



FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club



April 2026
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The Pres Tom VA3TS

I am happy to report that our Constitution and By-laws have been updated, approved and ratified. Thanks to all who had a part in this and worked to see this through to its conclusion.

Next month's newsletter will include a copy of the Constitution and the June newsletter will have the updated By-Laws.

I had planned to have the **Ontario QSO Party** at my QTH, but as luck would have it, considerable rainfall this spring caused some flooding over my driveway. So as not to cause issues with others vehicles I decided to cancel the OQP here this year. I made some contacts but it would have been nice to have the group attend, maybe next year.

At our last meeting we had a short discussion on **Field Day** this year and had suggested the Grey Sauble Area near Inglis Falls. We have been at this location in the past and it has some amenities that we use like the covered group area and the use of their washroom facilities. I'm sure we will discuss this again at the next meeting. For information on past Field Day's check our our club webpage at <https://gbarc.ca/fd.php>

This Month

Presidents Message

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[The Last Word](#)

2025/ 2026 Executive

President ...Tom VA3TS

Vice-President...Dan VA3DNY

Past President...Marvin VE3VCG

Treasurer...Doug VE3DGY

Secretary...Bobby VE3PAV

[Club Constitution](#)

[By-Laws](#)

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[About GBARC](#)

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Club Meeting 28th April 2026 7 - 9 pm

Tech Talk(s) by VA3GUF Frank Off Center Fed Dipole Configurations

Updates on the proposed Field Day 2026 at Inglis Falls, Grey Sauble Conservation

Elsie's Breakfast



Elsie's is now open for breakfast at **09:00am**. (*Winter Hours*) Changes to 8am starting in June.

[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

[Minutes of the Monthly Club Meeting](#) (<-previous months)

Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of club meeting March.24.2026

Executive: President Tom VA3TS, Treasurer Doug VE3DGY, Vice President Marvin VE3VCG, Secretary Bobby VE3PAV

Attendance: Kirk ve3kxx, Greg ve3rqy, Dave ve3wi, Bernie ve3bqm, Jim ve3jmd, Adam ve3fp, Tex ve3usi, Richard ve3ozw, Philip ve3qvc, Luke ve3zxf, Mark va3vbe, Dan va3dny, Mary va3ilt, Janet va3eac, Rijk va3ryk

The meeting was brought to order by Tom VA3TS at 7:00pm

Quorum: yes

Tech Talk: Richard VE3OZW talked about Net Logger, it is used for logging nets, participants and seeing active and pass nets.



Previous minutes: Motion to accept: Tex 2nd: Dan AIF: all

Treasurer's Report: There are 29 members in the club

Motion to accept: Bernie 2nd Marvin AIF: ALL

Old business: Annual general meeting: Doug spoke about it

Annual Financial Report:

Motion to accept David, 2nd Richard, AIF: ALL

Ratification of the Constitution and By-law amendments:

Motion to accept: Janet, 2nd: Phil, AIF: ALL

Ratification of the 2025-2026 executives

Motion to accept: Bernie, 2nd: Tex AIF: ALL

Election of the Vice-president

Doug nominates Dan Mills as Vice President, Dan has accepted the position

Motion to accept: Doug, 2nd Adam AIF: ALL

New business:

Janet and Marvin are the ACS: auxiliary communications service in their area.

Field day venue at Inglis falls conservation area.

Tom has invited anyone to come to his QTH for the QSO Party, Saturday April 18th from 2pm till 10pm.

Doug talked about the progress of the ARDC grant

Bernie has another fox hunt

Doug won the 50/50 draw.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Motion to accept: Tex, 2nd: Jim AIF: ALL

Minutes by Bobby VE3PAV



TECH TALK

WANTED WANTED WANTED

We are always looking for anyone who would like to present an interesting radio or communication related topic at our club meetings.





A CLEVER POWER ENTRY CIRCUIT Dave VE3WI

I recently acquired a Heathkit HD-1418 Active Audio Filter, advertised on the KWARC Swapshop. This is a pre-DSP filter, but still a good performer.

After downloading the manual, I noticed it had a particularly clever power supply circuit. Heathkit may have used this circuit in other devices, and others may be familiar with it, but this is the first time I've seen it.

What it does is supply DC voltage to the filter:

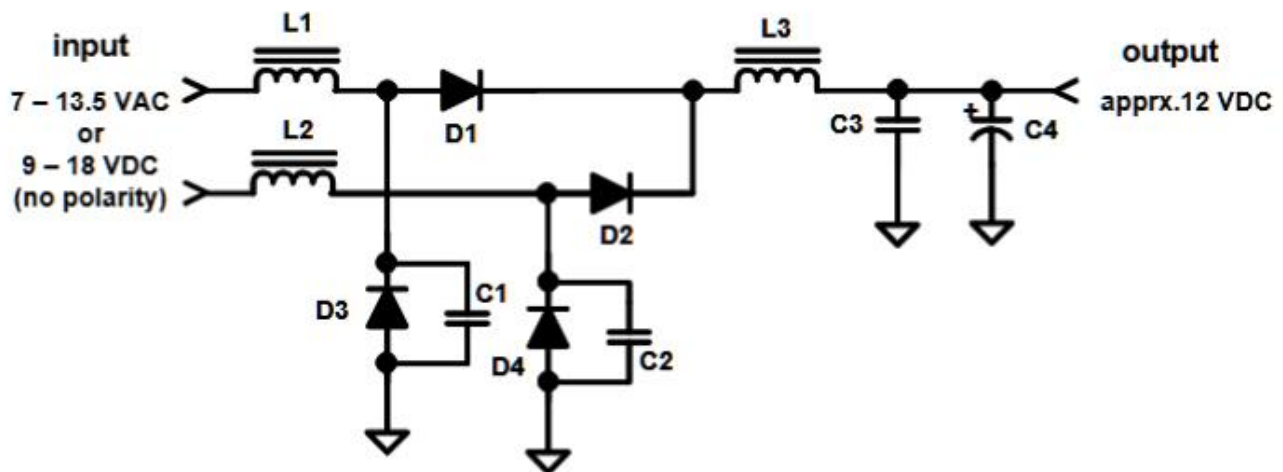
- If you supply 7-13.5 VAC, it will rectify and filter it.
- If you supply 9-18 VDC of either polarity, it will correct the polarity if necessary.
- If you supply it from a noisy source (e.g. cheap wall wart), it will filter the noise.

It is a very clever design. So far, I've only powered it up from a clean DC source, but I have some cheap wall warts & will put it through its paces eventually.

I drew a simplified schematic to show the concept, omitting some details like on-off switch, downstream regulator etc. Not all the components are fully specified in the manual, so I suggested what should work.

If anyone is building a gizmo and incorporates this circuit, I'd like to hear how it works for you.

73, Dave, VE3WI



D1 - D4	silicon diode, 50 V, 1 A (or greater, depending on design load)
C1 - C3	0.1 µF, 50 V capacitor
C4	1000 µF, 50 V electrolytic capacitor
L1 - L3	10 turns on small suppression-type ferrite core (e.g. FT114-77)



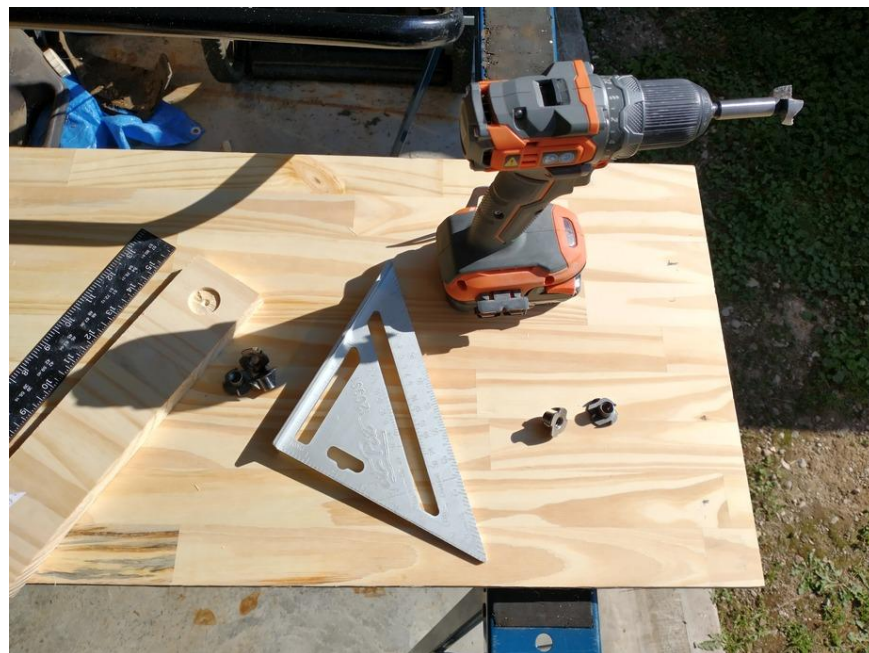


My new shack layout

By Dan Mills VA3DNY

Like a lot of amateur stations, I was quickly running out of space on my desk. Radios, tuner, power supplies etc. can take up a lot of room. My preference with my computer is to run dual monitors and initially I had them on top of a homemade platform shelf spanning across top of my desk. This left a row of space under it for my radio and tuner. Over time my eyeglass prescription has changed and with bifocals I had to tilt my head back too much to see what was on the screens. I needed to lower the monitors to normal desktop height but that would be the end of the space for my radio equipment.

I was looking online for some shelving solution and saw a homemade setup that looked promising. It fit all of my requirements: adjustable shelves, easy access for wiring, good air flow for cooling, and most importantly not too expensive.

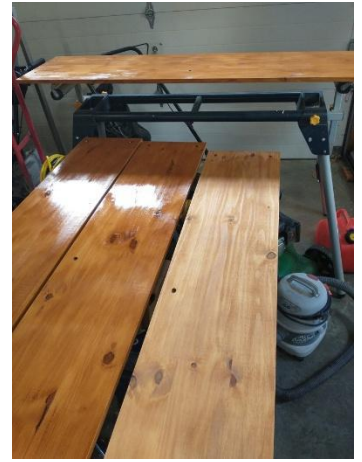


I started with 4 unfinished pine boards made from narrower edge laminated pieces to prevent warping and splitting. They all measure 5/8 ths of an inch thick and the 3 shelves are 1 foot wide, and the base is 15 inches wide. They came a little bit longer than the width of my desk so I cut them all to 60" lengths.

For uprights I used 36 inch long by 3/8 ths of an inch threaded rods. The system online used thicker rods and boards, but I won't have heavy equipment like amplifiers sitting on it.



After cutting the boards to length, I marked out where the holes will be drilled...2 on each end and one centred at the back edge for stability. I started from the bottom side of the base unit by drilling a shallow counter sink area to recess the t-nuts. By doing this, the base board can sit flush on the desktop. A Forstner drill bit works best for this. After that I drilled the rest of the way through with a smaller bit that matched the t-nut barrel and pressed in the t-nuts. The remaining 3 shelves were drilled in the same locations with a smaller size to match the threaded rod.



Once I made sure everything would line up properly for assembly, I sanded and finished the wood to be a close match to the desk. Finally, I assembled the unit starting with adding the threaded rods into the t-nuts from the top side and locking them in place with large flat washers and a lock nut. Each shelf was added one after the other from the lowest one up but sandwiching them between flat washers and nuts top and bottom. Once I had them all set at the height I wanted, I tightened all the nuts to lock them in place.



The last step was to place acorn nuts on the very top of each threaded rod to make them less likely to scratch equipment or my arms while running wires. Now I can adjust any shelf height for equipment changes simply by loosening off the nuts and spinning them up or down.

I am very happy with the results and it feels more stable than I thought it might be due to the height and narrow depth. I was prepared to modify it with a return leg on one



end, or clamp it down to the desk but I don't feel that is required. Now I have lots of shelf space with good air flow with the most used equipment going on the lowest shelf in easy reach and the top shelf primarily for storage.



My QRP Labs QMX+

By Mark VA3VBE

I'm writing to give a brief overview of a little QRP rig that I ordered at the end of 2025 and finally got my hands on in February 2026. I'm not going to go into all the technical details (those can be found online) just my experience so far.

I ordered a pre-built QMX+ radio along with some extras and was given a ship date of July 2026 because they were so back ordered (which speaks to the rig's rising popularity). Fortunately, in February I was pleasantly surprised to receive a message that mine (and a few extra items I had ordered) was on its way!

Extras I ordered with my QMX+:

- * QLG3 GPS/GNSS Receiver module kit
- * 50-ohm 20W Dummy Load
- * 2.1mm power plug with 20cm cable
- * QMX+ Dev kit



3D Printed Items for my setup:

- * Stand
- * Microphone
- * Case for the 20W dummy load
- * Antenna wire holder & insulators for my portable EFHW
- * Plastic pulley



Extra items I purchased or already had for the setup:

- * Shielded USB-C cable with Ferrites
- * External Speakers (Cabled and/or Bluetooth using my Bluetooth 5.3 Transmitter and Receiver with a Bluetooth Speaker)



Powering the QMX+

The QMX+ is very finicky about getting just around 12V and no more (well maybe 12.1 or a bit more but NOT 13.8V). So, I found an adapter in my collection that outputs 12V at 1.25A for testing use in the shack. So far it has worked fine as the QMX+ generally



draws ~0.7A at 12V when transmitting. I have a bit of headroom but will probably keep my eyes out for a 12V adapter with 2A.

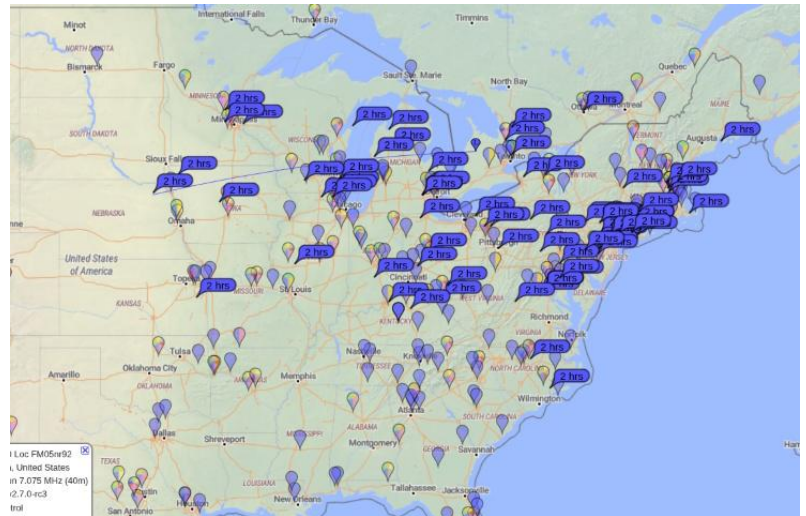
For portable use I already had a Power Bank- 40000mAh Power Bank QC 4.0 and PD 30W with a Type-C Output. I coupled this with a JacobsParts 12V USB C Type-C PD Trigger Cable that outputs exactly 12V at 2A when paired with my power bank. I also have 18650 battery and a Bluetti EB3A for other power options.



CAT Control & PC Software:

The QMX+ fully supports CAT control via a built-in USB Virtual COM port that allows for frequency control, mode switching, PTT (Push-to-Talk) control, and reading transceiver status.. The USB-C connector handles both audio and CAT control, allowing for single-cable operation for digital modes.

The QMX+ uses a subset of the Kenwood TS-480/TS-440 command set. This makes it compatible with popular software like WSJT-X, FLDigi, etc. on a laptop.



qFT8 for Smartphone or Android tablet:

qFT8 is a game-changer for POTA — smartphone-based, one-cable setup with the QMX+, auto-logging to LoTW & QRZ, built-in NTP sync, and GPS grid tracking.

P#	Date	Time	RX Call	TX B...	TX Fre...	RX Mode	RX Grid	RX Country	RX Operator Name	Comments	☆	□
1	2026-04-19	17:58	VA3MWT	(40m)	7.074	FT8	EN92	Canada	Mark W Tindall	QSO by qFT8	☆	□
2	2026-04-19	17:58	KC3ZYT	(40m)	7.074	FT8	FN00	United States	Anthony J Shellenbarger	QSO by qFT8	☆	□
3	2026-04-19	17:53	WB9PRG	(40m)	7.074	FT8	EN45	United States	EUGENE A MC NEW	QSO by qFT8	★	□
4	2026-04-19	17:46	VA3WLD	(40m)	7.074	FT8	FN03	Canada	John Allen Knight	QSO by qFT8	☆	□
5	2026-04-19	17:41	N8CJ	(40m)	7.074	FT8	EN80	United States	ALAN C ROTHWEILER	QSO by qFT8	☆	□



See <https://qft8.com/>

Hope you found this interesting and I encourage you to take a close look at the QMX+!



Thank you for joining our club or renewing your existing annual membership. Renewal dues for the 2026 year can be paid anytime after September 1st 2025. Click [HERE](#) to go to our membership page. thanks

For Sale Send your sale items to contact@gbarc.ca or post them on our forums.

View for sale items on our [forums](#)

Interesting Websites

ESP32 simulator

<https://wokwi.com/>

Ham Radio Dashboard

<https://hamdash.com/>

Homebrew Ladder line

<https://www.w1aex.com/owl/owl.html>

Security tool

<https://urlscan.io/>



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.



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Don't let anyone talk you out of spending \$15 on a new hobby. That \$50 will be the best \$4000 you ever spent.

**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.

