



DECEMBER 2015

Volume 4 Issue 12

# VE3ERC-LUB

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- President: Rich VE3DCC
- Vice-President: John VE3JXX
- Secretary: Tom VE3DXQ
- Treasurer: Reg VE3RVH
- Trustee: Al VA3TET
- QSL Manager: Joyce VA3WXU
- Repeater Manager & Maintenance: Carl VE3FEF
- Website Admin: Ted VE3TRQ
- Lighthouse: Bruce VE3QB
- Maple Syrup Display: Joyce VA3WXU  
Judd VE3WXU
- Newsletter: Bob VE3IXX

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

## Ho Ho Hoo....

# Merry Christmas

# THE PREZ SEZ!

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

## President's Update for December 2015



**S**eason's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

We had our traditional and wonderful Christmas gathering at the Fire Hall. As always, it is a reminder of the comradery and bonds we share as licensees. There was even a visit by Santa (disguised as Frank!!!) It was fun!!!!

In the spirit of giving, you will recall that we offered the Elmira Library a subscription to The Canadian Amateur. Unfortunately, although the journal was approved, the Waterloo Regional Library system requires that we provide them with the funds so that they can order the subscription to TCA directly. This means that our \$8 gift becomes a \$65 liability for us. We have withdrawn the gift and, instead, we have offered it to the Elmira District Secondary School library who have gratefully accepted the gift. Unfortunately, although students will be encouraged to access the material via the communications technology courses, the general public are unable to freely access the library. We will review the success of this program in a year.

Yet another surprise! Although we have proceeded smoothly thru the incorporation and registration process, we now learn via KWARC that there are impending changes to the Not-for Profit Incorporations act that may require us to modify our constitution and bylaws. Rick Goetz, ve3ZUP, KWARC president has provided the email link below for our use.

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Everything you need for ONCA is at this website:

[http://www.sse.gov.on.ca/mcs/en/Pages/Not\\_For\\_Profit.aspx](http://www.sse.gov.on.ca/mcs/en/Pages/Not_For_Profit.aspx)

73 de Rick VE3ZUP k

Please feel free to peruse the documents so you can provide input to your executive.

Among other issues, there may be a limit on terms of office as well as serious responsibilities related to financial controls and reporting. We will also have to file a tax return with the associated audit. We now have a Business Number, and we will have to explore the implications of this as we settle into the rhythm of being a not-for-profit. We have submitted our RAC affiliation fee as well as our insurance payment—approx. \$387 or \$10 per member. We will also have to resolve how we deal with budget and funds-raising in the new year so we can break even. We will continue to consult with Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo as we move forward to comply with the “new” rules.

We have many projects in planning and they include: MEMs microphone construction, MESH transmission backbone, our repeater system(s), net controller growth, fire hall base station and more “hands-on stuff” that make our hobby a vibrant and growing recreation.

**Best Wishes for the New Year,**

73, de ve3DCC R

# UPCOMING SPEAKERS

## FOR 2016 MEETINGS

**JANUARY 27 GREG SMITH VA3GSM**  
**DMR Digital Voice Capable Radio**

**FEBRUARY 24 TERRY MAURICE VE3XTM**  
**SDR Radio Update**

**MARCH 23 DENNIS UPTON VE3UTN**  
**Digital Modes PSK**

# ERC CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY Joyce Hodge VA3WXU

Rich (VE3DCC), Reg (VE3RVH), Jim (VE3JMU), Tom (VE3DXQ), Judd (VE3WXU) and I (VA3WXU) got together to set up the fire hall for this year's Christmas party.

This was my first time doing this job, and lucky for Judd and me, a tried and true procedure of sweeping, mopping, arranging tables, and hanging up decorations was in place. This made getting the job done quite quickly. Reg gave the directions of where things would be hung up and be



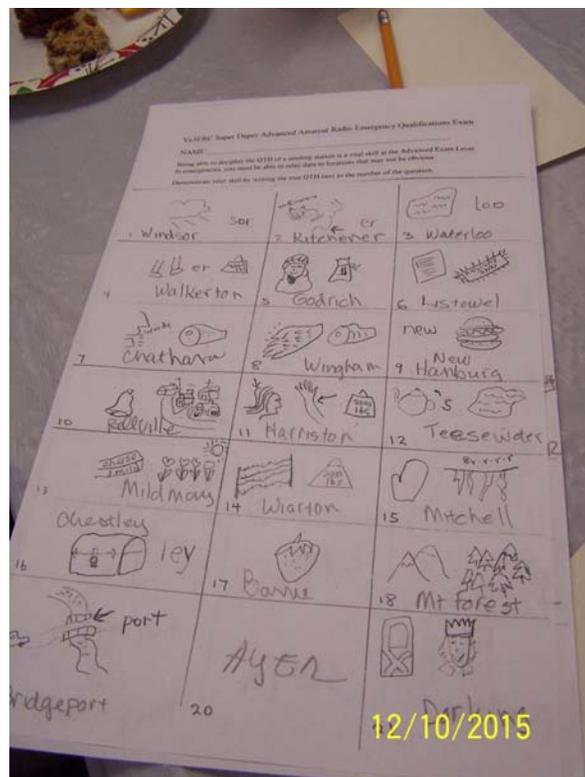
placed. He also provided the decorations that were used, including the beautiful large wreath, which he himself made.

Mary, Jim's wife, came early to the fire hall to make delicious punch and to set up the food and drink table. She provided the snacks on every table and organized the food table that eventually was well laden with every kind of snacks and homemade treats possible. I have been told she has been cheerfully doing this job for the club's Christmas party for many years now.

Out of the blue, a surprise guest, who was bearded and wearing a red suit, suddenly burst into the room HO-HO-HO-ING, ringing a bell, and handing out candy canes to everyone. Quite coincidentally, he just happened to look a whole lot like Frank (VA3FJM). His unexpected jolly arrival was a great way to start a Christmas party.

Rich and Lorraine (VE3VCL) provided the fun activities of the night. The first challenge was to identify the names of local towns and cities by looking at drawings and sketches that represented the names. Lorraine, was the artist of the clever representations and made the challenge delightfully fun to guess their meanings. Godrich was a particularly difficult city to decipher but, it made perfect sense once the answer was revealed.

The second activity was a task of identifying a club member based on a factual clue given by that member. This was not only fun trying to match the clue with its owner, it also disclosed facts about that member that others did not already know. For example, Ken (VE3KCY) collects CW keys, Al (VA3TET) has a "food" call sign, and Doug





(VE3CXU) got his call sign license plates for their new car by letting Annette choose the colour of the car.

All in all, our party together was lovely. Being amongst wonderful people graced with holiday cheer and goodwill is a blessed gift.

This year's Christmas party was very special to the "WXU" family because it marked our one year anniversary of being members of the Elmira Radio Club. We have completely enjoyed getting to know all of the members this past year and feel that our members have evolved into a family of friends.

I hope on Christmas day that Santa (the real one) brings you many electronic thingamabobs that help to propagate communication. (A.K.A. radio equipment.)

Most of all, I wish you all a happy, healthy, Christmas and a New Year full of wonder.

Holiday Cheers, Joyce VA3WXU





## IN RETROSPECT

As the year 2015 comes to a close, it is good to look back, not just this year, but earlier years, to see how far we have come. When you view the struggles and the victories of the club's history, you can see how the Elmira Radio Club today is a culmination of all that has passed. Today, Rich VE3DCC is our elected president. Back in 2010, that was probably far from his thoughts. But Rich was instrumental in bringing awareness of amateur radio not just to other hams who could be new potential members of ERC, but to the community in general. Rich obtained a full page article in the Elmira Observer about ham radio. Who knows how something like that may have influenced the decision to include ERC in the Emergency Planning for the township. The following is a reprint from the archives. Enjoy!

### Radio enthusiasts ham it up

By **Joni Miltenburg** -

February 19, 2010

When Rich Clausi was in university, he was in a band with a saxophone player who decided the band members needed a way to communicate with each other from their vehicles. This was in the days before cell phones and Bluetooth, so the members of the band took a course and became ham radio operators.

Clausi, head of math and computing at Elmira District Secondary School, has been a "ham" for 35 years now. Amateur radio, or ham radio, involves using radio equipment to communicate with other radio amateurs.

Elmira teacher Rich Clausi is also an amateur radio enthusiast. The plaque on the wall behind him bears his call sign, VE3DCC.

Many hams use radio frequencies to talk to friends or strangers around the world, but there are many aspects to the hobby. Some, like Clausi, are interested in the technical side and build their own equipment; others collect QSL cards, or postcards from hams around the world, confirming receipt of their transmission; while others communicate via amateur satellites.

A more critical use of ham radio is establishing emergency communications. After disasters like the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina, ham radio operators are often the first people to establish emergency communication when conventional systems are destroyed or overwhelmed.

In June, ham radio operators across North America hold a "field day," where they practice emergency communications. Hams set up their equipment in a field using emergency generators, and keep the station on the air for 24 hours, transmitting messages and subbing off with relief operators.

In recognition of the public service they provide, hams have been given a three-year exemption from Ontario's new cell phone driving ban, allowing them to use radios in their cars.

In the 1970s, Clausi remembers that all the members of the ham radio club were issued red cards by the Region of Waterloo as part of the Region's emergency measures preparation.

The cards gave them clearance to get through roadblocks to take radiation readings in the case of a nuclear attack.

People who are interested in ham radio tend to be very creative and innovative thinkers, Clausi said. He vividly remembers a ham radio meeting in May 1982 when a young man came to speak to the group. The young man had brought along a big, clunky laptop, radio and modem, and he described his vision for sending text over the airwaves.

"That was the first time I met Mike Laziridis."

Laziridis went on to found Research In Motion and develop the BlackBerry, allowing millions of people to check their email and browse the Internet wirelessly.

To become a ham radio operator requires more than just the equipment. Hams are governed by the Radiocommunication Act and have to be licensed. In this area, the Kitchener Waterloo Amateur Radio Club offers courses for people interested in getting their ham licenses.

There are also rules around what frequencies radio amateurs can use; they are not allowed to interfere with other amateurs, or with commercial radio signals. Hams are also not allowed to use the airwaves to sell things or charge for their services.

One thing to keep in mind is that ham radio is a bit like a party line – everyone can hear everyone else, simply by tuning into the right frequency.

When hams are licensed, they also receive a unique call signal used to identify themselves during all radio communications. Many hams know each other only by first name and call signal; Clausi is "Rich VE3DCC" to his radio friends.

On Wednesday evening, Clausi switched on his transceiver and made contact with the Elmira network, asking them to describe the Elmira Radio Club. Al Macdonald introduced himself as Al VA3TET and explained that the 25-member club operates a repeater with a 100-foot antenna, allowing people as far as Woodstock, Fergus, Cambridge and Orangeville to pick up their signal.

There's another twist to ham radio that hadn't occurred to Clausi until recently, when he and a friend were discussing the Jodie Foster movie Contact. The 1997 sci-fi film involves aliens making contact by transmitting human radio signals back to Earth.

If there are alien life forms out there, Clausi pointed out, the first sign of human life they would encounter would be radio signals.

"I've been transmitting into free space for 35 years, which means that technically my voice is 35 light years from Earth as we speak. Any ham who has been operating for any length of time has audio out there somewhere. You never know, first contact with an alien species could be a ham radio transmission."

Over the many years that I've been involved as net controller for ONTARS, I have found that the "Santa Net" at Christmas time has never waned in interest. In my earlier years I would bring my young children to the microphone to speak to Santa personally up in the North Pole. Now I bring my grandchildren. It was just after I introduced my four year old grandson, Isaac, who spoke to Santa with much excitement, a thought came to me. Could we have a "Santa Net" on our club repeater? There are many of us members with grandchildren or younger members with children who might want to participate. It's also a great way to introduce these young ones to world of amateur radio. Any budding Santa's around for next year??  
Bob VE3IXX

**WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**DECEMBER 23 - BOB VE3IXX**

**DECEMBER 30 - JUDD VE3WXU**

**JANUARY 6 - TED VE3TRQ**

**JANUARY 13 - AL VA3TET**

**JANUARY 20 - BILL VE3ETK**

**JANUARY 27 - MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 3 - REG VE3RVH**

**FEBRUARY 10 - PAUL VE3PVB**

**FEBRUARY 17 - BOB VE3IXX**

**FEBRUARY 24 - MEETING**

**MARCH 2 - JUDD VE3WXU**

**CHECK OUT THE  
ELMIRA RADIO CLUB  
WEBSITE**

[www.ve3erc.ca](http://www.ve3erc.ca)