



APRIL 2015

Volume 4 Issue 4

# VE3ERC-LUB

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President: Rich VE3DCC

Vice-President: Johan, VA3JBO

Secretary: Tom VE3DXQ

Treasurer: Reg, VE3RVH

Trustee: Al, VA3TET

Newsletter Editor Bob VE3IXX

QSL Manager: Tom, VE3DXQ

Firehall Liaison: John, VE3JXX

Repeater manager and maintenance:

Carl, VE3FEF

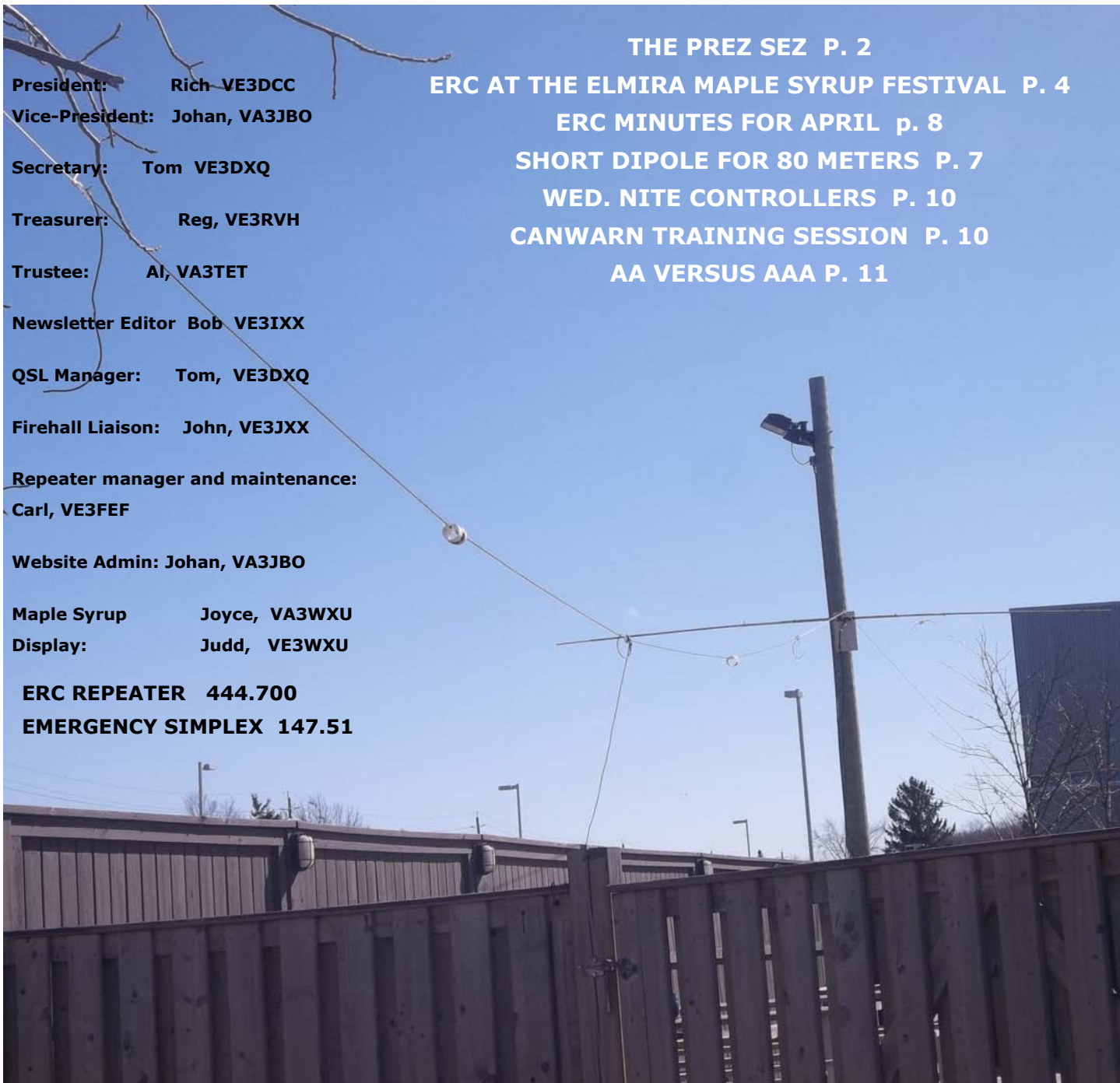
Website Admin: Johan, VA3JBO

Maple Syrup Joyce, VA3WXU

Display: Judd, VE3WXU

ERC REPEATER 444.700

EMERGENCY SIMPLEX 147.51



The shortened 80 m dipole and the 15 m antenna attached to the light pole at the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival. See Al's (VA3TET) article on the shortened dipole on page 8.

# THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

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## APRIL President's Update:



**G**reetings:

I have 4 quick items to draw to your attention.

First, my thanks to all those who worked on our Maple Syrup Festival display. It was well-received and we can look forward to a spot next year. Joyce and Judd have volunteered to lead our organizing committee. The Fire Chief, Rick Pederson, and Deputy, Dayle Martin visited our site. They were keenly interested in Dennis's PSK demo. Shortly thereafter, a spin-off for sure, John ve3JXX approached Chief Kieren Kelly and asked if we could mount a wire antenna and mag mount at the fire hall. YES!!! We would like to have an operating station up for our May meeting. Thank You John!!!! I also have 2 nifty QSL cards that I need to hand over to our QSL manager. Do we have one? Would you like to be one? Call me!

Second, our traditional Lighthouse weekend is coming up and needs to be organized. I hope we can muster a team to operate. It is yet another way to test our preparedness in the event of an emergency.

Third, we have passed a motion to press on with our incorporation. I hope we can complete this by the summer. I am grateful to Terry for his leadership and knowledge on this file. We will be clarifying our membership status to ensure that we are in compliance with RAC (Radio Amateurs Canada) requirements for both membership and insurance. Please pay your dues asap and be sure to indicate your RAC status to Reg.

Finally, on a more serious technical note, I received an email, followed by a more urgent email, hours later, followed by a telephone call from my Internet Service Provider, Rogers. It seems that an attack on an unspecified network was launched from my ip address. After an afternoon of checking my network, I discovered that my DLINK router... in fact, ALL Dlink routers have a vulnerability. I was directed to [http:// support.dlink.ca](http://support.dlink.ca) by Rogers staff. Sure enough, the screen had a pop up that said "If you have been sent here by Rogers or any other ISP, click here....". The site will remotely test your router. In my case, I was slightly vulnerable since ,although all pings and access points were locked out, I had a Universal plug and play "hole". A

uPnP port is a software access that allows legitimate equipment to attach to a Dlink router but not upload or modify the software on it. In essence, an attacker was using this hole to bounce off my router and execute a Denial of Service attack on a network. A Denial of Service is a repeated request, perhaps thousands, to connect to an ip address. The software is not particularly difficult to write and execute; however, this trivial program effectively floods the input and paralyzes the site. As a result, when the trace was made, the tracers saw the last waypoint address before the attack.. that is, my router. There are many folks out there who probe for pathways to create chaos online. If you have a dlink router, consider going to <http://support.dlink.ca> and checking your router. The site will explain how you can sign into your router and make the necessary modifications. I doubt that our SDR or computer-based radio systems can be penetrated, but it is worth being sure.

Regards,

Rich ve3DCC

**DON'T FORGET  
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
TODAY!**

"It will be vital this year, for members to renew asap. As we move forward to incorporation, we will need an accurate list of current paid-up members as well as a list of RAC affiliated members, in order to complete our application for RAC insurance. Renewals occur in April."

Rich VE3DCC

## HAM RADIO GOES SAPPY

By Joyce Hodge VA3WXU

Through the effort of Rich VE3DCC our club was offered a venue at the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival where we ran a special event station. Our first endeavour was to bring publicity to the festival itself through the use of amateur radio and broaden the awareness of Elmira in places far away. We also had in mind, however, the idea to promote the value of amateur radio itself and its ability to provide public service in both good and bad times.

Being a relatively new member of ERC, and therefore, somewhat in training, this was my first opportunity to have the pleasure to experience working with our fellow members. Rich (VE3DCC), Al (VA3TET), Reg ((VE3RVH), Jim (VE3JLC), Tom (VE3DXQ), Dennis (VE3UTN), and Ted (VE3TRQ) all worked in very cold weather to put up the three antennas that were used to work the 80M, 15M, and 70cm bands. Special kudos goes to Al, VA3TET, for his effort and expertise in building two of the antennas that ultimately performed beyond our expectation. Many of the contacts made, if not all of them, were consistently giving us excellent signal reports throughout Friday evening and Saturday.

Bob, (VE3IXX), operated as net control on Saturday for ONTARS, while Dennis (VE3UTN) and Tom (VE3DXQ) manned the computer running PSK31. Over the course of the day they made many contacts from around the world, and together these members put the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival on the map.

Running this special event was a practical and important event for our club. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and just like the QSL card (below), I feel that I too made some of the

sweetest contacts I've ever had..only they were face to face.

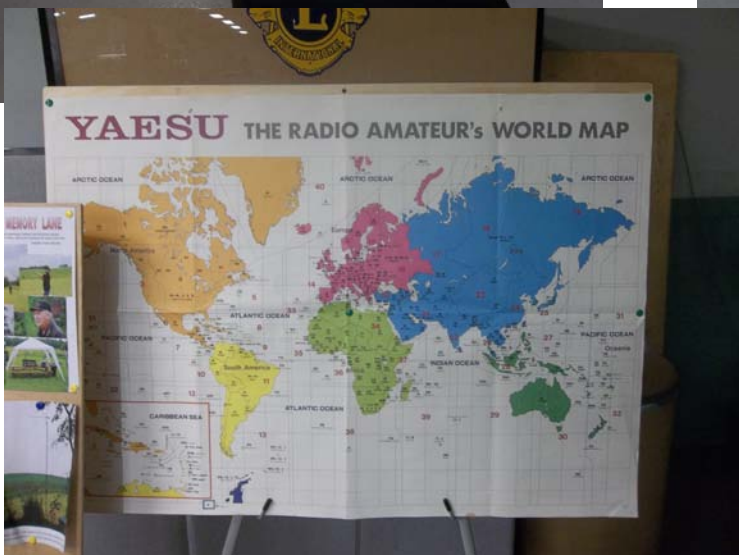
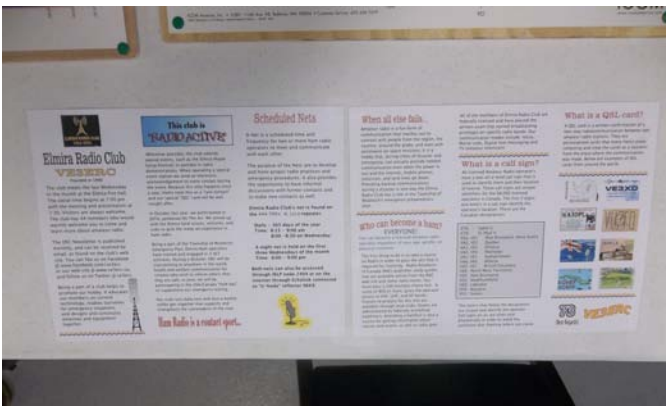
Through this experience the most important thing that I have learned about the members of ERC, is that their advanced acumen and acuity is second only to their amusing wittiness which provided entertainment that kept me laughing non-stop.





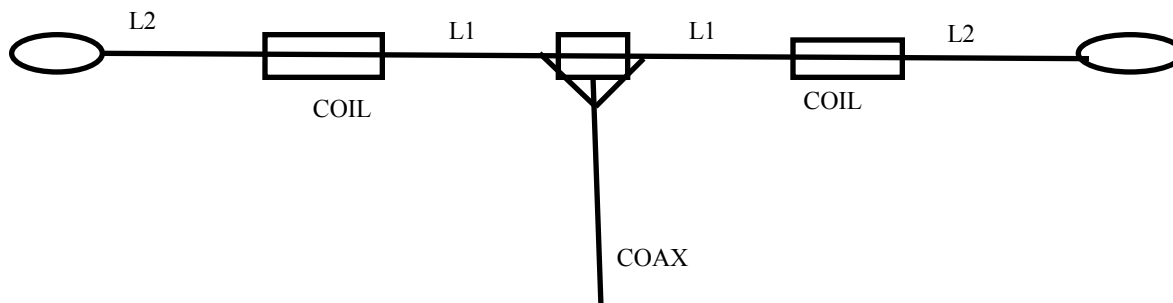


The hard working crew from left to right Al VA3TET, Joyce VA3WXU, Ted VE3TRQ, Judson VE3WXU, Reg VE3RVH, Tom VE3DXQ, John VE3JXX, Jim VE3JLC and Rich VE3DCC. Missing from the picture are Dennis VE3UTN and Bob VE3IXX.



ERC and Ham Radio on Display!

## A Short Dipole for 80 meters



The antenna above has been described by Nadisha, 4S7NR and may be of interest to anyone wishing to get on 80M (3.5MHz) that have limited space available.

L1 is 12 feet. L2 also is 12 feet and the overall length is 48 feet.



Coil and centre connection.



The two loading coils are described as 67.83uH and can consist of 104 turns of insulated wire, wound over 3.5 inches. The coil diameter is not stated however. Maybe it will be a case for experimentation here.

'73 Al Macdonald VA3TET

### LIFE'S LITTLE IRONIES

Just recently I came across, in an old British magazine ( Wireless World: July 1978), the recounting of an anecdote about Marconi in the early 1900's. An irate reporter who had tried in vain to get an interview with the famous man blurted out that Marconi was a most "uncommunicative man."

# Elmira Radio Club

*Minutes from April 22, 2015*

Present:

VA3TET Al, VE3RVH Reg, VA3GWM Gord, VE3WXU Jud, VA3WXU Joyce, VE3AYP Rob, Ken VE3KCY  
VE3DCC Rich, VE3DXQ Tom, VE3CXU Doug, VE3JLC Jim, VA3PDC Paul, VE3JXX John, VE3QB  
Bruce, VE3CDF Andy, VE3EIX Harry, VE3HYV Wilf, VE3XTM

The meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by our club president Rich VE3DCC.

Rich VE3DCC asked Tom VE3DXQ if any comments arising from last month minutes.

Tom advised the following 2 items from last month's minutes that were highlighted in red and brought them up as some might not have had a color printer.

**1. Rich advised that under incorporation Club activities should be sanctioned by the club. He stated that as a club we need to define how we sanction Club activities.**

**Bruce VE3QB asked Reg VE3RVH to ask Terry VE3XTM if RAC insurance covers work being done on our tower and repeater in regards to property damage and personal injury.**

Regarding the first item Rich asked for a motion that any event that is sanctioned by the club must be voted on and approved by a majority and published. Motion made by John VE3JXX, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce VE3QB. Motion was passed.

On the second item VE3XTM Terry said the property damage was covered, but he will have to get more clarification on personal injury. Then there was discussion regarding the cost structure for having RAC insurance for ERC.

Rich advised that our club is invited on May 13 to do a presentation in Norfolk related to emergency planning. Rich, Paul, Al and Bruce will be going. Also KWARC will be helping St. John's ambulance April 26, 2015 with the marathon and volunteers are still needed for back up communications at the various water stations. Please contact Rich VE3DCC if interested.

Here is the link for Marathon info <http://noseynick.net/va3nnw/marathon/2015.html>

Treasurer's report: ERC Club current Balance is 4,217.57.

Reg VE3RVH had discussion with members on possibly raising club dues, and rules regarding members not paid up with their dues.

Rich advised per our constitution Section 5 Dues Fees and Assessments: That any member whose dues are not paid up by May 1<sup>st</sup> will be considered inactive and removed from the membership roster. So members who are not paid up please do so. We need this for our RAC Insurance and Incorporation.

Reg and Rich discussed the coffee fund and it looks like proceeds are uneven. Rich is owed \$12.85.

There seemed to be a consensus to let the fee structure stay as is, and have the club cover the cost of insurance, and incorporation until next year. However there was no motion or vote on this.

Al mentioned there was an error in the agenda for this meeting showing meetings in July and



August, but there are no meetings those months.

Nominations Committee: Paul VE3PVB (not present). Will try and create a nomination list. If no one stands then present officers will stand.

Incorporation: Terry advised the steps to become incorporated. These include:

Nuance search

Submit Application for incorporation

Names and addresses of Executives

Accept Constitution bylaws as the corporation's bylaws.

Apply for RAC affiliation.

Apply for RAC insurance

Maple Syrup Day: Jud VE3WXU advised the day was a great success. Joyce mentioned possibly getting a Banner next year. They will send letter of appreciation to participants. Jud also mentioned we should have a sign outside the building. John VE3JXX knows someone who can make a banner for us. The Elmira Fire Chief and Deputy Chief dropped by our display and were impressed with Dennis's VE3UTN PS31K Display. John VE3JXX advised he talked to the Fire Chief and we will be able to put an antenna up on the fire hall Siren Tower.

Technical Report: Al did a study of available repeater frequencies. 147. 0750 is one that is in Minden Ontario and is far enough away not to interfere. VE3QB Bruce advised that the process of acquiring a new frequency is not a simple matter. Al will work on getting this 2M frequency for us. This will involve dealing with the repeater council.

Safety Officer: Tom VE3DXQ advised he had his roll of tape with him and lots of help with holding the ladder for Antenna Installation.

Light House Project: Al advised it is a go. The date is not clear yet, but is in August.

Ad hoc Emergency Planning: Nothing new to report.

Field day planning: Al advised still a little early as yet.

Ham Fest: Al advised too late to run a 2M test site there, as KWARC did not get back to him in time. He also advised operating ONTARS is a possibility.

Reg VE3RVH advised he is arranging two tables for items for sale so if you have something, bring it to him at our next meeting or at the Ham fest.

Encryption and Bill Tutte: Rich talked about Bill Tutte and the breaking of the Lorenz code.

See <http://www.kw.igs.net/~raclausi/tutte.pdf>

meeting adjourned at 9:15 Pm

### **OOPS!!**

In the March issue of the newsletter, an old template of the previous executive was inadvertently published despite our proof reading. We apologize for the error and thank those who noticed and let us know.

Editor VE3IXX

**WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS****APRIL 29 - DOUG VE3CXU****MAY 6 - AL VA3TET****MAY 13 - REG VE3RVH****MAY 20 - PAUL VE3PVB****MAY 27 - M E E T I N G****JUNE 3 - HARRY VE3EIX****JUNE 10 - DOUG VE3CXU****JUNE 17 - AL VA3TET****JUNE 24 - M E E T I N G****JULY 1 - REG VE3RVH**

## CANWARN Training Spring 2015 Announcement

From Geoff Coulson of Environment Canada      Geoff.Coulson@ec.gc.ca  
Telephone | Téléphone 416-739-4466  
Facsimile | Télécopieur 416-739-4603  
Website | Site Web [www.weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca)

Happy spring everyone! Spring is a little late arriving this year and so is my first CANWARN training announcement.

My thanks to the many individuals and organizations that made their venues available for little or no charge. Their support of the program is greatly appreciated.

My thanks as well, to all of you for your continued participation in the program. Your reports of severe summer and winter weather continue to be an important part of Environment Canada's severe weather watch and warning program. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces as well as meeting new volunteers. Please find following the training venue for the Kitchener-Waterloo area and the Dufferin County area:

May 7 – 7 PM – Waterloo – Adult Recreation Centre 185 King St South

May 13 – 7 PM – Dufferin County – Dufferin County Museum 936029 Airport Rd in Mulmur (Highway 89 and Airport Road)

If you plan on attending, please send your RSVP to [canwarn.ontario@ec.gc.ca](mailto:canwarn.ontario@ec.gc.ca)

## AA vs. AAA

By Calvin Benoit VA3CBE

If you are not an amateur radio buff, or technically minded you might think the title of this article will end up with the words "don't drink and drive" which is a good thing, however this little soap box rant is about something else that will drive you to drinking and how AA can give you more life and economy for power hungry devices.

What doesn't use batteries these days? Take a look around, clocks, remotes, portable audio, and everything wireless from telephones to outdoor temperature thermometers. Personally I like all of the conveniences that all of the above have to offer but do not like the battery size that the engineers design into these devices, all too often they are powered by little AAA batteries that have a small milli-amp-hour rating, and are also quite expensive. I am hoping this article will raise an eyebrow as how to easy it is to swap-out or replace battery holders to a more cost efficient solution.

The numbers don't lie, look at any battery data sheet and the venerable AA cell will always have more than twice the milli-amp-hour rating and a better ability to sustain higher loads than that of its little brother, the AAA cell. Lets take a look at the money side of things, how much is it to buy a dozen AA and how much for a dozen AAA? Now lets look at this from a different angle, if an AA will last twice as long as an AAA you will only need half as many, so therefore how much for six AA batteries? See where I am going with this? Now this may sound frugal but why would anybody want to spend twice as much for the same usage? If a one gallon and a two gallon can of gas were the same price, and one took a car twice as far as the other which one would you buy? Is your eyebrow raised yet? Did you say hmmm? If so read on, if not go buy a gallon of gas.

Many battery powered devices are large enough to just cut out the small holders and replace with a larger holder available from any electronics supply store, some careful trimming and a wee bit of epoxy is all that is needed. Some however are too small and you are out of luck unless you attach a holder to the unit. The truth is if I were to attach a large battery to my wife's mini radio she uses on her walks I would end up in the doghouse for sure, but nobody notices it as part of my outdoor wireless temperature sender, the sealed battery case blends in just fine. At work the clock on my toolbox was killing a battery a week, it was upgraded to a "D" cell, and has kept perfect time for over five years so far! 52 weeks times 5 years equals 260. That is 260 batteries I have not had to buy, or dispose of folks! As for the "D" cell it was a left-over from a three celled flashlight, another gripe, package of four batteries but only need three, now I won't get into that soap box as it will no doubt lead to the hot dog wiener and bun deal HI

As hams we should look for and see room for improvement, do not settle for less, re-engineer for the better (and cheaper)