FEEDBACK

The Official Newsletter of the
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

October 2026

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The Pres Tom VA3TS

Our meeting location has changed to Makerspace, 1130 8th Street East, Owen Sound. This location offers a good sized classroom with maybe the future use as a course location, but time will tell. The running of radio courses must become a prioriy for our group and hobby to grow and prosper. We already do a great job with events and activities, social get togetthers and portable operations. But alas, that is not good enough. It's been years since we had new young people get their license and join the club. There are examples of those that have done that but they don't seem to stay too long and we lose touch with them.

We already have a course co-ordinator and that's a good start. To make this a group effort we should enlist club members to teach an already prepared lesson. This has worked very well in years past, is good for our members and is good for the new students. To that end I will bring this up at the next meeting to see where we stand, gauge if there is an interest in this and work on a path forward. The first may be the creation of advertisements, brochures, posters that can by used in our communities to get the word out.

This Month

Presidents Message

Meeting Minutes

POTA Summary 2026

Powerpoles

Marketplace

Christmas Luncheon

Links

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

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

About GBARC

Join Us

Next Club Meeting 27th October 2026

The October meeting will be at Makerspace, 1130 8th Street East, Owen Sound, ON Details Here

Elsie’s Breakfast

Join us at Elsie's for breakfast, 104 Shane Street, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5N7
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)

Sept.22.2026 GBARC September meeting

Attendance: President Tom va3ts, Vice President Dan va3dny.Doug ve3dgy, Secretary Bobby ve3pav

Frank ve3guf, Greg ve3rqy, Adam ve3fp, Dave ve3wi, Jim ve3jmd, Philip ve3dpb, Kirk ve3kxx, Mark ve3vbe, Richard ve3ozw, Marvin ve3vcg, Janet ve3eac

Guest: Dave Crabtree, Ryjk va3ryk

Quorum: yes

Tech talk: Tom talked about his pota setup, it consists of a icom 705 and a vertical antenna on a tripod. Doug talked about his setup. He has an elekraft kx2 and an end fed antenna.

Previous minutes: motion to accept Adam 2nd richard aif: yes

Treasurers report: motion to accept: Dave 2nd: Jim aif: yes

ARDC update: Frank discussed about the purchase of 2 12' trailers, a trailer for a mobile repeater and an operations trailer. 2: digital repeaters 3: promotions

Terry fox run: there were 7 club members that volunteered for the event.

Frank talked about the ACS Exersim. There was a exercise emergency simulator software

Frank talked about field day, how only using batteries worked so well.

Show and Tell: Mark showed and talked about his mesh setup

Adam won the 50/50 draw

Adjourn: motion to accept: Richard 2nd: Adam AIF: all

POTA Summary 2026

Thanks to Adam for this nice summary of our POTA fun this year.

	GBARC 2026 POTA SEASON				
DATE	PARK	CW	DATA	PHONE	QSOs
2026-10-15	CA-5653 Pottawatomi CA	89	48	0	137
2026-10-08	CA-6005 Ainslie Wood CA	58	30	0	88
2026-09-17	CA-5663 Hepworth MA	17	80	0	97
2026-09-10	CA-5984 Durham CA	33	66	0	99
2026-09-03	CA-5660 Arran Lake CA	50	51	0	101
2026-08-27	CA-5959 West Rocks CA	0	41	0	41
2026-08-20	CA-6008 Kemble Mountain CA	0	60	0	60
2026-08-20	CA-5628 Bruce Trail	0	60	0	60
2026-08-13	CA-5628 Bruce Trail	0	26	0	26
2026-08-13	CA-5627 Inglis Falls CA	0	26	0	26
2026-08-08	CA-5655 Indian Falls CA	0	30	0	30
2026-08-06	CA-5655 Indian Falls CA	0	30	0	30
2026-07-30	CA-5092 Bruce's Caves CA	0	30	0	30
2026-07-24	CA-6005 Ainslie Wood CA	0	0	4	4
2026-07-23	CA-6005 Ainslie Wood CA	0	42	0	42
2026-07-16	CA-5665 The Glen MA	0	16	0	16
2026-06-28	CA-5662 Admin Centre & Arboretum CA	56	65	49	170
2026-06-28	CA-5628 Bruce Trail	56	65	49	170
2026-06-27	CA-5662 Admin Centre & Arboretum CA	0	13	35	48
2026-06-27	CA-5628 Bruce Trail	0	13	35	48
	Current Total	**359**	**792**	**172**	**1323**

An additional activation was completed on October 19th at West Rocks CA-5959 with 51 FT8 contacts

Things I've Learned About Powerpoles

Dave VE3WI

A recent RAC bulletin included an item about Anderson Powerpoles. I've been using them for quite a few years. Here are some Powerpole facts, and some things I've learned through experience:

Rating of terminals vs housings

The common type of Powerpole (PP) used by hams has three sizes of terminals available: 15, 30, 45 amp current rating. The mating end of all the terminals is identical, so any of the three terminals will fit in the same housing. They only differ in the wire size accommodated:

- 15 amp contacts are recommended for 20-16 gauge wire
- 30 amp contacts are recommended for 14-12 gauge wire
- 45 amp contacts are recommended for 10 gauge wire

15 **30** **45**

this 15-45 housing fits all three terminals

If you really need higher current rating, Anderson makes connectors with 75 up to 350 amp rating, handling up to 4/0 cable. The price of a 4/0 crimp tool will scare you!

Preferred orientation

ARES groups in the US agreed on a standard orientation long ago. This facilitates connecting diverse power supplies and radios, a handy feature in an emergency. A set of PPs in the standard orientation looks like this:

red on the left looking into the connector – hoods up, tongues down

One radio manufacturer I know of (Apache Labs - ANAN) stubbornly insists on mounting PPs in the opposite orientation on several of their rigs. I asked their tech. support why and got the following (nonsensical IMHO) answer: *"It's to ensure buyers use the supplied, proper size, power cable and not a home made cable which may not be heavy enough for the current draw".*

Soldering terminals
The terminals are designed to be crimped onto the wire. This means buying the proper crimp tool. (These run $30-$40 at US ham supply stores). They can be soldered, but don't use too much solder. A big solder blob will make the terminal difficult or impossible to install. The 45 amp terminals will need to be at least partially crimped or folded over before soldering to allow the terminal to fit in the shell.

Crimping small wires
I've made many power cables and adapters with small diameter wires to power various gizmos in the shack. Getting a secure crimp on very small wires can be problematic, even with the proper crimper. I've started stripping off some extra insulation and folding the wire back on itself. That helps to get a solid crimp. Soldering also works.

Installation & removal
Terminals can be difficult to install in the housing, as they must be pushed over an internal barrier to get fully in and lock over the spring. This isn't much of an issue with heavy gauge wire, as it is stiff enough to work as a handle for pushing. Small wires are a real PITA though. I usually use a small flat screwdriver and push directly on the terminal.

To remove a terminal from its housing, you have to lift the front edge free of the spring to unlock it. Again, a tiny flat screwdriver is what I've found most useful.

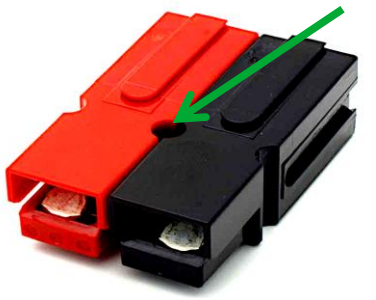
I did spring for a $12 official Anderson installation & removal tool, but found it useless. (Maybe I should have taken the course 😊). Free to anyone who wants it.

Polarity
PPs are deliberately genderless and non polarized. That allows great flexibility, to the point where they will happily allow you to connect red to black. I hope your rig has reverse polarity protection if you do that!

You can buy chassis fittings allowing mounting multiple sets of PPs on your homebrew panel. If you mount sets of PPs side-by-side, beware. A cable can be plugged in offset by half, resulting in - you guessed it - red to black, flash, bang, magic smoke released, dead radio, big repair bill. The trick: mount one set upside down. Powerwerx sells a distribution block made this way.

Roll pins
PP housings have little dovetails molded into their outer surfaces to allow assembling two, or more, into a block. This is not a permanent joining, they can be disassembled, and they can fall apart.

To keep them together, each housing has a half-circular slot molded in, which makes a little hole when they are assembled.



Anderson supplies roll pins to press into the hole, keeping the two shells mated. I have read reports of the roll pin falling out, causing a short, so I don't use them. For permanence, I use a drop of crazy glue in the dovetail before assembly. Others use a tiny bolt & nut in the roll pin hole (M2 will fit), or a cable tie around the set. That allows disassembly..

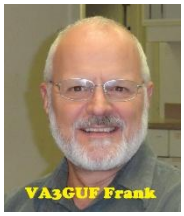
Retention clips
PPs do not have locks to keep them connected (e.g. like Molex power connectors on most rigs). They will come loose, especially under vibration e.g. when mobile. Anderson supplies plastic retention clips to hold them together. They just snap into the roll pin holes.

Counterfeit parts
I've bought all my Powerpoles from reputable ham radio suppliers (DX Engineering, Powerwerx). But I have read tales of woe on the forums from hams who've bought what turned out to be cheap knock-offs from the far east. Caveat emptor!

Last words
If you've developed an absolute hate for Powerpoles, have a look at XT60 and XT90 connectors. Available on Amazon, they are polarized, with 60 /90 amp rating. Popular with RC model plane builders, they are starting to show up in ham radio articles as well.

73 Dave, VE3WI

Thank you for joining our club or renewing your existing annual membership. Renewal dues for the 2027 year can be paid anytime after September 1st 2026.
Click HERE to go to our membership page. thanks



Club Marketplace

These items are from our inventory of used gear and are offered to Club Members. For more details or to inquire about them contact Frank at VA3-GUF “at” outlook.com

Signal Generator EICO Model 324

GBARC Member Price $20

The EICO Model 324 RF Signal Generator is a vintage test instrument. RF Characteristics Frequency Range 150 kHz to 145 MHz on fundamental frequencies 6 bands A through F1 and 111 MHz to 435 MHz via calibrated harmonics Band F2

Power Supply PYRAMID PS36KX

GBARC Member Price $25

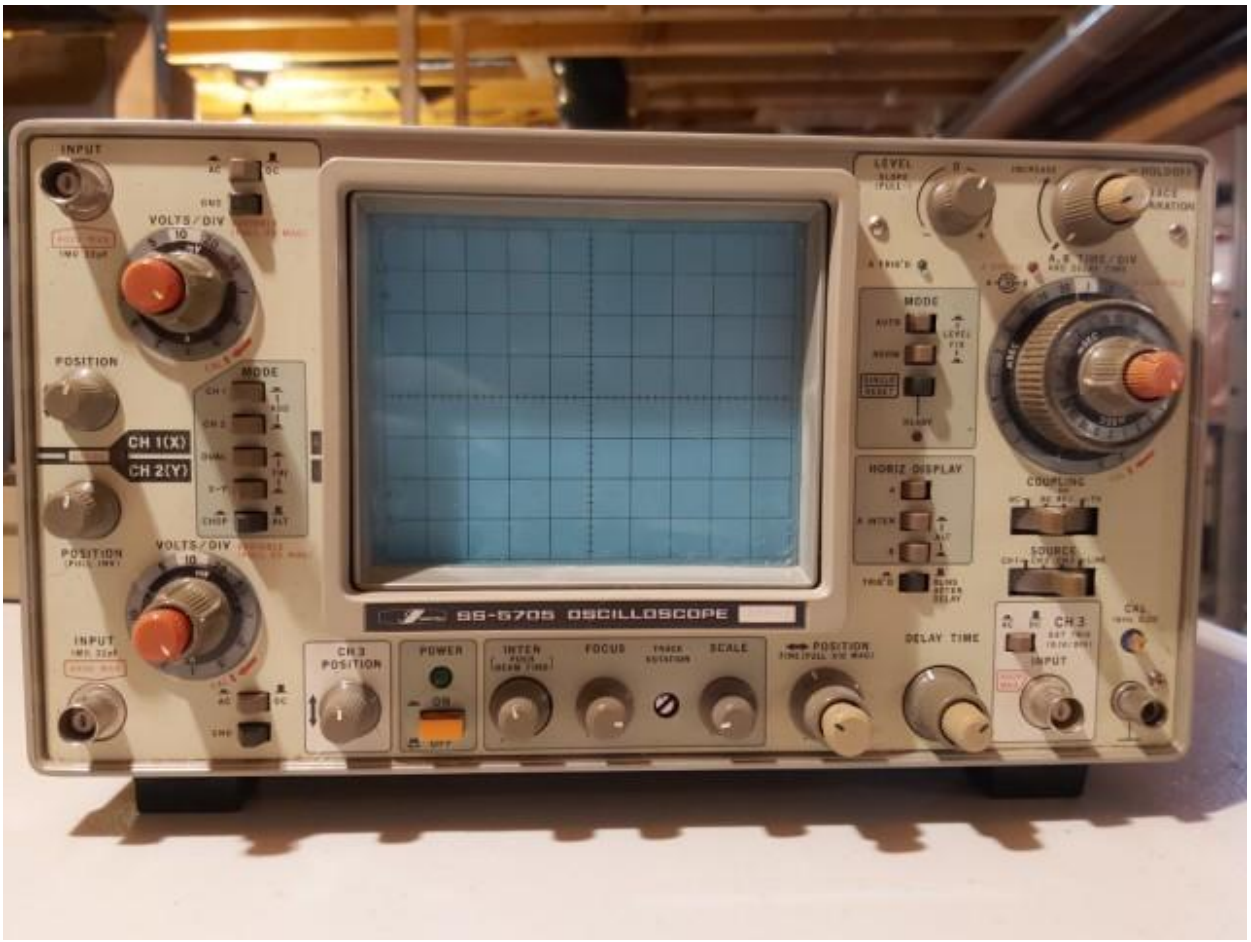
The Pyramid PS36KX is a linear regulated bench power supply Output Amperage 32 Amps continuous constant 35 Amps surge

ON/OFF switch defective

Oscilloscope Iwatsu SS5705 SN6212196

GBARC Member Price $75

The Iwatsu SS5705 is a portable analog 2channel 40 MHz benchtop oscilloscope manufactured by Iwatsu Electric in Japan and Comes with assorted cables adapters and power cord



CW Key HIMOUNT HK706

GBARC Member Price $15

The HiMound HK706 is a low profile American style straight code key manufactured by HiMound Electro Co LTD 1

Speaker Kenwood Communication

GBARC Member Price $10

This Kenwood Communications Speaker is a compact external 8 ohm impedance load speaker with generally less than 3 to 5 Total Harmonic Distortion Comes with a 35mm jack and screwed on mounting bracket

DSP Realistic Model 21543
SN134590
GBARC Member Price $15
The Realistic DSP 40 is a computercontrolled digital signal processor and noise reduction system released by Radio ShackTandy. Type Digital Signal Processor DSP Noise Reduction System with builtin speaker and amplifier

For more information on these items contact Frank VA3GUF by email at VA3-GUF “at” outlook.com

Christmas Luncheon 2026

Tex VE3USI has once again set up our annual Christmas Luncheon. December 12 at Elsie’s The menu items are as follows. Please send your preferences for each in your party to Tex, ve3usi “at” gmail.com

Butternut squash soup $6.00
Turkey dinner $23.00 Sr. $17.99 *
Ribeye roast $32.00 Sr $26.99 *
Vegetable Wellington $18.00
Home made pie (apple or pumpkin) with ice cream $5.99 Sr $3.00 *
And off the menu

Dec. 12th at 13:00 hrs

Need answers by November 28th
*The Sr price is a smaller portion

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.

Interesting Links

JS8 Call - If you like FT8 you are going to love JS8! Mailbox + Relay + Ragchew + APRS + MORE!
https://js8call.com/

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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