



OCTOBER 2017

Volume 6 Issue 10

# VE3ERC-LUB

- President:** Joycece VA3WXU
- Vice-President:** Brian VA3DXK
- Secretary:** Tom VE3DXQ
- Treasurer:** Paul VA3PDC
- Trustee:** John VE3JXX
- QSL Manager:** Judd VE3WXU
- Repeater Manager & Maintenance:** Carl VE3FEF
- Website Admin:** Ted VE3TRQ
- Lighthouse:** Bruce VE3QB
- Maple Syrup Display:** Judd VE3WXU  
Joycece 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**

**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.**



**The Hoofbeat Challenge P. 13**

### IN THIS ISSUE

- PREZ SEZ P. 2**
- EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS P. 3**
- WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS P. 6**
- BILL GRAHAM DINNER P. 7**
- QSO NOTES AND STUFF P. 9**
- OCTOBER MINUTES P. 11**
- CATALOGUES P.16**
- AND MORE**



# THE PREZ SEZ!

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

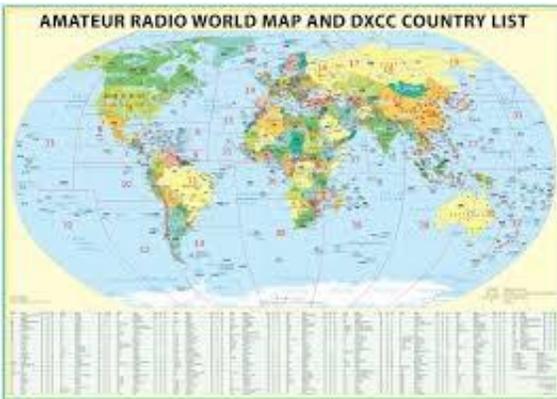
## President's Update for OCTOBER 2017

### A New View.....

#### Amateur Radio Proffers Much for Everyone...

One of the greatest thing about Amateur Radio is that it is not a tool with a singular purpose. For example, the radio operators can use their radios to do "rag- chewing," which is contacting another operator, or in nets, and just visit with each other and they talk about anything. There is also QSLing which is making confirmed contacts that requires in logins. Furthermore, many amateurs compete in contests through the year. Often contests see how many contacts a person can get within a certain timeframe and this often requires staying up for 24 hours.

In addition to the above, there is "Dxing" in which operators make contacts with long distance operators.



Amateurs often put their skills towards community services. Some good examples are when monitoring a large parade or when people are participating in a large outdoor venue. In essence, the job of the Ham, is to make sure that people stay safe and keep the event a success.

In times of disaster and need, ham radio operators can provide emergency services to both a community or to another country around the world.

The emergency services given by amateurs come in the form of communication. There are several ways this communication can be offered using voice, Morse code, Packet, radio teletype, PSK, and any form of digital data. This past summer has kept many amateurs very busy communicating with hospitals, victims and / or their loved ones when the Hurricanes Irma and Harvey came and left. This kind of service requires that the amateurs have an annual practice called a Simulated Emergency Training, (SET)

Recently, Paul (VA3PDC) sent an article to me. It was about how some students in their school ham radio club were helping Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. The people did this by emailing the school and

the club members then shared that message via radiogram, and that message was then relayed to ham radio operators in Puerto Rico. The thing that caught my eye from this article was a quote by Lea Medina, one of the students. She said, "You can easily relate to these people if you just think about how it must feel if you're not able to talk to the people who you love and care about." Clearly this young student empathized deeply with the people in need. This reminded something that my grandmother said often. "Where there is empathy, there is hope." How inspiring! Our hobby goes much more than just communication. it proffers hope to the people that need it the most.

**73 Cheers Joycee VA3WXU**

## **Elmira Radio Club Emergency Communications – ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET**

**Wednesday Nights 7:45-8:00pm on the VHF Repeater (147.390 / +.6 offset / 123 tone)**

Beginning Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Elmira Radio Club will hold a weekly

### **Emergency Communications – ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET**

through the Club's VHF Repeater (147.390 / +.6 offset / 123 tone). The ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET will be activated every Wednesday night from **7:45-8:00pm** prior to the Weekly ERC Net. There will be no net on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month.

Those wishing to join the **ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET** for **Wed. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>** should contact Brian VA3DXK by email [VA3DXK@gmail.com](mailto:VA3DXK@gmail.com) with **ECO Net Subscribe** as **the subject**. This will generate a subscriber list for the first net.

## **Elmira Radio Club Emergency Communications By Brian Filbey VA3DXK**

**I**s the Elmira Radio Club VE3ERC, and you as part of our collective membership, really prepared to provide emergency communications to the Township if and when we are called upon during a local emergency or disaster?

Communities all over the world are being exposed to more frequent extreme weather events and other natural and human caused hazards. These hazards become disasters when they disturb or destroy a community's ability to function normally. 'When Hurricane Maria smashed into the tiny island of Dominica in the Eastern Caribbean earlier this [year], phone service went down, virtually cutting off the island. But within hours, amateur radio operators got on the air and have been providing a vital link to the outside world ever since.'

[In Devastated Dominica, 'Hams' Become Vital Communications Link](#)

How well would our club address an emergency communications situation if for example Elmira and all of Southern Ontario suffered a catastrophic power outage, train derailment and resultant chemical spill, plane crash, pandemic, severe tornado, or some other widespread emergency in which the communication infrastructure breaks down and we are called upon by Woolwich Township to provide emergency communications?

Or to put it another way, how well could we as a club work together amongst ourselves and with the Township to provide an effective emergency communication service?

Radio operators, along with their equipment, combine into an important, versatile, resource for emergency communications in times of disaster. Organizations such as ARES, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), National Traffic System™ (NTS), CANWARN, SKYWARN, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) and other groups exist specifically to respond to local and global emergencies and disasters. ([ARRL](#))



The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is a North America-wide exercise in emergency communications, administered in Canada by the RAC Emergency Coordinators. Both the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and the National Traffic System (NTS) are involved. This radio communications network is exercised with the primary objective of **proving the system's readiness and capabilities**.

Among other objectives the aim is to strengthen the relationship between ARES and served municipalities and relief agencies. It is **'vitaly important that this be done at the local Emergency Communications level'**. ([RAC](#)) The system has demonstrated its value time after time during hurricanes, earthquakes, forest fires, terrorist attacks and other disasters.

VE3ERC as a club, and we as amateur radio operators, are a management tool or resource that can be called upon as a **last resort** emergency communications provider. Although we hope to never be needed, the tool must be kept well-oiled and sharp if it is to be of use! **'Trained volunteers are effective volunteers'**, says the Salvation Army, which has been providing disaster response and relief services for more than one-hundred years. The focus of emergency communications training is; to build capacity by giving all components the means to work together in a coordinated manner, to improve preparedness and response, and to improve the technical skills of the participants. The aim is to encourage an exchange of experience, knowledge, and ideas in order to improve the availability, coordination, and quality of emergency communications response. **Work done in advance of possible emergencies and disasters is an essential aspect of disaster management**. It enables a reduction in the number and severity of disasters, through prevention and mitigation, as well as improved emergency response, through preparation and planning. ([WHO](#)) ([IFRC](#))

The Elmira Radio Club VE3ERC has for some time now seriously considered its position and role in local *Emergency Communications*. As club members we should be well aware that, with the encouragement and full support of the club, John VE3JXX and Rich VE3DCC have established a permanent presence and solid relationship with the Elmira and Woolwich Township Emergency Organizations. Through their efforts and those of other club members, and activities such as Maple Syrup Festival, Lighthouse, Field Day, etc., we have established the Elmira Radio Club as a legitimate organization that can be counted on to provide *Emergency Communication* services if needed and on short notice when called upon.



To that end we are clearly acknowledged as participants in the **Woolwich Township Emergency Plan (2014)**. We have been integrated into the Township Emergency Plan to provide back-up emergency communications in times of need. During severe or prolonged emergencies there is often a breakdown in communications due to a loss or overwhelming of the communications infrastructure/network. This is the point where our services may be requested. Sections 4.6 and 16.9 of the plan detail our role:

#### 4.6 Amateur Radio (HAM Operators)

The EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) Coordinator may request Amateur Radio to provide back-up communications at key locations. Police, Fire, Ambulance and Public Works are responsible for their radio systems. Should the phone and/or radio systems become inoperable, the Radio group may be requested to report to the operating EOC and or the Duty Officer/Communications Manager and await further instructions regarding the emergency response.

#### 16.9 Elmira Amateur Radio Club

The role and responsibilities of the Elmira Amateur Radio Club during an emergency are as follows:

- (a) To provide volunteers and mobile radio equipment to enable a radio communication net to be established between the reception/evacuation centers, the Message Centre (located with the Social Services Support Group), the Red Cross Headquarters, and other locations as required (i.e. Public Health and Treasury Services.)
- (b) To ensure that radio club volunteers report to designated sites at the direction of the Duty Officer/Communications Manager.
- (c) To provide direction to the Duty Officer/Communications Manager regarding communication equipment requirements/needs, ability to transmit data and other areas of concern regarding the communication net.
- (d) To maintain a list of volunteers and contact numbers.

The **Elmira Radio Club** therefore has a formally mandated obligation to provide emergency communications and fulfill our responsibilities outlined in section 16.9. *Trained volunteers are effective volunteers, and flexibility-and-adaptability promotes effective response in dynamic or chaotic, emergency situations.* This obligation requires a commitment from our club that goes beyond an annual SET exercise.

Beginning Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Elmira Radio Club will hold a weekly **Emergency Communications – ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET** through the Club's VHF Repeater (147.390 /+.6 offset / 123 tone). **The ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET will be activated every Wednesday night from 7:45-8:00pm prior to the** Weekly ERC Net. There will be no net on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month.

The objectives of Elmira Radio Club's **ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET** are as follows:

- *exercise and prove our system's readiness, capability, and adaptability*
- *provide and ongoing record of our readiness and commitment*
- *provide a public demonstration of our capabilities*
- *refine our experience in communications using standard procedures and a variety of modes under simulated-emergency conditions.*

For the first four activations of the **Emergency Communications – ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET**, Brian VA3DXK will be the net controller after which the ECO Net controller will be whomever is hosting the 8:00pm Weekly ERC Net. The net will be succinct and follow a precise format and protocol.

Those wishing to join the **ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET** for Wed. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> should contact Brian VA3DXK by email [VA3DXK@gmail.com](mailto:VA3DXK@gmail.com) with *ECO Net Subscribe* as the subject. This will generate a subscriber list for the first net. ECO Net control will activate the net and begin a roll call check-in at 7:45pm, asking for your location and if you have any emergency traffic to pass along. Net Control will move on through the subscriber list, and then ask for and process any 'new' check-ins. This is where you get to join in if you missed out earlier. New check-ins will be added to the subscriber list. Any amateur operator is welcome to check-in to the net. The following week the net will begin with the 'new' subscriber list, etc. Should a subscriber miss checking-in to the ECO NET for three consecutive weeks, his/her name will be removed from the subscriber list. To re-join, simply wait for check-ins during any given ECO NET and you will then be re-subscribed.

**ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET** controllers will be provided with a form so as to keep accurate records. After the net they should forward their data to VA3DXK for compiling. This format will allow us to be succinct and accurate with our transmissions. Over time we will amass a database from which we can then grab some statistics to perhaps further our Club's position with the township's emergency organizations.

An important post – ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET activity will be a critique session to discuss the operation and format of the net and to consider any modifications. After four to six sessions members will be invited to review good points and weaknesses apparent in the practice and discuss ways to improve procedures, techniques, and decide on future directions.

Are we prepared and how effective would our club, the Elmira Radio Club be at providing emergency communications to the Township if and when we are called upon? The Elmira Radio Club's **Emergency Communications – ECO<sub>(Echo)</sub> NET** needs you!

## **WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**OCTOBER 4 - BRIAN VA3DXK**

**OCTOBER 11 - BOB VE3IXX**

**OCTOBER 18 - TED VE3TRQ**

**OCTOBER 25 - M E E T I N G**

**NOVEMBER 1 - AL VA3TET**

**NOVEMBER 8 - REG VE3RVH**

**NOVEMBER 15 - TOM VE3DXQ**

**NOVEMBER 22 - M E E T I N G**

**NOVEMBER 29 - PAUL VE3PVB + DIGITAL GROUP**

**DECEMBER 6 - TRACY VA3TGY**

**DECEMBER 13 - BRIAN VA3DXK**

# THE ERC ANNUAL

# BILL GRAHAM DINNER and MEETING





**William (Bill) Graham VE3ETK: A remarkable man, a member of VE3ERC, and our friend.**

Bill was born November 25, 1938. He grew up in Port Stanley, Ontario. He was a sickly child and needed to be home-schooled. His grandfather, William Weston was a Bell Pioneer. He would give Bill bits and pieces of radios and it rubbed off on Bill...this is how he got hooked to radios.

Bill had a grade 12 education. On the basis of that, he became internationally renowned as an audio engineer and a lifetime member of Audio Engineering Society and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. Bill worked 27 years at the Mutual Life, where he headed up the company's audio / visual department. During this time he became a ham radio operator and joined the Waterloo Amateur Radio Club and the Elmira Ham Radio Club. He just could not get enough of electronics. Bill also taught audio / visual at Conestoga College for a while and his personal interests included developing new antennas and learning adruino programming language. Bill was really a one-of-a-kind.

Bill passed away May 30, 2016. It was a great loss for his family and his friends. To remember this man today, is to honour a very remarkable man and our friend.

# Back-of-the-Napkin Eyeball

## QSO notes and stuff

by Rich, ve3DCC

### Here are a few dots , from this week's newspaper, to connect:

A few weeks ago, Vladimir Putin asked the head of a Russian technology company, Arkady Volozh, chief of internet firm Yandex "When will they eat us?" ([Iain Burns For Mailonline](#), Daily Mail, UK, 22 September 2017).

I suspect that he used the word "consume" but, I do not claim to be able to translate Russian. Of course, he was wondering, out loud, when machines would assume a controlling role in everyday life. He went on to say that "whoever masters AI (Artificial Intelligence) will rule the world".

Next, The Financial Post reports that " a Blackberry QNX-equipped self-driving car hit the road in suburban Ottawa in what was billed as the first on-street test of an autonomous vehicle in Canada" (Financial Post, Friday October 13/2017). Driverless cars and pilotless airplanes are now more than fond dreams in the popular media. The prospect of your refrigerator "knowing" that the RFID tag on your milk carton suggests that the milk is out of date, and , then, spontaneously initiating an order to the local store, that ,of course, delivers the package via drone, is no longer science fiction.

Finally, the Waterloo Region Record reported that "three US-based scientists won the Nobel Prize in Physics for detecting faint ripples flying through the universe-- the gravitational waves predicted a century ago by Albert Einstein.." (Wed. Oct 4/2017,A7). "Gravitational waves are extremely faint ripples in the fabric of space and time, generated by some of the most violent events in the universe. The waves detected..... came from the collision of two black holes some 1.3 billion light-years away. A light year is about 5.88 trillion miles" . "Einstein theorized that in General Relativity gravity is caused by heavy objects bending space-time, which itself is a four dimensional view of the universe". We use but we do not totally understand the phenomena that our hobby is built on.

As radio amateurs we are sensitive to the notion that radio waves and electrons do not "travel" -- rather communications carried on the shoulder of those waves are the result of vibrating particles that transmit the energy to the "next guy" in the line-up of quantum particles. The soul of communications is being able to send and receive and then decode the impulses quickly. The detection of the gravitational waves was accomplished by using a pair of interferometers that were separated by 3000 kilometres—one at Hanford, Wash. and the other in Livingston, La. The time difference was seven milli-seconds which was consistent with the "speed" of light. Einstein had suggested that the waves were too small to ever be measured. Sensors are that good, now!

As we move into this 21<sup>st</sup> century, will it be possible to link machines that have finely developed sensors and analysis algorithms into a fast-response communications system in which each part of the system performs as an autonomous yet an integral part of the "whole" machine. If so, Vladimir Putin's musings take on a special significance. When individual machines are able to pool their resources, human kind should be concerned. This is especially true if we are unable to pull the plug. Perhaps, the dark forecast in the movie "The Terminator" where SKYNET, a network of robots, seizes control of the world is one worth considering. What of the fictional Star Trek "Borgs" who travel the galaxy "assimilating" races into their collective robot-like conscious? Are we blindly walking down a treacherous path?

I hope that if the worst were to happen, then perhaps we could sabotage the conspiracy by organizing the computers into a committee. If that does not work, we can name one as the chairman, and , finally, as a last resort, hold elections for the position. That might do them in!

Mr. Putin did not specify WHO (or WHAT) would actually "rule".  
Should we share his concerns?

PS: since it is the Halloween season, it seemed appropriate to dwell on something a bit scary.... But is this a Trick or a Treat?

**de Rich, ve3DCC**

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**Lead Acid Battery**

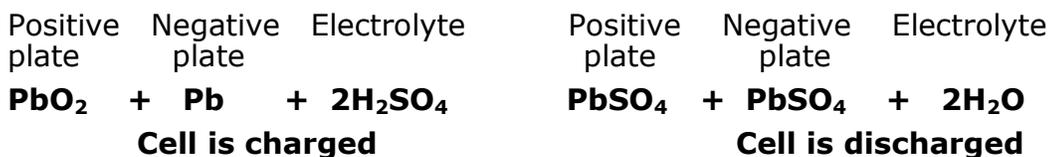
In our high tech society, technology is changing on a daily basis. A spokesman for the University of Waterloo battery research department was quoted as saying that every day is bringing new improvements in battery design.

Yet in spite of all the new developments in rechargeable batteries, one of the most popular batteries used today is an old, old technology. Did I say old? The lead-acid battery which amounts to about 15 billion dollars a year in sales, was actually invented,- get this,- in 1859 by Gaston Planté, a French physicist. While design improvements have been made since then, such as the gel cell which was developed in the 1930's, the basic design is still there. It is a durable battery, which can provide high current and is relatively inexpensive. The drawback is it's weight and size, yet it is still among the most widely used batteries.

Just recently I came across an old college textbook dating from the 60's and found a simple explanation of the theory of the lead-acid cell explaining how it actually works. Here is the quote in full:

"The positive plate of a lead-acid storage cell is lead peroxide PbO<sub>2</sub> and the negative plate is pure sponge lead, Pb. Dilute sulfuric acid, 2H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> is used as the electrolyte. When the cell supplies current to a load or is discharging, the chemical action that takes place forms lead sulfate, PbSO<sub>4</sub> on both plates with water being formed in the electrolyte. After a certain amount of energy has been withdrawn from the cell, both plates having been transformed into the same material, the cell is no longer able to develop an emf.

To charge the cell, a current is caused to flow through the cell in the opposite direction; this reverses the chemical process and again forms a lead peroxide positive plate and a pure lead negative plate, at the same time restoring the electrolyte to its original condition. The chemical reaction may be represented as follow:



This equation represents the discharging action when read from left to right and the charging action when read from right to left."

Electric Circuits and Machines (Fourth Edition) by Eugene Lister pp.48-49

**`73 Bob VE3IXX**

# VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

*Minutes from October 25, 2017*

## 1. Open and roll call.

The meeting was open by our President VA3WXU Joycee at 7:30 pm.

**Roll Call:** VA3TET Al, VE3DXQ Tom, VE3WXU Jud, VA3WXU Joyce, VA3DXK Brian, VA3GWM Gord, VE3CXU Doug, VE3JMU Jim, VE3PDC Paul, VE3JVG Jason, VE3RVH Reg, VA3TGY Tracy, VE3DCC Rich, VA3QB Bill, VA3AUS Al, VE3KCY Ken, VE3DWI Tony, VE3PVB Paul, VE3CDF Andy, VE3MXD Mary Anne, VA3AUS Al

**Reports and Announcements:** Executive, Committee Chairs, and members.

Joycee VA3WXU spoke about our special dinner in remembrance of Bill Graham VE3ETK. She gave a short biography of his life. He was born Nov 25, 1938 and grew up in Port Stanley. Bill's Grand Father William Weston got him interested in radio. He spent most of his career as an Audio Engineer. Most of his career was at Mutual Life Insurance Company. Bill passed away May 30, 2016. Joycee VA3WXU asked for a moment of silence in his remembrance.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Tom VE3DXQ made a motion to have the minutes accepted. This was seconded by Judd VE3WXU. All were in favor minutes accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul VA3PDC gave our current balance and said the only transaction for the month was the proceeds from the 50/50 draw. We now have a new member VA3AUS.

## Speakers Program/Discussions/Presentation

Debrief of SET Oct 14: Joycee VA3WXU asked those present would voice their opinions as to why the Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday Oct 14, 2017 was not very well attended. Paul VA3PDC suggested using a phone tree which would alert those who volunteered to participate about half an hour before the test. Rich VE3DCC thought contacting people by their electronic devices might be better, as it would not be as distressing as a phone call. Judd VE3WXU said that less than 1/2 our membership has a smart phone.

Al VA3TET suggested that our news letter should have eye catching reminder of the SET. Al VA3TET said that all club members should be involved with the SET to show the community we will be ready in an emergency. Joycee VA3WXU did not agree that all members should be involved only those interested.

Judd VA3WXU suggested we have a weekly net perhaps on a Thursday evening to do a practice SET.

Al VA3TET suggested we have the SET at the beginning of the Wednesday night net. Rich VE3DCC said he thought this was a great Idea and we should get on it right away, by posting it in the news letter. Al VA3TET said this will be good experience also for those hosts of the Wednesday night net so they are familiar with how a SET is done.

It was suggested by VE3PVB Paul that we start the set at 7:45 pm. Joycee also state that it would be good to have a SET coordinator. Brian VA3DXK said he would look after the Emergency coordinator set up.

Paul VE3PVB said the Guelph SSB nets will be starting up again. See <http://www.garc.ca/> for times and Frequencies.

**Unfinished Business:** CANWARN Training in November



**Brian VA3DXK giving his presentation.**

Geoff Coulson will be holding a CANWARN Training course at our Nov meeting. Also Rich VE3DCC asked if those present would be interested in a computer coding course at our January meeting. Many present showed an interest.

The Christmas Party will be at the Elmira Legion on Dec 22, 2017. 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm

**Presentation:** Brian VA3DXK gave a presentation on the 6 meter hex beam antenna. See this link to get an Idea what one looks like. <https://sites.google.com/site/wb3bel/>

Brian told us that six meters is often called the magic band as it comes and goes depending on the solar cycles and atmospheric conditions. He said it is possible to reach anywhere on the globe under the right conditions. Other conditions that are favorable are sporadic E, meteor scatter, and moon bounce. Sporadic E is used most often. He had many Graphs and maps showing propagation examples.

Brian VA3DXK showed pictures of various Hex beam antennas. He explained the structure of the antenna and compared it to other 6 meter and their radiation patterns. It was very interesting and well done presentation.

Meeting ended at 8:45 PM

**FOR LOADS OF INFORMATION  
CHECK OUT THE ELMIRA CLUB WEBSITE**

**AT**

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



# THE HOOFBEAT CHALLENGE

By Bob Koechl  
VE3IXX

Every year Bob Housser, VE3SFW of the Guelph Amateur Radio Club co-ordinates communications for the "Hoofbeat Challenge". The event is a fundraiser for Sunrise Farm. Sunrise Therapeutic Riding Centre has programs for children with various hip and back disabilities and for children with some behavioural and mental challenges. Most funding comes from events like Hoofbeat Challenge and from donations from supporters. Sunrise is now in its 35th year. Bob is to be commended for his hard work over many years.

The amateurs who participated on September 30th of this year included members of both the Guelph club and the Elmira club and consisted of the following:

- Bruce McLellan VE3QB
- Joyce Hodge VA3WXU
- Judd Hodge VE3WXU
- Ron Webb VE3WBE
- Bill Reid VA3QB
- Bob Housser VE3SFW
- Paul Curtin VA3PDC
- Bob Koechl VE3IXX



The event included a sponsored trail ride followed by a dog walk. The dog walker's trail was a shortened version of the riding trail and one of our jobs in communications was to ensure that the walkers and the riders did not meet at the same time. For myself, located at the first station, this meant that I had to hold up



***My location at the first station.***



***A briefing session before we headed off to our prospective stations.***

everyone else that they had passed by. In the event a participant might fall off their horse, out job was to radio for assistance. Fortunately there were no accidents at this year's event.

the dog walkers for about fifteen minutes, so they would not meet up with the riders further down on the trail. All of this was co-ordinated by Bob VE3SFW who would keep us informed when a group of riders was starting out. As the riders passed by each prospective station, each operator at that location would inform

During the communication lulls, there was sometimes some lively banter, as when one of the horses dropped a present at my station.

Then as the last riders and walkers came past, each operator was free to walk back to the main centre or to call for a pick-up.

All the volunteers were then treated to a free lunch. Each had a choice of either a hamburger, cheeseburger, sausage, or a hot dog and fries.

All of us had a great time and we found out later that the entire charitable event had netted thirty-five thousand dollars for Sunrise Farm.

It felt good to make a difference in the lives of handicapped children, in performing a public service, and making amateur radio a little better known in the public square.





**Joycee VA3WXU and Judd VE3WXU waiting in line for their meal**



**Bruce VE3QB, Ron VE3WBE, Paul, VE3PDC, Bill VA3QB and Bob VE3SFW enjoying their meal.**



**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:**

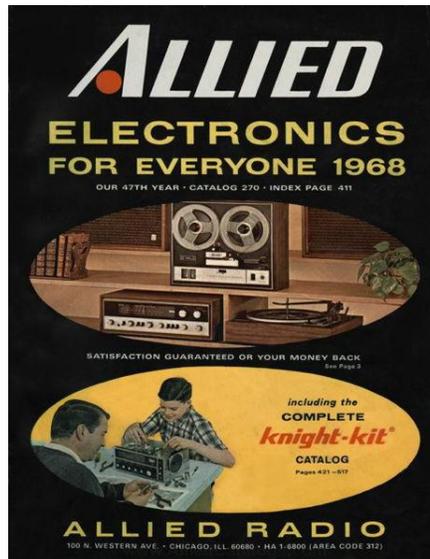
**Bob [bobve3ixx@gmail.com](mailto:bobve3ixx@gmail.com) (519-787-2279) or**

**To Joycee [va3wxu@gmail.com](mailto:va3wxu@gmail.com) (519-741-9032)**

# Catalogs are about possibilities

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

When I was a kid, I used to regularly get catalogs, such as the Allied Radio and Lafayette Radio catalogs shown below, and pore over them for hours. Even if I couldn't afford to buy the latest Knight-Kit or Lafayette shortwave radio, I could imagine what it would be like. These catalogs were chock full of possibilities.



I spent many hours poring over the Allied and Lafayette catalogs as a kid. These two are from 1968, when I was 13 years old

So, you can imagine how I felt when, last Thursday, I found both the Autumn/Winter 2017 DX Engineering catalog and the 2018-2019 Newark Electronics/element14 catalog in my mailbox.



**DX Engineering** has really taken the amateur radio world by storm over the last ten years or so. I probably don't have to tell you about that. If you're an active amateur radio operator, I'm sure that you have heard about—and probably ordered from—DX Engineering.

I think that DX Engineering did a very smart thing by investing the money in a print catalog. There's something about browsing a print catalog that is just more satisfying than browsing online.

DX Engineering has just about everything you need to have fun with amateur radio. The one glaring omission? They still don't carry my study guides!

