



MAY 2016

Volume 5 Issue 5

# 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

**Emergency Reminder:**  
**In the event of an**  
**emergency, tune into**  
**our repeaters,**  
**UHF 444.700 or**  
**VHF 147.390 or**  
**Low Band 3.755 LSB or**  
**Simplex 147.510**  
**for**  
**coordination and**  
**assignments.**

Jim VE3JMU dismantling the beam antenna at the QTH of Bruce VE3QB.

# THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

## President's Update for May 2016

I am pleased to announce our new executive slate effective September 2016. Joyce (va3WXU), John (ve3JXX), Tom (ve3DXQ), Reg (ve3RVH) and Al (va3TET) were acclaimed as president, vice-pres, secretary, treasurer and trustee respectively.

Please remember that our constitution and incorporation requires two year rotations. As our club grows in knowledge and scope, it is vital that each of us consider serving a term in the executive to keep the organization "crisp" and to offer our personal "touch".

As part of our emergency protocol, please remember to check into our VHF/UHF simplex frequencies 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. Woolwich Council is now aware of our emerg wish list, so time will tell if our entreaties have any affect.

I will close by including my verbatim "President's Report" at our April 27<sup>th</sup> very first Annual General Meeting ..... I said the following:

First, I would like to thank you for your support in my 2 years as president. It has been fun and stress-free. It is traditional in the President's report, at an AGM -- this, our first-- to look backwards and forwards.

In many ways, chairing an organization is like playing Santa Claus. The jolly old elf in the red suit gets to ride the sleigh and looks like he knows what he is doing and where he is going. The reality is that the reindeer are the ones who know how to fly, and they know where to go. And, truly, we have top-notch reindeer in this club!!! Thank You for your support and guidance.

This club is truly an eclectic collection of people who have a common interest. What we do is truly both generous and leading edge. It is an opportunity to play with "toys" that we are legally licensed to abuse, while experiencing "the thrill" of discovery. In this regard, this year has seen a significant evolution for the club, driven by your wishes.

We have, of course, continued our traditions and activities of the past decade; however, we have now incorporated and affiliated with Radio Amateurs Canada. We carry insurance and so there is now SOME protection. We have built a public persona thru' the Maple Syrup Festival presence and active contact with senior Woolwich officials. We have used those reports we have written in a compelling case for space at the new fire hall. In the meantime, we have demonstrated leading edge tech right here in this fire hall with 2 Yaesu Fusion repeaters and MESH links. Shortly, we will have a low band station here so we can "check out" the HF frequencies prior to our meetings.

I have often pointed out that a club is not a bank—it is a forum to exchange ideas and to learn from each other. That said, it does take money to operate a viable organization, so we have modified our fee structure in the light of our incorporation, affiliation and insurance and SPENDING,--Spending, perhaps, more than we have spent in a while. Tonight, dues are "due". Please pay Reg asap.



As we move forward into the future, I am optimistic that we can firm up our affiliation with the fire service. I hope we can get our antennae at the new fire hall, the Breslau operations centre and the arena. This will take a continued presence and I trust that our presentation to Council on April 5<sup>th</sup> was a first step. I indicated to the CAO, Chief and Deputy Chief that we would front a request for funding if they could find a source. Deputy Chief Dale Martin attempted trillium funding when Al had approached him a few years ago. As a P squared, that is past president, I will try to stay on this file with the help of P cubed, Al, past past-president, and John who I think is a P to the fourth.... Or fifth.

Before my term ends, in June, I would like to ask you to think about a repeater "band plan"; specifically, putting a repeater at a member site that has backup power, internet irlp capability and a tower. John, JXX, has generously volunteered his site. We should also consider selling one or two of our old repeaters. We currently have 4 repeaters with one precariously located on the feed mill tower. Decisions need to be made and I will ask you to do that in our May meeting.

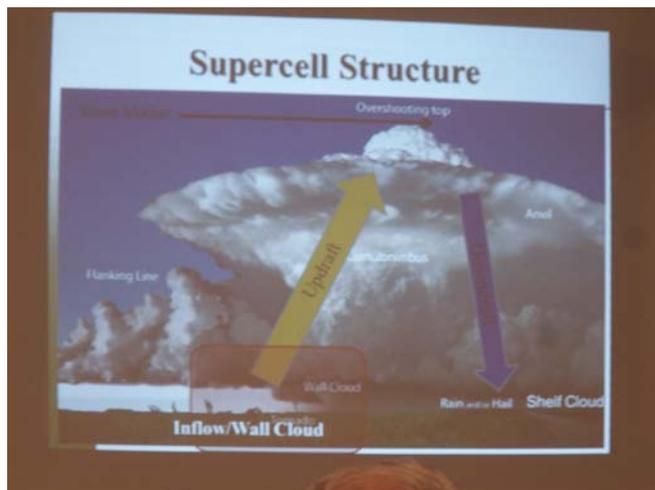
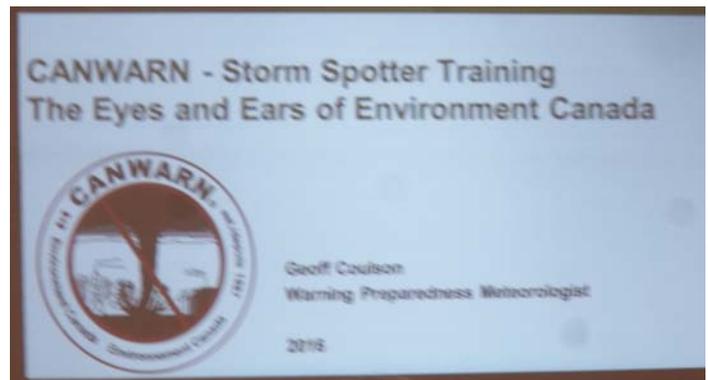
In closing, I thank you again for your part in making this club innovative, fun and exciting. After all, that is what we do!!!

de Rich, ve3DCC

# CANWARN

By Bob Koechl VE3IXX

On May 4, Geoff Coulson of Environment Canada presented the CANWARN workshop at the Adult Recreation Centre in Waterloo. A number of ERC members were attendees among the seventy or so people present.

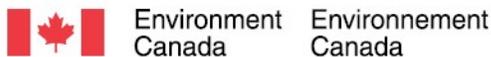


During the two hour session Geoff discussed various weather patterns to look for in his power point presentation. He discussed heavy rainstorms, severe hail and thunder storms, tornados and the damage lightning can inflict using some amazing video clips. He finished his talk with a segment on Safety.

At the end of the workshop, Geoff drew tickets to give away four Midland weather radios and yours truly was one of the lucky winners. Tom, VE3DXQ reminded me later that I am not totally unlucky.

On a more humorous note, Tom had wanted to ask Geoff why he always seemed to get the French segment whenever he turned on the weather station. This got me to thinking. I decided to try a very rudimentary experiment. At different times of the day, whenever I passed by my new radio I would turn it on and make a note if I got the English or French. Out of 20 times I got 12 French segments and only 8 English. Hardly scientific, but there's the results.

On the next few pages I am including some material Geoff sent me. These include a summary of the objectives of CANWARN, what things to report if you connect to one of the CANWARN nets and a multitude of resources available.



### **Environment Canada's CANWARN Storm Spotter Program**

Environment Canada's severe weather meteorologists have a variety of tools at their disposal to detect and track thunderstorm activity. These tools include Doppler weather radar, satellite imagery and a lightning detection network. This information can provide the meteorologists with a good sense of which storms may produce damaging weather like large hail, violent winds, flooding rains or tornadoes. However, they do not necessarily provide the meteorologist with a sense of what may be happening right at ground level. Therefore, real-time, on-the-ground information from trained spotters continues to be an integral part of Environment Canada's Severe Weather Watch and Warning Program.

CANWARN volunteers are trained to look for clues in the sky as to which storms may produce damaging weather. They can also report important information on hail size and any damage that has resulted from the passage of a storm. They can send in their reports directly to the Ontario Storm Prediction Centre through an unlisted, toll-free phone number, a special email address or through a local ham radio network if they are a ham radio operator. Information from all of these sources is monitored by the Weather Centre 24/7. Reports received by CANWARN volunteers often play an integral role in the decision to issue or update a warning bulletin for a given area and specific mention is often made of the type of information received by a storm spotter within the text of the warning bulletin.

CANWARN volunteers come from all walks of life; amateur radio operators, the Canadian Red Cross, first responders, municipal/provincial/federal government employees, teachers and many others. Environment Canada holds a series of training sessions across the province each spring to refresh the knowledge of existing volunteers and to welcome new volunteers to the program. The training normally lasts about 2 1/2 hours and there is no cost to attend. The training covers the basics of thunderstorm formation, what differentiates a severe from a non-severe thunderstorm, the types of damage severe thunderstorms can produce, what to watch for in the sky, what to report to the Storm Prediction Centre and a series of safety tips.

For more information on the program, please contact Warning Preparedness Meteorologist Geoff Coulson at [geoff.coulson@canada](mailto:geoff.coulson@canada).



# Reporting Tip Sheet

## **How to Report**

- Amateur radio network (if applicable) - Amateur Radio Condition  
Condition Codes: Code Green – Severe Thunderstorm Watch  
Code Yellow – Severe Thunderstorm Warning or Tornado Watch  
Code Red – Tornado Warning
- By phone at 1-800-444-WARN (9276)
- Email at [storm.ontario@ec.gc.ca](mailto:storm.ontario@ec.gc.ca)
- Twitter with hashtag #ONstorm

## **What Your Report Should Contain**

- Who – your name, CANWARN ID, contact number
- Where – your location and approx. location of what you are reporting
- What – describe what are witnessing/what you witnessed
- When – time of occurrence of event and duration
- Movement – where phenomenon came from and where it is going
- Confidence level

## **What to Report – Spring/Summer**

- Large Hail (use coins to describe size...nickel, quarter, loonie for larger hail...golf ball etc..)
- Heavy rain that has resulted in local flooding
- Damaging winds (damage from tree branches down to more significant tree or structural damage)
- Funnel Cloud
- Waterspout
- Tornado
- Dense fog – visibility less than 1 km

**What to Report – Fall/Winter**

- Dense fog – visibility less than 1 km
- Any occurrence of freezing rain or freezing drizzle
- Heavily accumulating snow (2 or more cm/hr)
- Whiteout conditions in snow/blowing snow (visibility near zero)
- Rapid freezing of water on road surfaces

**- Weather Resources –****Storm Spotter Websites**

<https://ecalertme.weather.gc.ca>

ECAAlertMe severe weather email alerting program

<http://www.theweathernetwork.com/public-alerts/#alert-twn>

Alert Ready

<https://google.org/publicalerts>

Google Public Alerts

<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/data/raw/ac/accn10.cwto..txt>

(Daily Severe Thunderstorm Potential Bulletin from Environment Canada)

<http://spotterguides.us/>

(SKYWARN spotter guides...American equivalent to CANWARN)

[www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf)

(NOAA Weather Spotters' Field Guide)

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=spotterglossary>

(Weather glossary for storm spotters)

<http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu/pdfs/snowbook.pdf>

(Guide to snow measurement for winter reports)

## **Lightning Information and Safety**

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/foudre-lightning>

<http://www.lightningmaps.org>

[http://weather.gc.ca/lightning/index\\_e.html?id=ONT](http://weather.gc.ca/lightning/index_e.html?id=ONT)

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors.htm>

[http://safety.dri.edu/FieldSafety/Guidelines/Lightning\\_Safety\\_Guideline.pdf](http://safety.dri.edu/FieldSafety/Guidelines/Lightning_Safety_Guideline.pdf)

## **More Internet Weather sites**

**Environment Canada's Weather website:** <http://weather.gc.ca>

**Weatheradio Information:** <http://ec.gc.ca/weatheradio>

**Types of Weather Alerts in Canada:**

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=D9553AB5-1>

**National Weather Service:** <http://w2.weather.gov/climate>

**Jetstream – Online Weather School** [\\_http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream/](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream/)

**WW2010 – Online Meteorology Course** [http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/home.rxml](http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/home.rxml)

**The Ohio State University (OSU)** Current and Forecast Weather Information -  
<http://asp1.sbs.ohio-state.edu/>

**Weather Observations**

<http://weatherobs.com>

**Unisys Weather** – Current and Forecast Weather Information

<http://weather.unisys.com/>

**Weather Underground** Current and Forecast Weather Information  
<http://www.weatherunderground.com/>

**Intellicast** Current and Forecast Weather Information <http://www.intellicast.com/>

**CoCoRaHS Volunteer Weather Observing Network**  
<http://www.cocorahs.org/Canada.aspx>

## **Smartphone Apps**

**Degrees**

**Radarscope**

**Storm (from intellicast)**

## **Books**

**Meteorology Today 8<sup>th</sup> Ed.** C.D Ahrens ISBN-10: 0-495-01162-2  
ISBN-13: 978-0-495-01162-0 © 2007

**The USA Today Weather Book: An Easy-To-Understand Guide to the USA's Weather,** by Jack Williams, Vintage Publishing

**The Weather Handbook,** by Alan Watts, ISBN 0-924486-76-7 Sheridan House Publishing

**National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Weather,** by David Ludlum, Knopf Publishing

**Guide to Weather Forecasting: All the Information You'll Need to Make Your Own Weather Forecast,** by Storm Dunlop, Firefly Books

# Spiderman? Maybe not...

By Joyce VA3WXU

**A**fter what has been a long, wet, and cool Spring, this past weekend finally gave us weather worthy of being outside and able to work on what is possibly a Ham's greatest possession... the tower. John (VE3JXX) and Judd (VE3WXU) both took advantage of doing just that very thing.

John's tower has been under construction for quite a while now. Judd, on the other hand, has just recently started the epic journey to reach Ham Heaven. It was an eye opener for me to watch the amount of work that is required in this "holy" endeavour. The first step starts with painting the tower sections.

With my help, Judd has painted one section of our tower. Although it was a smelly job, it was not completely unpleasant nor difficult. Once the section was dried, he contracted a friend of ours to dig a big hole in our yard in which we partially buried that section. The purpose of that was to secure the base of the tower.



When I told Al (VA3TET) and Jim (VE3JMU) at Wednesday Coffee Call that we had buried a partial of the section, they both gasped and gave me a look of wide-eyed, utter disbelief. (Apparently, those 4.5 feet count a whole lot in Ham Heaven.)

Not to worry though. A very, very, very tall multi-band HF vertical antenna will eventually be added to the top of our tower that will make up for the loss of having made a secured base.

Judd and I went to John's QTH on Sunday to help with handling the ropes for him in



order to add antennas on his tower. When I first saw John's tower, I could barely believe my eyes. He had not buried his first section underground. He used stubs instead of burying his first section of his tower and that made a big, big difference in the height of the tower. It looked as if the tower was literally in the clouds. And, it did not even have his last section mounted on the tower at that time.

Over the course of the day, John added many additions to his tower.

The first addition was the installation of the last section of the tower. That alone was an amazing accomplishment that left me in awe. Followed by that, was the installations of a VHF/ UHF vertical at the top, a VHF / UHF horizontal beam, and a mini tri-band Hybrid Quad.

One endearing moment that happened during the day was when a boy from across the street



noticed John on the tower and said, "Look Daddy, Spiderman!" His dad responded, "It's just John."

Well, John may not be Spiderman. But, he is some kind of a "HamParagon", strong, brave, and fearless who glides around in the sky doing remarkable things on very tall structures even better than any member of the "Cirque du Soleil" could possibly do.

And the good news is that the ERC club is blessed with many just like him.

Even though I may never go up on one, I have to admit that I have really enjoyed learning more about towers this weekend. I now understand the effort and hard work needed to erect a tower and the level of joy that it will bring the Ham who has one.



Simply put, it is a Ham's road to Nirvana.



## **WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**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**  
**JULY 6 - TED VE3TRQ**  
**JULY 13 - AL VA3TET**  
**JULY 20 - REG VE3RVH**  
**JULY 27 - PAUL VE3PVB**  
**AUGUST 3 - TRACY (VE3JVG)**

### **[RAC-Bulletin]**

#### **Canada 150: Special Event Prefixes for Canada's Sesquicentennial**

At the Dayton Hamvention, Radio Amateurs of Canada announced that it has secured permission for all Canadian Radio Amateurs to use special call sign prefixes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation.

National, regional and local events will take place throughout 2017 to celebrate the anniversary and Canadian Amateurs will let their counterparts around the world know of our celebration by using the following special prefixes:

- Amateurs and clubs whose regular call signs start with **VA** will be able to use the **CF** prefix instead of VA (for example, VA3RAC will be authorized to use the CF3RAC call sign.)
- Amateurs and clubs whose regular call signs start with **VE** will be able to use the **CG** prefix instead of VE (e.g., VE4RAC will be authorized to use CG4RAC).
- Amateurs and clubs whose regular call signs start with **VO** will be able to use the **CH** prefix instead of VO (e.g., VO1RAC will be authorized to use CH1RAC).
- Amateurs and clubs whose regular call signs start with **VY** will be able to use the **CI** prefix instead of VY (e.g., VY2RAC will be authorized to use CI2RAC).

These special prefixes are optional and Amateurs can choose if and when to use the special prefix vs their normal prefix at any time during the year. Stay tuned to the RAC website (<http://wp.rac.ca>) for additional information.

For more information on **Canada150** visit <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1342792785740>.

**Alan Griffin**  
**RAC MarCom Director**

# VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

*Minutes from May 25, 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, VA3QB Bill, VE3RVH Reg, VA3DXX Brian, VE3UTN Dennis, VA3FJM Frank, VE3XTM Terry, VE3KCY Ken, VA3JVG Jason, VE3TRQ Ted, VE3AHP Rob, VE3EIX Harry, VE3CSB Dave, VA3KXX Kathy, VA3GWM Gord, VE3RVH Reg. Tracy

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.

Reports and Announcements:

Rich VE3DCC advised that when he was at the Can-warn seminar he ran in to an old colleague. He is Richard Hepditch, the Waterloo fire department chief and he expressed that he always wanted to get his ham licence. Rich VE3DCC told him he could come by his place to see his station as well as find out how to get his ham licence. Rich VE3DCC said it would be nice to have him in our club.

Rich also said he spoke to Dave Brennan at a council meeting on Tuesday. Dave said he would like to have us involved in a demonstration of emergency preparedness next year, but it will not be the week of emergency preparedness like Guelph had this year.

Minutes from April 27, 2016 meeting: Tom VE3DXQ asked if there were any errors or omissions. None were mentioned. Tom made a motion to have minutes accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob VE3IXX.

Status of our repeaters: AL VA3TET said we are presently having a problem with our 2 meter repeater. He said they adjusted the squelch but are still getting distortion. He advised they will turn it up a notch and see if that corrects it. He said they will program the other repeater for 440 MHz and get it back up. He also received 2 repeaters from Bruce VE3QB. Al VA3TET advised there may be the possibility of adding a "go box" to one of them to make a mobile repeater. This would be good for emergency situations. The one repeater is the same as the one at the feed mill, a Kenwood. . The other is 2 transceivers wired back to back. This is the one that could be adapted for the mobile application. The club has a total of 5 repeaters. Ted VE3TRQ has the IRLP connected up at his place. Ted advised there is a newer version of IRLP using the "raspberry pie" as a controller. Ted said he has purchased one on spec.

Rich VE3DCC mentioned there are 2 motions coming up regarding repeaters. One is to relocate one of the UHF repeaters to VE3JXX John's place. The 2<sup>nd</sup> motion was to sell one or two of our repeaters at the June Flea market. Al VA3TET said he would like to sell the Kenwood repeater that he received from VE3QB Bruce. Al VA3TET made a motion to sell the Kenwood repeater at the Flea Market for \$125.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul VE3PVB. All were in favour except 2. Carried.

The other motion to move one of the UHF repeaters to VE3JXX John's place was put to the floor by Ken VE3KCY, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ted VE3TRQ and the motion carried. All in favour, one against.

The Treasurer's Report: Reg VE3RVH reminded those present that they have until the June meeting to come up with this year's dues. Reg said he welcomed help with the flea market. Reg also gave our current balance. Reg then asked that the treasurer's report be accepted as read. This was 2<sup>nd</sup> by John VE3JXX. All were in favour: carried.

**PLAN TO  
ATTEND**

**CENTRAL-  
ONTARIO  
HAMFEST**

**SUNDAY JUNE 5**

**FIELD DAY**  
**JUNE 25-26**

Hats and shirts are being ordered by AI VA3TET. A sheet was passed around so members could mark of their shirt size, and whether they wanted a hat and shirt.

Rich VE3DCC advised that he got the RAC magazine mailing address corrected so it goes to the High school and not the Library.

Tracy volunteered to bring coffee and cookies to the meeting. AL VA3TET made a motion that Tracy should be reimbursed for coffee. This was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joyce VA3WXU. All were in favour: carried. This will continue going forward.

Nominations committee: The new slate starting in starting in September will be: VA3WXU Joyce (president), VE3JXX John (vice president), VE3RVH Reg (treasurer), VE3DXQ Tom ( Secretary), VA3TET AI (trustee) with VE3DCC Rich (past president).

Incorporation and Constitution Committee: Rich VE3DCC said Reg VE3RVH is getting our books in order and we will be ready to file with revenue Canada in Sept/Oct. Reg said he spoke to Ted Smith our accountant and everything is in order to file. There was no problem with last year's filing.

Maple Syrup Day: Rich VE3DCC asked Joyce VA3WXU is there was anything to report. Nothing to report everything went well.

Safety Office committee: Tom VE3DXQ said no incidents to report.

Lighthouse Project: AI VA3TET has confirmed that we have the lighthouse for the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August. Everyone knows what they need to bring there will be a lunch on the Sunday which will require a small fee from everyone. Mushrooms and onions requested as last year.

Retro fit for the fire hall: John VE3JXX we will be putting up a 40 meter end fed antenna at the fire hall. John VE3JXX advised there are possibilities at the community center for operating a station.

Technical Reports: Already covered.

Ad Hoc emergency plan update; There was discussion on how we could be more involved with Can-warn. It was decided that this will be put on the back burner until the fall.

Field Day report: AI VE3TET advised he will not be at field day as he will be in England. That will be a go per Bob VE3IXX. As usual Antennas will be set up on Friday afternoon.

Flea Market: AI VA3TET advised will have three tables. We will also be running an Ontars station so we will need controllers.

QSL report: VA3WXU had nothing to report.

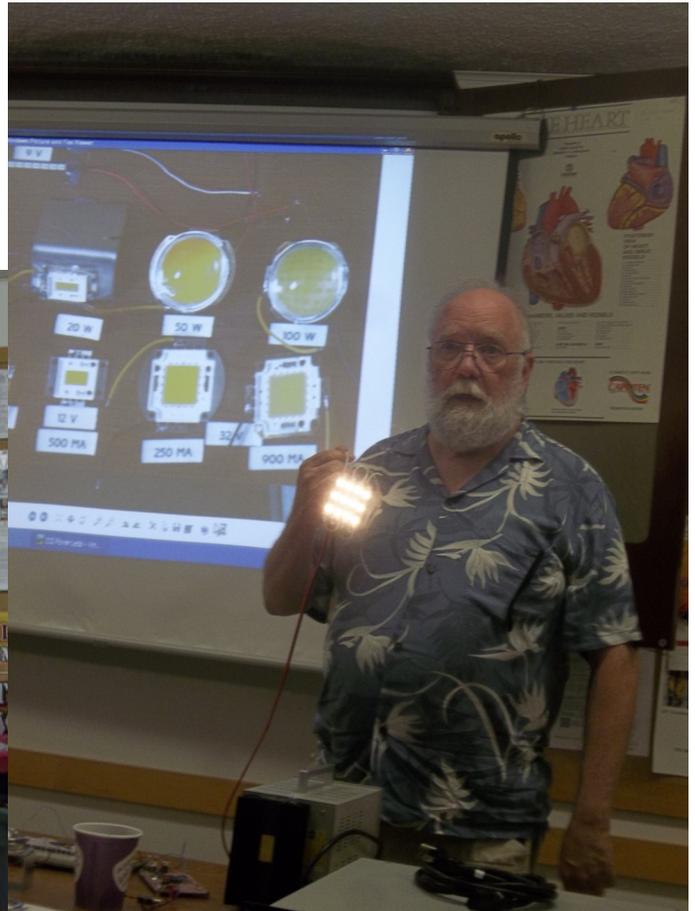
Rich mentioned the possibility ERC members going to Dayton next year.

AI VA3TET mentioned a deal regarding getting the new book on the poynting vector antenna. Ted Hart has run into some financial issues due to crop failure. The deal is to send \$100.00 U.S. to Ted and you will get it back in the fall along with a free book. See Paul VE3PVB to get the book.

AI Also mentioned Bill Graham is still in Grand River Hospital and not doing very. His cancer has spread. He appreciates the card we sent him.

Presentation: Frank Monteith on LED Technology. Frank gave a very interesting talk and displays on LED Technology. He explained the advantages of LED compared to Incandescent lights. LEDs produce very little heat and can be just as bright, especially with advances in the past 7 years.

Thanks Frank



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.