



JUNE 2018

Volume 7 Issue 6

VE3ERC-LUB

President: Brian VA3DXK

Vice-President:

Secretary: Tom VE3DXQ

Treasurer: Paul VA3PDC

Trustee: John VE3JXX

QSL Manager: Paul VA3PDC

**Repeater Manager & Maintenance:
Carl VE3FEF**

Website Admin: Ted VE3TRQ

Lighthouse: Al VA3TET

Maple Syrup Display: Al VA3TET

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.**



FIELD DAY 2018



**Radio Amateurs
of Canada**

CENTRAL ONTARIO HAMFEST 2018

By Reg Horney VE3RVH

The 44th Central Ontario Hamfest was held on Sunday, June 3 at Roseville- Waterloo Regional Police Association.

The Registrar, Nick VA3NNW and Co-ordinator Wes, VE3ML, did a good job organizing tickets and tables for the vendors of the special day for the Central Ontario Hamfest. Indoor



Al VA3TET in a 2017 photo doing ONTARS. All the photos are courtesy of the ONTARS website and Mike VE3MKX.



vendors arrived at 7 am, the tailgaters at 8 am and the public were allowed in at 9 am till 12 noon.

The Elmira Club VE3ERC, including Al VA3TET, Ted VE3TRQ, Reg VE3RVH and Jim VE3JMU arrived early to put up a towering antenna by way of ropes and ladder for a secure installation. Following that meant setting up tables and unloading the van full of equipment in the hope of being sold.



Al set up and ran ONTARS for a period of the morning, while Ted, Reg and Jim sold the items at the three tables. From the sale of Ralphs (VE3EUC-SK) we achieved \$1785.00. The club sold \$206.00 worth of items and another \$60.00 for Frank VA3FJM.

It was a busy morning and sales were good. At 12:00 noon, we packed up and went home.

Thanks to all who helped out in any way.

Reg VE3RVH



Back-of-the-Napkin Eyeball

QSO notes and stuff

by Rich, ve3DCC

JUNE 2018

As Licensed Radio Amateurs, we are sensitive to what we say “on the air”— anyone can be listening, and there is a legal prohibition under the Radio Act on certain topics.

That said, most people tend to treat their communication via telephone, cell phone and email lightly. Here is why you need to pay attention to what you say and the means you use to communicate those messages:

In 2012, CBS reported “Huawei probed for Security, Espionage Risk”. On June 18, 2018, BBC reported that the company responded to the Australian government’s plans to “ban Huawei from bidding in a 5G mobile Auction” by denying allegations that it is under the control of the Chinese government.

A Globe and Mail article by Robert Fife and Steven Chase on the same day said: “U.S. lawmakers warn Canada about Chinese telecom giant Huawei”. “Senior lawmakers claim that the Chinese telecom is a ‘grave cybersecurity risk’ and its smartphones and equipment should not be used by Canada and other Western allies.” The article goes on to express concerns that the Chinese are attempting to take the lead in developing 5G telecommunications technology via Canadian research and University platforms.

The suggestion is made that the company is “one of the world’s top cyber-intelligence threats and its 5G technology could be used to conduct remote spying and maliciously modify or steal information or even shut down systems”.

On April 7, 2018, Greg Mercer (Waterloo Region Record page A-1) explored the perils of online surveillance in his article “You have no secrets”. With the advent of voluntary listening devices in homes such as Google Home and Amazon Alexa, in combination with incredible voice to text software, is any discussion really private. He says: “Everything that you do online, and on your phone, leaves a digital trail that is being harvested by corporations. Google even records your incognito history-browsing that many believe is private.....”.

Finally, in the most recent edition (May/June 2018 page 26) of TCA, The Canadian Amateur, Lawrence Dobronski (va5LD/ve3LGD) discusses “Cyber Security for the Amateur Radio Operator” from the standpoint of password security.

What is a person to do?

This, of course, goes beyond innocent rag-chew traffic that can be of no value to anyone beyond the participants. Your Data that relates to your personal finances, income tax, banking information or even business dealings is at risk. While Blackberry products have remarkable encryption based on Certicom technology, the lure of cheaper products including routers and wi-fi devices can lull us into unconcern—until something goes very, very wrong.

If, as is suggested (but not proven), products can “read the mail” in the background, and harvest information, how can you ensure that you are practicing completely “safe text”. The answer, unfortunately, is that you cannot.

Recent data breaches of large commercial databases, demonstrate that weaknesses in the daily services you trust, can reach out to harm you despite your best practices.

The most that you can do is to ensure that your sloppiness does not expose you to risk—that is, you should, at the minimum, read the sources cited above and be informed; then, follow the suggestions from the TCA article to both create and safeguard your passwords; ensure that you do not share passwords or, inadvertently, provide your information to suspect services; be careful in your choice of products including routers, wifi devices and cell phones; and be very conscious, as we do in our ham radio conversations, that anyone and everyone can monitor what you are saying and doing and writing. Be Thou Careful.

De ve3DCC, Rich.



ERC Field Day 2018

"Step Aside, MacGyver !"

By Bob Koechl VE3IXX

The **best-laid plans of mice and men** often go awry. No matter how carefully a project is planned, something may still go wrong with it. The saying is adapted from a line in "To a Mouse," by Robert Burns:

"The **best laid schemes o' mice an' men**
Gang aft a-gley."

This year's Field Day was a classic case of what can go wrong. Because the trailer was already set up at the Field Day site, the plan was to arrive early Saturday morning. In fact, it was very simple. Instead of using a generator, this year the Elmira Club would run battery power. A dual battery bank had enough amp-hours to run a single station for hours on end. A solar panel would provide a trickle charge to help a little and in the unlikely event that the batteries might run out of charge, a heavy duty battery charger was on standby. An operating Inverted-V antenna was already set up



and tested Friday night. What could possibly go wrong?

Well, when the crew of Al (va3tet), Reg (ve3rvh), Jim (ve3jmu), Al (ve3aus), Richard (ve3nul), Tony (ve3dwi), Brian (ve3ybm) joined me (ve3ixx) on Saturday morning it was raining. Undeterred, for we had endured much worse downpours in previous Field Day years, Al brought out the club radio. All the connections for the 12-volt power, and the microphone were made. Some splicing was required because the connectors in the trailer did not match the radio's plug. Al turned on the power for the radio.....Nothing! No lights came on.

A voltmeter confirmed the 12 volt source. The wiring harness was checked over and over. Yet still the Kenwood refused to turn on. Finally Al brought out the club power supply. Plugged in to the supply, the radio worked beautifully. At wit's end we decided that we would forget the battery power and run on the mains. (Our class category had to be changed to a "D" class.) It remains a mystery because since the field day, my own radio works fine

on the battery pack.

Next we attached the Inverted-V antenna and noticed a crackling noise on the radio. This definitely worsened when the 450-ohm feedline was shaken. We pulled down the centre of the antenna. Jim and Reg re-soldered the connection between the twin-lead feedline and one leg of the antenna. Initially this seemed to solve the problem and the antenna was re-attached. No sooner was everything back in place when the crackling started all over again and the meters indicated no power was going to the antenna.

Al brought out the club G5RV antenna which he had brought along. With a little "grunt-work" from the whole crew we put up the G5RV which became the our antenna.



Because of all the glitches we were a little late in getting started, but there was nothing that could hinder this determined crew from participating in the annual field day.

"STEP ASIDE, MACGYVER!!"



VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

Minutes from June 27 , 2018

1. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was open at 7:30 pm by our Club president Brian VA3DXK .

2. Roll Call: VE3DXQ Tom, VA3GWM Gord,VA3PDC Paul, VE3DCC Rich, VE3QB Bruce, VE3DWI Tony, VE3IXX Bob, VE3YBM Brian,VE3EIX Harry,VA3QB Bill, VA3DXK Brian, VE3DWI Tony, VE3AUS Al, VE3YBM Brian,VE3ML Wes, VE3RVH Reg, VE3CXU Doug, VE3KCY Ken, VE3IXX Bob

3. Adopt Agenda : Agenda was approved.

4. Secretary's Report: Tom VE3DXQ asked if there were any errors or omissions from the May 2018 minutes. None were mentioned. Tom made a motion to have the May minutes accepted. This was seconded by Bob VE3IXX.

5. Treasurer's Report: Paul VA3PDC showed us the financials to date and current balance. Paul said that the bank has added an extra service charge of \$3.00, but he is not sure why and is trying to find out. Paul made a motion that we pay Reg VE3RVH \$45.00 for tables at the Flea market. Seconded by Ken VE3KCY. Paul said that bank statements have been going to the wrong address. Brian VE3DXK and Paul VA3PDC will straighten this out with the bank.

6. Vice President's Report : None

7. Committee Reports

Safety Officer: Tom VE3DXQ no incidents to report.

Field Day: Bob VE3IXX said that Eight people showed up for field day despite the poor weather. There were also some technical problems to get through as well. Bill VA3QB said the bands were quite good on the weekend.

Fall Conference /Workshop September 22 at Elmira Legion: Al VA3TET was not present. Rich VE3DCC said they are having a hard time getting speakers. He spoke to The quantum Institute receptionist today and asked do you have an out reach program for the quantum communications you are working on but they are reluctant to talk about it. Rich said he is not clear at this point how the day will go but, it could turn out to be several ERC presentations. Gord may speak on VLF. We could have a digital mode session, and Ted VE3TRQ may do a presentation. Rich VE3DCC said the price will still be \$20.00 per person. This will cover the cost of the hall. Brian VA3DXK asked what additional cost there may be. Rich said the Audio and Video can probably be taken care of easily. He also said food can be purchased at the Legion. There should also be an honorarium for the speakers. Rich VE3DCC said there are no firm commitments financially at this point. Ken VE3KCY said the legion would probably like an idea of the number of people at the event to know how much food to prepare. Tony VE3DWI asked if there as a drop dead date for this event. Rich said either the end of July or early August.

8. Unfinished Business:

Trusteeship of Club Call Sign & Repeater Licence (Brian VA3DXK/Paul VA3PDC) : Paul VA3PDC said he got the repeater license back from Industry Canada. Rich VE3DCC suggested we scan it to make copies for the club Archive and several club members. A copy on each repeater as well as the licensee Wes VE3ML who would get the original. Rich VE3DCC said he has a programming cable for the fusion repeater. He said there should be 2 and suspects one is up with the repeater at the firehall.

June Hamfest Report: (Reg VE3RVH AI VA3TET Ted VE3DXQ): AI & Ted were not present so Reg gave a report on the 44th annual Central Ontario Hamfest. This report will be in the news letter. This was held on Sunday June 3rd at Rosedale –Waterloo Regional Police Association. We had 3 tables for ERC items, and Tony VE3DWI had a table on his own with items for sale. AI VA3TET operated ONTARS. Paul VA3PDC asked for a moment of silence in remembrance for Ralph Brubacher VE3EUC-SK. This was done. All of Ralph's equipment was sold except odds and ends which Reg brought to the club tonight for anyone interested and all this was taken as well.

Club Inventory & Resources Inventory update: At the last meeting Reg VE3RVH gave an Inventory list to Tom VE3DXQ and Paul VA3PDC. Tom VE3DXQ said he would scan it and send it to Brian VE3DXK. Brian said he would send this at a later date to club members.

9. New Business: Canada Day BBQ (AL VA3TET) Brian VA3DXK said he has not heard anything from AI on this. Reg VE3RVH said AI was waiting to hear from Brian VA3DXK. Bill VA3QB suggested that we reschedule this as Canada Day will be very hot. Brian said he would contact AI to reschedule this.

Point Clark Lighthouse Weekend Aug 17-19: (Brian VA3DXK/ AI VA3TET) Brian said he will head up on the Friday night to help with Antenna set up. Paul VA3PDC said he would bring up the BBQ and stove and AI would bring up the onions, burgers and mushrooms. Paul VA3PDC said there is no need for a generator, as we can get power from the lighthouse. AI VA3TET has the club banner. Brian said that last year we had an eight foot shelter. Rich VE3DCC said he has a 10x12 canopy, and bob VE3IXX said he has the club tent. Bill VA3QB said he has a 10x10 shelter. Brian asked club members present if they would be interested in booking a restaurant for the Saturday night. The restaurant we went to last year is closed. Paul VA3PDC mentioned we could get together with the Kincardine Lighthouse group for this dinner. Paul & Brian said they could arrange this through Barry VE3ISX. Tom VE3DXQ mention there is a motel called Dunlop Motel which is not to far from Point Clark.

Rich VE3DCC mentioned about the Bill Graham VE3ETK memorial dinner at Crossroads Restaurant in October. Also Brian VA3DXK is retiring and next Wednesday July 4, there will be a brunch at sunset grill in Waterloo after Ham Radio coffee time.

10. Presentations: Various possibilities for presentations were mentioned. Tony VE3DWI said he could do a presentation on feed lines for next season.

11. Adjournment : Tom VE3DXQ made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Bruce VE3QB. Meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

VISIT THE ERC WEBSITE AT

www.ve3erc.ca

**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
(519-787-2279)**

**International
Lighthouse and Lightship
Weekend**

AUGUST 18-19, 2018

**JOIN
THE ELMIRA RADIO CLUB
IN
POINT CLARK**

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

**JUNE 13 - REG VE3RVH
JUNE 20 - TOM VE3DXQ
JUNE 27 - MEETING
JULY 4 - PAUL VE3PVB
JULY 11 - TRACY VA3TGY
JULY 18 - BRIAN VA3DXX
JULY 25 - BOB VE3IXX
AUGUST 1 - TED VE3TRQ
AUGUST 8 - AL VA3TET**



**Radio Amateurs
of Canada**

RAC BULLETIN

Celebrate Canada's Birthday with us: Sunday, July 1

<https://wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-day-contest-2018/>

Each year on July 1, the anniversary of Canada's Confederation, Radio Amateurs of Canada sponsors the Canada Day Contest and Amateurs all over the world are invited to Canada's Birthday Party on the air.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC July 1, 2018.

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.)

Suggested frequencies: CW – 25 kHz up from the band edge and for SSB – 1850, 3775, 7075, 7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS(T) and province or territory. VEØs and stations outside Canada send RS(T) and a serial number.

QSOs: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØs are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are worth 20 points. RAC official stations are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC. You may work any station once on each of the two modes, on each of the eight contest bands.

It is prohibited to make CW contacts in the conventional phone sub-bands and phone contacts in the conventional CW sub-bands. Contacts or soliciting QSOs through a repeater during the contest period is not allowed.

Multipliers: Thirteen in total, Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Each multiplier may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands. The multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are: Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, VA1, CY9, CYØ); Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2); Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3); Manitoba [MB] (VE4, VA4); Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5, VA5); Alberta [AB] (VE6, VA6); British Columbia [BC] (VE7, VA7); Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8); New Brunswick [NB] (VE9); Newfoundland and Labrador [NL] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NU] (VYØ); Yukon [YT] (VY1); and Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2). Certain special Canadian prefixes in use at the time of the contest may also apply; however there may be no more than 13 multipliers on each band/mode. Please use the multiplier abbreviations, in square brackets, noted above.

Final Score: The total QSO from all bands multiplied by the total number of multipliers from all bands.

Categories: The following nine categories are eligible for plaques or certificates as detailed in the Awards section of the rules.

- Single Operator All Bands High Power (>100 watts) – Radioworld
- Single Operator All Bands Low Power (max. 100 watts output) – Contest Club Ontario
- Single Operator QRP (max. 5 watt output) All Bands & Single Band ** – Radioworld
- Single Operator All Bands CW only, any authorized power – Maritime Contest Club
- Single Operator All Bands PH only, any authorized power – Saskatchewan Contest Club
- Single Operator Single Band, any authorized power *** – Radioworld

- Multi-Operator Single Transmitter High Power (>100 watts) * – Alfa Radio
 - Multi-Operator Single Transmitter Low Power (max. 100 watts output) * – Tony Allsop
- VE3FTA Memorial by the Mississauga ARC
Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter, any authorized power – Radioworld
For the Canada Day Contest a special trophy is awarded for the highest Single Operator (no power classification) Foreign Entrant – Larry Kayser VA3LK Memorial by Alan Goodacre, VE3HX.

Special thanks to our sponsors for their support of the RAC contests.

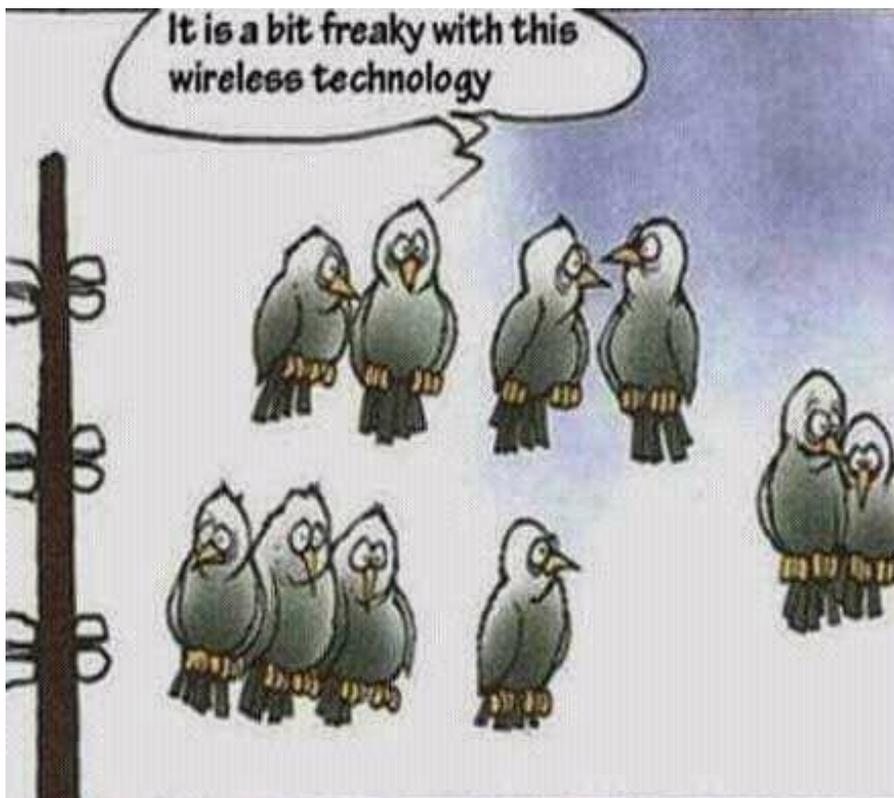
FEEDBACK

Thanks to Ted VE3TRQ who sent the following interesting website:

<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>

It is an article by NT0Z entitled, "Did Joe Taylor Destroy Amateur Radio? - NT0Z"

Dan's (KB6NU) article in the May newsletter mentioned this also. NT0Z claims that with the advent of the most recent digital modes including FT-8, hams are no longer talking to each other but now only the computers are connecting. Check out the article and see what you think!



Thanks to Tony VE3DWI for sending cartoon captions.