



Some members of the WAX Group



Join the group to learn how to solder



Build projects using the Arduino and  
Raspberry Pi computers

or

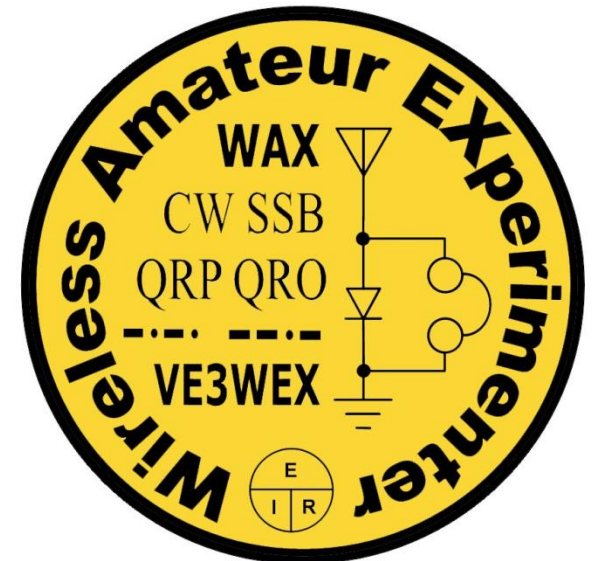
Build an HF QRP CW transceiver or an HF  
SSB transceiver from a kit

Discover HF, there's  
more to ham radio  
than VHF/UHF  
repeaters

Build something  
There is more to  
ham radio than  
plug-and-play

(30 March 2018 – VE3RRD)

# Barrie WAX Group



Builder's Group

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## The WAX Group – Builder’s Group

The Barrie Wireless Amateur Experimenter Group consists of members of the Barrie Amateur Radio Club who have an interest in the technical aspects of ham radio and who enjoy building things related to ham radio – either from kits or individual parts.

## WAX Group Meetings

Members of the WAX Group meet every Thursday evening at 7pm in the workshop of Ken VE3KDG who kindly makes this space available to the group. The meeting usually ends around 9 or 9:30pm, and some members reconvene at the Tim Hortons located at the corner of Dunlop St. and Hart Dr. (near Hwy 400) for more conversation over coffee.

## WAX Group Activities:

In addition to our weekly “build sessions” where members work on a project of their choice (or just show up to chat), we also like to take part in:

- Setting up HF equipment in a park or other location out of your hamshack to have fun with portable or QRP operation.
- Experimenting with a newly constructed antenna or other equipment.
- Practicing morse code - CW is an important mode for QRP and portable operations.
- Providing technical support to the Barrie Amateur Radio Club and its members.
- Enjoying the fun of taking part in contests.
- Learning about and having fun using the many digital modes available to hams, such as FT8, PSK31, JT65, MT63 & FSQ.
- Helping members upgrade from “Basic” to “Basic with HF privileges” (Basic with Honours) so they can get in on all the fun.
- Helping members upgrade to “Advanced”.
- Getting together with other hams to enjoy the camaraderie and conversation.

## Important concepts behind the formation of the Wireless Amateur Experimenter Group:

- Inspiring both new and old Hams to build something themselves (not just going to a ham radio store or a Hamfest and buying something ready to plug-in and use). You miss a whole part of what Ham Radio is if you only follow the "plug-and-play" philosophy. In the case of us "old timers", it may have been many years since we soldered up a radio project.
- Choosing something to build as a first project that is simple enough so that it will be completed in a reasonable amount of time and not cause frustration / failure.
- An opportunity for all WAX Group members to learn how to solder and build a kit (if they haven't already had an opportunity to learn these skills).
- An opportunity for members to learn Morse code, or brush up on their CW skills if they haven't used this mode for a while.
- Building something that can get members active on HF (just being active on repeaters or even on IRLP / EchoLink is a very limited view of what Ham Radio can be). You are missing out on another whole aspect of Ham Radio if you don't take advantage of your HF privileges.
- An opportunity for members to learn how to make simple wire antennas for HF. Why pay a lot of money for someone else to put some wire together to make an antenna when you can do it?
- An opportunity for more hams to get involved in a different kind of club activity.
- A chance to feel the sense of accomplishment when you finish a project

that you made yourself and it works. Even if it doesn't work the first time, there is a further sense of accomplishment in figuring out what's wrong and fixing it.

- An opportunity to get together with friends in a park or other "in the field" location to set up your HF QRP station and have fun making a few QSO's, or explaining Ham Radio to interested on-lookers.
- A chance to feel the excitement when you make your first QSO with a transceiver and antenna that you built yourself. I found that every QSO I made with my RockMite 40 QRP kit CW transceiver was a more exciting and satisfying experience than a QSO on my higher powered commercially manufactured transceiver.
- Every Ham should have the opportunity to experience the thrill of making his first contact on a ham station that he built himself!

**Discover QRP -  
SKILL instead of POWER.  
Try it, it's fun.**

**Don't increase your TX power,  
build a better antenna instead  
- and use better coax.**

**CW  
The best “new language”  
that a ham can learn.**

**CW gets through  
when SSB can't.**

WAX Group members use and monitor the club repeater VE3RAG on 147.000+ (tone 156.7 Hz).