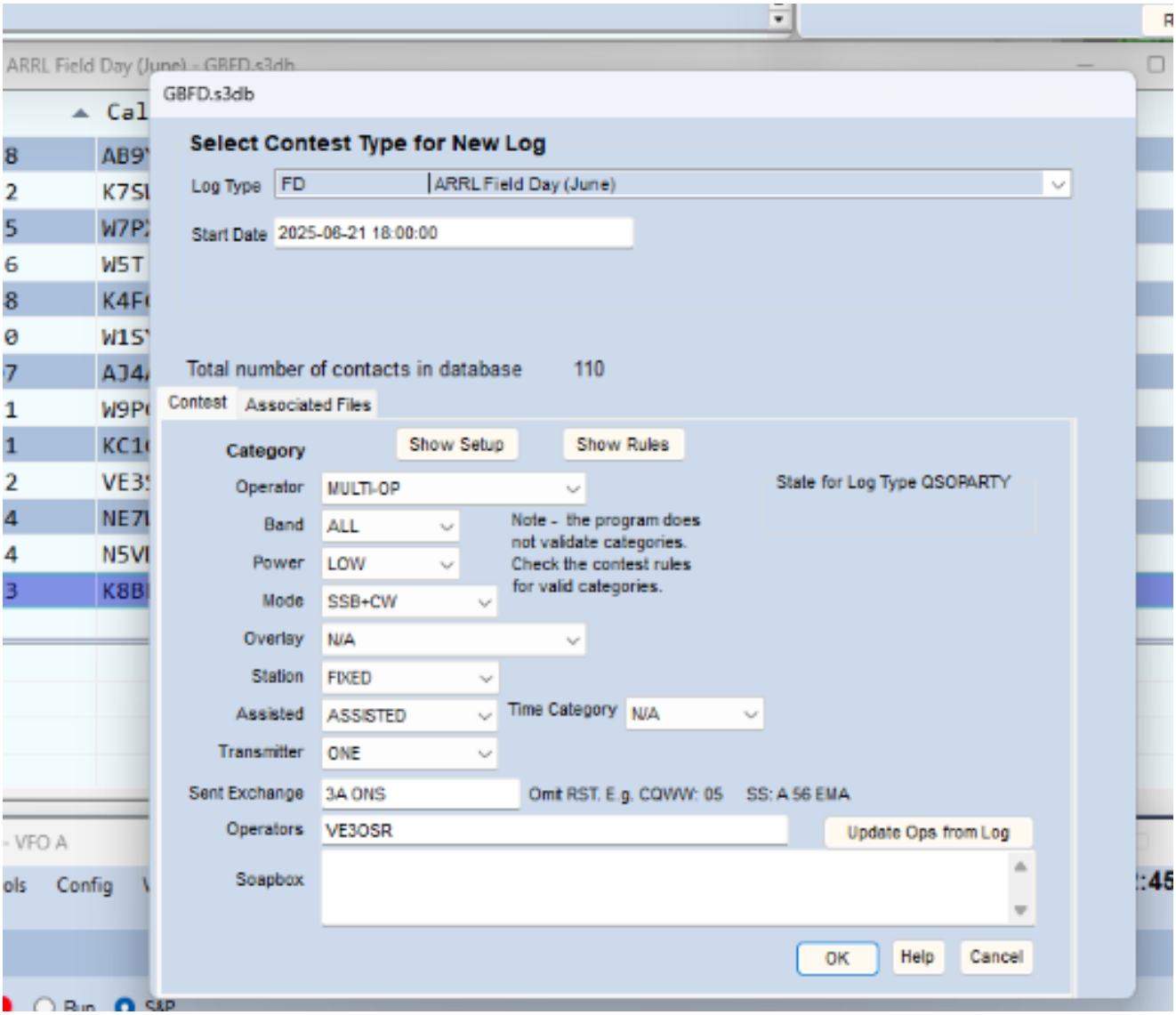


6. Click "OK"

7. Go to File/New Log in Database GBFD.s3db



8. New Log file will be created with last year's parameters.

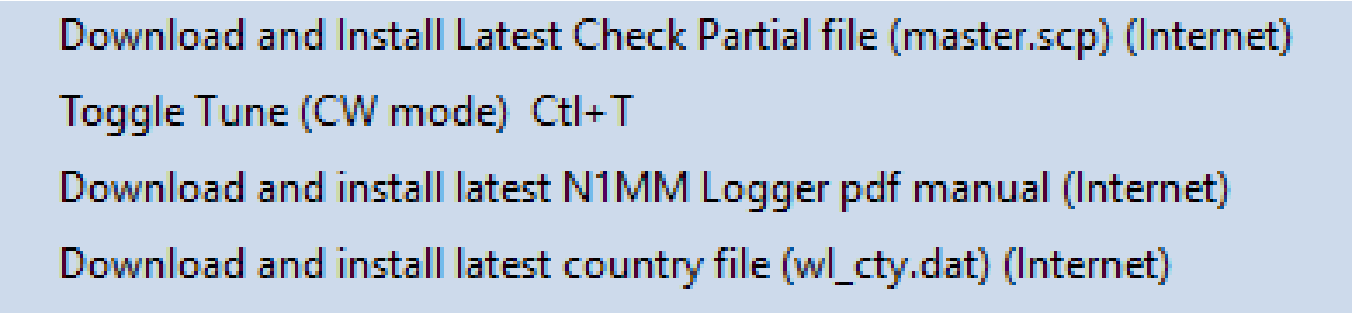


9. Click "OK" to accept current parameters. We can verify these at Field Day to make sure all are using the same parameters.

10. Important! Make sure to update the N1MM program by opening N1MM after Wednesday before Field Day. It is updated every Tuesday.

Also from the Tools menu download and install Latest Check Partial and Country file.

N1MM Logger pdf is optional.



This will make all stations operating with the same setup parameters. Another item I would add is Time Synchronization.

To synchronize time in N1MM Logger+:

1. **1. Run as Administrator:**

   On all computers except the designated master, right-click the N1MM Logger+ icon and select "Run as Administrator".

2. **2. Master Computer:**

   The master computer, running without admin rights, will automatically synchronize the time on the other computers.

3. **3. Resync All:**

   The "Resync All Stations" option in the Network Status window can be used to force a resynchronization of all logs with the master.

Please let me know if you have any questions that we don't need to deal with this at Field Day.

Hope this helps.

73, Adam, ve3fp

Elsie's Breakfast

Elsie's is now open for breakfast at **08:00**am. (*Summer Hours*)
Read More

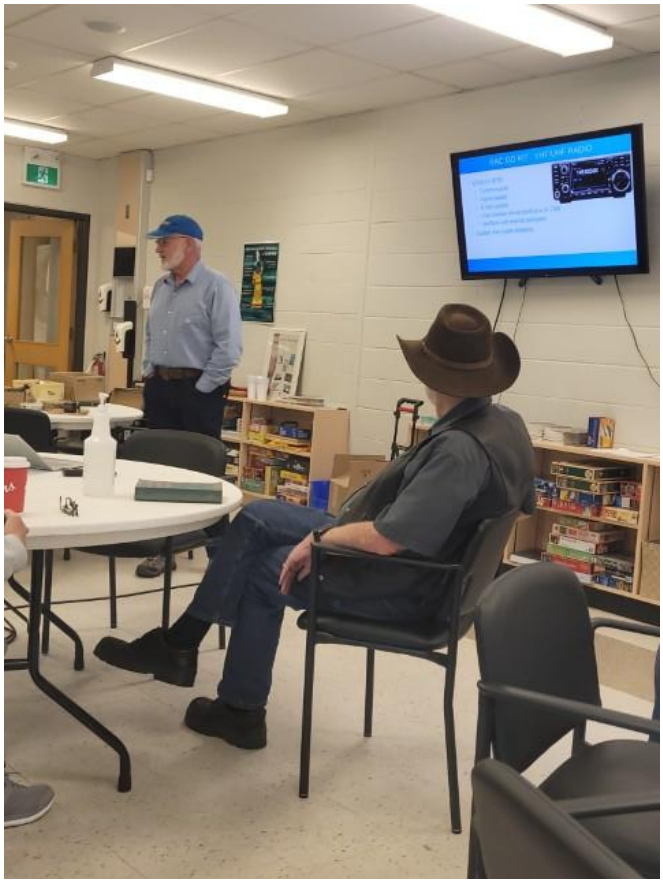
Tech Talk Doug VE3DGY

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.

Minutes of Meeting

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting



GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting
May.27.2025

Attendance:
Tex ve3usi,Greg ve3rqy,Adam ve3fp,Kirk,Dan va3dny,Philip ve3dpb,Ken,Larry ve3wdf
Frank va3guf,Marvin ve3vcg,Janet va3eac,Richard ve3ozw,Mark ve3vbe,Mary va3ilt,Bobby ve3pav,Doug ve3dgy
Meeting called to order:7:05pm

Qurom yes

Tech Talk:Auxcomm go kit.
Frank talked about RAC radio GO KITs contents and purpose of the kit.
The kit consisted of hf and vhf radio's,power suppy,antenna,antenna tuner,pactor modem,laptop.
The kit will be deployed in case of an emergency for 72 hrs of operations.

Accept previous minutes for March
motion:Doug,second Phil
minutes for april:motion:Marvin second:Dan

finance report:$xxxx.83
Motion:Frank,secound:Phil

Old Business:
Field day will be at Victoria Park in Owen Sound

New business:
Bruce peninsula race,volunteers needed Aug 9,
south hampton race May.31.
paisly repeater up and running
Adam suggested having a club Pota event.
Tex will stepdown as club president.
50/50 draw Richard won

meeting ended at 8:45pm motion:Doug,2nd phil

Interesting Websites

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

Basic Training Course update status:
The Basic Training course that has been running at the Grey County Sydenham Campus has now concluded. Grey County had 4 candidates on the course plus one from Bruce County. One private individual also participated in the course. One Grey County course participant had a conflict and could not write the test at the course scheduled date and time so his testing will be arranged later before the new testing format starting July 15th. Testing was done with the 5 course candidates plus a new prospect who was studying on his own for the test that had reached out to us about writing the certification test for a total of 6 prospects. Four passed the test, three with Basic Honours and one with Basic. Grey county has one new certified Amateur Radio operator to add to there current team of three from last year, total 4 now. Bruce County has one new Amateur Radio operator. The two 2 private Amateur Radio operators with Basic Honours are very interested in learning more. Those of you that were at our last club meeting have already met them, Kirk Joch and Ken Overton. Please welcome these new Amateur Radio operators when you meet them at our meetings or at Field Day.
The one Grey County individual that could not write the test due to conflict will be writing in the near future as well as have one person from Grey County rewrite the test

Cheers

Frank Gufler VA3-GUF / VE0-GUF / VE0-VET

The next club meeting will take place at the Field Day site at Victoria Park in Owen Sound, Saturday the 28th of June

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.

Membership

Our current membership has 30 on our list. Go to our web page for details.

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/