



SEPTEMBER 2016

Volume 5 Issue 9

VE3ERC-LUB

IN THIS ISSUE

PREZ SEZ P. 2

NOTES AND STUFF P.4

CANADIAN HAM HISTORY P.6

WEDNESDAY NITE NET P.8

MUSEUM SHIPS DX P.9

SEPTEMBER MINUTES P.12

President: Joycee 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: 123.0

EMERGENCY SIMPLEX: 147.51

Emergency Reminder:

**In the event of 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.**



Radio Amateurs
of Canada



The New "WXU" family tower and antennas.



THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

President's Update for September 2016

A New View.....

In spite of the rainless skies and the relentless, record-breaking heat waves that had our fans and air conditioner working 24 hour shifts, it was still a great, great summer for Judd (VE3WXU) and me.

One of the reasons that made summer special for the "WXU" family was having the privilege to watch Jim (VE3JMU) stand a tower in our side yard that ultimately got topped with antennas. Backing him up, was a group of other talented volunteers including Al (VA3TET), Paul (VA3PDC), Brian (VA3DXK), Ted (VE3TRQ) and Tom (VE3DXQ).

Throughout the four times he worked on our tower, Jim was always smiling...even if he had a tie-wrap in his mouth. I was absolutely awed by his abilities and skills and the enjoyment that he displayed doing the job.

It is no wonder that Jim is so skilled at raising towers because he has done this several times for other members as well. The most recent ones were for Tom (VE3DXQ), Al, (VA3TET), and Bruce (VE3QB), to mention just a few. I can only guess the number of times he has gone up on those towers to change, or fix, or overhaul the antennas there. He went up on



our tower four times and has likely also gone up multiple times on all the other towers he has raised.

The Elmira Radio Club is very fortunate to have so many members like Jim that are fearless, skilled, and competent and that there are so many willing members who will lend a hand and engage in teamwork whenever it is needed. This combination is the perfect match for our club because it makes it possible for us to get on, and stay on, the air.

At "Coffee Call" on Wednesday last week, Tom made a suggestion that he would like to



see us have some training for newly licensed members during our monthly meeting. He mentioned these suggestions: How to do checking for SWR, using an antenna tuner, using Echo Link, resolving router issues to use Echo Link, and connecting different interfaces for digital modes. I think we should help those members who need mentoring but, I am wondering what would be the best way to do that.



I would love to hear what you think would be the best way to address the needs Tom has brought forward. Please take the time to email me your ideas, or phone, and let me know how you think would be the best way to share your knowledge with other members.

On the Lighter Side: **Bob (VE3IXX)** was the sole winner of last month's "Who Said What" contest. The correct answers follow below:

'Technology is what makes Science purposeful' - **Jim (VE3JMU)**

"I do not believe that humans will go to any other planet in our life...but our radio signals will." - **Rich (VE3DCC)**

"I have de-robed several women in my life." - **AI (VA3TET)** (go figure..)

73 Joyce VA3WXU

Back-of-the-Napkin Eyeball

QSO notes and stuff

by Rich, ve3DCC

WOW!

That was the note a researcher made in 1977 when his SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Institute) telescope picked up a massive 72 second signal originating from "out there" towards the constellation Sagittarius. It was around 1420.46 MHz – a frequency emitted by hydrogen. The literal ASCII message was "6EQUJ5" but note that this is simply a decode meant to convey a pattern rather than a specific message in a bottle.

You can listen to it and also obtain possible explanations by searching the Internet for "WOW radio signal" and the like. WIKIPEDIA has a good write-up and links, too.

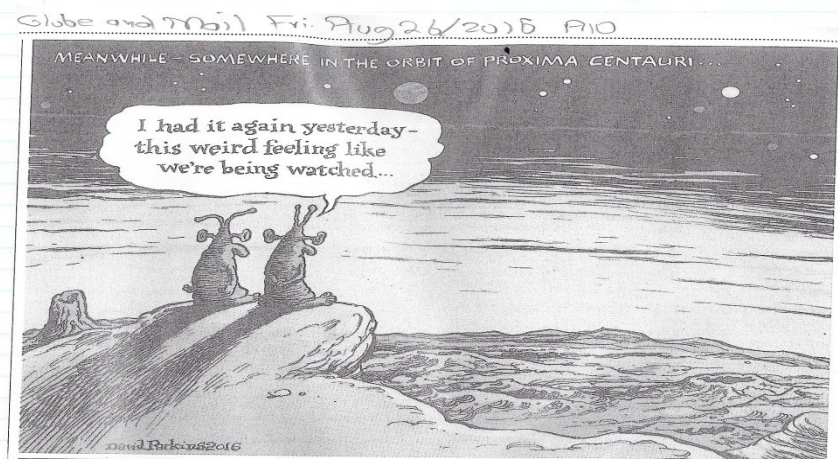
Check this link to get some perspectives and insight :

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Neo_1LGVqE

In 2012 , on the 35th anniversary of WOW, an Observatory beamed a response containing 10,000 twitter messages in the general direction of the original signal. I am puzzled as to if this was intended to show intelligent life. If "they" could read the messages, it would convince them not to come here!!!

I mention this because of 2 events that occurred in summer 2016.

First , Scientists announced that they may have found a "close" to Goldilocks ("not too big, not too small, not too hot, not too cold etc) planet



located in Proxima Centauri, a mere 100 light years from Earth. As this cartoon, from the Globe and Mail suggests, folks had a great deal of fun with the notion.

It would take a very long time to travel there! Clearly, a Radio Signal is the best spaceship we currently have.


Then, on August 30, 2016 Russian Scientists announced that they had detected another massive signal from "out there". Now, since the universe is not on a flat tabletop and since this wonderful mechanical universe has parts that spin and interact on different planes, it would make sense that when scientists scanned the same section of sky in 1977 for a repeat WOW signal, it was just NOT there. It would be wonderful if another signal in another 39 or so years occurred because that might suggest what the period of whatever cycle is at work, really is that brings line-of-sight into cosmic alignment. At this point, scientists are just not sure of what to make of the 2016 event. Is something signalling us?

Stephan Hawking noted that we need to hope that if intelligent life "discovers" us, they will treat us better than we have treated other intelligent life here on earth. In any case, he said, the genie is out of the bottle—we have been announcing our presence via television, radar and, yes, ham radio for many years. Your voice and morse code fist might be 40+ light years from earth as we (rather, I) speak.

The issue of signal strength is a moot point. Electrons really don't travel the distance—they merely transfer energy to neighbours like so many billiard balls. If so, the signals we are receiving from Voyagers I and II, now in interstellar space, launched in 1977 and still operating from time to time, should reassure us that RF does not just die.

Have you ever thought of yourself as an Interstellar Ambassador from Earth. Maybe ALL Hams are!

De Rich, ve3DCC.



**SPECIAL NOTE:
THE ERC
VHF REPEATER
147.390+
HAS A NEW
PL-TONE
OF
123.0**

History of Amateur Radio in Canada

(Part 1)

BY BOB KOECHL VE3IXX

One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1866, a permanent telegraph cable was laid across the Atlantic Ocean to connect Europe and North America after several costly failed attempts. Now there could be instant communications between the two continents. A very short twenty-two years later, a young physicist, Heinrich Herz, demonstrated how electro-magnetic waves could travel through the air. From that moment, a wave of pioneers began to improve on Herz's discovery and by 1901 on December 12, a young Guglielmo Marconi claimed to have crossed the Atlantic with radio-telegraphy. He did this between Poldu, in Cornwall, England and Signal Hill in Newfoundland. This had the potential to become a competitor to the costly trans-Atlantic cable.



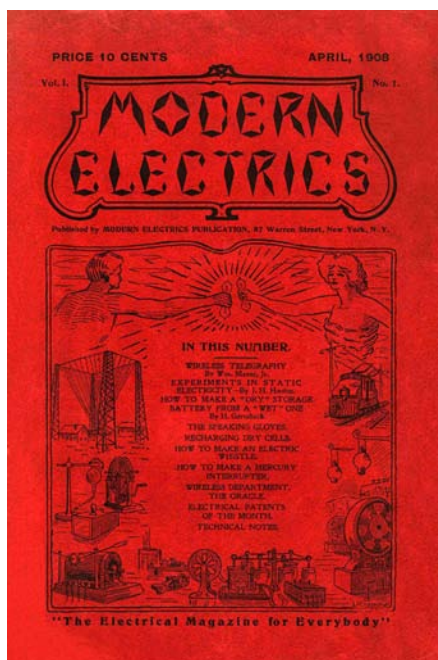
Marconi watching associates raise kite antenna at Signal Hill, December 1901

Public Domain,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11236986>

While the full potential of these radio waves was a long way from being fully realized, the publicity fired up the imagination of many amateur enthusiasts. It is believed that one of the earliest Amateur stations was a teacher in 1904 in a Vancouver high school operating a coherer receiver and spark transmitter as a class demonstration. (1)

Of course it is almost impossible to estimate how many other amateur radio operators there might have existed at this early time. There were no regulations. It took another year, 1905 before Canada introduced "The Wireless Act of Canada" which required anyone conducting wireless telegraphy to obtain a licence from the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Amateur stations were not even acknowledged to exist. In fact the first reference to Amateur operations didn't come until a report written by E.J. Haughton, the



The first American magazine to cater to the new technology of electrical science began publication in April of 1908. Topics were of general interest and contained little for the Amateur radio operator. But then the number of operators were few.

Pacific Coast Superintendent of Wireless, regarding radio interference to marine shipping operators in the Vancouver area. (2)

In 1910 off the coast of Vancouver, the D.G.S. Quadra ran into difficulties towing a disabled ship in a gale and called for tug boat assistance but was not heard at the Point Grey coastal station due to interference from Amateur stations. Haughton met with the four Vancouver Amateurs and received agreement from them to cease operations when requested by the Point Grey Station. A similar incident also occurred in Victoria in 1912 with two hams, Bruce Restall and Sid Elliot, who were interfering with the Gonzales Hill coast station. (3)

In a way those early years were like the "wild west" years of Amateur radio. The equipment was crude. It all had to be homebrewed. There were no magazines to supply "how-to" plans. There were no call signs. Often, the initials of the operator sufficed. When no one else was on the air, a passing ship made a good contact. Under good propagation, a contact 18 miles away was considered DX.

Finally in 1913, the government enacted a new Radio Act. For the first time it included 'Regulations to Govern the Operation of Amateur Radio'. It limited the maximum power input to the spark transformer to 500 watts. Call signs were issued starting with the letter "X" followed by two more letters such as "XAB". All stations were required to take care not to interfere with other working stations and cease all operations when a government station or commercial station sent the signal "STP". When the signal "cancel STP" was sent, it was back to normal. No certification or station licence was required.

While applications for call signs had to be sent to Ottawa, many operators didn't bother and continued making up their own call signs. Even with the dawn of World War I and the order to cease all radio activity, many still continued, as there were no radio inspectors and government services were stretched pretty thin, especially in out laying areas. (Shades of the condition of CB radio??)

Finally that all changed in 1920....

....Continued next month in Part 2

Notes: (1), (2) and (3) www.radioalumni.ca/

Visit Us at
www.ve3erc.ca

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

OCTOBER 5 - BOB VE3IXX

OCTOBER 12 - JUDD VE3WXU

OCTOBER 19 - TED VE3TRQ

OCTOBER 26 - M E E T I N G

NOVEMBER 2 - AL VA3TET

NOVEMBER 9 - REG VE3RVH

NOVEMBER 16 - PAUL VE3PVB

NOVEMBER 23 - M E E T I N G

NOVEMBER 30 - TRACY (VE3JVG)

DECEMBER 7 - BRIAN VA3DXK



Museum Ships Weekend 2016

By **BRIAN FILBEY VA3DXK**

As a new amateur radio operator I am often looking for new activities to participate in and I was tipped off, over the air, to this exciting event by a fellow amateur radio operator a few days before the event. Thanks to the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station the June weekend has been organized and dedicated as Museum Ships Weekend for a number of years now. The 19th Annual Museum Ships weekend 2016 got under way Friday evening at 0000 UTC June 3rd through the weekend with 107 museum ships participating from around the world, operating mostly on SSB and CW.



U-995 placed in service 1943 is the type VII C, a total of 693 units were completed. Decommissioning on 8 May 1945, the Norwegian Trondheim U-995 has been used primarily in the North Sea.

Aircraft Carriers such as the USS Midway CVA-41 from San Diego, Battleships, Cruisers, Destroyers, Tugs, Missile Corvettes, Hospital ships and landing craft, German U-Boat U-995, Cold War era Submarines, a Russian Icebreaker, Canadian Destroyer HMCS Haida in Hamilton, even Marconi's travelling lab on the yacht Elettra from Italy made up this year's contingent of restored military ships now serving as museums participating in the event.

Hosted by Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station NJ2BB.org this is one of those interesting amateur radio events that I really enjoy where, on top of just making contacts, one can also learn about the ship's history and their radio gear from the operators or by looking up the ship after a QSO. Departing from the comfort zones of their ham shacks, amateur radio clubs lugged their equipment down into the small, cramped radio rooms of submarines, or camped out beside their local warship, or set

up in the actual radio rooms of the 'big' ships using some of the original radio equipment of the period.

Propagation was not the greatest that weekend making international QSOs difficult, but at least I could hear above the noise level throughout North America, and I personally contacted 18 different ships qualifying for a Certificate (15 QSOs required). Throughout the event I was on the hunt for the USS Midway CVA-41 an attack carrier and one of the longest-serving aircraft carriers in the United States Navy.

Midway was the first in a three-ship class of large carriers that featured an armoured flight deck and an air group of 120 planes. Initially a straight deck carrier she had a canted deck added in 1958 and is now 1001 ft. long, displacing 70,000 tons. In 1946 it became the first American Carrier to operate in the midwinter sub-Arctic, developing new flight deck procedures for US carriers. The following year Midway became the only ship to launch a captured German V-2 rocket from its flight deck. She just after World War II ended, until 1992 when she was decommissioned.

With a crew of over 4000, the USS Midway sailed in every ocean in the world and fought in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the fall of Saigon in '75, and in the First Persian Gulf War. Over the years, she was deployed to the North Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Western Pacific Ocean. Not just a warship, she was also involved in humanitarian efforts such as on her final mission where she evacuated civilians in the Philippines after the 20th century's largest eruption of nearby Mount Pinatubo. Now docked in San Diego Bay, the Midway has been transformed into one of the most visited ship museums in the world and during Museum Ships Weekend she was on the air using her original call NI6IW.



USS Midway (CVA 41) anchored at Gibraltar Harbor 20 May 1954. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class J. F. Coniskey [652748]

USS Midway CVA-41 off Gibraltar, May 1954. My father served aboard her in the Electronics Operations Division during the Korean War.

My father served aboard the ship from 1954-56 as an Electronics Electrician in the Operational Electronics OE Division responsible for the shipboard electronics. Amongst many duties he serviced the Friend-or-Foe and Landing operations radars as well as other electronic

and radio equipment in and above the ship's island. He recalled a time when they were testing a new radar-control defense weapons system that was so accurate they not only shot up a target being towed behind a fighter jet, but the radar tracked up the tow line and they shot the tail off the aircraft.

I had fun contacting the carriers USS Yorktown and USS Intrepid, the tall ship Elissa, the H.L. Huntley Civil War submarine, even a Great Lakes ore freighter the SS Cedarville out of Michigan, and many others. As I spun around the dial hunting for museum ships I came across a fellow calling QRZ from the SS Minnow – yes indeed, your assumptions are correct: Gilligan, as he identified himself, was working a huge pileup from an unknown QTH on a deserted island! Eventually a couple of hams called him on it and he QRT'd.

Although my QSOs were mostly all North American based, I did succeed in contacting IY4EC - Marconi's Travelling Lab, the yacht Elettra in Pontecchio Marconi, Italy! Late Friday night I heard NI6IW calling CQ from San Diego but I was unable to break the pileup and connect with the operators on the flight deck of the USS Midway. So I'll count it only for SWL and try again next year!



All in all it was a very enjoyable weekend and my first operation under 'contest-like' conditions. It was a lot of fun and a good opportunity to teach our kids and grandkids about our amazing maritime history! So mark your calendar for this very enjoyable annual event in early June!

Iron-hulled USS Olympia was considered state-of-the-art in her day, but retains many features of earlier Civil War-era vessels, while at the same time incorporating innovations familiar to us here like her twin turrets.

THE BILL GRAHAM MEMORIAL SUPPER MEETING

Prior to the regular meeting on Wednesday, October 26th, members are invited to meet at the CrossRoads Restaurant at the intersection of Arthur St. and Listowel Road in Elmira at 5:00 pm for supper.

You may order off the menu (various prices) or full buffet (\$21.49) or soup/salad bar (\$11.49) with individual bills.

The regular meeting at the Fire hall will begin at 7:30 pm and feature

Mr. Darren Graham, Bill Graham's son. This meeting/supper honours the memory of Bill Graham who regularly hosted our October meetings.

Please e-mail Rich at

raclausi@kw.igs.net

so we can book seats as soon as possible.

VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

Minutes from Sept. 28, 2016

1. Open and roll call.

VA3TET Al, VE3DXQ Tom, VE3WXU Jud, VA3WXU Joyce, VE3DCC Rich, VA3PDC Paul, VE3IXX Bob, VE3QB Bruce, VA3QB Bill, VA3DXK Brian, VE3UTN Dennis, VA3FJM Frank, VE3KCY Ken, VA3JVG Jason, VE3TRQ Ted, VE3EIX Harry, VA3GWM Gord, VE3CXU Doug, VE3XYL Tracy, VE3LGM, Larry, VE3TRQ Ted, VA3JVG Jason, VE3JMU Jim, VE3CD Harold.

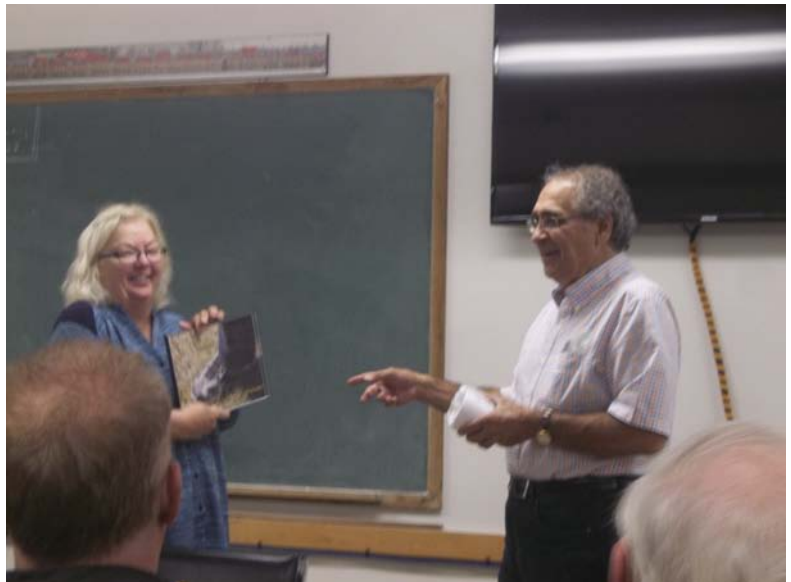
The meeting was opened by our new President VA3WXU, Joyce at 7:30 pm.

Paul VE3PVB mentioned he had 2 copies of the new book: "The Poynting Vector Antenna". He sold them to Tom VE3DXQ and one to Ted VE3TRQ. Price \$50.00. They are also on Amazon for \$60.00. CDN.

Joyce Advised that Bob VE3IXX was the winner of the "who said what contest." He guessed that it was Jim VE3JMU that made the statement that technology makes science purposeful.

Another statement was that people will not go to other planets in our life time but our radio signals will. This statement was made by Rich VE3DCC.

Another statement was made by Al VA3TET. He jokingly said while he was



Rich VE3DCC given presentation.

helping Mary VE3MWE with her coat and Joyce offered to help. "It's ok I have de-robed many women in my Life".

Bob VE3IXX was presented with a gift. Also Rich was presented with a gift from the club which was a mug with our club logo, for his service the last 2 years as president.

Minutes From previous meeting: Tom VE3DXQ secretary asked if the June ERC minutes could be accepted. Judd VE3WXU motioned to accept. Paul VA3PDC seconded the motion. All were in favor carried.

Treasurer's Report: Reg VE3RVH advised that the club made donations to the wishes of 2 members we lost this year. Bill VE3ETK and Wally VE3LCR. Reg VE3RVH sent around obituaries and thank you cards from their spouses. There was a moment of silence for Bill and Wally. Reg reminded us that if you have not paid your dues to the club by the end of May you will no longer be a member of the club. Reg said there are still 4 or 5 members not paid up. Reg VE3RVH gave us the balance to date and made a motion to have the report accepted and was seconded by Al VA3TET. All were in favor: carried.

Nominations committee: Paul VE3PBV advised there are no nominations at this time.

Safety Officer Committee: Tom VE3DXQ advised there were no incidents to report. All the antenna work being done by club members went well. Al VE3TAT advised he has Safety vests and Tom VE3DXQ has some small cones. Joyce VA3WXU presented Tom VE3DXQ with a photo of him at Judd's and Joyce's place when Judd's tower work was going on. Tom was looking up at the tower and holding on to his hard hat with both hands. Maybe it was windy. Ha Ha.

Elmira Maple Syrup Festival: Jud VE3WXU nothing new to report.

QSL Manager: VE3WXU Judd advised everything is up to date. Judd mentioned that Brian VA3DXK made 176 contacts at the light house.

Lighthouse Report: AL advised that all went well at the Point Clark lighthouse weekend. There were at least 7 simultaneous operators at any given time. The weather and food was great. There were various types of antennas used. Brian VA3DXK mentioned that we are registered at the point Clark lighthouse for next year.

Unfinished Business: Joyce VA3WXU asked Ken VE3KCY if there were any updates in getting a ham radio operating space at the Elmira senior center or Arena. Ken advised that he spoke to John VE3JXX. John spoke to the supervisor at the recreation center. John VE3JXX asked him about putting up a vertical VHF/UHF and a long wire on the roof of the Arena. The supervisor who has his ham license was open to the Idea.

He said that there may be a space on the upper level of the Arena. This Arena is also a designated evacuation center. This would be a starting point to get a station up and running. The supervisor advised that we should come up with a plan to present to him that he can then take to the higher ups.

Once we get the station at the Arena, then we could work on getting one at the senior center. The cost to join the senior center is \$20 per year. This will be a step by step process. Eventually depending on circumstances we may end up moving the club to the senior center.

Tracy VE3XYL brought up the topic of emergency response, and after much discussion it was decided to see about setting up a group of 4 or 5 people to get involved with this. This will be tabled until our next meeting per motion by Judd VE3WXU and seconded by Ted VE3DXQ. Motion carried.

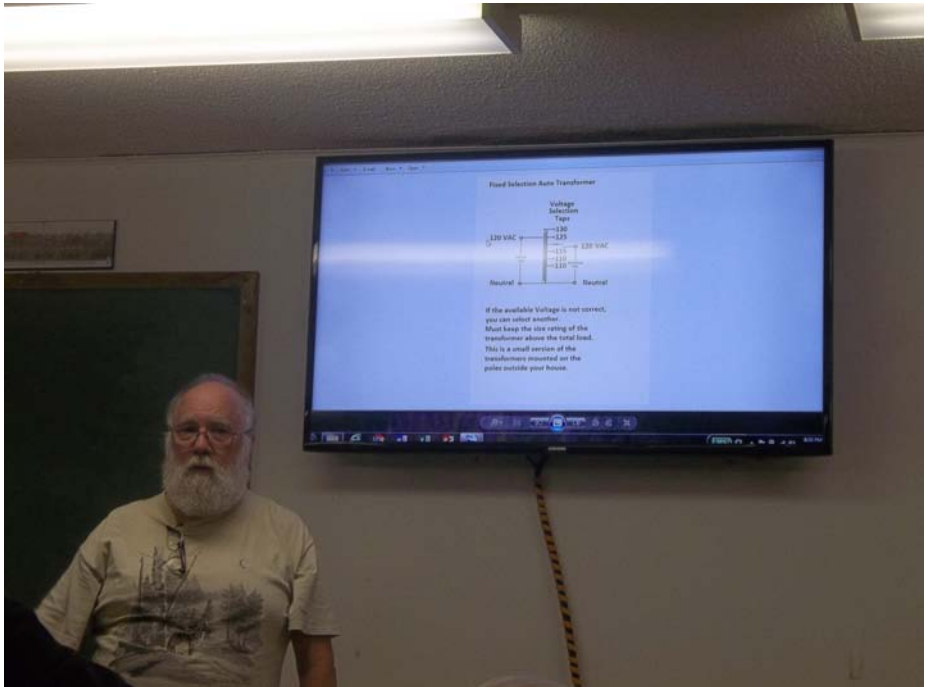
Bill Graham October event: Rich VE3DCC advised that the way he thought best to have this event would be to have just chairs in a group at the CrossRoads restaurant. Everyone would pay their own meal according to what they ordered. The meal would start at say 5:00 pm and finish in time for people to get back to the fire hall by 7:00 pm for a speech by Bill's Son Darin.

Bill's widow will also be in attendance. Rich VE3DCC made a motion that we have the event as stated above, Al VA3TET seconded it all were in favor. The Date will be October 25th, 2016. Rich VE3DCC passed around a signup sheet for this event, and if you were not at this meeting to sign up contact Rich VE3DCC.

Repeater Issues / Possible demonstration of emergency prepared-

ness: In the latest issue of RAC magazine there was a description of a simulated emergency test. There will be a simulated test on October 8, 2016. We will have our morning net as per usual and Rich will put out an announcement of a Tornado for the simulation. We will be in contact with ONTARS as well.

Rich advise that since we changed the PL tone for the 147.390 repeater to 123.0, there have been no complaints. Judd VE3WXU made a motion that we leave the VHF repeater which has a PL tone of 123.0 permanently at the fire hall. This was seconded by AL VA3TET. All were in favor.



Frank VA3FJM giving his talk on Power Supplies.

Technical reports/ Sale of Bill Grahams Equipment: AL VA3TET advised we need to have a group of 3 or 4 people to help remove Bill Grahams Amateur Radio equipment to get it ready for sale. The Poynting Vector Antenna that Al has been working on, is the first directional PVA. He plans on getting a patent on it. It is called a PVDA poynting vector dipole antenna.

Presentation: VA3FJM Frank on Power supplies.

Frank did a presentation on linear and switching power supplies. He brought some of the older type transformers. Some were adjustable and some were the Tap type. He also brought a more modern switching power supply and talked about how more efficient they are.

He used the flat screen TV in the fire hall to show us the various designs of power supplies and explained the different rectifier and filtering configurations.

Meeting closed at 9:45 PM