



JULY 2016

Volume 5 Issue 7

VE3ERC-LUB

President: Rich VE3DCC
Vice-President: John VE3JXX
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 Carl VE3FEF
Website Admin: Ted VE3TRQ
Lighthouse: Bruce VE3QB
Maple Syrup Display: Joyce VA3WXU
 Judd VE3WXU
Newsletter: Bob VE3IXX

ERC REPEATERS

UHF 444.700 TONE: 131.8
VHF 147.390 + TONE: 131.8
EMERGENCY SIMPLEX: 147.51

Emergency Reminder:
In the event of an
emergency, tune into

our repeaters,
UHF 444.700 or
VHF 147.390 or
Low Band 3.755 LSB or
Simplex 147.510
For coordination and
assignments.



**Radio Amateurs
 of Canada**



Field Day 2016

THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

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President's Update for July 2016



I know that you are looking for a way to have "Ham fun" over the summer, so....

Your Call Sign!!! It is certainly a unique part of you—there is no other person who holds that sequence of letters and numbers in the world... well, at least not right now; but, have you ever wondered who had your call earlier or originally?

In a discussion over breakfast with the KWARC "breakfast bunch" at Angels Rest-aurant (I fight the urge to break into a line or two from Arlo Guthrie's ALICE's rest-aurant), the issue of Call Sign ownership came up . This began as a discussion about a HAM who had recently gone to a 2-letter call but then discovered that he could not acquire the License Plates because the family of the SK (Silent Key) would not release them. At Field Day I was advised that the "call" plates had to be severed from the vehicle and returned on death, since the plates are not "own choice" but rather "special issue" . There should not be an issue but it could extend over a year.

That discussion at breakfast soon evolved to Call Sign "Geneology" or "Do you know the history of your Call Sign". Oddly, one week later, at our ve3ERC field day site, Judd ve3WXU, raised the same question. He had acquired a 1983 Call Book and he had been checking out local HAMS.

Of course, now that call signs are "on-line", the old Call Sign books and International Call Sign books seem to be a thing of the past. So, How do you go about tracing a call sign? Can we find "old" records in a world of electronic storage?

Well now, Shortly after that breakfast discussion, Harold Braun, a member of the Angels breakfast bunch sent me this note:

From: Harold Braun

Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 9:25 PM

To: Rich Clausi VE3DCC

Subject: Foreign Callbook

https://archive.org/stream/Fall_1952_Radio_Amateur_Callbook/Fall_1952_Radio_Amateur_Callbook_Foreign#page/n113/mode/2up

HI,

Try this. I googled the 1952 callbook then opened the last link. Page thru the foreign listings to get to VE3's

Harold

In doing the Google search for Old Ham Calls, I learned that in many cases, HAMS have items published and their Call Signs are appended to their, usually, first name without a last name. This could be a "hook" into tracing the Call Sign.

In my case, I was able to quickly locate minutes from the Scarborough Ham Club circa 1973/1974. I was assigned my Call, ve3DCC, in August of 1975. Coincidentally, at a recent flea market, I was approached by a fellow who knew the previous holder, Lyle Leyland of Scarborough. In fact, Lyle was on the board and the secretary of the York Region ARC for many years. When he passed away, his call went into the Call Sign pool. With Harold's tip, I was able to find another piece of the puzzle—a "Foreign/Others" entry in the 1952 US callbook. At that time, a fellow named Kenneth W Hynes of 41 Derwyn Rd. East York, Toronto held the call. It is interesting that both licensees were in North Toronto. I wonder if there is a connection? Since call signs were issued starting in 1923, it might be fun, to fill in the gaps. I wonder if anyone else held the call between 1952 and 1970? So now, my challenge to you is.....

Do you know the history of your call?

If it is interesting, consider dropping us a line.

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

de Rich, ve3DCC



COME AND PARTICIPATE
IN
THE LIGHTHOUSE
WEEKEND

AT POINT CLARKE
AUGUST 20-21

PLAN NOW FOR
FUN IN THE SUN
...AND ON THE RADIO

FIELD DAY 2016



Field Day 2016 was a great success, especially when compared to last year's wind-blown, rained-out fiasco. A lively crew consisting of Al (va3tet), Rich (ve3dcc), Joycee and Judd (va3wxu and ve3wxu respectively), Jim (ve3jmu), Bruce (ve3qb), Ted (ve3trq), Tom (ve3dxq), Dennis (ve3utn) and his grandson Michael, Frank (va3fjm) and Bob (ve3ixx) arrived to set up on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Johan (va3jbo) brought the equipment trailer earlier on Friday morning. An unexpected surprise this year was that the Guelph Amateur Radio Club did not pick up their EMMCOM trailer and so gave the Elmira Club a solid housing for the radio equipment. The push-up tower that came with the trailer facilitated the work of erecting the tri-band beam (a slight glitch with the rotor was easily corrected). Along with the G5RV club antenna and Dennis' multi-band vertical, all the bands were covered. It was almost TOO EASY!



Frank (va3fjm) made a contact with a station in Spain.

When Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote in his poem "The Rainy Day" that "Into each life some rain must fall" he could have been talking about Field Day 2016 (and literally about Field day 2015).

The Guelph trailer had included a heavy duty 50 amp 12-volt power supply. This was hooked up to several 12-volt outlets in the trailer and ran

the 12-volt lighting system. No one thought to check it's integrity. When one of the two club transceivers (Icom-746) was hooked up and tested, the receiver worked well, but the transmitter failed to operate. It was Bruce (ve3qb) who became suspicious. He checked the power

with his meter and was startled to find out that it was not 12 volts, but 24 volts. When the club power supply was attached, the transmitter re-

mained inoperative. Frank (va3fjm) pointed out that as there was no smoke that the rig may have had some internal protection. There is always hope. Having a spare transceiver saved the day.



Brian (va3dxk) and Tim Koechl (va3tik) both arrived later Saturday evening and logged into the wee hours of the morning.

operation. 80 M was very noisy and 15 M was all but dead. So that limited the initial operation to 40M and 20M. It was a slow start at first trying to get into the huge pile-ups. But gradually contacts were logged. Young Michael proved to be invaluable in logging the stations on the computer.

Dennis (ve3utn) racking up the club score on PSK-31.



Ted (ve3trq) checking out the digital portions of the bands using his small Elecraft transceiver.

At exactly 2 pm the contest began in earnest. Dennis started the PSK-31 contacts. Tom, Ted, Frank and Bob took shifts on phone





Richard (ve3nul) working his CW magic.



Tom (ve3dxq) on the radio with Michael logging on the computer.

By early evening the crew took a short break for hamburgers and hot dogs and then started back to work. It was at this time that Richard (ve3nul) arrived. Richard is from North York, but has a trailer on Belwood Lake. For the past three years Richard has joined the Elmira Club for Field Day working his favourite mode of operation, CW.

Richard said his goal this year was to make 100 contacts. While he didn't quite achieve his objective, he did log about sixty stations on 20 M, 40 M and 80 M. Well done Richard.

Brian(va3dxk) arrived soon after. He brought his radio along and was quickly logging more stations with Michael recording on the computer. At one point Brian started calling for stations and got so many so quickly that Michael was struggling to keep up. At about 10 pm Tim Koechl (va3tik) arrived and gave Michael a break with logging. The duo continued until 2 am when the 20 M band finally started fading out. Until the end, the west coast stations were being logged in droves. Michael, Brian and Tim as a team racked up the ERC score.

During the whole time, Dennis was also racking up the digital score. Slow and steady he added pages of new contacts while adding comments to the conversation in the trailer. About 2 am, the operations closed for the night.

Sunday morning the crew arrived again. Contacts continued to be made right until 2 pm and the end of the contest. Then the stations, antennas, the generator and equipment were all dismantled in record time and Field Day 2016 came to an end.

A hearty congratulations to all for a successful Field Day!

Bob (ve3ixx)

VISIT THE ELMIRA CLUB WEBSITE AT

www.ve3erc.ca

SHOCK -TALK Safety tips

By Bob Koechl VE3IXX

The following are some common sense safety tips. The List is not exhaustive by any means.

Check and double check that power is off before working on circuits

When working on live circuits make sure you are not alone. Another person should be nearby to help just in case and know how to safely shut off power.

Refrain from wearing metal jewelry on live circuits. Metal objects can cause severe burns when high current flows through (even at low voltages).

When trouble shooting live circuits keep one hand in your pocket. Don't give the current a path through your body.

Remember any voltage over 30 volts is considered dangerous.

Even low voltages can be dangerous. A small tingle can cause a startle effect to touch something more dangerous in the vicinity.

Keep AC circuits covered. A sheet of plastic can work wonders.

When enclosing projects with metal casings make sure the enclosure is fully grounded. Use plastic casing if this can't be done. Also if the casing cannot be grounded use an isolated power supply such as a wall transformer.

Double and triple check your projects before applying power.

Use proper fuse and never by-pass a fuse.

Keep AC and DC circuits physically separated. A wire that comes loose can cause a bad shock.

Periodically check AC circuits. Make sure all wires are secure, not worn or cracked and securely attached inside your project.

Always err on the side of caution. Remember Murphy and keep your work area free of liquids, pets, little children. Don't work when tired or distracted. A first-aid chart is always good to have on hand.

Sources: Electronics for Dummies by Cathleen Shamieh
https://www.physics.ohio-state.edu/~p616/safety/fatal_current.html

Interesting facts

Question: *How long will NiMH batteries hold their charge?*

Answer: Official responses vary, but in my experience, I usually see about 1% per day. So after a few months of sitting idle, expect your NiMH batteries to be down at about half of their capacity. Either way, **Maha** (ed. Note: Maha is a Manufacturer for NiMH batteries) **recommends recharging your batteries at least once a month** even if you don't use them at all. NOT using/charging your batteries much is definitely worse for them than using them a lot! Use and charge them regularly and you should get at least 2-3 years of solid service from them, after which time it'll be worthwhile investing in newer and higher capacity batteries anyway. And if you need batteries that hold their charge longer and don't use as much power anyway (flashlights, alarms, TV remotes, etc.), then go for the Imedion batteries since they'll hold most of their charge for a year or more.

<http://www.paulsfinest.com/Batteries-and-Chargers-FAQ.html>

WE CAN DO ! !!!!!

By Joyce VA3WXU

W

hile listening to the conversations on a morning net last week, I suddenly had an epiphany. I realized that HAMS in general seem to have a passionate "can-do" spirit that is used to do remarkable things.

For example, I listened about an American HAM, Don Flynn (K3IMC), whose dream was to make a contact with someone in every county, parish, and borough of the United States, all 3,077 of them. Even though he was not the first one to achieve this accomplishment, over the course of 26 years he accomplished this dream on two occasions. The third time he did it, he was from within each of the the county, parish, or borough when the contact was made to somewhere else. The cost of that for him must have been enormous.

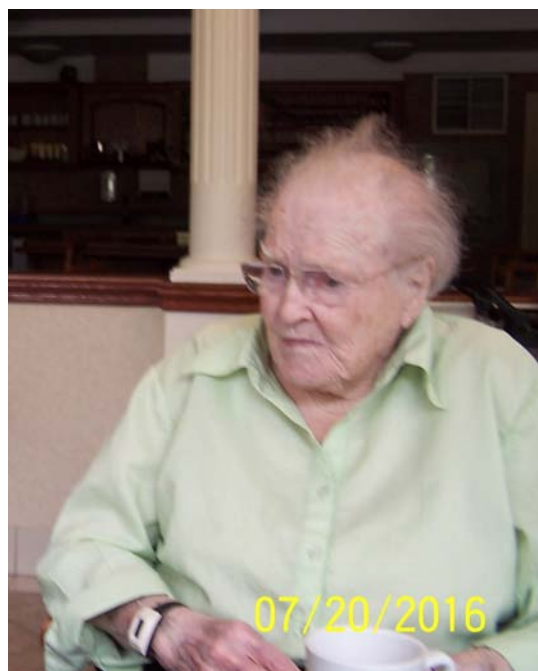
That reminded me of Andy's (VE3CDF) recent triumph of running half-marathons in all of the states in the U.S.A. He too spent many hours in the planning and the preparation for his run, not to mention the investment of thousands of dollars to achieve his goal. However, his pilgrimage is not quite done yet. He will be running in all the Canadian provinces and territories next.

Brian (VA3DXK), our "newest" licensed HAM member in the ERC's club, took on the challenge of becoming one of us while still working. He somehow managed to do all the tasks of preparation and deliverance that is involved in teaching while taking a HAM course and studying for his license at the same time. Since he has been licensed, he has been making contacts and entering in contests whenever, wherever possible. Like most of us, he too has paid to follow this passion.

Which reminds me of Mary Riddle (VE3MWE) who managed to balance a nursing career while bringing up two HAMS of her own. Mary regularly comes to Luther Village on Wednesday morning to attend Coffee Call. She is armed with background knowledge that makes her fit in with the crowd like a glove. In spite of her severe vision loss, she still stays "involved" in a hobby that she has been a member of for many years.

I could go on and on pointing out other members in our club just like those above. The reality is that our club is teeming with examples of HAMS who have the "can-do spirit." Those who climb up ladders and towers to install antennas, or those who can resurrect dead radios, or those who create brand new kinds of antennas and other widgets... clearly CAN DO!

That is decidedly advantageous for our club because that spirit sparks the kind of innovation that will continue to keep our hobby pertinent in an ever changing world.



Mary VE3MWE

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

JULY 20 - REG VE3RVH

JULY 27 - PAUL VE3PVB

AUGUST 3 - TRACY (VE3JVG)

AUGUST 10 - BOB VE3IXX

AUGUST 17 - JUDD VE3WXU

AUGUST 24 - TED VE3TRQ

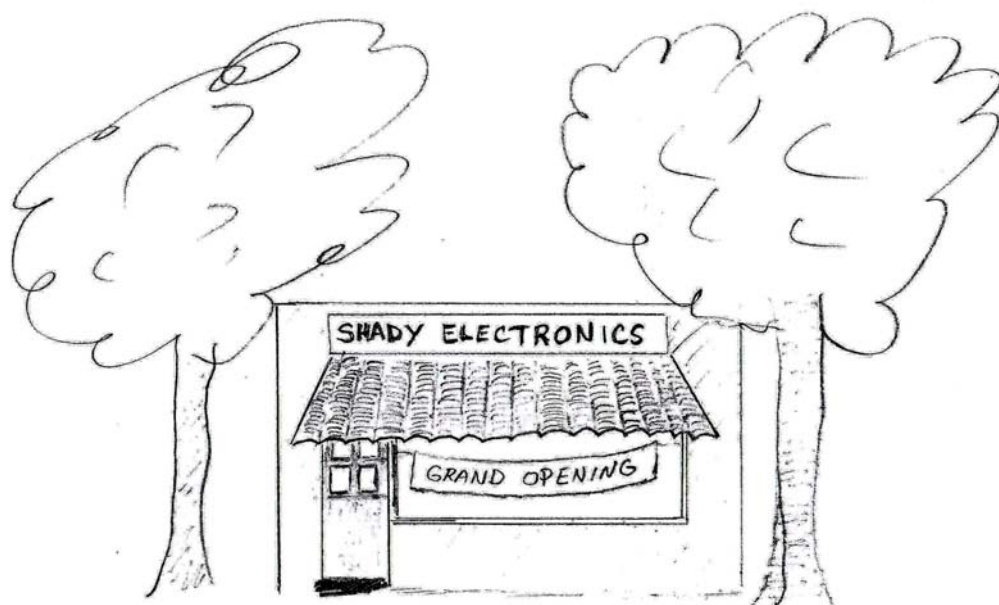
AUGUST 31 - AL VA3TET

SEPTEMBER 7 - REG VE3RVH

SEPTEMBER 14 - PAUL VE3PVB

SEPTEMBER 21 - TRACY (VE3JVG)

SEPTEMBER 28 - MEETING



VE3IXX