FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

March 2025

President's Message

Tex VE3USI

Spring is on the way door step.

It's time to start planning for field day. First item will be location. Please bring suggestions to the meeting, keeping in mind a central location is preferred.. see you at the meeting.

73s Tex. VE3USI

Elsie's Breakfast

Join us for breakfast at Elsie's, on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 09:00 am Directions

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

2023/ 2024 Executive

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

Club Constitution

By-Laws

About GBARC

Local Repeaters

VA3CAX 145.290 156.7 BERKELEY
VE3CAX 146.715 156.7 LIONS HEAD
VE3ROG 145.370 156.7 BANKS
VE3BMR 146.790 156.7 COLLINGWOOD
VE3PER 146.820 PORT ELGIN
VE3OSR 146.940 97.4 OWEN SOUND
VE3OST 146.895 97.4 WOODFORD
VE3GBT 146.730 97.4 PAISLEY
VE3YOS 146.640 156.7 OWEN SOUND

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,

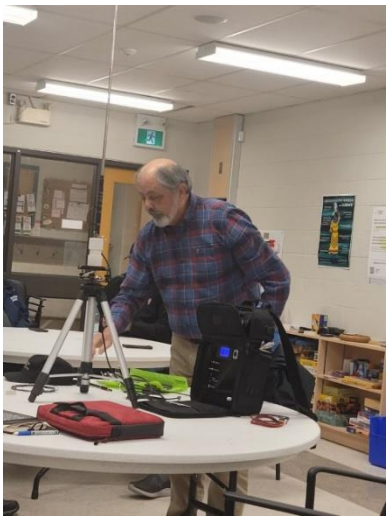
Minutes of Meeting

GEORGIAN BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting
Feb.25.2025
Call to order by Tex Brown VE3USI

ATTENDANCE

Executive: Tex Brown VE3USI President, Doug McDougall VE3DGY Treasurer, Marvin Double VE3VCG vice President, Bobby Pavlovic VE3PAV Secretary

Members: Greg Larocque VE3RQY, Marvin Double VE3VCG, Tom St.Amand VA3TS, Dave Newcombe VE3WI, Richard Osborne VE3OZW, Philip deKat VE3DPB, Bernie Monderie VE3BQM, Kirk, Janet Double VA3EAC, Mark VA3VBE, ADAM VE3FP, Larry Price VE3WDF, Dan Mills VA3DNY, Sheldon Greig VA3SGZ, Mary Watson VA3ILT
Quorum: yes



Tech Talk: Tom VA3TS: Icom 705 setup

Tom started his presentation by showing his Icom IC-705 and backpack setup for QRP. He was displaying his go bag and antenna. The total weight is about 11lbs all equipped. It comes with a small display on a box that Tom made showing voltage and amperage of the liFEpo4 battery.

Tex talked about a portable battery pack.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the November meeting was published in the newsletter and on the GBARC website. The minutes were accepted as written and passed by vote. (motion: Phil VE3DPB, second: Tom VA3TS)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Doug VE3DGY submitted the finance report up to the February meeting.

Member's: new and renewed 11 member's $380.00, RAC insurance: $545.17, ham of the year plaque $45.14, bank balance $xxxx.33.

The treasurer's report was accepted and passed by vote. (motion: Janet VA3EAC, second: Richard VE3OZW

OLD BUSINESS: LOTW Dave VE3WI looking into it, Carried over to next meeting, The fox will be going out in March.

NEW BUSINESS: QSL party, field day location, Christmas dinner maybe doing a potluck, GREG suggested the ball diamonds in Owen Sound for field day

The 50/50 Draw winner: TEX VE3USi won $57.50 he donated $25.00 to the club.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 PM (motion: Phil VE3DPH, second: ADAM VE3FP

Interesting Websites

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

Vibroplex
https://www.vibroplex.com/

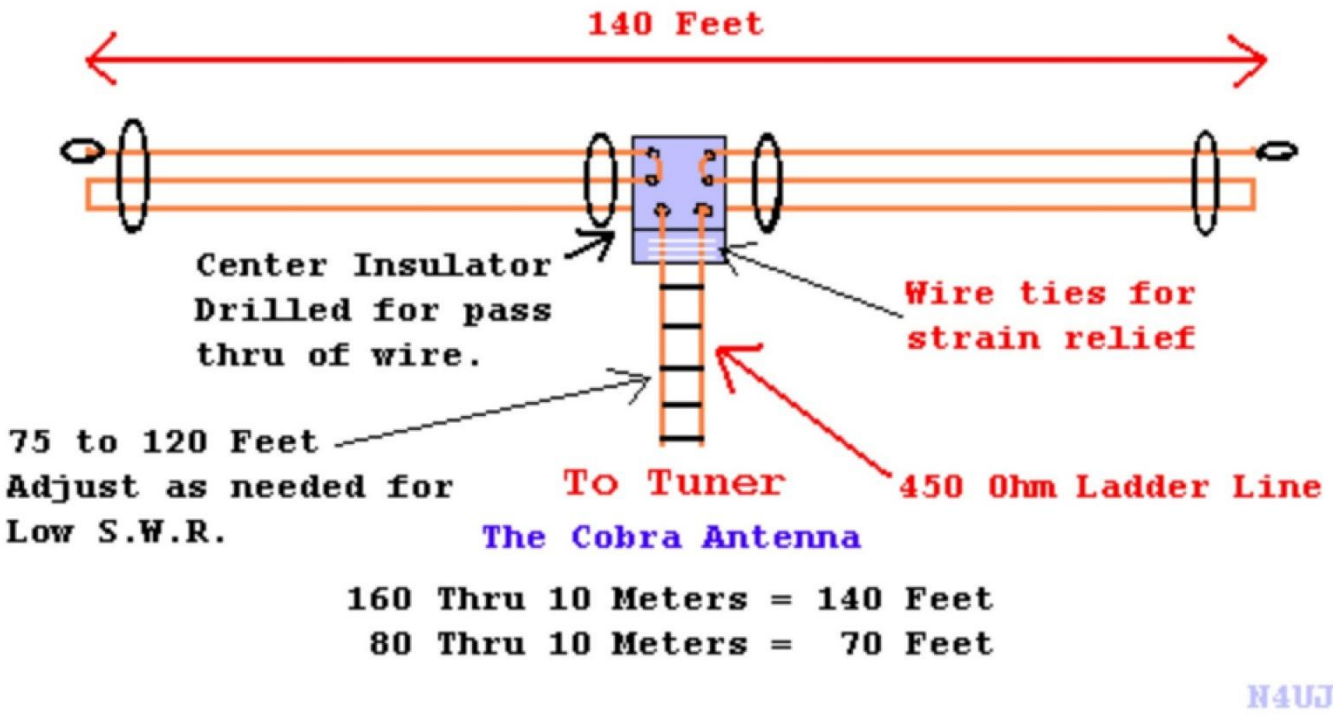
Membership

Our current membership has 29 on our list. Go to our web page for details.

BUILD THE "COBRA" ANTENNA

By Raymond A. Cook W4JOH
Taken from and re-edited from a project in
73 Amateur Radio Today
June, 1997

The original Cobra antenna designed by W4JOH can be built as an all band hf antenna covering either 160 thru 10 meters or 80 thru 10 meters and is built using standard insulated wire of about 14 gauge and fed with 450 ohm ladder line down to the shack into a tuner. It got it's name from the S shaped configuration of it's multi-conductor elements. It performs on it's primary and harmonic operating frequencies as a standard ladder-line fed doublet.



The close spaced wire elements on each leg introduces two added resonant responses BELOW the antenna's fundamental operating frequency.

The 140 foot version (80 meters) in picture also resonates at about 2.8mhz and also on 160 meters. A standard dipole at 1.9mhz is about 246 feet total compared to 140 feet in the Cobra!. This fact alone makes this an ideal antenna for restricted space on the TOP BAND!

The half sized version, 73 foot (40 meter) also covers 60 and 75 meters!
All band operation has been reported in the original article to be excellent! (With a tuner of course). This antenna design extends the coverage compared to a G5RV both in bands and performance. On its primary and harmonic operating frequencies, tests show no discernible difference in signal strength between a Cobra and a regular full-sized doublet or dipole.
On its sub-bands bands where the Cobra is physically "short", efficiency is somewhat lower than for a full-sized dipole.

If you do the math, you will see that there is actually about 420 feet total wire across the top of the antenna on the 80 meter version, (210 feet per side), and about half that on the 40 meter version. The flattop and lead-in length were strictly determined by the physical limitations of the antenna farm and this project is a result of those limitations and the idea of compressing or folding the wire back on itself to fit the antenna farm. (No formulas were given in the article), but they seem to be this:

1/2 of total known length / frequency = multiplier for formula below:

210 / 3.750 (band center) = 56 (unknown multiplier)

So 56 X 3.750mhz (band center) = 210 feet per side. Which is exactly what he used per side.

Editor's note: "This formula is mathematically correct in solving for the unknown assuming the lowest band center frequency was used, but may not be what was used in the original antenna experimentation if any formulas were used at all! The original author, W4JOH, may have arrived at the lengths strictly by experimentation and found them to work well."... N4UJW

Keep in mind that there are actually 3 conductors connected in series per side and folded back on each other or another way of saying this is that there is one continuous length of 210 feet per side in the 80 meter version connected to one side of the ladder line and the same on the other half. Because the Cobra antenna is a balanced load, it is recommended to install a 4:1 current-style balun at the station end of the feedline (many external tuners provide a built-in balun). Ladder-line feed may have to be trimmed for lowest SWR, but using about a 100 foot length seems to make for easier tuning on all bands.
Extra feedline should be suspended in loose coils and not in a tight roll.

A 4:1 balun possibly could be installed at the antenna, then fed with 50 ohm coax to the radio, BUT, it is not known if this would upset any characteristics of the original design.

https://www.hamuniverse.com/cobraantenna.html

HOMEMADE MOSQUITO TRAP:

Items needed:
1 cup of water
1/4 cup of brown sugar
1 gram of yeast
1 2-liter bottle

HOW:
1. Cut the plastic bottle in half.
2. Mix brown sugar with hot water. Let cool. When cold, pour in the bottom half of the bottle.
3. Add the yeast. No need to mix. It creates carbon dioxide, which attracts mosquitoes.
4. Place the funnel part, upside down, into the other half of the bottle, taping them together if desired.
5. Wrap the bottle with something black, leaving the top uncovered, and place it outside in an area away from your normal gathering area. (Mosquitoes are also drawn to the color black.)

AUXCOMM

Amateur Radio Emergency Communication is changing with the times. The reason for this began on September 11, 2001. Terrorist attacks in the US on that date exposed more than just vulnerability to terrorism but also numerous problems with emergency communications.

A working group was created to study these communication problems and recommend solutions. AuxComm (Auxiliary Communication) and the Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS) was one of the recommended outcomes of that group.

AuxComm is not ARES rewarmed. It is a standardized training format built around the Incident Command System. It is also a different emergency communication strategy. AuxComm embraces all forms of emergency communication and is not exclusive to amateur radio but can include a wide range of professionals as well as amateur volunteers.

AuxComm certified HAM radio operators will work with community communication groups (AKA Community Communication Hubs) and develop “hybrid” emergency communication networks. HAM radio operators will be the interface between such community groups and Emergency Managers working in EOC’s or Incident Command Centre’s during a disaster or emergency event. This kind of “hybrid” network will allow emergency managers to both get and give emergency messages from the street level in any community with a Community Communication Hub.

AuxComm training is focused in creating a variety of “certified” radio operators both professional and amateur volunteers. I will have more on AuxComm training in future articles. RAC has already run three pilot AuxComm training programs in 2024.

I have been advised that I will be asked to organize new AuxComm training course in the Georgian Bay area once RAC is prepared to roll out the next part of this new ACS program. I have other information as to possible dates for this next phase of the AuxComm Ontario. I am aware that it is being developed as I write this.

RAC has officially dropped national support for ARES and has created a new organization called Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS). Funding for this new program is being provided in part by the Province of Ontario. Initial courses AuxComm training courses were offered in 2024 September / October 2024 as a pilot project in Sudbury, York Region and Niagara Region.

To learn more about AuxComm in practical application please visit the GBARC Forums and check out videos on the AuxComm-Emergency Communication subheading.

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*

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