



OCTOBER 2015

Volume 4 Issue 10

# VE3ERC-LUB

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**President:** Rich VE3DCC

**Vice-President:** Johan, VA3JBO

**Secretary:** Tom VE3DXQ

**Treasurer:** Reg, VE3RVH

**Newsletter Editor** Bob VE3IXX

**QSL Manager and Lighthouse:** Bill, VE3WBJ

**Repeater manager and maintenance:** Carl, VE3FEF

**Website Admin:** Johan, VA3JBO

**Maple Syrup** Joyce, VA3WXU

**Display:** Judd, VE3WXU



The "Ugly Mag Mount"! More on page 7.

**ERC REPEATER 444.700**

**EMERGENCY SIMPLEX 147.51**

# THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE  
This club is Radio-ACTIVE



## President's Update for October 2015

This update will bring you up to date on our club status as of Oct. 22, 2015. As part of our incorporation procedure, we submitted an initial filing last week. We were required to name no more than 5 officers and directors, although, we can support more within our corporate executive structure.

Accordingly, we listed Al, Reg, Tom, and yours truly as directors. I also separately indicated that Tom is secretary, Reg is signing officer, I am president and Al, our trustee, is "other"!!! Unfortunately, although there are four people, this counts as 8 positions. As I did with the name confusion (ERC cannot acronym for Elmira Amateur Radio Club.. so we took the "amateur" out of "amateur radio!!!!), I asked the bureaucrat how I could solve the problem, right there, on the telephone. The solution was to white-out the "additional information" and to remove Al from the list. This now means that we have 3 listed individuals with 6 positions (directors AND officers, eh—close enough to 5) and the officer seemed to think this would pass. This, of course, does not modify our "minute book" structure which is in compliance with our constitution; that is, a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, a secretary and a trustee. Problem solved to your satisfaction—I trust!!!

As we updated our status and name with our bank (of Nova Scotia), Reg discovered that our "old" legacy (cheap) account had to be "updated" to a new type of account. Please read that as "more expensive" and "complex". We decided to follow the lead of our Kitchener colleagues in KWARC –we switched our account to "Your Neighbourhood Credit Union" who offered us excellent, low cost banking, as well as helpful guidance on how to make this happen within the afternoon. Problem solved-- again, I hope to your satisfaction.

Our next step in this process is to pursue Radio Amateurs of Canada affiliation and insurance. Terry will be following this up. It is important to us that as many members of ERC as possible become members of RAC so the calculation of our rate is acceptable to the membership. Please note that membership in RAC is NOT a pre-requisite to being part of ERC; however, very soon we will have to grapple with how our membership fee structure can include our insurance costs. Your input will be appreciated.

I thank all of you for your patience and help. Stay tuned for more as we grow into our new structure with new repeaters and firehall-based HF and MESH.

de

Rich, ve3DCC

# REPORT ON THE ELMIRA RADIO CLUB (ERC) SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET)

OCTOBER 7, 2015

By REG HORNEY VE3RVH

I normally run the Wednesday morning nets, but on the morning of Oct. 7, the net was not the usual. This morning the Elmira Radio Club ran a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) to see how well prepared we were, as a club, in the event of an emergency. I began the introduction as:

"This is VE3RVH, the name is Reg, your net controller for the Elmira Radio Club VE3ERC standing by. There are new reports that a tornado has touched down in Elmira. Communications are down within the township. This is a SET test. All ham operators are requested to come in now and report your location. Again, this is a Simulated Emergency Test. Do come in now."

The response was very good. Seventeen hams reported from various locations giving their sightings. Throughout the exercise, twenty-six responses came in. The following is the list.

✓ John JXX  
 IXX Bobb - Fergus north Waterloo  
 UTV - Dennis  
 ✓ TXG - Tom - Home mobile  
 PUB - PAUL - mobile Elmira - Bridgeport  
 ✓ JMU - Jim - Bridgeport Waterloo  
 ✓ TET RC - RLE Elmira  
 ✓ EIX - Home Base -  
 ✓ GWN - GORD - FISCHER / West Victoria  
 ✓ PVC - PAUL - Bascom - Hill  
 ✓ CXU - Doug - SET  
 ✓ JMU - TEST  
 PVC - PAUL.  
 IXX - Bob Fergus Test - road  
 TRG - NW Waterloo - cloudy - no wind.  
 UTV - winds up - NE / 85 heavy  
 PUB -  
 ✓ PVC - Coffee.  
 RCC - SET - - ELMIRA - -  
 UTV - STORM passed. winds down  
 ✓ FSM - Mike -  
 RCC - Telegraph, Jims Elmira - Antenna 2000 FT.  
 FSM - William / West road - good  
 ✓ CXU - no fog - no wind  
 ✓ UTV - improvement in weather  
 ✓ KCY - 7/7 Alma.

# Elmira Radio Club

*Minutes from October 28, 2015*

*By Tom VE3DXQ*

Present:

VA3TET Al, VA3GWM Gord, VE3WXU Jud, VA3WXU Joyce, VE3TRQ Ted, VE3RVH Reg, VE3XTM Terry

VE3DCC Rich, VA3PDC Paul, VE3TRQ Ted, VE3JMU Jim, VA3FJM Frank, VE3HYV Wilf, VE3IXX Bob, VE3DXQ Tom, VE3PVB Paul, VE3KCY Ken, VA3MD Mike, VE3BTC Worth, VE3ETK Bill

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

Rich VE3DCC opened the meeting by thanking Bill VE3ETK for hosting the VE3ERC monthly meeting.

Tom VE3DXQ asked if there were any errors or omissions from the September ERC minutes. None were mentioned. Tom made a motion to have the minutes accepted. This was seconded by VE3WXU Judd. All were in favor motion was carried.

Repeater Status: Al VA3TET. The 440 antenna up at the feed mill is working fine presently and the 2 meter antenna up at the fire hall is having problems presently. Al asked for permission to purchase a new 2M antenna to replace the one at the fire hall. Al made a motion that we purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> new diamond 2 meter antenna for the fire hall. This was seconded by Paul VE3PVB. All were in favor motion was carried.

Treasurers Report: Reg VE3RVH advised that he tried to upgrade our account at the bank of Nova Scotia to reflect our change to a Corporation, but was given a lot of red tape, and there for decided to close out the account and open a new one at Your Neighborhood Credit Union. He said he had no problem there.

Reg VE3RVH and Rich VE3DCC will be the new co-signers.

VE3PVB brought of the subject of increasing membership dues for those who do not have RAC insurance and discussion followed. VE3RVH reg advised that the club presently has 36 paid up members and 21 are RAC members. VE3XTM Terry gave us a ball park figure of \$400.00 for RAC insurance for a year. Rich advised that as per previous discussions on this matter we will sort this out when dues time comes around again and in the mean time the club would eat the costs of the insurance.

Rich VE3DCC advised that we will get RAC affiliation and with this we get a copy of their magazine. We would like suggestions of where to put it either in the high school library or public library.



Paul VE3PVB and Bill VE3ETK collaborated on building this microphone using a tiny MEMS Mike installed inside an empty casing. The MEMS is a very tiny, inexpensive mike with an amazing frequency response.

Tom VE3DXQ made the suggestion that we should establish a prudent reserve in our bank account for unexpected expenses. Al VA3TET made the suggestion that we investigate other streams of revenue and discussion followed. Mike VE3MD and Worth VE3BTC related some of their efforts in this regard and managed to obtain funds from other organizations their clubs were involved with in the community.

Our current balance is \$1431.79. Motion was made by Reg VE3RVH to accept the treasurer's report seconded by VE3ETK Bill.

Nominations committee:

Rich VE3DCC mentioned that in our initial filing that Al VA3TET was on that filing as a Trustee. Now however Rich VE3DCC, Reg VE3RVH and Tom VE3DXQ remain.

Incorporation: VE3XTM Terry advised that the main purpose of the insurance is liability. Giving RAC a list of all our equipment is not worth the effort. The deductible is \$1000.00. AL VA3TET made a motion that we do not insure our equipment this was seconded by Joyce. All in favor carried.

Terry VE3XTM advised we have to complete the affiliation with RAC before we get the insurance. Terry says he has all the paper work almost ready and just needs a list of members and their call signs, and members already signed up with RAC. Also needs a few signatures.

Al VA3TET made a motion that we proceed with RAC affiliation second by VE3DXQ Tom. All were in favor carried.

Al VA3TET sent an email off to the membership chairman of RAC explaining how billing the Club for insurance and then have the club pass that on in the dues structure would have 2 advantages. 1. Simplification of billing and 2. Increase of RAC membership. All members would have to be members of RAC.

Fire Hall Retro- fit: Al VA3TET- We will be installing the other 440 MHz repeater and it will have PL tone of 123. Once this is installed the club will be looking for feedback on range coverage. Time frame on this depends on John VE3JXX availability and weather conditions.



Ad Hoc emergency plan update: Rich mentioned the advisory he sent out to the fire chiefs as well as the county administrator. Rich VE3DCC mentioned the emergency day ran by Reg VE3RVH and Reg said he figures there were about 27 people checked in.

Presentation: Bill VE3ETK. Bill showed us an arduino project he did creating a device that could send out automated messages over your radio. Also there was a Ham radio Trivia contest DVD presentation. Joyce VA3WXU was the winner. Following this there was refreshments and social time.

Meeting Ended Around 9:30 pm.

Bill, in front of the VE3ETK station just before he gave his video presentation.

# An Evening with the

# Grahams

W

hat do the late King Hussein of Jordan, Tim Allen (of Home Improvement fame), Yuri Gagarin (first Russian cosmonaut), Chet Atkins (singer/songwriter), Marlon Brando, Joe Taylor (scientist/Nobel prize winner in Physics) and Walter Cronkite all have in common?

Well, besides being famous, well-known personalities, they were all Ham Radio Operators.

This presentation was part of a delightful evening at the home of Bill and Maree Graham. After the business meeting for the Elmira Radio Club, the members pulled their chairs back as Bill (VE3ETK) played the video game, "Name that Ham". On screen Bill presented twenty-two different clues to notable celebrities who had their ham ticket. Everyone present, armed with paper and pencil had to guess the name.

After the scores were tallied, Joyce VA3WXU won the grand prize with a score of eleven out of twenty-two guessed correctly. She won a mitt-full of chocolate coins. There were further prizes for second, third and fourth prizes but no one came close to Joyce. This humble writer only scored a miserable count of five. However, everyone had a grand time and for the losers, we drowned our sorrows with coffee, apple cider and plates of cookies and treats afterwards.

Our thanks to Maree and Bill Graham for hosting our October meeting.

'73 VE3IXX



King Hssein JY1



Senator Barry Goldwater



Tim Allen  
KK6OTP



Even Herman Munster was a wanna-be ham.



Fergus born Reginald Fessenden -radio pioneer who was the first to introduce voice transmission.  
1XS



Joe Walsh of The Eagles WB6ACU



Walter Cronkite KB2GSD

### COVER PICTURE

When my dual band magnetic-mount antenna finally broke down, I just couldn't throw out the base magnet mount. So after scrounging some plumbing parts from the hardware store I built a new base and added a piece of AWG-12 copper wire, The antenna gave a good swr reading on both 2 metres and 70 cm. It's not much to look at but it works very well and my wife, Bonnie tells me that it makes finding the car in a large parking lot very easy.



Bob VE3IXX

The following article is used with Permission from the Canadian Communications Foundation:



## **Radio – from Crystal Sets to Satellites**

**By Ross McCreath (2006)**

Nowadays, the availability over the air of crystal clear sound and high definition pictures is taken for granted. Both audio and video signals are prevalent in virtually every home, through a multitude of devices. But it is perhaps worth remembering that, not all that long ago, things were very, very different. News and pictures of the outside world were only available through the newspapers, and the piano and the violin were the prime sources of in-home entertainment.

But as the nineteenth century moved into its second half-decade, in various parts of the world history was beginning to be made, as scientists and inventors were conducting experiments in the field of communications which were destined to revolutionize the ways by which the people of the world were to be entertained and informed. One such important area of experimentation was to result in the invention of what came to be known as "radio".

There are many "Fathers" of radio, from Maxwell in England in 1864 who demonstrated that energy could be applied without the aid of a metal conductor, to Hertz in Germany 30 years later who discovered that magnetic waves could be sent through space. Then Marconi developed a transmitter in Italy and a few years later at the start of the twentieth century, sent his dots and dashes across the Atlantic, while Fessenden and others brought the voice of radio into our homes.

After the distractions of World War I, the inventors turned their ideas back to developing the potential of Radio. In the 1920s the first stations started to come on the air. This new "gadget" radio was about to turn Canada literally "on its ear"!

One of the early home sets came from the "Popular Mechanics" magazine with its guide for making a "Crystal Set", a device anyone could make for under \$10.00 complete with earphones. Those who could afford them bought the larger living room style radios (operated by several automobile type batteries – that had to be recharged every week), still with earphones, although they soon started to use horn type speakers.

And what did they get to listen to? Most stations in the early '20s were on the air for just a few hours in the evening. They presented local musicians and choral groups and some concerts, all live of course, (electrical recordings were years away). Some stations borrowed a few recordings from the local music store to complete the evening's program schedule. This was before talking pictures had arrived in the local theatre, if there was one – Radio was the talk of the town.

As more stations came on the air in the mid-1920s inventors were making progress with loudspeakers and improved microphones, and in 1927 Ted Rogers, Sr. made the use of batteries

obsolete by inventing a system using household electricity. These inventions helped to make radio more than a toy.

The CNR Radio Network was formed using a base of three owned stations and the railways telegraph lines, and leased time on other stations, to offer a couple of hours of programming each night – mostly live music which was heard by all listeners but was arranged specifically for those traveling by train in parlour cars on those long trips across the country. (It took seven days to go from Vancouver to Halifax).

Radio had arrived.

More stations brought more programming and longer hours on the air. Those homes close to the U. S. border (and, at night, many much further away) had the advantage of listening to American stations giving them more program variety, a competitive problem for Canadian stations that would exist for many years.

The U. S. Market crash of 1929 and the resulting depression years that followed slowed the development of Canadian radio.

Despite the depression many new stations came on the air, but more importantly, stations extended their programming hours into the afternoon and all evening long.

There was the first government network - the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission (CRBC) consisting of the three former CNR stations plus 4 new government stations that were put into service during the networks four years of operation, as well as all the private stations (originally 7 private stations and by 1935 – 18 private stations).

The 1936 Moose River Mine disaster covered by J. Frank Willis for CRBC was one of the first remote broadcasts on radio – broadcast on 69 radio station in Canada and over 650 of stations in the U. S. and also in Great Britain.

Later in the year, the government established the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to establish a network of CBC-owned and privately owned affiliated stations to serve all of Canada - the CBC Radio Network.

World War II saw News Broadcasting become a necessity in every household – as families searched for news of loved ones abroad. Many names became famous during these trying times – perhaps the most notable among them being Lorne Greene ( known then as the Voice of Doom) reading the CBC evening news. Many years later he would become “Pa Cartwright” on the U. S. TV program ‘Bonanza’.

After the war Television became a factor, first in the U. S. with Canada following some years later. As with radio, those Canadians living along the U. S. border could view TV and by the time Canadian TV started there were 75,000 homes already watching U.S. TV.

With the advent of television, many pundits forecast the demise of radio, but radio still had some tricks up its sleeve. As elsewhere in the world, radio in Canada started to change, and the medium found ways to adjust, and to take advantage of its greater portability and accessibility away from the home. Gradually, as the dramas and musical shows largely began to switch to TV, radio began to develop diverse formats, including “News/Talk” and various different music styles, to attract different demographic audiences.

Inventions such as audio tape and later stereo helped radio to make the transition, as music moved on from Big Bands to Top Forty and the music of the younger generation, who grew up

with this new era which was to last through the new millennium.

FM (Frequency Modulation) which had started as an experiment in the 60s and had been slow to catch on (due to the fact that homeowners had to buy new receivers), became well established by the mid 1980s, and offered widespread high quality reception.

And then, to finally give the lie to any suggestion that radio was finished, the advent of the 21st Century saw the introduction of Satellite Radio, which added an even newer and more exciting dimension to a Canadian Radio Industry which had no intention of rolling over and playing dead.

**Ross McCreath began a career in media in 1939, and after retiring from a highly successful career in broadcast sales he remained active as a founding chronicler of the History of Canadian Broadcasting, becoming Chairman of the Canadian Communications Foundation in 1987, and President in 1994. In 1998, Ross was inducted into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame. In November 2011, he stepped down from the Presidency of the Canadian Communications Foundation, but continued to provide sage advice and input until his death in Toronto on October 7th 2014. His full biography can be found in the Foundation's website at [www.broadcasting-history.ca](http://www.broadcasting-history.ca).**



Bill, VE3ETK sent me the following link to a short but humorous look at ham radio circa 1939:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK\\_fNmQxzs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK_fNmQxzs)

## **WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**NOVEMBER 4 - TED VE3TRQ**

**NOVEMBER 11 - AL VA3TET**

**NOVEMBER 18 - BILL VE3ETK**

**NOVEMBER 25 - M E E T I N G**

**DECEMBER 2 - REG VE3RVH**

**DECEMBER 9 - PAUL VE3PVB**

**DECEMBER 16 - BOB VE3IXX**

**DECEMBER 23 - M E E T I N G**

**DECEMBER 30 - JUD VE3WXU**

**JANUARY 6 - TED VE3TRQ**

