



FEBRUARY 2016

Volume 5 Issue 2

VE3ERC-LUB

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

IN THIS ISSUE
PREZ SEZ P. 2
UNIQUENESS OF HAMSTERS P. 4
FEBRUARY MINUTES P. 5
NEW NEWSLETTER E-MAIL P. 6
DELTA C-141 DIPOLE P. 7
MURPHY'S LAW OF MEETINGS P. 8
WEDNESDAY NITE CONTROLLERS P. 9
REMEMBER WHEN P. 9

ERC REPEATERS

UHF 444.700 TONE: 131.8
 VHF 147.390 + TONE: 131.8
 EMERGENCY SIMPLEX: 147.51



The Delta C-141 beam antenna. Article on page 7.

THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

President's Update for February 2016



Hurray for February:

We are gathering steam as we head into a very busy "Ham" season. At our February meeting we will set out plans for the Maple Syrup Festival Display. In our second season, we will add "nice" finishing touches such as a banner and improved handout material. Our QSL card has been refreshed and, no doubt, our chairs, Joyce and Judd, will have other clever surprises for us. Our goal in participating is to showcase our equipment and skills. As much as we all hope our technical expertise will not be necessary in an emergency, we still need to ensure that our skills are up to speed. In this regard, I congratulate our club net controllers who, on a daily basis, hone the technique and finesse necessary in an emergency. I encourage all who can, to check in and say "hi". If you can participate or check into our Maple Syrup day station, please do, as this is also a marquee opportunity to showcase ve3ERC members in action.

We will follow-up the display on Saturday April 2, with a small presentation to Woolwich Council on April 5, This meeting is televised via Rogers Cable and we are first on the agenda. We hope to outline our part in the official Woolwich Emergency Plan. While emphasizing that we do not want to put our operators in harm's way, I hope to stress the value of Ham (Amateur!!!) Radio when communications collapse in an emergency. By definition, in a communications emergency, all bets are off—power, cell lines, internet, landlines are toast, so ingenuity and a pre-thought, independent backbone is critical to passing health and safety information. In this regard, I am troubled by the reliance on paper and voice copy. I hope our MESH team is able to create a "pop up" Mesh that is impervious to the loss of power. This new field is rich for experimentation and research as we find reliable means to respond to requests for assistance.

Of course, our activities are both fun and challenging for our club, while being, simultaneously beneficial to the larger community—a win-win for all! Our larger purpose, though, is to solidify our warm relations with the Woolwich Fire Services and so facilitate our base of operations at the fire hall. While our "ad hoc" plan is based on distributed participation by mobiles at the evac sites and bases "far away" and safe to pass traffic, our primary repeaters and rally point are at the station.

This also justifies our generous allocation of spectrum.

Regards,

Rich, ve3DCC.

The Uniqueness of Hamsters....

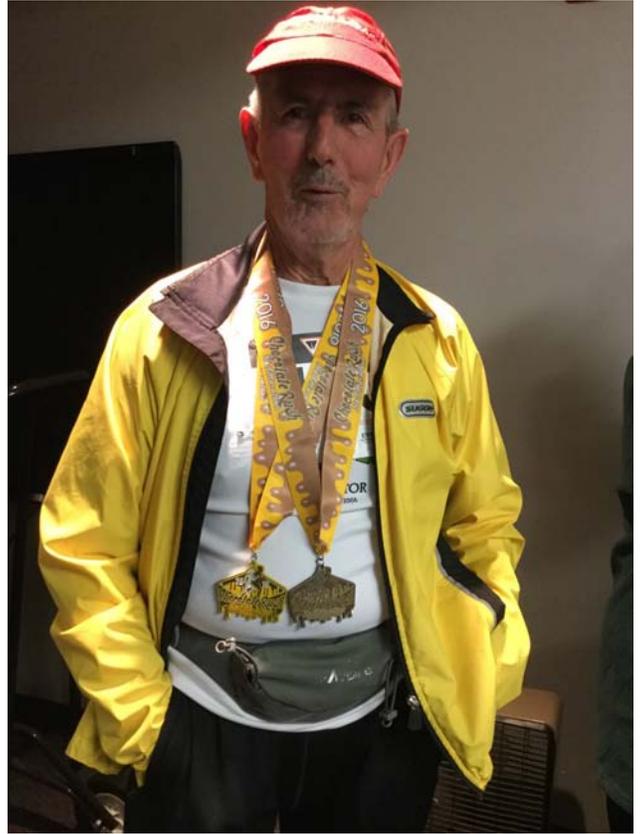
By Joyce Hodge VA3WXU

One thing that makes ham radio amateurs unique amongst the rest of this planet's population is that they have a call sign.

The call sign is used as a "name" but, it is not like a normal name that parents would give to their children. There can be thousands of people who have the same name your parents gave you. But, a call sign identifies just one and, only one, person.

Even the configuration of a call sign stands alone in that it breaks every spelling rule that you ever learned in school. For example, unless your name is John Doe III, or you are an android prototype named CP30, numbers should only be found in math equations and not in names.

Furthermore, the number in a call sign is not random nor sequential but instead is determined by



where you live and propagate. With the presence of a number in the call sign, it must be "spelled out" in order to pronounce it. If for some reason that pronunciation is not understood, this call sign then evolves phonetically into "Victor Echo Three Charlie Delta Foxtrot." How many people do you know that have a name like that?

As such, a call sign definitely adds a uniqueness to being a Hamster, but, that is not the only thing that does.

Many of the members of the Elmira Radio Club inc, are perfect examples of one-of-a-



kind. These members have an extraordinary skill, talent, or a passion that identifies them in particular.

Andy (VE3CDF) is a very good example of this. His passion is running in marathons. He runs and runs and runs. He runs here and there and, apparently, everywhere because his marathon history shows that he has actually run a marathon on all seven continents in the world. I for one, am full of wonderment about his present, personal quest to run a marathon in every state and in all of the provinces and territories

in Canada.

Andy's most recent race was run in early February and was held in the state of Kansas where, by sheer coincidence, some of my siblings just happened to live. Right away I thought this confluence of people could be a way of surprising Andy.

In short, I asked my sisters to attend the marathon and wave a poster at the finish line showing the club's support for his accomplishment. Because my sisters are kind and friendly they agreed to do it.

I was not surprised to find out that Andy finished his run and came first in his group. (After all, he practices quite a lot.) My sisters said that there was some confusion when Andy first saw them waving the poster. But in the end, there was a very special moment of "connectedness" between Andy, my sisters, and our club.

For most of us, Andy's goal to participate in a marathon in every state, province, and territory would be an impossible dream. But for Andy, it is just a destination of a unique and personal journey.

With only six more marathons left for him to run in the United States, he can be assured that we will all be rooting for him all the way to the end of his wondrous pursuit.



VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

Minutes from March 2, 2016 (Delayed Feb meeting)

Present:

VA3TET Al, VA3GWM Gord, VE3WXU Jud, VA3WXU Joyce, VE3TRQ Ted, VE3XTM Terry, VE3DCC Rich, VA3PDC Paul, VE3JMU Jim, VA3FJM Frank, VE3IXX Bob, VE3DXQ Tom, VE3PVB Paul, VE3KCY Ken, VE3JXX John, VE3QB Bruce, VE3CXU Doug, VE3DCC Rich, VE3JVG Jason, VE3KCY Ken, VE3CXU Doug, VE3FEF Carl, VE3EIX Harry, VE3QB Bruce, VE3TRQ TED, VE3RVH Reg, VA3DXK Brian.

The VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc was opened at 7:30 Pm by the Club President Rich. Rich then asked for a roll call and also for members to mention their interest.

Rich VE3DCC showed us a copy of the latest RAC magazine. He mentioned that he has placed the copy that was at the public Library and placed it in the High School Library.

Rich VE3DCC also mentioned while he was picking up the coffee for the meeting that he met a scout leader and asked him about JOTA- (Jamboree on the Air). Rich advised they are still interested in JOTA, but are very busy with other events. He also told them of our presence at the maple syrup festival, and that they are welcome to drop by. Also Rich VE3DCC told them about the RAC magazine at the high school.

Rich VE3DCC said that next month we will start having a 50/50 draw. He also advised you can keep which ever half of it you win. J

Minutes from January meeting: Tom VE3DXQ asked if there were any errors or omissions from the January minutes and none were mentioned. Tom asked for a motion to accept the January minutes. Motion made by Harry VE3EIX and 2nd by Judd VE3WXU. All were in favor and the motion was accepted.

Status of Repeaters: Al VA3TET advised there is a delay problem of some kind on our TX side of our VHF repeater that will have to be looked into. The SWR on the Antenna is fine.

Treasurers Report: Reg VE3RVH gave us a break down of our basic expenses. He also mentioned that one way we could raise funds would be to keep 10% of the sale of equipment we sell for members who pass away. Reg VE3RVH mentioned various scenarios of dues increases. The Idea is to have enough to cover our basics expenses, events we take part in, new equipment, as well as a cushion for unexpected costs. Then there was much discussion back and forth between members present on the increasing cost of things over all.

Nomination Committee: Reg VE3RVH is willing to stand as Treasurer, Tom VE3DXQ is willing to stand for secretary, and Al VA3TET is willing to stand as Trustee. Rich VE3DCC and Paul VE3PVB will be looking for nominees for the position of club president.

Incorporation: Rich advised we are looking at our responsibilities with regards to revenue Canada. Reg VE3RVH has contacted our accountant and sent him last year's figures. The question is whether we have to file this April or by September 14th.

Safety Officer: All ok

Lighthouse Project: Ok

Retrofit for the fire hall: John VE3JXX has talked with Andrew Lillico to reach out when we do our emergency planning presentation to council. There will be some technical presentations. Andrew is emergency fire co-ordinate for the region. John VE3JXX said the Andrew put him in touch with a Lady that is emergency co-coordinator for the region. There is the possibility she may help us in getting an antenna on the water tower.

Elmira Maple Syrup Day: Judd VE3WXU advised that we came up with a list of items needed for Maple Syrup Day from last weeks on air meeting. Judd VE3WXU and Joyce VA3WXU passed around a new brochure showing what the Elmira Radio Club is and does. This brochure is made so it can be used for more than one occasion. Judd advised they would like to know who would like to participate, such as VHF and UHF operators. Judd VE3WXU advised we still do not have

a firm time for setting up on Friday Afternoon or a formal approval from the maple syrup committee to be in Lyons Hall.

Presentation: Terry VE3XTM did a presentation on SDR (software defined radio). Terry gave a little history SDR explaining that it originated with the military. As far as SDR for hams, it is fairly new.

The first commercially available unit was the flex 1000. Then there was the 3000, 1500, and 5000a.

More recently they the direct conversion radios like the Flex 6000. The basic premise of the SDR Radio is to covert the analog signal from the antenna to a digital signal. The software then does the rest.

Terry VE3XTM brought an ELAD Duo QRP radio with him. He had this hooked up to a laptop and we could see the SDR virtual radio on the screen showing the bands and frequencies available.

Two types of software are available for your computer SDR Sharp and HDSDR.

It was a very interesting presentation. Thanks Terry!

Dates for ERC meetings 2016:

Jan 27, 2016 - DMR digital voice capable portable radio (15 min) Gregory Smith.

FEB 24, 2016 - SDR Radio update (Terry VE3XTM)

Mar 23, 2016 - Digital Modes PSK (Dennis VE3UTN). Also Maple syrup preps.

April 27, 2016 - ?

May 25, 2016 - elections

June 22, 2016 - Financial reports and CRA return. Field day also in June.

July and August - no meetings.

September 28, 2016

Oct 26, 2016

Nov 23, 2016

Dec Christmas party

SPECIAL NOTICE

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS

Because of difficulties and problems for the Newsletter mailing site, I have created a new account on g-mail. For any future submissions or correspondence, please use the following e-mail address

bobve3ixx@gmail.com

I apologize for the problems that have been experienced and for the inconvenience.

Bob Koechl VE3IXX (Editor)

Paul, VE3PVB, sent me the following new product update from the Southgate Amateur Radio Club in London England.

Southgate Amateur Radio News

G0KSC design 40m rotating dipole to take the market by storm

G0KSC has again broken from tradition and introduced a new design, this time a 40m rotating dipole.

The **Delta C-140** is under 12m wide and despite being small has an extremely high radiating efficiency which is reflected in the antennas SWR bandwidth, the whole 40m band in under 1.5:1 without an ATU.



So how has this been done? Many hams and antenna companies have made the mistake of installing low efficiency coils far too close to the dipole centre. The Delta C-140 uses a combination of capacity loading and large diameter coils moved out much further out either side of

the dipole and this has given the antenna its unique wide bandwidth, high efficiency characteristics.

The Delta C-140 is substantially built with a centre section of some 50mm diameter and thus does not require any guying. Marine grade stainless steel is used throughout. High efficiency means high power ratings too and 5KW is not a problem for this amazing antenna.

If you want to be heard and radiate most of what you put into your antenna on 40m, the Delta C-140 is your choice but be quick, wait times are already approaching 4 weeks!

http://www.innovantennas.com/antennas-a-accessories/on-line-shop/view/productdetails/virtuemart_product_id/501/virtuemart_category_id/81.html

MURPHY'S LAW

AND HAM MEETINGS By Bob Koechl VE3IXX

Some of the newsletter readers may be wondering why the February newsletter is coming out in March.

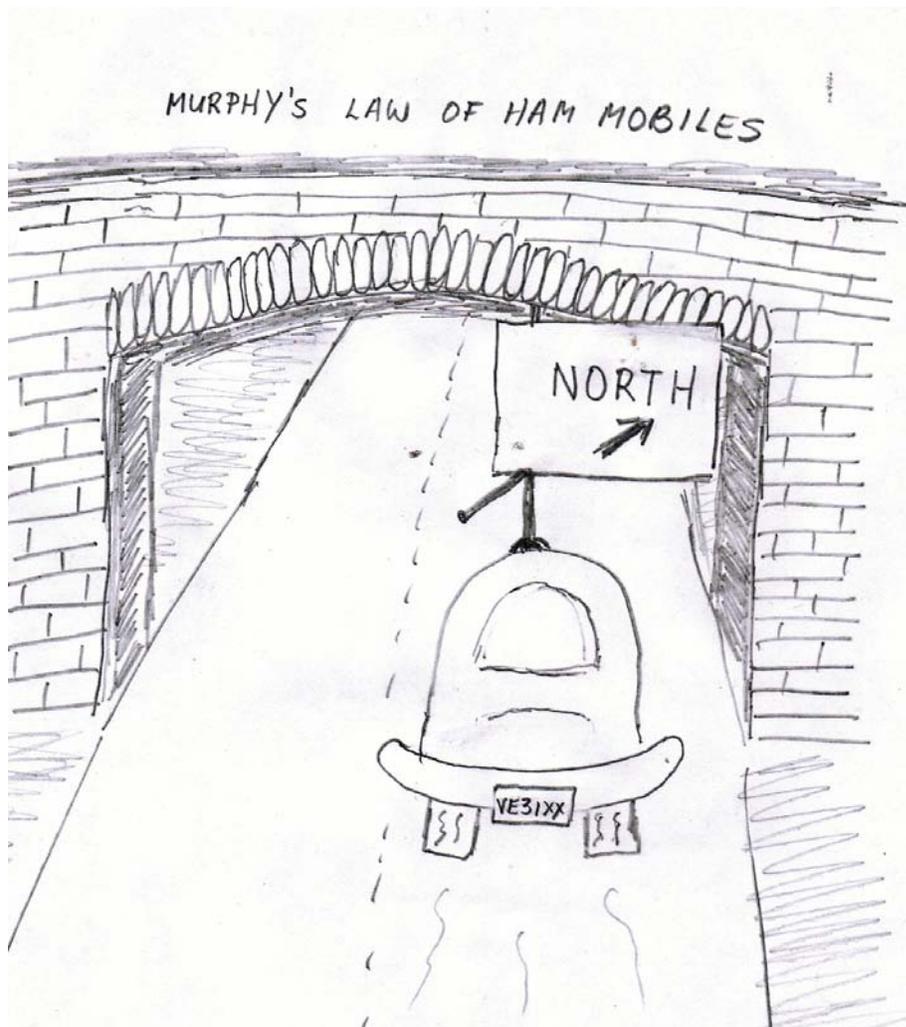
The answer is simple and has to do with Murphy's Law. The law says: "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong." A corollary for ham radio meetings in winter could go as follows: "If a club meeting is scheduled on a Wednesday night in mid winter, it will be just the night for a major winter storm."

And that is just what happened last Wednesday night. It didn't matter that the days previous and the days after contained lovely weather. Wednesday night had a severe winter storm pass through.

Consequently, the meeting had to be postponed till the next week which was March 2.

We offer our apologies. The weather and Murphy are two things out of our control.

Bob VE3IXX



WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

MARCH 9 - TED VE3TRQ
MARCH 16 - AL VA3TET
MARCH 23 - MEETING
MARCH 30 - BILL VE3ETK
APRIL 6 - REG VE3RVH
APRIL 13 - PAUL VE3PVB
APRIL 20 - BOB VE3IXX
APRIL 27 - MEETING
MAY 4 - JUDD VE3WXU



REMEMBER WHEN: The picture shows Bruce VE3QB, and Andy VE3CDF at the controls of the station at the Hammond Museum. The date was September of 2007 when the two were members of the now-defunct Fergus Amateur Radio Club.