



# THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

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## President's Update for April 2016



**A**pril was a terrific month for ERC.

The fun began with a terrific display at the Elmira Maple Syrup festival. The club table(s) [that is, we sort of stretched out a bit!!] occupied the entire back corner and had a real touch of professionalism in the handouts and signs. The flashing "ON AIR" sign that Frank provided was eye-catching. Thank you to the entire committee under co-chairs, Joyce and Judd, for the fine showing.

Our presentation to the Woolwich Council was also well-received. I met with Chief Rick Pederson, Deputy Chief Dale Martin and Woolwich CAO Dave Brenneman prior to the council meeting to discuss our club's aspirations for the future. They seemed amenable to our presence at the new fire hall—we discussed possible sources of funding, and I affirmed that we would be willing to apply for any grants or funding to help with the costs of coax, antennae and equipment. I suggested that a small room that could house our equipment would be in sync with what other clubs such as Norfolk (NARC) have. The handheld contact Judd had with Alabama during the presentation as well as John's "GO box" demo left a positive and memorable impression. In one of those "teachable moments", the Elmira Cubs were on the agenda just prior to our presentation, so John gave a quick demonstration of the GO box. Well Done, team!!!!

The Canada Colours company/SULCO citizen advisory committee (CAP) met on April 20, and I was pleased to, again, provide an update on what we can do in a disaster. There will be an information/training session on June 7, 8, 9 for the CAER group that will focus on off-loading trailers and railcars. Although REACT will be participating with their DRONE, there is really no need to us to participate as a club, since we do NOT put ourselves in harm's way. I will be there as a member of the CAP so I can report to you in June.

As part of our emergency protocol, please remember to check into our VHF/UHF repeaters as well as LSB 3.750 for directions and information in any emergency. If commercial comms/cells/phones/internet are down, our radios may be the only way for us to organize ourselves. We also need to formulate a long-range repeater "band plan". As we look at moving off the feed mill, I propose that we locate our Fusion UHF repeater to a member's home where there is backup generator power, internet and a tower. Our VHF repeater and MESH and LF systems can sit at the fire hall. If we need to recover cash, we might look at selling all or one of our backup repeaters. An antenna at the Woolwich Arena as well as at the Breslau Operations Centre is also on our wish list, so time will tell if our entreaties have any affect, As always, municipal money is hard to get—a case of deep pockets and short arms!

In closing, please STAY ACTIVE! STAY INVOLVED!

Regards, Rich, ve3DCC.

## Our Sweet Contacts

by Joycee Hodge (VA3WXU)

I believe our objective for running a special event station at the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival was met this year. We did this by using our radio skills to make contacts and to achieve our goals of promoting the Festival, the hobby of Amateur Radio in general, and the Elmira Radio Club specifically.

The co-chairs of this event, want to thank all the members who showed up and lent a hand, put up antennas, tuned radios, made contacts, and promoted the club by talking to several vendors and visitors. Their efforts and their contributions added a friendly ambience that made our event station a success. This includes: Rich (VE3DCC), Al (VA3TET), Reg (VE3RVH), Bob (VE3IXX), Bonnie (VA3IXX), Paul (VE3PDC), Jim (VE3JMU), Doris and Harry (VE3EIX), Ken (VE3KCY), John (VE3JXX), Kathy (VA3KXX), Dennis (VE3UTN), Frank (VA3FJM), Ted (VE3TRQ), Tracy and Jason (VE3JVG) and Tom (VE3DXQ).

Some of the differences between this year's festival and last year's, was that the weather was much more amenable for raising antennas. We had several members helping to set up our tables which were adorned with black sheets emblazoned with our name in gold. We had three information boards and a glowing "ON AIR" light made by Frank (VA3FJM) next to our banner. We also added a CW station along with other modes including HF and digital. A squawk box was available for visitors to be able to hear what was on the radio and we handed out more brochures to visitors than we did last year. Two other things of interest that happened, is that one of the other vendors read our brochure and invited our club to come to his special event in August in order for us to promote it. The other thing that was interesting was that we made a CW contact with a Michigan Ham who will also be promoting a different Maple Syrup Festival in a few weeks.



Dennis ve3utn and Paul ve3pdc hooking up the 80M dipole.



This year children made a special impact on what we we did. Dennis's (VE3UTN) grandson Michael was a great help to his grandfather and to others. When Judd (VE3WXU) and I arrived on Saturday at 6:00 A.M., they were already there. They were also amongst those who left the latest that afternoon. Michael was a real trouper and an asset for our club. I am proud to say that under my close supervision, he made his first radio contact using my handy with Ted (VE3TRK). There is no doubt that he will follow in the footsteps of "Grandpa" in the near future and become a great Ham.

Several other children stopped at our table to watch and listen to what was going on. Some of them also received a tutorial about digital ham radio.



Our little friend Nate from last year, (the youngster in the wheelchair) reappeared and kept us company for a lengthy amount of time. He had a new experience when John (VE3JXX) introduced him to CW. Listening to the timbre of the "dah-di-dah-dit, dah-dah-di-dah", triggered a huge smile on his face. He was completely entranced by the sound of the dots and dashes, as if it was a musical song of some sort.

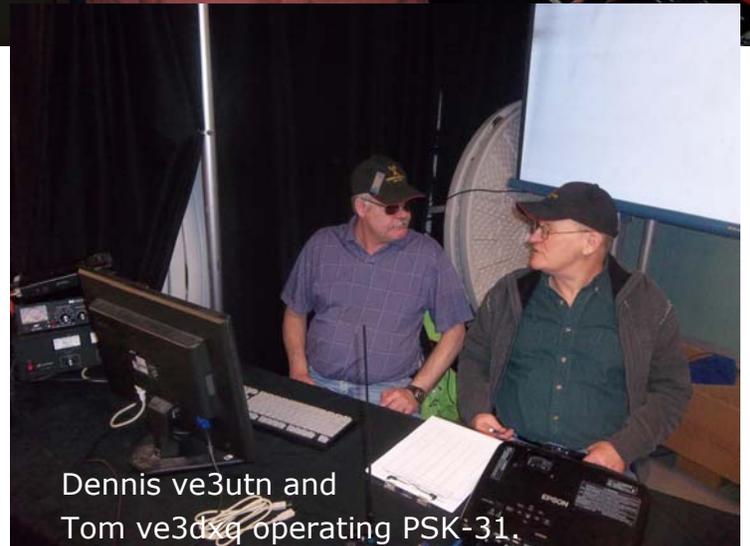
Something else in the background also caught Nate's ear. It was the synthesized voice that was rebroadcasting the phrase, "VE3ERC - Repeater". Our young friend liked hearing that phrase so much that whenever he heard it, he started repeating it out loud, "V E 3 E R C", in such a way that it sounded more like a cheer encouraging our team to



Judd ve3wxu making vhf contacts on the ERC repeater.



Joyce va3wxu and Bob ve3ixx running ONTARS.



Dennis ve3utn and Tom ve3dxg operating PSK-31.

win, rather than just a simple repetition.

At the end of the day the membership of the Elmira Radio Club grew by one because we made Nate an honorary member.

In the wake of the memory of this year's festival, we will be looking forward to next year's festival and hoping that we can make it even better than this year.



There was lots of activity at the ERC booth for the Maple Syrup Festival.

*Rich, VE3DCC forwarded me this following announcement from RAC.  
It was posted on the South Halton ARES Group website:*

## Ontario distracted driving legislation and Amateur Radio

Posted on April 23, 2016 by southhaltonares



From the RAC Director of Ontario South:

Ontario distracted driving legislation and Amateur Radio  
Calling All Ontario-based Amateur Radio Clubs and ARES Groups

As you may well know, Amateur Radio operators in Ontario are enjoying a time-limited exemption under the Highway Traffic Act's distracted driving regulations, allowing us the use of mobile 2-way communications apparatus until January 1, 2018.

However, that day is approaching faster than we think. Amateur Radio operators have been utilizing mobile communications equipment safely and responsibly since before cellular telephony was popular and affordable. In addition, the equipment that can be found in the vehicles of thousands of hams across Canada translates to an instantly available means of communications in time of disaster – a network of no cost to the served agencies who may depend on it. Every other Province and Territory in Canada has recognized the value of this fact, amongst others, and have granted us permanent exemptions in their laws respectively. Now it's time to ensure that Ontario does the same.

I am spear-heading the effort to lobby the MTO to make the exemption under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Regulation 366/09 permanent to all certified Amateur Radio operators, but I need help. I am looking to compile the following documentation from as many individual sources as possible:

**Priority 1 – Letters from Served Agencies – Government:** I would like every club and ARES/Emcomm group in Ontario that has a good relationship with the agencies they provide auxiliary communications to (i.e.: municipalities, emergency services), to get signed letters from people within those agencies (i.e.: elected municipal representatives, members of emergency services, CEMC/PEMC) outlining the vital importance of Amateur Radio in their emergency communications strategy/strategies.

**Priority 2 – Letters from Served Agencies – NGOs:** Similarly to the above, I would like letters from Non-Governmental Organizations (i.e.: relief agencies, hospitals) outlining the services that Amateur Radio operators and organizations provide to them, and their importance to their operations in time of need.

**Priority 3 – Letters from NFPs:** In addition, I would like letters from Not-For-Profit groups that your club or organization provide communications to on a volunteer basis, emergency-related or not (i.e.: parades, runs/walks, special events) detailing what you provide for them and their importance.

The letters I'm requesting do not have to reference the HTA or distracted driving – I simply want to put as many letters in front of the MTO as possible outlining our importance to the municipalities, NGOs and NFPs we serve. I believe it will be this documentation, above all else,

that will help secure our permanent exemption and put this matter to rest once and for all. I would like to have all of this documentation in hand by no later than March 31, 2016 so that I can assess what we have and plan our next moves.

If you should have any questions, comments or concerns, I would love to hear from you, and am reachable by any of the means listed below.

vy 73 de VA3QR

Phil A. McBride, VA3QR / VA3KPJ, CEC  
Director – Ontario South, Radio Amateurs of/du Canada  
Mobile: +1 (416) 884-0480  
E-Mail: va3qr@rac.ca

(Note: While the March 31,2016 date has passed I am sure Phil will still be interested in hearing from anyone with more information on this topic- Editor)



## CANWARN

Once again Geoff Coulson Environment Canada is presenting the Canwarn training session for those who might be interested in participating in the weather-watch program. It is a free workshop at the following location;

**May 4 – Waterloo – 7 PM – Adult Recreation Centre, 185 King St. S, Waterloo**

geoff.coulson@canada.ca

### Geoff Coulson

Warning Preparedness Meteorologist |  
Météorologue de sensibilisation aux alertes  
Ontario Region Client Services |  
Service à la clientèle, Région de l'Ontario  
Environment Canada | Environnement Canada  
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada  
4905 Dufferin St | 4905 rue Dufferin  
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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)

**Beaufort Wind Scale (using Miles per hour and Knots)**  
**Developed in 1805 by Sir Francis Beaufort, U.K. Royal Navy**

Beaufort Wind Force Scale							
Number	Wind speed		Description	Wave height		Sea Conditions	Land Conditions
	mph	kts		m	ft		
0	<1	<1	Calm	0	0	Flat	Calm. Smoke rises vertically.
1	1-3	1-2	Light air	0.1	0.33	Ripples without crests.	Wind motion visible in smoke.
2	3-7	3-6	Light breeze	0.2	0.66	Small wavelets. Crests of glassy appearance, not breaking	Wind felt on exposed skin. Leaves rustle.
3	8-12	7-10	Gentle breeze	0.6	2	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break; scattered white caps	Leaves and smaller twigs in constant motion.
4	13-17	11-15	Moderate breeze	1	3.3	Small waves.	Dust and loose paper raised. Small branches begin to move.
5	18-24	16-20	Fresh breeze	2	6.6	Moderate (1.2 m) longer waves. Some foam and spray.	Branches of a moderate size move. Small trees begin to sway.
6	25-30	21-26	Strong breeze	3	9.9	Large waves with foam crests and some spray.	Large branches in motion. Whistling heard in overhead wires. Umbrella use becomes difficult. Empty plastic garbage cans tip over.
7	31-38	27-33	High wind, moderate gale, near gale	4	13.1	Sea heaps up and foam begins to be blown in streaks in wind direction.	Whole trees in motion. Effort needed to walk against the wind. Swaying of skyscrapers may be felt, especially by people on upper floors.
8	39-46	34-40	Fresh gale	5.5	18	Moderately high waves with breaking crests forming spindrift. Streaks of foam.	Twigs broken from trees. Cars veer on road.
9	47-54	41-47	Strong gale	7	23	High waves (6-7 m) with dense foam. Wave crests start to roll over. Considerable spray.	Larger branches break off trees, and some small trees blow over. Construction temporary signs and barricades blow over. Damage to circus tents and canopies.
10	55-63	48-55	Whole gale, storm	9	29.5	Very high waves. Large patches of foam from wave crests give the sea a white appearance. Considerable tumbling of waves with heavy impact. Large amounts of airborne spray reduce visibility.	Trees are broken off or uprooted, saplings bent and deformed, poorly attached asphalt shingles and shingles in poor condition peel off roofs.
11	64-72	56-63	Violent storm	11.5	37.7	Exceptionally high waves. Very large patches of foam, driven before the wind, cover much of the sea surface. Very large amounts of airborne spray severely reduce visibility.	Widespread vegetation damage. More damage to most roofing surfaces, asphalt tiles that have curled up and/or fractured due to age may break away completely.
12	≥73	≥64	Hurricane force	≥14	≥46	Huge waves. Sea is completely white with foam and spray. Air is filled with driving spray, greatly reducing visibility.	Considerable and widespread damage to vegetation, a few windows broken, structural damage to mobile homes and poorly constructed sheds and barns. Debris may be hurled about

**WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS****MAY 4 - JUDD VE3WXU****MAY 11 - TED VE3TRQ****MAY 18 - AL VA3TET****MAY 25 - M E E T I N G****JUNE 1 - REG VE3RVH****JUNE 8 - PAUL VE3PVB****JUNE 15 - BOB VE3IXX****JUNE 22 - M E E T I N G****JUNE 29 - JUDD VE3WXU**

## VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

*Minutes from April 27, 2016*

### 1. Open and roll call.

VA3TET Al, VE3DXQ Tom, VE3WXU Jud, VA3WXU Joyce, VE3DCC Rich, VA3PDC Paul, VE3IXX Bob, VE3PVB Paul, VE3JXX John, VE3QB Bruce, VE3QB Bruce, VE3RVH Reg, VA3DXK Brian, John VE3JXX, VE3UTN Dennis, VA3FJM Frank, VE3XTM Terry, VE3CXU Doug, VE3KCY Doug, VA3JVG Jason, VE3TRQ Ted, VE3CUR Rob, VE3CDF Andy,

The VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc was opened at 7:30 Pm by the Club President Rich. Rich then asked for a roll call. Present as listed above.

Rich opened the meeting by going briefly over the evening's agenda. Also he mentioned about Frank's presentation on LEDs next month. During the roll call when he got to Paul VE3PVB he mentioned that he had a copy of the book about poynting vector antennas that Paul VE3PVB and Ted Hart had worked on. The book was passed around.

Reg VE3RVH passed a card around for Bill Graham VE3ETK for members to sign. Bill is in the Grand River Hospital.

### 2. Report by Rich VE3DCC club president, on the year and hopes for the future:

Rich thanked those present for their support over the past 2 years and said it was fun and stress free. Rich made an analogy comparing Santa and his reindeer to our club. Who is driving Santa or the reindeer? Rich suggested it is the reindeer that drive Santa. He also stated that

what we do is both generous and leading edge. This club is an exciting collection of people. This year has seen a significant evolution of our club. We became incorporated and now have an affiliation with RAC. This offers us a measure of protection. We have also built a public persona over the past 2 years. We have installed 2 fusion repeaters at the fire hall, and started work on a mesh network. Rich VE3DCC also advised we will eventually have an HF station at the fire hall which can be used before meetings.

Rich advised our dues and cost structure has changed due to our RAC affiliation, and costs of new equipment, which is an investment in our future. We hope to firm up our relationship with the fire department so we can have an antenna at the new fire hall, the Arena, as well as the EOC in Breslau.

John VE3JXX will be helping with this effort. Rich advised that we would front a request to the Fire Chief and deputy Chief for funding of this effort if they can find a source. Rich VE3DCC, John VE3JXX, and Al VA3TET will continue with this effort.

Rich advised that before our June meeting he would like us to think about a repeater band plan. He would like us to have a site that has IRLP, power, backup power, a tower, and internet. John VE3JXX has generously offered his site. We presently have 4 repeaters. We should consider selling two of them.

Rich thanked everyone and asked if there were any questions. None came up.

### 3. Treasurer's Report by Reg:

Reg advised that Ted Smith will be our accountant and that we have until January to get the books done.

Reg handed out a financial statement for the year, which showed Cash on hand, disbursements and balance. Reg has a meeting with Ted Smith on May 4, 2016.

Reg made a motion to have Financial Report accepted. Al VA3TET seconded it. All were in favor.

### 4. Election of Officers

Rich VE3DCC opened nominations from the floor. Paul VE3PVB nominated Joyce Hodge VA3WXU for club president and Rich VE3DCC seconded it.

Jud VE3WXU nominated Ted VE3TRQ for president. Ted declined the nomination as he wants to work on the club web site. Rich VE3DCC asked for more nominations 3 more times. No further nomination for President. Joyce VA3WXU accepted the nomination and all in favor. Joyce will be our new president.

Rich opened nominations for Vice President. Paul VE3PVB nominated John Scheeringa for Vice President seconded by Rich VE3DCC. Rich asked 3 more times for nominations for Vice President. None were forthcoming. John VE3JXX accepted the nomination -all in favor.

Rich opened nominations for Treasurer. Paul VE3PVB nominated Reginald Horney VE3RVH for treasurer.



The Club congratulated Doug VE3CXU on his 80th birthday.

Rich seconded the nomination. Reg VE3RVH accepted the nomination. Rich VE3DCC asked for nominations for treasurer 3 more times and none were forthcoming. Reg remains our club treasurer.

Rich opened nominations for Secretary. Paul VE3PVB nominated Tom Mahony VE3DXQ. Rich VE3DCC seconded the nomination. Rich asked for nominations 3 more times, none were forthcoming. Tom VE3DXQ accepted the nomination and will remain as secretary.

Rich VE3DCC opened nominations for Trustee. Paul VE3PVB nominated Alan Macdonald VA3TET for the position of trustee. Rich VE3DCC seconded the nomination. Rich asked for nominations 3 more times and none were forthcoming. Alan VA3TET accepted the nomination and remains trustee.

5. Minutes from the previous meeting business arising including old business:

Tom VE3DXQ advised that the only old business was a point of order from the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and the minutes at that meeting were not accepted. Tom VE3DXQ made a motion that the minutes from the ERC March meeting be accepted. This was seconded by Al VE3TET -carried.

5a. Status of our repeaters: Al advised we should look at having an offsite repeater with backup power. He advised it will probably be a UHF repeater. Rich advised we could use the ONTARS frequency 3.755 Mhz if nothing else was available. We could also use our simplex frequency 147.510 Mhz.

Al VA3TET advised we will have to invest in batteries for the backup site and also that he has acquired a battery charging system from Bill Riddell. John VE3JXX advised he has a backup generator at his place and Ted has a 1500V/A UPS system available, but it needs new batteries. Also should have internet for our IRLP. Bruce VE3QB advised he could donate 3 batteries. Rich VE3DCC advised we should think this over for our next meeting.

5b. Maple Syrup Day:

Joyce VA3WXU gave the following report.

Keeping in mind that our purpose to be involved in the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival is to promote both our club and the Festival at the same time, I think we did a good job doing just that.

For example: We advertised in advance of the day of the festival, that the Elmira Radio Club would be in Lion's Hall running a special event station there. We did this by posting it on our Facebook account and our Twitter Account. Judd tweeted to several people including the Observer about what we would be doing at the festival. Then, the Observer re-tweeted Judd's tweet to all the people who follow the Observer that amounted to approximately 1250 more people receiving the tweet.

We were also contacted the next day by the Editor of the Observer.

Judd explained what we would be doing at the festival in greater detail and then the editor wrote a small paragraph about us in the Observer the next day.

Like last year, several of our members came out again to put up and take down antennas and displays. When we finished setting up, it was clear that our "spot" looked much, much better than last year. For example, the presence of Frank's "On Air" light twinkling next to our banner that was hung up high caught many people's eyes and drew the visitors to our spot. In tandem, the projection of the digital information on the screen brought several people to a full stop to see what was going on at our tables. The addition of the Squawk Box allowed visitors to interact with us by hearing what was on the radio. Also different from last year, we spruced up our tables with table cloths emblazoned with our club's name, along with three information boards. Many of our members made face to face contacts interacting with the visitors and the other vendors. We also made 5 CW contacts, 25 HF, 1UHF, and 11 digital. Several visitors read our brochure and perused the pictures and information that was on the display boards. Many more people took our brochure home than last year. Also, different from last year, was that even the

vendors made their way down to our spot to find out who we were and what we were doing. One of them has even invited us to come to a special event in order to promote it (and us). This year a greater amount of children and their parents participated in what we were doing and we had two children that made supervised contacts with Ted using my hand held. The presence of Michael (Dennis's grandson) throughout the whole day was awesome. He was quite the trouper in that he arrived there before 6:00 o'clock in the morning and helped clean up at the end of the day.

Having said all that, we did nevertheless have some issues that need addressing for next year. Amongst them are:

- When we wear our club shirts and hats at events, we present the club not only handsomely, but professionally. The problem is that not every club member has a shirt or a hat to wear. It may be time for our club to think about ordering shirts and hats for those who do not have one.
- Another issue was that there was only one person at our station left all alone all by herself, for two hours holding down the fort. And, on Friday night, we had no operators on HF or on digital. When John and Ken arrived that night, they did a fine demonstration of CW that interested several people and kept us up and running. This suggests that next year we may need more volunteers and a schedule of who wants to do what and when they prefer to do it.
- Other issues mentioned by others as well was that we should have more interactivity with the visitors next year and that we should not block the visitors by sitting in front of the tables. Getting a giant poster of our QSL card would also have added an extra punch to our display. Finally, because of the signal interference we experience in that corner, maybe we should be looking for a new venue in which to set up our tables, somewhere else, like for example in the arena.



Joyce VA3WXU giving her presentation on the Maple Syrup Festival.

P.S. A thank you letter has been written and sent to Doug already that included a clear intention that we would like to come back to the festival next year..

5c The Lighthouse project: Nothing to report.

5d Retrofit for the firewall (Mesh-network). There are software issues with the existing antenna. We may have to go with older hardware.

5e Please, in the event of an emergency, check/monitor UHF/VHF/HF 3.770 for directions and info. Keep transmissions succinct.—do not rag chew during an exercise or emergency. Follow up to our council presentation and meeting with Chief Pederson, Dep. Chief Martin and CAO Brenneman.

5f Field Day report. There was discussion of the windy weather at last year's field day.

5g Flea Market: Al advised that the flea market is dwindling. Terry VE3XTM advised that the site in Cambridge is small and also people are buying more things on line. There was discussion of possible new locations, such as the Lions Hall, or the Arena in Elmira.

4. Other Business: Paul VE3PVB and Al VA3TET gave an interesting talk on the geometry of poynting Vector antennas. Specifically 3 projects x, y, and z.

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 – Late start 7:30 pm

May 25, 2016 – elections and LED presentation by Frank VA3FJM

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

July and August - no meetings.

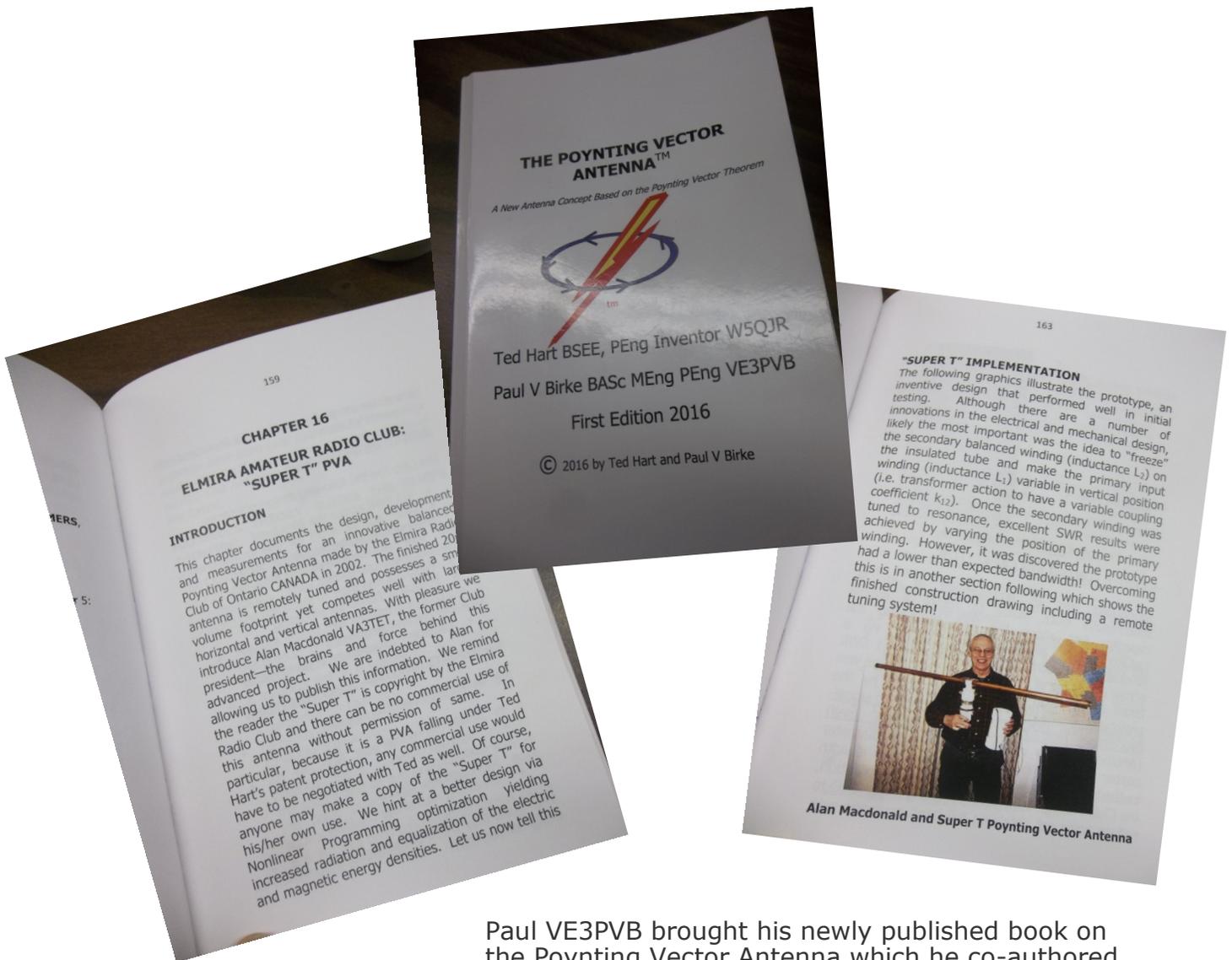
Sept 28, 2016

Oct 26, 2016

Nov 23, 2016

Dec 14, 2016 Christmas Party

Meeting Closed at 9:15 pm.



Paul VE3PVB brought his newly published book on the Poynting Vector Antenna which he co-authored with Ted Hart.