



AUGUST 2015

Volume 4 Issue 8

VE3ERC-LUB

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- President:** Rich VE3DCC
- Vice-President:** John VE3JXX
- Secretary:** Tom VE3DXQ
- Treasurer:** Reg, VE3RVH
- Trustee:** Al VA3TET
- Newsletter Editor:** Bob VE3IXX
- QSL Manager:** Tom VE3DXQ
- Repeater manager and maintenance:**
Carl VE3FEF
- Website Admin:** Ted VE3TRQ
- Maple Syrup:** Joyce, VA3WXU
- Display:** Judd, VE3WXU

ERC REPEATERS:
UHF 444.700 TONE: 131.8
VHF 147.390 TONE: 131.8
EMERGENCY SIMPLEX 147.51



Point Clarke Lighthouse Weekend.

THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE
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President's Update for September 2015



In my last update, I listed priorities for the coming year. I would like to reflect on them, briefly, for those who may have missed our September meeting. This is awkward, in that I am writing this prior to our meeting, in anticipation of what we will discuss at that meeting. I like to think of this as a new Ham "band"—anticipation!

-We have completed our incorporation but there was a glitch—our acronym , ERC, did not match exactly the proposed name that we had done the search on, Elmira Amateur Radio Club Inc. Rather than paying for and waiting for another NUANS search, I asked the agent what the minimum change could be so that I could expedite the process and avoid delay. I trust you will agree with my decision to modify the name to "Elmira Radio Club Inc.". I was sure that Al, va3TET, would be ecstatic as he has always had a concern with the word "amateur" SO, we are now officially NOT amateurs!

-Terry, will now proceed with completing our affiliation with RAC and acquiring RAC insurance (warning--this may affect our dues structure)

-The UHF/VHF antennae are now up at the fire hall, and our tech group is conducting tests on the vhf frequency viability. We have a compelling argument for approval by the repeater council. I hope we can set up a low band station for the use of our members prior to our monthly meetings to ensure that the equipment is crisis-ready and, of course, available for our members' use. The committee is working to resolve the issues.

-Our web page is undergoing an evolution and we hope to introduce our new webmaster shortly.

-We hope to set up a notification system so members can be instantly updated on our club status. This might be via the website or email...

-I would like to update the council on our operational status before the end of the year. I will let you know, so those who can, can attend the meeting. I would like to access a televised session for maximum exposure.

Bill Graham has again invited us to his station for a presentation in October. I am looking for ideas for presentations or mini-talks on current Ham projects as we fill in our "dance card" for the year.

I welcome you all back. Regards,
 de Rich, ve3DCC

Elmira Radio Club

Minutes from September 23, 2015

Present:

VA3TET Al, VA3GWM Gord, VE3WXU Jud, VA3WXU Joyce, VE3TRQ Ted, VE3RVH Reg, VE3AHP Rob
 VE3DCC Rich, VE3DXQ Tom, VE3CXU Doug, VA3PDC Paul, VE3JXX John, VE3EIX Harry,
 VE3TRQ Ted, VE3JMU Jim, VE3UTN Dennis, VA3FJM Frank, VE3HYV Wilf, VE3IXX Bob,
 VE3DXQ Tom, Bruce VE3QB

The meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by our Club President Rich VE3DCC.

Rich advised that before we officially start our meeting we have to deal with the death of the old club.

As of September 14, 2015 we officially have our incorporation. We have four officers.

Richard Clausi President, Reginald Horney Treasurer, Tom Mahony Secretary, Alan Macdonald Trustee.

The objectives for which the corporation is set are:

1. To provide backup radio communications for the township of Woolwich and Waterloo county in times of civil emergencies.
2. To provide radio communications support for non-profit community organizations on a voluntary basis.
3. To initiate and facilitate and sustained study and research in amateur radio communications and related technologies locally, provincially, and nationally.
4. The corporation shall be carried on without the purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the corporation shall be used in promoting its objects.

Johan VA3JBO advised Rich VE3DCC that it is important now that we are Incorporated we must follow Roberts Rules of Order when conducting club meetings.

Rich put forward a motion that the club allows the use of proxies at meeting. A proxy is a vote by a member who is not present at the meeting.

The motion was put to a vote and all were in favor. (Carried)

Inaugural Motions: Incorporation date is Sept 14th, 2015 & governs financials and AGM.

Motions: Where as ERC, the Elmira Radio Club has granted letter Patent #1937123 for incorporation as at September 14, 2015 be it resolved:

1. That the constitution and bylaws of the former Elmira Radio Club dated April 10, 2012 be adopted by the Elmira Radio Club Inc.
2. That the executive of the former Elmira Radio Club acts as the executive of the ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.
3. That the bank account of the former Elmira Radio Club be transferred, administered, and owned by ERC The Elmira Radio Club Inc.



John VE3JXX demonstrates his home-brew portable dipole which took just minutes to assemble. He has two hamsticks on each side and vhf vertical in the centre. He scrounged most of the material which cost him less than \$35.00. Even the photographer's tripod for lights he found at a yard sale.

15KHz lower and talked to a Amateur Radio operator there said there is no interference to their repeater. Al advised the some moisture may be getting into some of the connections and this should be easy to rectify with some heat shrink. Doug VE3CXU asked about the repeater cutting out sometimes. Al advised this is due to people keying up when the repeater is identifying it's self. Al advised to wait 3 seconds before keying up. Al also said they will be able to simulcast 440 and 2 meter from the fire hall. The frequencies will have different PL tones from each other.

Al mentioned the great effort that John VE3JXX put in at getting the repeater in at the fire hall. Applause followed.

In the future there will be a mesh network on the tower.

Al passed around a list to get volunteers for the morning net meeting. This will help groom people for emergency situations.

Treasurer's report: There are 2 issues to be voted on today. The first is the expenditures for the purchase of the new repeaters and their installation. The other is expenditures related to RAC insurance.

4. That the assets of the former Elmira Radio Club be transferred, administered, and owned by ERC The Elmira Radio Club Inc.

Motion # 1 moved by Jud VE3WXU, 2nd by TED VE3TRQ all in favor carried.

Motion # 2 moved by Bob VE3IXX, 2nd by Jud VE3WXU all in favor carried.

Motion #3 moved by Joyce VA3WXU 2nd by Ted VE3TRQ all in favor carried.

Motion #4 moved by Ted VE3TRQ 2nd by Dennis VE3UTN all in favor carried.

ERC Website: Ted VE3TRQ will be looking after our web site once the domain name is switched over.

Minutes from previous meeting and business arising:

Tom VE3DXQ moved that minutes from June 24, 2015 be accepted 2nd by Al VA3TET. All were in favor carried.

Status of our repeaters: AL VA3TET Our repeater at the fire hall is up and running on 2 meters 147.390 and DYY has been made aware. Al advised that a repeater in St Mary's has a frequency close to ours



A sampling of QSL cards received during the Lighthouse weekend.

There was much discussion regarding how to pay for RAC insurance. Al VA3TET suggested a blanket membership in RAC for the club, but Rich is not sure this can be done. Reg is working on getting a list of members with RAC membership. Reg advised that presently the club has 18 members with RAC memberships out of 46 members. Rich advised that we will wait until our AGM to decide how to handle this. In the mean time the club will eat the cost of RAC membership to get the Insurance.

Reg VE3RVH thanked all the people involved with new repeater installation. Reg advised so far the total bill for the new repeaters is \$1,905.29. Our present Balance is \$2,240.34.

Reg VE3RVH moved that treasures report be accepted, 2nd by Bruce VE3QB. All in favor carried.

John VE3JXX made a motion to have the club pay some unexpected electric cost. Probably in the Approximately \$320. Jud VE3WXU 2nd the motion all in favor carried.

Nominations Committee: Disbanded the Nominations committee from the old club and re-appointed them for the New Club. They are Paul VE3PVB and Jim VE3JLC.

Incorporation and constitution Committee: These items were already discussed at this meeting.

Elmira Maple Syrup Day: Jud VE3WXU advised that January is the application date. Jud asked if there were any suggestions for new presentations at the Festival. Mesh networks

and streaming video were suggested. Joyce is working on a slide show on this year's events.

Safety Officer Committee: Al advised he still has 10 vests. Jud advised he may be able to work something out as far as name on Vests. Frank VA3FJM advised he has some small cones.

Lighthouse Project went well. The weather was good. However the only contacts to Europe were by PSK31. We did make contacts with US hams. Tom received 4 QSL Cards from the states. Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Texas. Tom needs QSL cards for the lighthouse event. Ted VE3TRQ advised he will make cards for the light house event from the electronic version on EQSL. Bruce VE3QB is looking for the list of contacts for the lighthouse event so he can contact them via EQSL. Al will send a list to Bruce VE3QB.

Retro fit for the Fire Hall: already discussed in these minutes.

Technical Reports AL VA3TET. Al mentioned it would be good to get a radio for Club members to operate at the club before and after the meetings.

Ad Hoc emergency plan update: Rich mentioned he sent a note to Dale Martin and Renee asking if the scouts were doing anything this October. Rich advised he would like to make a motion that if we get involved with JOTA and ARES that the club sanctions the event, as they must be sanctioned to be covered under RAC Insurance.

Rich asked for motion for our club to sanction us to be part of ARES training and JOTA. Al VA3TET made the motion and Tom VE3DXQ 2nd the motion all in favor Carried.

Rich advised Field Day report, and Flea Market already looked after.

ERC photo was taken and sent out. We may have another photo at a later date.

Christmas Party date is not firmed up as yet.

John Scheringa VE3JXX had a presentation out in the fire truck area (see photo) showing a portable dipole antenna and base. It is amazingly effective and reasonably priced.

Meeting ended at 9:00 pm

Several years ago Bill VE3ETK gave an excellent talk at a Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Club meeting named "Things You Can Do With Coax." Here is one project that Bill described.

444 MHz STACKED DIPOLES

Designed by Bill Graham VE3ETK

This antenna exhibits almost 3db gain and produces a horizontal dough nut shaped pattern, making it very useful as an outdoor antenna to increase the signal from your handheld transmitter to local repeaters. Cost: under \$15.00. Time: about 1 ½ hrs.

To make the antenna proceed as follows:

USE ONLY RG-8 COAX WITH STRANDED CENTER WIRE AND WOVEN BRAID SHIELD. About 6' of this coax is needed.

Approximately 5' of 1" OD PVC pipe, and one end cap is needed. The end cap needs to be flat (as opposed to rounded) on the top.

One coaxial cable connector is needed that will fit RG-8 coax.

See attached diagram on next page for assistance.

1. Cut off 10" of the coax and carefully slice off the outer jacket. Now, carefully slide back the shield and set it aside.
 2. From one end of the remaining coax (we will hereafter call this the bottom) measure up 18" and cut through the jacket, all the way around.
 3. Measure up a further 6.5" (all of the remaining measurements are critical to 1/10 of an inch) and again cut through the jacket all the way around. Remove the jacket between the two cuts.
 4. From ½" UP on the bared shield cut through the shield, and again at the TOP of this bared shield. Remove all of the shield between these two cuts.
 5. Carefully fold the ½" of remaining shield back over the jacket, towards the bottom and secure it with a bare #20 wire. Take the piece of shield you earlier set aside and carefully slide it up over the coax jacket from the bottom, until it just covers the ½" of shield just folded back and secured. Secure this also with a bare #20 wire, and solder the shields together.
- Carefully smooth this section of shield back towards the bottom until it is tight against the coax jacket. Secure the bottom of the shield with a piece of tape.

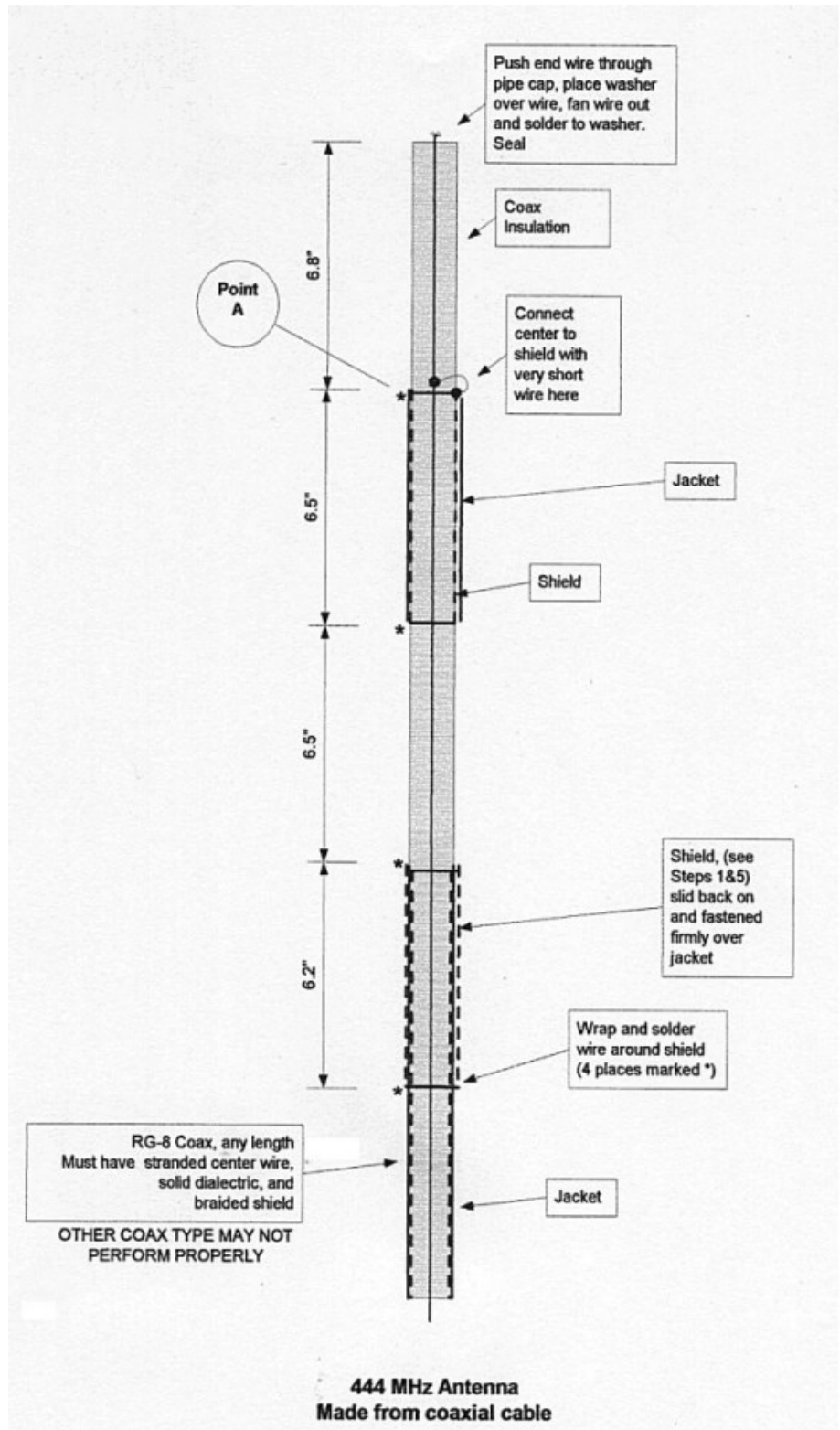
6. Measure from the top of this section of shield towards the bottom 6.25", and just barely above that point secure it with a bare #20 wire. Solder the wire and shield. Just below the wire cut off and remove any surplus shield. Bind the bottom of the shield section with tape to prevent any 'creep' upwards.

7. Picking up now from the top cut made in point 3; Measure up a further 6.5" (this point will now be referred to as Point A) and remove all jacket from this point to the top of the coax.

8. 1/2" up from Point A cut through the shield and remove it from that point upward. Take the 1/2" of shield and fold it back over the jacket for the moment.

9. At Point A cut away 1/4" of insulation all the way around and right back to the center conductor. In this 1/4" of space, and as close to Point A as possible, wrap one turn of #18 stranded, bare, wire around the center conductor and solder in place. Bring the ends of this #18 wire out and wrap them firmly around the shield that was folded back in 9. Solder as close as possible to Point A and trim away all excess.

10. From Point A measure up 6.8" and cut away all insulation from here upward, taking care not to cut into the center conductor. Measuring up 1" of the center conductor, cut it off anything beyond that point.



At this time the electronic part of your antenna is finished.

12. Cut a length of PVC pipe to slide the antenna down into, leaving enough for a coax connector at the bottom

13. Push the center conductor at the top of your antenna through a 1/8" hole drilled in the center of the top cap. Slide a small brass washer over the bit of center conductor coming out of the cap. Pull the coax up firmly and feather the wires of the center conductor out over the washer. Solder the wires to the washer and cut off any excess.

14. Apply PVC cement to the top of the pipe and quickly slide this pipe up the antenna and seat it into the cap.

15. Apply a liberal coating of epoxy resin to the top of the cap, particularly in the area of the washer. The whole purpose of the pipe and cap is to give weather protection to the coax, and to provide a method of mounting.

16. Install the coaxial connector to the bottom of the coax, and fill the space around the coax and the bottom of the pipe with weather seal caulking. NOTE: DO NOT USE SILICONE CAULKING AS IT HAS ACETIC ACID IN IT, AND EVEN THE VAPOURS FROM THE ACID WILL CORRODE THE COPPER ELEMENTS OF THE ANTENNA.

The antenna is finished, and you may mount it by using clamps anywhere in the lower 6 inches. I recommend plastic clamps to prevent any interference with the pattern producing segments of the coax.

Questions??? Contact Bill VE3ETK at Billve3etk@sympatico.ca

SPECIAL NOTE:

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Oct. meeting which will be held at my QTH. The program portion will be a video Quiz Game called "Name That Ham", so brush up on famous ham operators from around the world and be one of the prize winners, See you then.

DAILY MORNING NETS

MONDAYS - TOM VE3DXQ

TUESDAYS - JUDSON VE3WXU

WEDNESDAYS - REG VE3RVH

THURSDAYS - FRANK VA3FJM

FRIDAYS - TED VE3TRQ

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS - AL VA3TET



Remember the ERC Field Day back in 2003?

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

SEPTEMBER 30 - REG VE3RVH

OCTOBER 7 - PAUL VE3PVB

OCTOBER 14 - BOB VE3IXX

OCTOBER 21 - JUD VE3WXU

OCTOBER 28 - M E E T I N G

NOVEMBER 4 - TED VE3TRQ

NOVEMBER 11 - AL VA3TET

NOVEMBER 18 - BILL VE3ETK

NOVEMBER 25 - M E E T I N G

PROBLEMS WITH YOUR BAOFENG UV5R?

Hi Bob: Here is a short piece that may help some of our readers

If, like me you have had some problems with your Baofeng UV5R (or other Chinese hand held radios) programming software it may be due to the Prolific driver needed for the chip in the radio to USB cable. The correct one is 3.2.0.0 Here is the location of a video made by Dave AF5DN that explains the whole problem and what to do about it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xV_l3nkT-sg

The key thing for future use is to disconnect from the internet each time you start up your programming software – and Dave shows you how to simply do that with your mouse. It worked like a charm for me once I learned to never use a com port that might sometimes be used for something else. These are really great radios and software, but sometimes the way we do things in English is not always universal.

There you go Bob. This solved a day of frustration for me. Best to all.