

**AUGUST 2016****Volume 5 Issue 8**

VE3ERC-LUB

President: Joyce VA3WXU
Vice-President: John VE3JXX
Secretary: Tom VE3DXQ
Treasurer: Reg VE3RVH
Trustee: Al VA3TET
QSL Manager: Judd VE3WXU
Repeater Manager & Maintenance:
Carl VE3FEF
Website Admin: Ted VE3TRQ
Lighthouse: Bruce VE3QB
Maple Syrup Display: Judd VE3WXU
Joycee VA3WXU
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**



Lighthouse weekend at Point Clark



THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

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President's Update for August 2016

A New View...

This summer I have read several sources that will be beneficial to the manning of the E.R.C. helm. I read not only "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised", I also did a thorough reread of every newsletter from January to July, to mention a few.

Reviewing the minutes in the newsletters were particularly helpful in pointing out issues that we may want to readdress in the next few months. Along with those issues are two motions that constitute unfinished business that needs our attention first.

Issues to consider:

Reg (VE3RVH) suggested that due to the costs of incorporation we need to find a way to raise funds for our club. I agree with him. The more money that the club has, the more activities we can fund and the more equipment we can purchase. If you have any other ideas on how to raise the funds for our club, please share your thoughts in an email or a phone call to me.

John (VE3JXX) was going to try to communicate with the woman who is the emergency coordinator for the region, in hopes that she could help us get an antenna on the water tower. He also was intending to put up a 40 meter end fed antenna at the fire hall and also advised us that there are possibilities for operating a station at the community center.

Rich (VE3DCC) was working towards firming up our relationship with the fire department so that we can have an antenna at the new fire hall, the Arena, and the EOC in Breslau. He also wanted us to think about creating a repeater band plan. Rich also reported to us that Dave Brennan would like to have ERC involved in a demonstration of emergency preparedness sometime this year. Are we ready for that?

Al (VA3TET) advised we should look at having an off site repeater with backup power and that there was the possibility of making a "go box" to use as a mobile repeater. That would work great if we could show that off at the demonstration. We also need to know how many repeaters we have and where they are at so that we can decide if we are going to sell any of them in the near future.

Unfinished Business:

Ken (VE3KCY) brought a motion to move our club station from the fire hall to the senior centre due to it being more accessible. John suggested we could also talk to the Arena manager and see if he could tour the Arena and look for a cleaning closet where we could keep our equipment. The motion to gather information about the Senior Centre and the Arena as potential new meeting places was seconded and a majority were in favour.

Rich mentioned the "Bill Graham October Event" of going to a restaurant for our October meeting where Bill's son will be the speaker that night. This motion was also seconded and all were in favour. We need to choose which restaurant to go to in order to finish this business.

As a heads up to everyone, I will be bringing up the issues mentioned above at our first meeting in September. So, I would like to remind everyone something that Rich pointed out to us.

"It is the "Reindeers" that know how to fly and know how to get where they are going, not Santa." So please take the time to consider these issues and email or call me and share your opinions or facts with me. I can assure you, this Santa would be greatly appreciated.

On the Lighter Side:

Try to name the 3 amazing HAMs who said the following to me. The first three people who can name them all, will win a prize. (*N.B. The authors of the quotes below cannot win a prize because they have been rewarded with fame instead of fortune.)

#1. " Technology is what makes Science purposeful."

#2. " I do not believe that humans will go to any other planet in our life.....but our radio signals will. "

#3. " I have de-robed several women in my life."

SEND YOUR GUESSES TO: **va3wxu@gmail.com**

Joycee, VA3WXU

Are you building a new project?

Have you put up a new tower or a new antenna?

Are you checking out different aspects of ham radio?

Have you changed your hamshack?

Do you have an interest in researching technical aspects of radio?

Do you have a funny story to share?

SEND IN YOUR PICTURES

ARTICLES

STORIES

COMMENTS

to: bobve3ixx@gmail.com

AND SHARE THEM WITH OTHERS THROUGH THE NEWSLETTER

LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND 2016 IN POINT CLARK



This year's Lighthouse event at Point Clark (the first Canadian entry with number CA0011) was a raving success. The set-up went smoothly and quickly, the weather could not have been better, attendance was higher than previous, the barbeque was delicious and problem free and everyone had an absolutely marvelous time.

The early set-up crew of Al VA3TET, Tom VE3DXQ, and Paul VE3PDC began early Friday afternoon. While Al "sweet-talked" the ladies staffing the lighthouse museum to let him climb the two hundred or so stairs up to the peak, Paul used his slingshot to attach the other end of the club G5RV antenna on a tree. By the time the rest of the set-up crew arrived to help, the job was already completed. These included Joyce VA3WXU and Judd VE3WXU, Bob VE3IXX, and a drop in by Barry VE3ISX, his wife Judy as well as Gord VE3DBP and Carol VE3IYY who live there.



Barry VE3ISX running ONTARS on the G5RV antenna attached to the top rail of the lighthouse.

Saturday morning began in earnest. Barry VE3ISX, the ONTARS manager took net control starting at 8 am and was followed by Bob VE3IXX as net controller. In the mean-time, more members arrived to set up individual stations. Paul VE3PDC set up his Flex-3000 into an end-fed antenna. Ken VE3KCY assembled his CW station with his Elecraft QRP rig. Initially, he hooked up a similar end-fed wire antenna but had a severe SWR problem. However, Ken came prepared with an additional magnetic loop antenna. He placed the loop on a six foot tripod and after his first call he was immediately answered by an Iowa station.



Paul VE3PDC working on the 40 M band with his Flex-3000 into his End Fed antenna .

Dennis VE3UTN arrived with his grandson Michael and quickly put up his signature vertical near the edge of the parking lot not far from the water's edge. Dennis had the antenna up before anyone even realized. His digital radio equipment was placed in the back of his van and he proceeded to operate on location. One of the park benches provided the seating.



John VE3JXX and his wife Kathy VA3KXX arrived in their well prepared pick-up. John is much involved with emergency communications and has (continued on Page 7)



Ken VE3KCY working 40 M CW with his magnetic Loop antenna. With his very first call he logged an Iowa station.



Dennis VE3UTN and grandson Michael ran the digital station out of the back of his vehicle. His Hustler antenna was in a scenic spot.

John VE3JXX (below) brought his emergency station and an antenna he built himself. John designed the whole station for quick set-up.





Brian VA3DXK set up his station right in front of his tent trailer and logged a large number of stations on 40M and 20M. On Sunday Harold VE3CD from Kitchener worked even more contacts. On the right Jason VE3JVG and Judd VE3WXU helped Brian put up his Off-Centre Dipole.



Ted VE3TRQ chose to set up his digital station much further back from the lighthouse. But his set-up close to the water gave him a spectacular view. In addition, Ted let his ground line dangle into the water which afforded him tremendously strong signals.



assembled an array of radio equipment to suit any kind of an emergency. He has two radios, a power supply and tuner all built into a box. A small battery provides portable back-up. He designed his own dipole using two hamsticks which he can easily change to different bands. The whole antenna mast rests on a large tri-pod.

Brian VA3DXK brought his tent trailer in on Friday. So on Saturday he only had to wind it up. He brought an Off-Centre fed dipole and with extra hands to help, soon had it up and running. On Sunday Brian had extra help from Harold VE3CD from Kitchener who took some shifts. Altogether they made a stunning 143 contacts. Two of the more interesting contacts

included another lighthouse in Florida and a station in Macedonia, Greece. Congratulations Brian on a fabulous job.

Ted set up his digital station near the water's edge. He dangled the ground line for his radio in the water and this was probably one of the reasons Ted was able to pick up some very strong signals. Unfortunately, he had a glitch in the computer which would not allow the radio to go into transmit. So he had to be content to just receive. But with an umbrella for shade and a stunning view no matter where one looked it was a grand experience for him and all his visitors.

At noon on Saturday everyone was treated to a fabulous barbeque prepared by Al VA3TET and Judy, Barry's XYL. Salads, fried mushrooms and onions with the hamburgers satisfied everyone's hunger. And on Saturday evening a good group of people went out for supper.

In all, there were seven stations set up. This is truly a precedent. In the many past years the club only had one or two stations operating. Attendance was much higher than in past years. There were a good number of hams from other areas that came by. The weather was perfect and everyone had a good time.



Tracy and Jason VE3JVG



The two QB's. Bruce VE3QB and Bill VA3QB.



"The Way He Wears His Shoes"

Judd (VE3WXU) and I had breakfast with Rich (VE3DCC) the day before his birthday. While waiting for our food orders to come, Rich and I completed the document that is required by the government to alert them that there is a new president in an incorporated club. He also handed over to me a file folder that contained very important club documents and the key to the firehall, that I will now be responsible for the next two years.

The deed is done. We can begin to brace ourselves for the inevitable changes that come with new leadership.

As I was listening to the conversation during our meal, a reality set in for me. Rich covered a multitude of subjects while referencing topics like quantum particles, black matter, black energy, and electrical valence. He alluded to the facts that nature hates a vacuum and that it does not categorize. He even offered up an new explanation of how gravity works.

Simply put, Rich is complex with eyes wide-open for discovery. He is more than just a dreamer. He is a visionary and a vanguard...a true modern trailblazer that lives with one foot in the present and the other in the future.

Even though I had intended to follow in Rich's leadership path as closely as possible, the reality is that Rich is a "one-of-a-kind". No one can possibly fill his shoes or wear them the way he does.

Rich's term as President has sprouted a monumental legacy. In the last two years, he has transformed the Elmira Radio Club in many ways. He has done this in a manner that did not strip away either the club's identity, nor its traditions. We are still who we are, only improved.

We can be thankful to Rich for all of the following: the establishment of the framework for our incorporation and affiliation with Radio Amateurs Canada which gave us access to club insurance. He helped us build a public persona through the Maple Syrup festival and built a relationship with the township regarding emergency services. We have an affiliation with the Scouts via JOTA, and an opportunity to support their radio badge. We have acquired 2 repeaters, made an application for a 2 metre frequency, and garnered permission to put up antennae at the fire hall....just to mention a few.

It is for these accomplishments and the indelible leadership he gave on our behalf, that we will miss Rich at the helm. In gratitude, we owe it to him to continue to follow his advice.



"STAY ACTIVE. STAY INVOLVED. "

Joycee (VA3WXU)

on behalf of

The members of VE3ERC

CORRESPONDENCE

In the last while I've come across some sites that provide useful up-to-the-minute information on propagation. I've already made use of this data.

The first is on the ONTARS website at: www.ontars.com

When you get on the site just click on the "Propagation" box.

The second came from an e-mail from Bill Reid (VA3QB). Bill writes:

This link is one I use to determine band conditions. It is designed for digital modes like PSK and JT-65 but does show when certain bands are open and to where.

<https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html?preset&callsign=ZZZZZ&what=all&mode=JT65&timerange=86400>

Have a great day

73 Bill Reid VA3QB

While Bill refers specifically to JT65 the site gives information on all modes. Then Ted Rypma VE3TRQ wrote:

An even better way to judge propagation, especially for yourself, your radio and your antenna, is to use WSPR. WSJT-X has the mode built in, so in a minimum of 5 minutes you can find out exactly how well you are being received elsewhere in the world, and how you are receiving others.

Using JT65 or JT9 will allow you to see who you can receive in real-time, and replying can let you know whether you are getting out to where they are. Unfortunately, so many people have jumped on the WSJT bandwagon, things are getting a bit crowded on the popular bands. 20/40m are really bad, 30 is pretty good, when 80 and 160m are open they are a pleasure to use. Anything above 20m sucks these days except for special propagation situations.

My 2 cents.

Ted Rypma VE3TRQ

On the net you can find the site at:

<http://wsprnet.org/drupal/>

MORE CORRESPONDANCE

Rich VE3DCC sent the following e-mail hoping for input from the membership. Please read his letter and let him know what you think.

ERC traditional Graham meeting:

As you know, Bill Graham, SK, hosted our October meeting at his home.

I am soliciting feedback on our planned October tribute to Bill Graham.

I am concerned about the potential cost of a sit-down dinner at a restaurant - I would rather that we not exclude folks from the meeting by virtue of having to pay up to \$30 for a meal... so here is my proposal:

We will ask for RSVPs for a dinner at the Crossroads or elsewhere for those who wish to go. I will book that number of seats, hence, no room rental or pre-sold tickets. Target time is 5:00 pm. on our regular October meeting night, Oct. 26.

The club will pay for dinner/buffet for our guest speaker, Bill's son, and Maree, Bill's widow.

After dinner, approx. 6:45, we will go to the firehall for the speech/presentation which is first on the agenda.

We provide dessert and coffee as we normally do. Both diners and non-diners will attend.

After the formal speech, our guests may leave and we can proceed with the business portion with no presentation portion.

An alternative would be to cater into the firehall, but, again, we need tickets and cleaning/decorating.

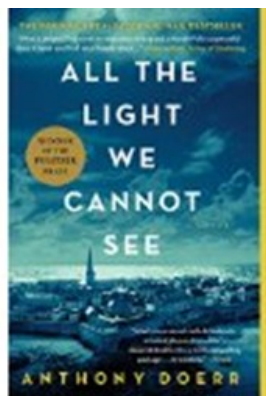
Please offer me your insights at **raclausi@kw.igs.net**

Your thoughts,

Rich, VE3DCC

Visit Us at
www.ve3erc.ca

BOOK REVIEW by Bonnie Koechl VA3IXX



"All the Light We Cannot See"
by Anthony Doerr

If you like historical fiction about WW2 with a big dose of Radio interwoven through the whole plot, this is a great read.

The book is basically two stories. The first one is about a very bright Werner Pfenig, who is later exploited by the German Reich because of his knowledge of radios (a natural talent) which he acquired as a youngster fixing a discarded, broken radio in an orphanage. Word gets around and he is given old radios to repair. When this talent is discovered by a German officer, he is sent off to be further educated and then joined to a military team of men to locate (by direction finding) and kill the transmitters and the resistance fighters using them.

The other story is about Marie-Laure LeBlanc, a blind French girl who with her father, flees occupied Paris to St. Malo on the French coast in Brittany. She and her father, a keeper of the locks for a Paris museum, stay with her eccentric uncle. Unbeknownst to Marie-Laure, her father secretly carries a valuable museum diamond to protect it from the Germans. Marie-Laure learns that her uncle has a hidden transmitter in the attic and she learns how to operate it. After her father and uncle are arrested, she joins the French resistance and transmits vital information on the radio.

My husband Bob and I read it together and he would explain to me the intricacies of triangulating points to find a hidden transmitter, and the finer points of dx'ing, all included in the novel.

Without giving it away, I must tell you that the ending was a surprise and totally unexpected. All in all, it was a gripping, very realistic, and great read. I give it five stars!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR
THE ERC SEPTEMBER MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28 at 7pm**

SEE YOU THERE AT THE ELMIRA FIRE HALL!

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

AUGUST 31 - AL VA3TET

SEPTEMBER 7 - REG VE3RVH

SEPTEMBER 14 - PAUL VE3PVB

SEPTEMBER 21 - TRACY (VE3JVG)

SEPTEMBER 28 - MEETING

OCTOBER 5 - BOB VE3IXX

OCTOBER 12 - JUDD VE3WXU

OCTOBER 19 - TED VE3TRQ

OCTOBER 26 - MEETING

