



MARCH 2017

Volume 6 Issue 3

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
Joyce VA3WXU
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

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



Jim VE3JMU installs antenna for the Maple Syrup Festival back in 2015. Judd VE3WXU secured the ladder.



THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

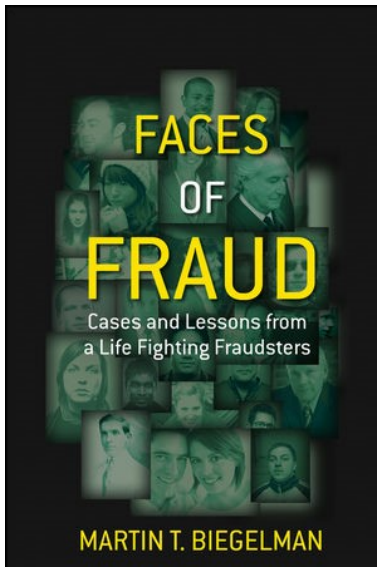
President's Update for March 2017

A New View.....

Caveat Emptor.....Encore

As soon as we became licensed Hams the WXUs purchased from other Hams several pieces of second hand equipment in order to get on the air. In general, we were satisfied with the majority of everything we bought but, there were some purchases that did not make the team. One unscrupulous Ham "forgot" to tell us that the equipment he was selling didn't really work. Lesson learned. The reality is that buying used-equipment is a mighty risk. Because of that unpleasant occurrence, Judd and I now tend to buy just brand new equipment...if affordable. We both would much rather bring home equipment that has a warranty and current technology instead of getting hoodwinked or hornswoggled.

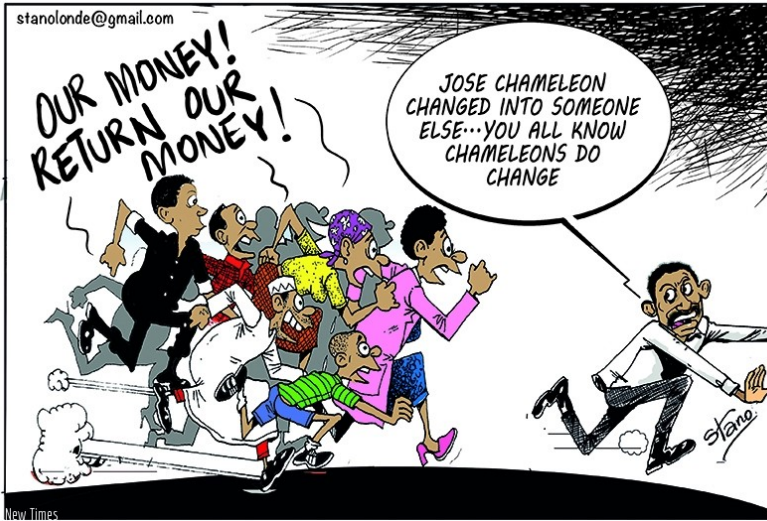
I know this sounds cynical and distrustful. Don't get me wrong. I completely believe in the benevolence and goodness of all people...especially Hams. But realistically, we all know that there are scoundrels out there in the world that are making a very good living for themselves off of our trustworthiness. Their success is partially facilitated because we tend to think that everyone is going to be as honest and nice as we are. But that is just not true.



I recently read some very interesting articles that everyone should read. Go to the forums in QRZ.com, and search "scams". It's almost unbelievable the things that scammers will do. They pretend that they have equipment to sell and take the honest ham's payment. Meanwhile the ham waits and waits for the equipment to come, which never does. The scammers also buy equipment from an honest ham but without ever paying the seller. Nowadays, the fraudsters are stealing ham radio identities and use them in the above scams. Essentially, they are creating two victims in one fraud that doubles the likelihood that the fraudster will never be found or penalized.

We can no longer just cross our fingers and hope that we won't become a victim of fraud. It is





time for all of us to get informed on how to defend ourselves from being scammed and not just the scams that happen in "Hamland".

The Competition Bureau in Ottawa have designated that March is Fraud Prevention Month. This is an annual public awareness campaign that works to prevent Canadians from becoming victims of fraud by helping them to **recognize** a scam, how to **reject** the scam, and how to **record** the scam to the officials in Ottawa.

The Competition Bureau has written a small book called the Canadian Edition of "The Little Black Book of SCAMS", which is a guide to protection against fraud. I called the Bureau staff and asked if I could have 38 books for the members of the Elmira Radio Club (free at cost) and they sent them. This author has identified twelve different ways we can be victimized by scammers. The book is 60 pages in total and 30 of those pages are in English. It is literally, physically a little book to read. But, the information inside it is invaluable and worth every second it takes you to read. When you are done reading the book, pass it on to your family and friends.

You can learn more by going to www.competitionbureau.gc.ca or call toll free 1-800-348-5358.

Fraudster Type	Motivation	Potential Activity
Hacker	Prove technical prowess	The Hacker may attempt to see if they can access credit card data. If they can they may add an order or pull a list of orders from your system, which may include personal data and credit card information of consumers.
Cracker	Make money, steal anything possible	The Cracker will directly attempt to put in orders, or to pull out the credit card data to use for fraudulent activity.
Phreak	Make money, steal phone-related products	The Phreak would be the fraudster attempting to steal the company's prepaid mobile phones and their calling cards.
Hactivist	Make a statement	The Hactivist is the individual that will gain access to your systems to plant a virus to protest your newest stores in China, in order to protest human rights conditions.
Script Kiddie	Excitement, make money	The Script Kiddies are the ones attempting to use freeware card generators to make purchases on the website.
Criminal Gang	Make money, their business	The criminal gang would be working orders against the unprotected website
White Collar	Greed, make money	Would be providing individuals or gangs the information about the website being unprotected

73 Cheers,

Joycee VA3WXU



* This article was written before the meeting. Those who came to the meeting will have already received their book. If you did not come to the meeting and you want the book, email me and we will find a way to get it to you. jeh



Back-of-the-Napkin Eyeball

QSO notes and stuff

by Rich, ve3DCC

Back-of-the-Napkin Eyeball QSO notes and stuff by Rich, ve3DCC

This article usually reflects some food for thought over eyeball-QSO breakfast and coffee. Sometimes that thinking gets a little off-beat. Silly questions, too, are posed.....

The media have picked up on the recent discovery of seven planets, almost 40 light-years from Earth, that seem to be in a “Goldilocks Zones”—just the right temperature and size to , perhaps, support life. A respected and widely published political commentator and World Affairs authority, Gwynne Dyer, titled his recent column “More evidence that there’s likely life everywhere” (The Observer, Thurs. March 2, 2017, page 6). It is an interesting “read”.

He points out that “ if an intelligent life form evolved on even one of these planets, it could have colonized all seven; they are very close together. The journey would be not much more demanding than a trip from the Earth to the Moon.” He then states:” Planets are self-evidently as common as dirt. Life is almost certainly as common as dirt. And even intelligent life must be pretty common in the universe”. This is certainly worth digesting.

The Drake Equation (www.seti.org/drakeequation), a product of a series of probabilities for the existence of habitable planets and the development of technological civilizations, suggests as much. The equation produces a value, N, that is the number of civilizations in the Milky Way Galaxy whose electromagnetic emissions are detectable. Mind you a missing factor in this product is a binary value—(1) is humanity accidental or (0) planned . The multiplication by zero, nulls the value of N, leaving it as a 0.

Some writers have mused on the implication for religion if other intelligent life exists.

Stephan Hawking stated in an interview that he hopes that if we are visited by Intelligent Life, it/they will treat us better than we have treated other forms of life, here. In any case the genie is out of the bottle—we have announced our presence in the universe. We “transmit” and emit.

Then again, there are many Earthly World Religions so, by definition, if you are part of any organized religion, you believe in intelligent extra-terrestrial life.

Of course, this also assumes that there is truly-intelligent life ANYWHERE in the Universe. It is difficult defining “intelligent” life form; but, perhaps “sentient”, a form that is self-aware and able to modify environment, might work. Sentient as an adjective means having the power of perception by the senses; hence, conscious and characterized by sensation and consciousness. (www.vocabulary.com/dictionary). This certainly broadens what we might accept as life; but, let us focus on intelligent life.

If there was “intelligent and sentient” life out there, 40 light years out, it would presumably, be able to sense changes in the electro-magnetic spectrum. “They” might be aware that a group of (Amateur Radio) beings are massaging the spectrum, in a little planet in a star system dominated by our sun. Furthermore, the light that allowed scientists to deduce that there were these seven planets in the Trappist-1 red dwarf star system would have taken 40 years at the speed of light to reach Earth. If they, “the trappists???” , are watching us, they would be receiving light that left Earth 40 years ago. If the light could be focussed and magnified, could they actually witness events that occurred 40 years ago.

Could an intelligence, 54 light years away, with a really powerful, focussed telescope, and looking at just the right place, witness the Kennedy Assassination. That is, can one look back IN time, without interacting with it, if you are far enough away and in front of the light and image. This does happen each evening as we look into the night sky. An exploding star may be an event that occurred a very, very long time (millions of years!!!) ago. A colleague, who I will not embarrass by naming, pointed out that, if there was a reflective surface out there, by selectively focussing on that object we could see ourselves, in the past. In that sense we could re-experience history and become "time-travellers".

Einstein and Hawking made many interesting conclusions about time; but, is time only an artificial invention of the human mind. If we could not remember and could only live "in the moment", like a bee or ant, would time not exist? Is time a human way of chronologically ordering events, in an arbitrary manner whose order or effects cannot be changed after the fact? If it "slows", is it a perception based on a measuring phenomena, only, or are clocking events influenced by the motion and physics of where the measurement occurs?

So, if the best we can do is look "back" without going back, is time a one way street where events unfold, recorded and remembered, but not significant. It just happens, perhaps, randomly, as events and people collide.

If we must travel linearly forward in time and we cannot travel, physically, to a point 40 light years away, and if we cannot interact with a civilization 40 light years in immediate time (and what is immediate??)is a ham radio signal that originated 40 years ago, the extent of our conversation with Trappists?

Hmmmm....Isn't it odd that on earth, Trappist monks take a vow of silence?

As Dyer asks, in his article, "Is intelligence so counter-productive that an intelligent species self-destructs within a few dozen generations of developing a scientific civilization? OR is there something so terrible out there that everybody who survived is observing radio silence?"

Enjoy your coffee. de rich, ve3DCC

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

MARCH 22 - MEETING

MARCH 29 - TED VE3TRQ + DIGITAL GROUP

APRIL 5 - AL VA3TET

APRIL 12 - REG VE3RVH

APRIL 19 - TOM VE3DXQ

APRIL 26 - MEETING

MAY 3 - PAUL VE3PVB

MAY 10 - TRACY (VE3JVG)

MAY 17 - BRIAN VA3DXK

MAY 24 - MEETING

MAY 31 - BOB VE3IXX + DIGITAL GROUP

JUNE 7 - JUDD VE3WXU

NASTY NUISANCE NOISES

Part 2

By Bob Koechl VE3IXX

SOLAR NOISE

Solar noise can be defined as "Noise that originates from the Sun ... Under normal conditions there is constant radiation from the Sun due to its high temperature. Electrical disturbances such as corona discharges, as well as sunspots can produce additional noise."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noise_\(electronics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noise_(electronics))



A Solar Flare.

The amount of Solar noise produced by the sun is referred to as the Solar radio noise flux or shortened to Solar Flux. While the strength of the effect varies with frequency, the solar flux is increased with the eruption of a solar flare. A solar flare is defined as "a sudden, rapid and intense variation in brightness. A solar flare occurs when the magnetic energy that has built up in the solar atmosphere is suddenly released. Radiation is emitted across virtually the entire electromagnetic spectrum, from radio waves at the long wavelength end, through optical emission to x-rays and gamma rays at the short wavelength end. The amount of energy released is the equivalent of millions of 100-megaton hydrogen bombs exploding at the same time!" (<http://solar-center.stanford.edu/solar-weather/>) Within hours all communications, especially on the HF bands deteriorate.

In 1859 Richard Carrington observed a super solar flare which was named the "Carrington Flare". It caused such a powerful geomagnetic storm that it caused a disruption in all the lines of the telegraph service. Imagine what this level of storm might have caused on sensitive electronic systems, on satellites, on telecommunications and all electronic commerce. It would have been catastrophic.

The solar flux is monitored on 2800 MHz. This very high wavelength of 10.7 centimeters is used purposefully. The earth's atmosphere has the least effect at this high frequency, and so the maximum energy from the sun can be measured without filtering.

The solar flux and solar flares on the sun relate directly with the 11 year sunspot cycle. At the maximum sunspot cycle the solar flux usually reaches it's maximum numbers and more solar flares occur. The last maximum was around 2011 and we are now over half way down to the minimum sunspot cycle. However this is no guarantee that we won't see the odd solar flare.

Also, solar flares can often be associated with coronal mass ejections. These are ejections of protons, electrons and ions from the sun. The earth has natural defenses against these. Both the earth's magnetic field and atmosphere block much of these but some enter through the poles and can produce the beautiful auroras. In spite of the earth's protective defenses, "coronal mass ejections, along with solar flares of other origin, can disrupt radio transmissions and cause damage to satellites and electrical transmission line facilities, resulting in potentially massive and long-lasting power outages."

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronal_mass_ejection)

Next month, we will discuss Atmospheric Noise: stay tuned!

DIGITAL @ VE3ERC . . .

BY Judd VE3WXU

The next scheduled Net, is slated for Wednesday March 29th. Remember, our Net purpose is cohesive communications in time of need, and there are a few standards all participants should adhere to. FLDIGI is the preferred software package, along with its companion package FLMSG. On air, references to other modes, software and personal preferences have been made. Please follow the net recommendations for these training sessions. We must remember our purpose, also we should practice our best Net protocol. In these first sessions, we have referred to them as 'Training Nets' as the name implies. Later on, the Net will be a quick test and polish of our Team for future deployment if needed.

The Net will be called after the weekly FM net, on the 2 meter repeater. A time line will be attached below. Using voice, the expectations will be explained in brief, and a list will be compiled of those interested in participating. (Once the list is compiled and verified, there will be no additions.) At which time a digital Preamble will be sent using PSK31, and each member on the list will be called in list order. Your response should simply be: 'VE3WXU de <YOURCALL> check-in'. No other digital transmissions are required, UNLESS net control request you to re-transmit your response. Following your check-in response, net control will acknowledge your check-in with this response: 'Confirm <YOURCALL> de VE3WXU thanks for checking in'. Net control will continue down the list until all members have had their turn, at which time the digital net will be closed. Roundtable Q&A will follow by voice if anyone desires.

Points to consider: Listen and follow instructions and request from Net Control, use only enough power to fully engage the repeater, add nothing to your digital response other than what is requested. Once the digital Preamble is sent, no voice on the repeater, except for Net Control or if requested by Net Control. (This is necessary to prevent doubling, confusion and to keep the net moving.)

TIME LINE: (approx..)

9:00pm	Close of Elmira Weekly FM net
9:05pm	VE3WXU will open the VE3ERC Digital NET
9:06pm	Instructions, expectations and last minute changes or tips (reminder to have RxID set to 'ON', and that all transmissions and responses will be at 1000+/-hz on the waterfall, always tune to Net Control. ONLY Net Control transmits TxID, this is for your benefit)
9:08pm	Check-ins to compile list.... (If you want to be on list...Please be ready to check-in via voice, 1 check-in or 10 check-ins, once the list is compiled and verified the digital portion will begin.)
9:10pm	Digital Net Preamble, Check-in call out by Net Control, Responses, acknowledgements, digital net closure.
9:15pm (approx.)	Return to Voice, for Q&A if needed and Return of Repeater to normal/regular amateur use.

Thanks to all for your patience and participation. The next regular session of the digital net is scheduled for the 5th Wednesday of May, the 31st.

CANWARN WORKSHOPS

The CanWarn Workshops are beginning again. Geoff Coulson from Environment Canada has sent the following e-mail:

Hello everyone...after spring-like weather in February, March has seen a return to colder temperatures and snow for some areas. The forecast for April right now has temperatures bouncing back to somewhat warmer than normal conditions for much of the province. That surge of warm air also means the possible return of severe thunderstorms for Ontario. Please find following the CANWARN storm spotter training schedule for the spring of 2017. This year represents CANWARN's 30th anniversary from its humble beginnings with the amateur radio group in Windsor. The program now boasts well over 6000 members across the province from all walks of life...amateur radio, emergency managers/responders, government employees and many, many more.

As always, there is no cost to attend the training and each session lasts between 2 to 2.5 hours. To RSVP with regards to a particular session, please send an email to canwarn.ontario@ec.gc.ca. The exception is for the sessions in Owen Sound and Sarnia. For these sessions, please RSVP to the website/email address provided below. Once again my thanks to all of you who are current members of this important program and I look forward to meeting many first-time attendees over the course of the coming weeks.

The date for the workshop in Waterloo is:

May 10 – Waterloo – 7 PM RIM Park 2001 University Ave East, Waterloo

So Mark your Calendars!

Geoff Coulson

Warning Preparedness Meteorologist |
Météorologue de sensibilisation aux alertes
Ontario Region Client Services |
Service à la clientèle, Région de l'Ontario
Environment Canada | Environnement Canada
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada
4905 Dufferin St | 4905 rue Dufferin
Toronto, ON M3H 5T4

Geoff.Coulson@canada.ca
Telephone | Téléphone 416-739-4466
Facsimile | Télécopieur 416-739-4603
Website | Site Web www.weather.gc.ca

Visit Us at
www.ve3erc.ca

VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

Minutes from March 22, 2017

1. Open and roll call.

The meeting was open by our President VA3WXU Joyce at 7:30 pm.

Roll Call: VA3TET Al, Guest Joan, VE3DXQ, Tom, VE3WXU Jud, VA3WXU Joyce, VE3DCC Rich, VE3QB Bruce, VA3DXK Brian, VE3TRQ Ted, VE3EIX Harry, VA3GWM Gord, VE3CXU Doug, VE3JMU Jim, VE3AHP Rob, VE3EIX Harry, VE3JXX John, VA3KXX Kathy, Rich VE3DCC, VE3PDC Paul, VE3JVG Jason, VE3PVB Paul, VE3RVH Reg, VA3FJM Frank, VE3XTM Terry, VE3JVG Jason, VA3JBO Johan, VA3GSM Greg.

Speakers/ Program: Joyce informed us that the speaker would not be coming to our meeting as he is recovering from a nasty flu. Terry VE3XTM brought in some free books on electronics for anyone interested. Ted VE3TRQ advised that registration our domain name <http://www.ve3erc.ca/> is up renewal. Ted recommended we renew it for 2 years. Cost is \$15:00 per year. Ted made a motion that we renew it for 2 years and Judd VE3WXU seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Brian VA3DXK announced that Bob VE3IXX has a new grandchild. So he is busy and will not make it to the meeting.

Judd VE3WXU and Joyce VA3WXU did a presentation on fraud instead. Joyce VA3WXU handed out a book produced by the Government of Canada competition bureau on fraud. She also mentioned that March is fraud prevention month and has been for the last 13 years. There was much discussion about the various types of fraud club members present had encountered. Judd VA3WXU showed us a video from Ted talks of a guy outsmarting and playing with a scammer.

Reports and Announcements:

Minutes from previous meeting- Joyce VA3WXU asked if there were any errors or omissions from last month's minutes. None were mentioned. A motion was made by Johan VA3JBO and Judd VE3WXU to accept the minutes. Minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report-Reg VE3RVH asked if everyone present got the financial report for 2016 and asked if there were any questions regarding it. He commented that we did not make much at the ham-fest. Reg VE3RVH asked for a motion to accept the report. Motion to accept was made by Johan VA3JBO, and seconded by John VE3JXX. All were in favor. The club accountant advised he has submitted our tax statement and we will see that statement at a later date. Our balance has increased due members paying their dues this evening.

Emergency Preparedness- Rich VE3DCC said he has two items regarding emergency preparedness. We are considering having an emergency simulation before the meeting about 7:15. It would involve an emergency call coming in through net control Al VA3TET and he would pass messages on to those present to practice passing messages. He shows a forum for passing messages from the Norfolk amateur radio club.

radio club. He also said in future this could be done digitally. At the top of the form it indicates whether the message is incoming or out going. Each message has a control number that keeps track of what is going out and what is coming in. There is a blank for each word, a time stamp and who the sender or receiver is. The AARL form is a little more rigorous.

The second Item is CAER invitation- There is an upcoming CAER exercise coming up on May 12, 2017. The set up would be similar to the set up at the maple syrup festival. This will be at the community center. This would be a good opportunity to see how we can operate at that location.

Correspondence: Joyce VA3WXU read a letter from the president of the Guelph Club VE3SLD Barry. He is interested in attending the Maple Syrup Festival along with others from GARC. He also invited our club to join in for the Rotary tree planting day April 22, 2017, and the MS walk is May 7th any ERC club members should let him know if they wish to be involved in these events. He said he would like our club to be more integrated and work on projects together in the future. GARC is also going to organize a fox hunt this spring and we are also invited to get involved.

Elmira Maple Syrup Festival: Judd VA3WXU advised that we have our confirmation we will officially be at Lions hall with the same set up as last year. Judd said to show up on the Friday about 3:00 pm this will leave plenty of time for set up. We will be on the air on Friday night from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Saturday we will be on the air from 8:00 am until 4:00pm. He said we have plenty of operators. We will have the 80 meter PV antenna there for a trial. The short and droopy will also be up. Paul VA3PDC will be running the digital modes as Dennis VE3UTN will be unable to attend. John VE3JXX will bring his go box, and Ken VE3KCY will be doing CW. The entrance fee to Lions Hall is \$2.00. There will be badges for those who show up early. For those who are coming early come in via Park street. It is better to get to Park Street from the west. The food prices at the hall are very reasonable.

Joyce VA3WXU advised club members should wear their ERC shirts and Hats. John VE3JXX advised that the Maple Syrup Festival is looking for volunteers also, not necessarily in an amateur radio capacity.

Digital Report: Judd VE3WXU advised that Wednesday March 29, at 9:05 pm there will be a digital net on our usual 2 meter frequency voice FM. Once Judd has a list we will move to 147.510 simplex. What he will be looking for is your call sign x2 then De and then his call sign x2 then de. Then your call sign then check in. The only voice on the simplex frequency will be Judd to prevent doubling. The net should be no longer than 10 minutes. We will be using PSK31. Judd advised that he would like to see us become familiar with FLDIGI as it has a messaging service that can be used with it. It is FI message. The ICS213 form can be sent over it. This is a general message form.

Antenna committee: Al VA3TET, Jim VE3JMU, John VE3JXX.

John VE3JXX sent a request to his contact regarding getting some hard line, but has not heard anything back as yet. He requested 250 ft of hard line. We would also be interested in 500 ft of 213, or LMR 400 It could be received at cost or a donation. He said for now though we are looking at repairing the existing cable and adding a new antenna. Judd VE3WXU asked Greg VA3GSM if there was a possibility of getting some hard line from Spectrum. Greg said he would look into it. Johan VA3JBO asked how much would a new antenna for the feed mill cost? John VE3JXX said \$150.00 to \$500.00. Johan said he would personally donate \$200.00. Applause by members present followed.

Nomination Committee: Paul VE3PVB advised that Brian VA3DXK has put his name forward for Vice President. Applause followed. Also that Paul VE3PDC has put his name forward for treasurer. Applause followed. Rich VE3DCC congratulated Reg VE3RVH for all his hard work and dedication over the years as the clubs treasurer. Applause followed.

Unfinished Business: Joyce VA3WXU asked Rich VE3DCC where things stood in regard to the Woolwich community grant. Rich VE3DCC referred this to John VE3JXX. John advised he had put a quote of \$7,000.00 for new equipment together. Rich and John discussed who to approach at the township to get this moving. Rich said he would approach Dave Brennan.

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.