



JULY 2017

Volume 6 Issue 7

# VE3ERC-LUB



**President:** Joyce VA3WXU  
**Vice-President:** John VE3JXX  
**Secretary:** Tom VE3DXQ  
**Treasurer:** Reg VE3RVH  
**Trustee:** Al VA3TET  
**QSL Manager:** Judd VE3WXU  
**Repeater Manager & Maintenance:**  
 Carl VE3FEEF  
**Website Admin:** Ted VE3TRQ  
**Lighthouse:** Bruce VE3QB  
**Maple Syrup Display:** Judd VE3WXU  
 Joyce VA3WXU

**Newsletter:** Bob VE3IXX

## ERC REPEATERS

**UHF 444.700 TONE: 131.8**  
**UHF 444.700 TONE: 123.0**  
**VHF 147.390 + TONE: 123.0**  
**EMERGENCY SIMPLEX: 147.51**  
**UHF- IRLP node 2404**  
**VHF- IRLP node 2403, ECHOLINK node**  
 VE3ERC-R

**In an emergency, tune  
 Into our repeaters,  
 UHF 444.700 or  
 VHF 147.390 or  
 HF 3.755 LSB or  
 Simplex 147.510  
 For coordination and  
 assignments.**



Radio Amateurs  
du Canada



# THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE  
Radio-club is AVTIC-A-olbal

## President's Update for JULY 2017

### A New View.....

#### Members or Friends?

We had our first ever Canadian BBQ event this month that was meant to celebrate both Canada's sesquicentennial and more importantly, having club members and their wives getting together.

Al (VA3TET) and his wife Joan, graciously offered their house to be the venue for the BBQ. The trees in their back yard sheltered us from the sun and the cooling wind kept us quite comfortable. Al also did the cooking of the steaks and the stuffed potatoes. They could not have been any better if he had tried.

The visitors that came were Harold (VE3CD) and Edna, Bruce (VE3QB) and Rose, Bill (VA3QB) and Debbie, Ted (VE3TRQ) and Sandy, Jim (VE3JMU) and Mary, Paul (VE3PVB) and RoseMarie, Doug (VE3CXU) and Annette, Frank (VA3FJM) and Judy, Brian (VA3DXK), Judd (VE3WXU) and myself (VA3WXU). It was a great crowd.

Everyone brought food and every dish was finger-licking, lip-smacking scrumptious. (I know this because I tried them all).



All in all, the combination of a lovely venue, excellent weather, delicious food, and amiable people is the best recipe for the perfect get-together.

I always enjoy whenever our XYLs attends with their Hams. Those events feel more like a gathering of friends, than just club members.

I have been thinking about trying something new for us. I would want the Elmira Club to start the first "Lady Net" in this area where wives are speaking to the other wives. It would happen once a month and would last one hour. It would be the perfect practice ground for anyone who would like to come on the air. You will need your





husband to be in the room and use his call sign to get on the radio. If you would be interested in participating in this very special event, please let me know. I will make it happen, if it is wanted.

**73 Cheers - Joyce VA3WXU**



This photograph by an unknown photographer shows Guglielmo Marconi and assistant George Kemp when they received the first wireless transatlantic signal in 1901, a great Canadian First.

**CANADA 150**

**GREAT HISTORICAL  
MOMENTS**

## Our Field Day Was Great!

This year we decided to set up at the Fire Hall due to the risk of rain on both days. There were many members and visitors that came by to see how things were going. They were Harold (VE3CD), Bob (VE3IXX), Johan (VE3JBO), Reg (VE3RVH), Harry (VE3EIX), Brian (VA3DXK), Judd (VE3WXU), (me) Joycee (VA3WXU), John (VE3JXX), Kathy (VA3KXX), Al (VA3TET), Ted (VE3TRQ), Doug (VE3CXU), Rich (VE3DCC), and Richard (VE3NUL). Lots of people helped to raise the



that there was fire involved. Almost immediately, many men arrived at the fire hall, put on their turnout gear and their PPE, (personal protective equipment) got in



The intrepid field day set-up crew!

antennas and some people came to man the radios. We were running a combination made up of a dedicated CW station, a side band station, and a digital station. The bands we successfully worked were 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m and the magic 6m itself. In the end, we were very blessed with beautiful weather on Saturday and rain only once on Sunday. Two hundred plus contacts were made over the weekend.

Being at the firehall this year was very interesting. On Saturday we had the opportunity to watch the firemen practice their pump training. We did get a bit wet from their spray but it kept us cool during raising the antennas under the hot sun.

On Sunday, an alarm suddenly went off in the firehall. Someone's voice came on the radio stating that an explosion had gone off in a factory and



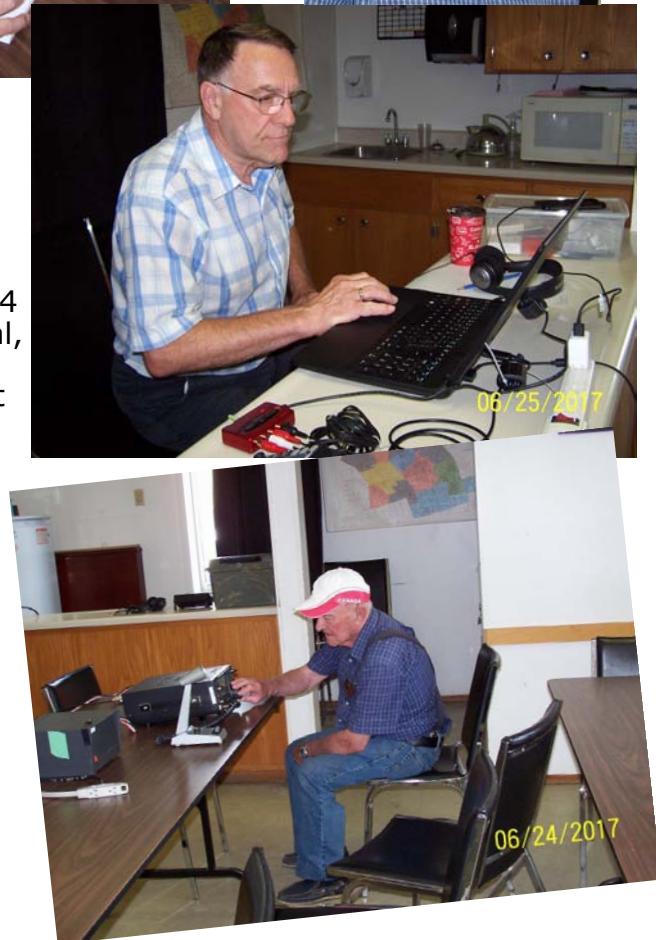


"their" truck, and left...all four trucks. It took about 14 minutes for the firemen to execute a very professional, unplanned turnout emergency. I was completely impressed. The Township of Woolwich have all the right to be proud of their volunteer firemen and their training.

By the way, the emergency was less than reported. No one was injured and all four trucks came back within two hours, or less.

Using the firehall this year for the venue was really interesting but, I missed not being able to see Bonnie, eating Bob's delicious pizza, the quietness in the county, and not getting to see Bob's neighbour's cows walking down to the fence in order to scrutinize us. I am sure that we will do our field days back there once again.

**Thanks to everyone who made our Field Day Great! 73 Joycee**



# Back-of-the-Napkin Eyeball

## QSO notes and stuff

by Rich, ve3DCC

S

ummer sure feels great; but, it is less than 2 short months to our new Ham Radio season and there is much to look forward to. There is no need for withdrawal symptoms!!!!

Our first meeting in September will be a great chance to compare notes and re-acquaint even though, the regular Ham gatherings at Monday Breakfast, Wednesday Breakfast and Saturday Breakfast will continue thru the summer to ensure that we do not lose touch. Our regular nets will also be "live".

Look forward to a Simulated Emergency Test for Ontario slated for Saturday October 14! These events are always a great opportunity to build our bridges with our emergency service providers and the township. Our optimism for equipment and antennae upgrades at the fire hall and the community centre is well-founded. If you have ideas for this day, do contact our president: Joyce va3WXU using [va3wxu@gmail.com](mailto:va3wxu@gmail.com)

October will also see our second annual Bill Graham dinner. Bill, (S.K.) ve3ETK , hosted the October meetings at his home in Kitchener. We will again gather at the Crossroads Restaurant in Elmira on October 25, before our meeting, to enjoy a supper and remember Bill and his contributions to the hobby. Be sure to book a seat by contacting Rich, ve3DCC using [raclausi@kw.igs.net](mailto:raclausi@kw.igs.net)

December will feature our infamous ERC Christmas Party. Santa Claus has made a surprise appearance these last few years. It is obvious that this club is definitely on his "Nice" list.

The new year will see Final details for our planned Ham Workshop/Seminar. Al, va3TET, is busy gathering ideas. This major endeavour will only succeed if we have interest from both presenters and participants. At this time we are surveying for ideas and considering the logistics of the event.

Our hope is to facilitate new and innovative thinking and experimentation. Some ideas that have been discussed include Quantum Communications, Spread Spectrum, Low Frequency antennae, Software coding and the like. Our format will probably be a one-day collection of workshops and demonstrations with a very modest cost to cover any expenses.

If you have something YOU would like to learn about, or if you have an idea you would like to share, Al would love to hear from you. Please sent him a note at

[almac01@outlook.com](mailto:almac01@outlook.com) or contact me at [raclausi@kw.igs.net](mailto:raclausi@kw.igs.net)

As with any hobby, this club can only go in the direction the membership determine and support.

Cheers,

**de Rich, ve3DCC.**

## Digital Training Net...by VE3WXU

Next month's training net will take place on 147.51 simplex and will be a simple check-in. Net Control will call for check-ins and will be listening for same. Participants are requested to have RXid turned on. Net Control will be broadcasting @ 1500hz on the waterfall using PSK-63 and will be transmitting TXid. Net start time will be @ 9pm local after the 2 meter FM net. Participants should respond with: "VE3WXU de 'YOURCALL' 'YOURNAME' K" net control will come back with "CFM 'YOURCALL' de VE3WXU SK" and repeat the call for check-ins.

Enjoy the training,

**Judd – VE3WXU**

## 6 Meter Scene ... by VE3WXU

As most know, I'm a BIG fan of 6 meters. I've had a major goal on the 6 meter scene, that of becoming a member of a 6 meter enthusiast group,

who call themselves '**Buzzards'**! This group formed in 2012 and has recorded some impressive numbers of log check-ins for a 'Magic Band' net. I was introduced to the group in October of 2015, at the LaGrange Amateur Radio Club HamFest. I learned the HamFest/FleaMarket was more of a 'Buzzard' Fly-in and get together. I met a few of the roost, and decided this was a goal worth attempting. WELL, 1 year and 9 months later on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, I achieved that goal. The requirement was simple, check in 6 times and you're a 'Buzzard'... Well seems simple, if you're within tropospheric range (0 – 100 miles). For me, I had to depend on Sporadic-E propagation which is seasonal. And I had to cover a distance of 750 miles. Actually, it was very simple. Every Monday night I sat in the shack listening to white noise waiting for the band to come up, which drove Joyce nuts. I actually, had a cheering section, at the other end. Yes, the Net Controllers, KE4EE-Ed and N4VPI-Rob were on board for the last 6 months actually listening for my call. There are other local candidates for 'Buzzard' status, and we wish them well in the effort. Joyce-VA3WXU with 4 check-ins, VE3JVG-Jason with 3 check-ins, Fred VE3SXB with 3 check-ins, Terry-VE3XTM with 2 check-ins and Ken-VE3KCY with 1 check-in. Lastly, the bragging rights...I was their first international and DX 'Buzzard"... the goal I was most interested in achieving. Join us on Tuesday nights @ 9pm local on 50.170, for our version of a 6 meter net, local participation is invited, and yes the 'Buzzards' have actually checked-in to our net...Cooper-KA4BKD (Buzzard #95) and Rob-N4VPI (Buzzard #4)...

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO VE3ERC-CLUB NEWSLETTER

**Do you have an article you'd like to submit? Or photos?  
Do you have any comments you'd like to make?**

**Perhaps you'd like to share a photo of your shack, a  
special project you are working on or a special interest!**

**SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR AT: [bobve3ixx@gmail.com](mailto:bobve3ixx@gmail.com)**

## RAC SPECIAL BULLETIN

**Pierre Fogal, VE3KTB, is now putting VY0RAC on the air from VY0ERC for the RAC 150 award!**

To commemorate **Canada's 150th birthday**, Radio Amateurs of Canada, with the assistance of a team of talented and dedicated volunteers, is pleased to present the RAC 150 Award program. Starting with the RAC Canada Day Contest on July 1, the 14 special RAC call signs are now being activated by volunteers throughout the second half of 2017.

RAC holds club call signs in all 14 of Canada's call areas. These are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC. These call signs are used to promote RAC and interest by Amateurs in RAC.

Contacts with stations using RAC call signs count towards certain RAC awards such as the Worked All RAC Award and the RAC Canada 150 Award. In certain contests, such as the RAC Canada Day Contest, the RAC Winter Contest, the IARU HF Championship and the RSGB Commonwealth Contest, RAC call signs designate HQ or bonus stations that may count for extra points under the applicable contest rules.

For the RAC 150 Award, stations making contacts with a number of RAC stations will have the opportunity to download an award corresponding to the number of different stations worked.

Pierre will operate as VY0RAC from VY0ERC until **Saturday, July 22**.

### Background information about VY0ERC

In early 2016, Alexey Tikhomirov, VE1RUS, became the trustee for VY0ERC and with that the Eureka Amateur Radio Club (EARC) was formed with Alex, Pierre Fogal, VE3KTB and John Gilbert, VE3CXL, as the club's initial members and Executive. The establishment of a radio club at Eureka was inspired by the commemoration of Canada 150 and the 70th anniversary of the Eureka Weather Station.

The Eureka Amateur Radio Club is located in the environs of the Eureka Weather Station which is itself located at 79 degrees 59 minutes N, 85 degrees 56 minutes W on Ellesmere Island (IOTA NA-008). VY0ERC is currently operating out of the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL) Ridge Laboratory (RidgeLab) located approximately 11 kilometres as the crow flies from the weather station (<http://www.candac.ca>). The RidgeLab is set on top of the hill at 80 degrees 3 minutes N and 86 degrees 25 minutes W at 600 m.a.s.l. The separation is significant as Eureka is in grid square EQ79 and the RidgeLab is in grid square ER60, and as the RidgeLab is above 80 degrees N, it is in ITU zone 75 rather than ITU zone 4. Both are located in CQ zone 2. Pierre is a Site Manager at PEARL. For more information visit <https://www.qrz.com/db/VY0ERC>.

The 70th anniversary of the establishment of the original Amateur station at Eureka, VE8MA, was featured in the May-June 2017 and July-August 2017 issues of The Canadian Amateur magazine. In the article Pierre provided the following short bio:

"Pierre was first licensed in 2000, rather later in life than many Amateurs, while living in Colorado. He still holds the Extra class licence KC0IGY. He returned to Canada in late 2004 but it would be 10 years before there was time to pass the Canadian exam to become VE3KTB. His interests include chasing DX, contesting and just about anything else. Science and Amateur Radio have always gone hand-in-hand for him, allowing him to activate NA-008, NA-043 and operate from KC4AAA."

Please visit the RAC 150 Award webpage at <http://wp.rac.ca/rac150/> for additional information and for a link to download your award.



**Radio Amateurs  
du Canada**

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

## Special Bulletin

Just so everyone knows, on June 6, 2017 I called the past and the up-coming executive officers to attend an executive meeting. Those who came to the meeting were the upcoming Vice-President, Brian, (VA3DXK), the Secretary, Tom (VE3DXQ), the upcoming Treasurer, Paul (VA3PDC), the past Trustee, Al VA3TET, and past President, Rich (VE3DCC) and myself, the current President. Our upcoming Trustee, John VE3JXX and our past Treasurer, Reg (VE3RVH) were unable to attend.

I mainly called the meeting to make sure the new Executive had a copy of both the By-Laws and our Constitution. I did this because one of the duties of the President is "he or she shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws." Furthermore, in these documents are the Duties of the Officers.

**These are the upcoming executive officers of  
VE3ERC:**



**President**  
**Joycee VA3WXU**



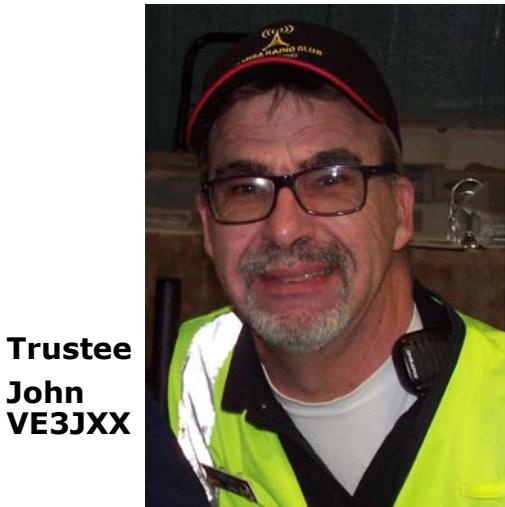
**Vice-President**  
**Brian VA3DXK**



**Secretary**  
**Tom VE3DXQ**



**Treasurer**  
**Paul VA3PDC**



**Trustee**  
**John VE3JXX**

Rob Thompson VA3AHP sent an e-mail with this story.

## ***History of the Car Radio***

**Seems like cars have always had radios, but they didn't.**

**Here's the story:**

**One evening, in 1929, two young men named William Lear and Elmer Wavering drove their girlfriends to a lookout point high above the Mississippi River town of Quincy, Illinois, to watch the sunset.**

**It was a romantic night to be sure, but one of the women observed that it would be even nicer if they could listen to music in the car. Lear and Wavering liked the idea. Both men had tinkered with radios (Lear served as a radio operator in the U.S. Navy during World War I) and it wasn't long before they were taking apart a home radio and trying to get it to work in a car.**

**But it wasn't easy: automobiles have ignition switches, generators, spark plugs, and other electrical equipment that generate noisy static interference, making it nearly impossible to listen to the radio when the engine was running.**

**One by one, Lear and Wavering identified and eliminated each source of electrical interference. When they finally got their radio to work, they took it to a radio convention in Chicago .**

**There they met Paul Galvin, owner of Galvin Manufacturing Corporation.**

**He made a product called a "battery eliminator", a device that allowed battery-powered radios to run on household AC current. But as more homes were wired for electricity, more radio manufacturers made AC-powered radios.**

**Galvin needed a new product to manufacture. When he met Lear and Wavering at the radio convention, he found it. He believed that mass-produced, affordable car radios had the potential to become a huge business.**

**Lear and Wavering set up shop in Galvin's factory, and when they perfected their first radio, they installed it in his Studebaker.**

**Then Galvin went to a local banker to apply for a loan. Thinking it might sweeten the deal, he had his men install a radio in the banker's Packard.**

**Good idea, but it didn't work – Half an hour after the installation, the banker's Packard caught on fire. (They didn't get the loan.)**

**Galvin didn't give up. He drove his Studebaker nearly 800 miles to Atlantic City to show off the radio at the 1930 Radio Manufacturers Association convention. Too broke to afford a booth, he parked the car outside the convention hall and cranked up the radio so that passing conventioneers could hear it.**

**That idea worked -- He got enough orders to put the radio into production.**

### **WHAT'S IN A NAME**

**That first production model was called the 5T71.**

**Galvin decided he needed to come up with something a little catchier. In those days many companies in the phonograph and radio businesses used the suffix "ola" for their names - *Radiola*, *Columbiola*, and *Victrola* were three of the biggest.**

**Galvin decided to do the same thing, and since his radio was intended for use in a motor vehicle, he decided to call it the *Motorola*.**

**But even with the name change, the radio still had problems:**

**When Motorola went on sale in 1930, it cost about \$110 uninstalled, at a time when you could buy a brand-new car for \$650, and the country was sliding into the Great Depression. (By that measure, a radio for a new car would cost about \$3,000 today.)**

**In 1930, it took two men several days to put in a car radio --The dashboard had to be taken apart so that the receiver and a single speaker could be installed, and the ceiling had to be cut open to install the antenna.**

**These early radios ran on their own batteries, not on the car battery, so holes had to be cut into the floorboard to accommodate them. The installation manual had eight complete diagrams and 28 pages of instructions. Selling complicated car radios that cost 20 percent of the price of a brand-new car wouldn't have been easy in the best of times, let alone during the Great Depression – Galvin lost money in 1930 and struggled for a couple of years after that. But things picked up in 1933 when Ford began offering Motorola's pre-installed at the factory.**

**In 1934 they got another boost when Galvin struck a deal with B.F. Goodrich tire company to sell and install them in its chain of tire stores.**

**By then the price of the radio, with installation included, had dropped to \$55. The Motorola car radio was off and running. (The name of the company would be officially changed from**

**Galvin Manufacturing to "Motorola" in 1947.)**

**In the meantime, Galvin continued to develop new uses for car radios. In 1936, the same year that it introduced push-button tuning, it also introduced the Motorola Police Cruiser, a standard car radio that was factory pre-set to a single frequency to pick up police broadcasts. In 1940 he developed the first handheld two-way radio -- The Handy-Talkie – for the U. S. Army.**

**A lot of the communications technologies that we take for granted today were born in Motorola labs in the years that followed World War II. In 1947 they came out with the first television for under \$200.**

**In 1956 the company introduced the world's first pager; in 1969 came the radio and television equipment that was used to televise Neil Armstrong's first steps on the Moon. In 1973 it invented the world's first handheld cellular phone. Today Motorola is one of the largest cell phone manufacturers in the world. And it all started with the car radio.**

**WHATEVER HAPPENED TO the two men who installed the first radio in Paul Galvin's car? Elmer Wavering and William Lear, ended up taking very different paths in life. Wavering stayed with Motorola. In the 1950's he helped change the automobile experience again when he developed the first automotive alternator, replacing inefficient and unreliable generators. The invention lead to such luxuries as power windows, power seats, and, eventually, air-conditioning. Lear also continued inventing. He holds more than 150 patents. Remember eight-track tape players? Lear invented that.**

**But what he's really famous for are his contributions to the field of aviation. He invented radio direction finders for planes, aided in the invention of the autopilot, designed the first fully automatic aircraft landing system, and in 1963 introduced his most famous invention of all, the Lear Jet, the world's first mass-produced, affordable business jet. (Not bad for a guy who dropped out of school after the eighth grade.)**

***Sometimes it is fun to find out how some of the many things that we take for granted actually came into being!***

***AND It all started with a woman's suggestion!!***

## Ham researcher to investigate effects of solar eclipse

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

**A**ugust 21 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many in the U.S. to see a total eclipse. It's also an opportunity for a team of Virginia Tech researchers to study the effects of the eclipse on changes in the upper atmosphere that have an impact on HF propagation and the global positioning system (GPS). Backed by research funding from NASA and the National Science foundation, the team is headed by Dr. Greg Earle, W4GDE.

The Virginia Tech team plans to gather data from a variety of sources, including radar systems, transceivers, satellites, ham radio, and GPS receivers, in order to analyze the effects of the solar eclipse on the conductive region of the atmosphere.

"Whether military radar, or consumer GPS signals, the eclipse is going to have effects on the medium that we would like to understand better, so that we can either mitigate them or use them to our advantage," said Earle.

Here are a couple of links to news stories on the research team and the experiments:

[Virginia Tech team prepares for special project during total solar eclipse](#)

[Virginia Tech expert to study August solar eclipse effects on radar, ham radio, GPS](#)

### Let's party!

In conjunction with the eclipse, the HamSCI and the ARRL are sponsoring the [Solar Eclipse QSO Party](#). (SEQP). According to an article in the August 2017 issue of *QST*, the goal of the SEQP is to "flood the airwaves with contacts, all measured by the automated receiver networks of the Reverse Beacon Network, PSKReporter, and WSPRNet." Once all the logs are in, researchers will analyze the data to see what effect the eclipse had on radio propagation.

A YouTube video of a presentation at Dayton on the SEQP can be found at

<https://youtu.be/3EviY2Cuxpo?list=PLihPo8xWmo8-xDYAtP9BWX9QnhUoT7k4>

The SEQP will run from 1400Z - 2200Z on Monday, August 21. This is well before the eclipse is due to begin on the West Coast. The reason it starts before the eclipse is to establish a baseline for radio propagation conditions.

SEQP organizers urge you to make as many contacts as you can on as many bands as you can operate. Like nearly every contest, contacts are not allowed on 60m, 30m, 17m, and 12m. CW, RTTY, and PSK31 are the preferred modes because automated receivers can record those contacts, but phone and other digital modes count, too.

An interesting twist to this contest is that, like Field Day, you can earn a number of bonus points, including:

Operating outdoors (100 points)

Operating in a public place (100 points)

Operating a wide-band automated receiver at your station (100 points)

Hams have had a long history of supporting scientific research. They provided communications for some of the early polar explorations and listened for Sputnik as it flew overhead. The Solar Eclipse QSO Party continues this tradition, and it's going to be a lot of fun as well. Visit the [HamSCI website](#) for more information.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and the CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun With Morse Code." You can reach him by emailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

## **WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**JUNE 14 - TED VE3TRQ**

**JUNE 21 - MEETING**

**JUNE 28 - AL VA3TET**

**JULY 5 - REG VE3RVH**

**JULY 12 - TOM VE3DXQ**

**JULY 19 - PAUL VE3PVB**

**JULY 26 - TRACY VA3TGY**

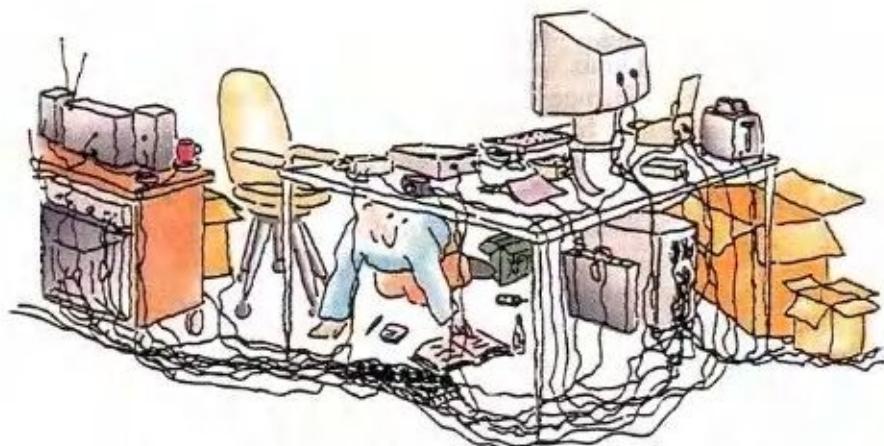
**AUGUST 2 - BRIAN VA3DXK**

**AUGUST 9 - BOB VE3IXX**

**AUGUST 16 - TED VE3TRQ**

**AUGUST 23 - AL VA3TET**

**AUGUST 30 - REG VE3RVH + DIGITAL GROUP**



"Now, if you can find the power switch, flip it on."

## **ERC LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND 2017 AUGUST 19-20 (Light #CA0011)**

**Come join us at  
POINT CLARK  
For:  
Fun in the sun  
Operating radio  
Sand and beach  
Great company  
Al's great BBQ  
(on Saturday noon)**



**Visit Us at  
[www.ve3erc.ca](http://www.ve3erc.ca)**