



NOVEMBER 2018

Volume 7 Issue 11

VE3ERC-LUB



- President:** Brian VA3DXK
- Vice-President:** Ted VE3TRQ
- Secretary:** Tom VE3DXQ
- Treasurer:** Paul VA3PDC
- Trustee:** John VE3JXX
- QSL Manager:** Paul VA3PDC
- Repeater Manager & Maintenance:** Wes VE3ML
- 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.**



A signals unit erecting a radio mast on one of the Normandy beaches, June 1944.

British National Army Museum

**HAM TECH 2019
WILL BE SEPTEMBER 21, 2019
(see page 8)**



THE PREZ SEZ!

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



President's Update for November 2018

For the Elmira Radio Club VE3ERC, our November meeting signals the culmination of fall activities, the onset of winter-like weather, and fact that the Christmas Season is well upon us. The hour is late if one has any remaining antenna or tower work to contend with outside and hopefully we are all in a position where we can all sit back and relax at our stations with a hot cup of coffee and enjoy some air time over the next month.

We have two exciting events planned for December. First up is our annual **Christmas Coffee Group Lunch**, Wed. Dec. 5th, Luther Village, arrive 11:30-12:00 noon. Second on the list is our **Christmas Pot Luck Party** on the evening of Tuesday, December 11th from 6:00-9:30pm at the Elmira Legion. Bring your spouse or significant other along with your Christmas spirit, and of course a contribution for the pot luck dinner. Be sure to thank Jim VE3JMU and Reg VE3RVH for their generous offer of time and commitment to set up the event.

I would like to give a shout out to all those amateur radio operators on our emailing list, both near and far, who subscribe to our monthly newsletter, and especially to those who contribute articles, pass along our news and field activities, or contribute to expanding our circle of friendship and communication. Much appreciated and thank you!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 23rd, 2019.

On behalf of the Elmira radio Club VE3ERC I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Make sure you take time to slow things down and spend time with those you love and cherish.

Elmira Radio Christmas Coffee Group Lunch

Wednesday December 5th 11:30/12:00noon, cost is \$15 (offset by coffee proceeds), Luther Village, Waterloo ON

Elmira Radio Club Christmas Part

Tuesday December 11th 6:00-9:30pm, Festivities at the Elmira Royal Canadian Legion Branch 469, 11 First St. E. Elmira ON

NORAD's Santa Tracker Began With A Typo And A Good Sport

- How an accidental call to NORAD's top-secret hotline led to a Christmas tradition military -

<https://www.history.com/news/the-wrong-number-that-launched-the-santa-tracker>

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/32021/why-did-norad-start-tracking-santa>

When the dreaded red phone rang inside the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) operations center on the last day of November in 1955, the mood at the nerve center of America's nuclear defense grew nervous. At a time when the Cold War raged and Soviet fighter jets routinely buzzed dangerously close to Alaskan airspace, U.S. Air Force Colonel Harry Shoup knew that a call over the top-secret hotline wouldn't be good news.

Anxious that the caller might be the president or a four-star general warning of an atomic attack on the United States, Shoup steeled himself as he answered the hotline that was directly wired from his command post in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to the Pentagon.

"Yes, sir, this is Colonel Shoup," he answered in his finest military cadence. Met with only silence, he repeated, "Sir, this is Colonel Shoup." Still nothing. "Sir, can you read me alright?" Shoup asked before he received a most unexpected reply from the soft voice of a child.

"Are you really Santa Claus?"

Shoup was stunned for a second. This must be a joke, he thought. He looked around the room, expecting to see his men laughing at their prank, but found stony, serious faces all around. The deadly serious heart of America's defense against aerial assault was hardly the venue for a practical joke, and the colonel was not amused.

"Would you repeat that, please?" Shoup barked. On the other end of the line, he heard the frightened youngster sobbing and realized this was no joke. He realized that there was "some screwup on the phones," and decided to play along. Some mix-up had compromised the top-secret hotline.

Rather than admitting he wasn't Santa Claus, the 38-year-old father of four quickly assumed the part of St. Nick, "Yes, I am," he answered. "Have you been a good little girl?"

The girl explained to Shoup that she would leave some food out for both Santa and his reindeer and then recited her Christmas list to him. Shoup thanked her for her hospitality, noting that Santa had a lot of traveling to do. How did he get to all those houses in one night, anyway, she asked.

Apparently, that was classified intelligence in Shoup's mind. "That's the magic of Christmas," he said. If anyone asks her about that, he said, she should tell them to stop asking so many questions or Santa would put them on the naughty list. He then asked to speak to the caller's mother.



Colonel Harry Shoup

"That red phone, boy," Shoup later recalled. "That's either the old man—the four star [General Partridge]—or the Pentagon. I was all shook up."

The red phone would keep ringing throughout the night. Not because of Soviet nukes or fighter planes heading toward U.S. soil, but because of a typo.

The mother informed the colonel, who passed away in 2009, that her child had dialed the phone number listed in a Sears Roebuck advertisement in the local Colorado Springs newspaper. The advertisement featured an illustration of Santa Claus and an invitation to call him on his private phone any time day or night. There was a problem with that printed phone number, however.

"They had one digit wrong, and it was my father's top-secret phone number," Shoup's daughter, Terri Van Keuren, recalls. "So now the phone is ringing off the hook."



Instead of reaching the Santa standing by at the Sears Toyland, the children of Colorado Springs had instead connected with one of America's most sensitive military installations. "[Shoup] called AT&T and said to give Sears that phone number and get him a new one, but in the meantime he had to have servicemen answer the calls," says Van Keuren.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower formed CONAD in 1954 to provide early warning of an aerial attack from enemies such as the Soviet Union, he tasked the joint military command with scanning the skies for "reds" flying bomber planes, not a man in a red suit.

"There may be a guy called Santa Claus at the North Pole, but he's not the one I worry about coming from that direction," Shoup later told the International News Service.

Still, the wrong number put the Colorado command post in a Yuletide mood and sparked a festive idea to soften its hard-edged public image. With an eye toward making its mission a little less scary to the American public, CONAD issued a press release that appeared in newspapers around the country on Christmas Eve letting "good

little boys and girls" know that it was tracking a big red sleigh approaching from the North Pole. The command said that first reports from its radar and ground observation outposts indicated that Santa Claus was traveling at 45 knots per hour at an altitude of 35,000 feet.

The release also contained a bit of propaganda that reassured children that American forces would "guard Santa and his sleigh on his trip to and from the U.S. against possible attack from those who do not believe in Christmas." That was a clear allusion to the atheistic Soviets and

Santa Tracker Add.

their fellow Communists.

When Shoup visited his troops on Christmas Eve to distribute cookies, he looked up at the three-story-tall map of the North American continent that dominated the operations center to see that someone had sketched Santa's sleigh descending from the North Pole alongside the unidentified objects detected in American airspace. The idea for the Santa Tracker was born as Shoup looked at that map, on December 24, 1955.

According to Van Keuren, her father always had a knack for public relations, so he arranged a phone call with a local radio station to report that CONAD had spotted an unidentified flying object that looked like a sleigh. Other radio stations then began to phone in to get the latest update on Santa's location, and a Christmas tradition was cemented.

"The wires went nuts, and it got bigger and better every year," Van Keuren says of the Santa tracking operation. Shoup became known as the "Santa colonel," a nickname he embraced with pride.

"He was a very strict father, but he was a child about Christmas," Van Keuren says. "He put the decorations up the day after Thanksgiving, and we were the first people I knew of who had bubble lights, which we brought back from Japan."

In 1958, responsibility for the Santa Tracker was transferred from CONAD to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) after the United States and Canada joined forces for the continent's nuclear defense. Today, the Santa Tracker might be what NORAD is best-known for beyond its star turn in the 1983 film *WarGames*.

Now officially known as "NORAD Tracks Santa," the operation has evolved with technology and the times. During the 1960s, NORAD mailed vinyl records to radio stations that featured pre-recorded reports on Santa's progress and holiday music from its in-house orchestra. In the 1970s, NORAD took to the airwaves with television commercials.

In the digital age, St. Nick's real-time progress can be monitored on social media, on smartphones and tablets through the official app, and on the NORAD Tracks Santa website, which is available in eight languages. As of 2017, Amazon Echo users can ask Alexa for Santa's whereabouts.

According to Royal Canadian Navy Lieutenant Marco Chouinard, a NORAD spokesperson, more than 1,500 active-duty military and civilian volunteers from the United States and Canada, including Shoup's daughter Van Keuren, will spend this Christmas Eve in Colorado Springs fielding inquiries from around the world. "In some cases, three generations have been doing this. It's part of their Christmas tradition," Chouinard says.

With more than 150,000 calls expected this year, the phones are sure to be jingling at NORAD just as they were in 1955. Only this time, the hotline won't bring any surprises.

Beginning at 6:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Christmas Eve, kids of all ages can call 1-877-HI-NORAD or send an e-mail to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com to receive updates on Santa's location.

www.ve3erc.ca

REMEMBRANCE DAY ON ONTARS

By Bob Koechl ve3ixx

For many years now, the Guelph Amateur Radio Club has set up a special event station at McCrae House in Guelph during the few days surrounding Remembrance Day. McCrae House, located in Guelph, Ontario, is the birthplace of John McCrae, doctor, soldier and author of the famous First World War poem "In Flanders Fields". The house is a National Historic Site of Canada.

Unfortunately, for the last two years the club has had to move their special event station to a new location at the Hammond Museum. This does not seem to have dampened their spirits.

This year, for a change, I tuned into ONTARS just before 11 am on Sunday, November 11 and this is what I heard. Linda VE3ILJ of the Guelph Club, in the few minutes before the top of the hour, recited a brief history of the life of John McCrae and his participation in the First World War which led to his penning of the famous poem "In Flanders Fields".

At exactly 11 am, Linda observed two minutes of silence and then recited "In Flanders Fields". Immediately following this she opened the net.

Both my XYL and I found this deeply moving. I'm sure all the other hams and short wave listeners who tuned in would agree.

I would like to thank Barry VE3ISX, the ONTARS manager, for hosting such a wonderful public service. It is a tribute to Barry and all the past managers that ONTARS is celebrating it's 47th year of service to the amateur community. Forty-seven years of ONTARS speaks volumes.



John McCrae (1872-1918)



Thanks to Paul VE3PDC for the photos taken at the Hammond Museum station.

CORRESPONDENCE

CORRECTIONS: Regarding September's article entitled "World's Most Powerful Satellite", it was stated that it appeared in the "TOA". The "TOA" was actually "The Ontario Amateur", the provincial counterpart to "CARF", the national organization. Thanks to Harold VE3CD, who wrote:

HI Bob,

Looks good but it was first published in TOA "The Ontario Amateur" for 1/76., the magazine for the Radio Society of Ontario.

I don't think it ever ran in TCA, The Canadian Amateur, RAC's publication.

Tks & 73,

Harold VE3CD

Tony VE3DWI wrote that in the "roll call" for the September minutes his XYL, Marianne VE3MXT was incorrectly named. Thanks for letting us know.

The following is an e-mail from Jim VE3JMU regarding a list of the Silent Keys of the Elmira Radio Club:

Hi Bob

The attached is a list I put together of silent keys. Note that the two names at the bottom of the list I am not sure of. Alan we might be able to check with Paul and see if he shows him as having paid his dues. I also don't know about Ted I only know that he was a member of the Kitchener club.

There are probably more people from the original club but I don't know who to talk to about these people.

Jim

Harry Eix VE3 EIX

Wallace Caughell VE3 LCR

Ralph Brubacher VE3 EUC

Ken Moore ?

Syd Lennox VE3 CQO

Bill Graham VE3 ETK

Michael Dent VA3 FTL

Bing Harris VE3 BAH

Ross Mills VE3 BZC

Wayne Peti VE3 CWY

Bob Naylor VE3 AEE

Nor sure of the following 2:

Alan Ward VE3 UTO

Ted Bodman VE3 CD

Rich VE3DCC added to the list:

Ford Mosher ?

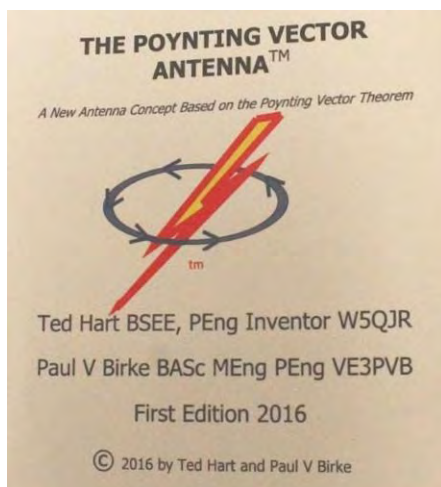
Doc. Horowitz ?

Any comments, changes or additions?

Send an e-mail to:

bobve3ixx@gmail.com

Elmira HAM TECH Seminar by Marvin Double VE3VCG



On Saturday Sept 22 Janet VA3EAC and Marvin Double VE3VCG attended the HAM TECH seminar. The event, sponsored by the Elmira Radio Club, VE3ERC, took place at the Royal Canadian Legion in Elmira.

The event was very well organized and well attended. 5 presentations were made with a 40 minute break at noon for lunch. Not all topics covered were directly related to Amateur Radio.

The presentation by Dr. Gordon Hayward, Ph.D in Chemical Engineering, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph described his work in the design of chemical/biological sensors.

A part of Dr Hayward's presentation focused on the unique design and function of the electrical circuitry of this new device. The sensor using Piezoelectric circuits has been used in the detection of prions related to mad cow disease and also in the study of ovarian cancer among other applications. There was considerable and obvious interest by the audience in this on going work. Many questions and exchanges were made related to the more technical aspects of the device.

Another presentation by Dr. Katanya Kuntz. Currently a post doctoral fellow in the Institute for Quantum Computing at the University of Waterloo focused on her research interests, which include both classical and quantum optics. She described her work as part of Canada's first QKD satellite mission. The object of this mission is to develop quantum encryption and demonstrate the distribution of encrypted keys from space. The fruit of such research would be the creation of a new method of encrypting data which would make hacking transmissions by a third party impossible.

As with other topics Dr Kuntz's presentation was met with great interest and was well received. Many questions were put to her and there was considerable feedback from the audience. The highly technical aspects of her work, and possible long term benefits, was very engaging.

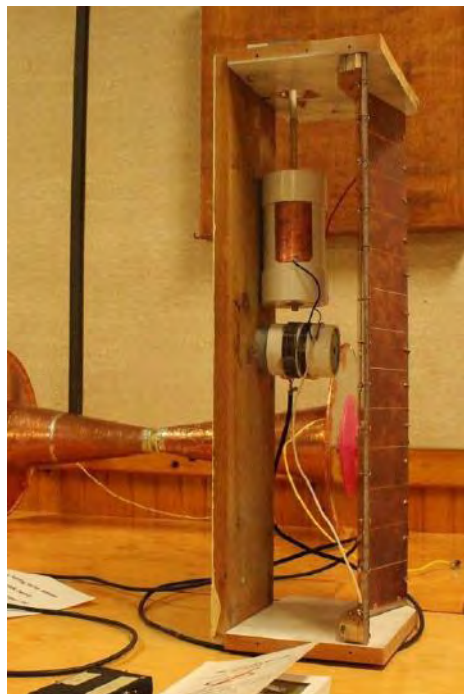
Of special interest to me was the presentation on Mesh Networking by Ted Rypma, VE3TRQ of the Elmira Radio Club. Ted's professional career includes twenty years working for Hewlett-Packard doing data communications / network design and software programming. Ted's presentation focused on how mesh networking nicely interfaces with HAM Radio.

Ted's presentation, was both practical and somewhat technical. He set up 2 mesh net nodes which talked to each other across the room. One included a camera which could be controlled via Ted's computer causing it to pan, tilt, rotate and zoom. Ted made clear the real and practical value of establishing a mesh network. This kind of network is especially useful when pressed into service during various emergency situations. Mesh networks help facilitate the transfer of important operational information and data more rapidly and reliably than can be done via voice communications. With the establishment of a mesh net "backbone" the "net" can function independently from the Internet.



In a personal conversation with Ted, after the event ended, I suggested that his presentation would be useful and informative for other clubs. I advised that I would bring this idea to the attention of the executive of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club with the suggestion that such a presentation might be welcomed by our members.

The presentation by Paul Birke Peng, VE3PVB and Alan Macdonald, VA3TET, on "Poynting Vector Antennas was of special interest."



These intriguing antennas are built using information included in a patent originally issued in the late 19th century. As a recognized expert in electric and magnetic fields, and winner of the gold engineering award in 1985 Paul has co-authored a book which details the principles of Poynting Vector Antennas.



While this presentation explored the theory behind the antenna design Paul and Allan also offered 2 practical functional antennas where the application of that theory has been put in practice for demonstration testing purposes.

All in all the day was very interesting and informative. I wish to extend many thanks to the Elmira Radio Club and all the presenters for an excellent job. Both Jan and I came away with many things to stimulate further discussion and research.

Special thanks to Tom VA3TS and the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club and of course to Marvin VE3VCG for permission to use this article.



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Wanted:::
Volunteers to be part of a committee to run and oversee Ham Tech. This is an opportunity for the club to earn revenue and bring valuable information to the amateur radio community. Please step up!! Both Rich and Al are unable to take an active roll for 2019.

RAC BULLETIN

November 20, 2018



Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to announce its support of the **Canadian National Parks on the Air (CNPOTA) event** which will be held next year from January 1 to December 31.

The CNPOTA Event Committee describes the event in this way:

"All Radio Amateurs worldwide will have an opportunity to operate portably from any of Canada's 48 National Parks and 171 National Historic Sites (these are 'activators'). Amateurs around the world will be able to chase these adventurous operators in an effort to confirm the most QSOs (these are 'chasers').

Activity for activators and chasers will be tracked on a dedicated website and real-time leader board and other statistics will be available throughout the year. Activators and chasers will be able to compete for and collect online awards and certificates created specifically for the event.

Come join the fun and plan to visit one of Canada's beautiful Parks and Historic sites next year!".

RAC will be assisting the organizers in promoting the event through articles in *The Canadian Amateur* magazine, the RAC website and in social media.

For more information about the event please visit the Canadian National Parks on the Air website at: <https://cnpota.ca/>

Alan Griffin
RAC MarCom Director

wp.rac.ca

720 Belfast Road, #217
Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5
613-244-4367, 1- 877-273-8304

raccomms@gmail.com



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?

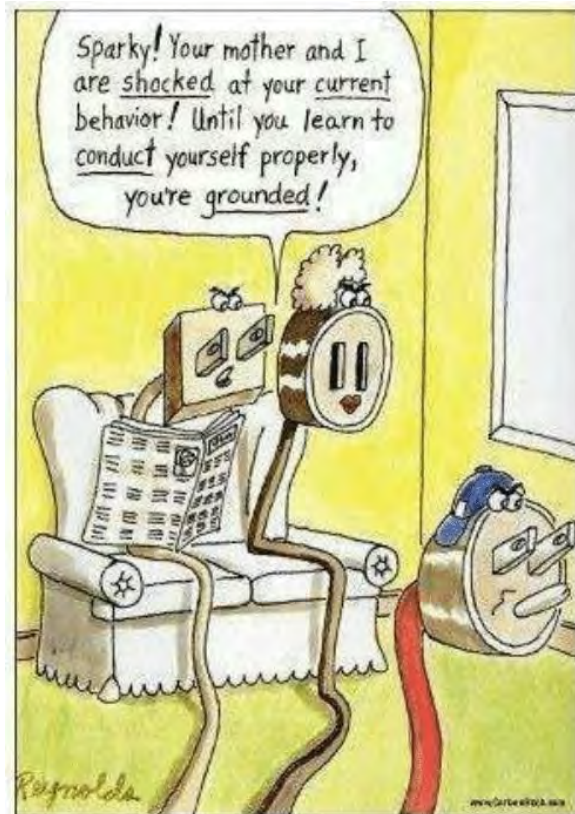
Perhaps you'd like to share a photo of your shack, a special project you are working on or a special

interest!

SEND THEM TO:

Bob bobve3ixx@gmail.com

(519-787-2279)



WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

DECEMBER 5 - AL VA3TET

DECEMBER 12 - REG VE3RVH

DECEMBER 19 - TOM VE3DXQ

DECEMBER 26 - PAUL VE3PVB

2019 JANUARY 2 - BRIAN VA3DXX

JANUARY 9 - BOB VE3IXX

JANUARY 16 - TED VE3TRQ

JANUARY 23 - MEETING

JANUARY 30 - AL VA3TET

FEBRUARY 6 - REG VE3RVH

FEBRUARY 13 - TOM VE3DXQ

FEBRUARY 20 - PAUL VE3PVB



VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

Minutes from Nov28, 2018

1. Call to Order & Welcome

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

2. Roll Call: VE3DXQ Tom, VA3GWM Gord, VE3DCC Rich, VE3DWI Tony, VE3IXX Bob, VA3QB Bill, VE3AUS Al, VE3ML Wes, VE3CXU Doug, VE3KCY Ken, VE3CD Harold, VA3FJM Frank, VE3JMU JIM, VA3TET Al, VA3PDC Paul, VE3QB Bruce, VE3RVH Reg, VE3DXK Brian, VE3YBM Brian.

3. Adopt Agenda : Brian VA3DXK revised the agenda as follows- To Table Scouts planning until January, add Rac Membership & Club Insurance, and add Ham Teck.

4. Secretary's Report: Tom VE3DXQ asked if there were any errors or omissions. None were mentioned. Tom made a motion to have minutes accepted. Bruce VE3QB seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

5. Treasurer's Report: Paul VA3PDC made a motion to have treasurer's report accepted as presented. This was seconded by Brian VE3YBM. All were in favour and was carried.

6. Vice President's Report: Nothing new to report.

7. Committee Reports:

Safety Officer (Tom VE3DXQ). Nothing new to report.

8. Unfinished Business:

Feedmill Repeater Cabinets & Committee- Bill VA3QB was offered another cabinet, but had to turn it down as he has no time to pick it up. Bill said he needs to know soon if we need more cabinets and where they are going. Ken VE3KCY has offered to host a Fergus style repeater in Alma. This would be a VHF repeater linked by UHF to the VHF repeater at the feed mill in Elmira.

Discussion followed on how many cabinets we may need at the feed mill. The consensus seem to be 2 cabinets and one at Alma. Bill VA3QB said we will have to get someone to talk with the owners at the feedmill and advise them exactly what we plan to do, where the equipment is going and where we can access power. A few members expressed their concerns about dust at the feed mill. Bill VA3QB says we can add furnace filters. Brian VA3DXK said he will contact John Scheeringa VE3JXX as he knows the contacts at the feed mill. Brian VA3DXK said we will follow up with this in January.

Silent Key Memorial Dinner- Brian VA3DXK asked if there were any comments or suggestions regarding the silent Key Memorial Dinner. Bill VA3QB suggested for a change maybe going to Bonnie Lous in Floridale. Rich VE3DCC asked how the list of silent keys is going for our club. Bob VE3IXX said that he got more names from Jim VE3JMU. Bob also said he plans to put them in the newsletter. Bill VA3QB said it would be good to have their names on the website with their picture.

9. New Business:

Scouts Tabled until January

RAC insurance is due in December. Reg VE3RVH said RAC insurance for the club was a little over \$400.00. Paul VA3PDC made a motion that we just pay the RAC Insurance when we get the Bill. Motion was seconded by Al VA3TET. All in favour.

Christmas Coffee Lunch Wed Dec 5th. Al VA3TET said so far 19 are coming, and to let him know ASAP if you plan on coming. He said to show up at 11:30 am. Wives are welcome. Location is Luther Village Waterloo.

Club Christmas Party Tuesday Dec 11th Elmira Legion. This is a potluck event. Brian VA3DXK asked for a show of hands how many will be attending. Looks like approx. 40 will attend. This number includes spouses. Brian VA3DXK said we should budget \$300.00 to \$350 for this event. Jim VE3JMU and Reg VE3RVH volunteered to decorate the Hall. Al VA3TET made a motion to spend up to \$350.00 on the Christmas Party. This was seconded by Bruce VE3QB. Carried.

Ham Tek- Al VA3TET said that due to health issues he has to step back regarding Ham Tek. He would like to see a committee formed to carry the ball on this. He said he has a couple of people interested to speak at the Seminar, and needs 3 more. The date for the 2019 Ham Tek will be Sept 21, 2019. Al VA3TET said that with word of mouth on this he expects at least 50 people to register in 2019. Al also said we have good contacts now with the University of Waterloo. The info regarding Ham Tek event was passed on to RAC. Rich VE3DCC said they have files on a USB regarding the 2018 Ham Tek. Rich VE3DCC made a motion to form a committee



Checking out the equipment from the estate of Harry Eix VE3EIX-SK



to work on putting together the 2019 Ham Tek. Tom seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

10. Presentation: Tony VE3DWI did a presentation on Coaxial Cables & Connections.

He had power-points on his Laptop that was connected to the Flat screen TV. He explained about why we have 50 ohm impedances. He also showed charts that show characteristics of various types of cable. He also passed around various types of connectors and cable samples. A very informative and interesting presentation.

11: Announcements: Next meeting: Wednesday Nov 28, 2018.

12: Adjournment: Meeting ended 9:35 pm



Tony VE3DWI's talk on coaxial cables and connectors proved a great hit among all the members. Lots of discussion followed.