

**JUNE 2017** 

Volume 6 Issue 6

# VE3FRC-LUB

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 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.







Wooden Antenna at the Hammond Radio Museum in Guelph photographed by Joycee VA3WXU.



# THE PREZ SEZ!

# This club is Radio-ACTIVE Luis cinp is Badio-ACTIVE

**President's Update for JUNE 2017** 

A New View.....

## Crackling With Life

Recently, the York Region Amateur Radio Club invited both Elmira and Guelph clubs to join with them at the Hammond Radio Museum in Guelph. It turned out to be a very interesting museum.

The museum is really small but is jam-packed with magnificent treasures from the past. It mainly showcases radios and the necessities and accessories that was needed to make the radio functional.

Thousands of glass tubes of every size and shape luminesce as they rest together on shelves. Just





looking at them, I could almost feel the heat that all together of them would be able to produce.

A few wooden antennas caught my eyes that looked more like decorative woodwork wrapped in braided yarn. Even though It was nice looking, I am not sure how it actually worked.

There were also horns in the museum similar to the ones like Edison used on phonographs. The problem with them was that they did not have the amplification needed to hear well with and nowadays they are just a novelty. Some of the more modern speakers in the museum not only worked better than a horn, there were some speakers







The mainstay of the museum, of course, were the radios themselves. They came in every different kind, size, colour, weight and purpose that you can imagine.

At the end of the day, I had a much greater appreciation of how important the radio has influenced and impacted the world. It reminded me of the lyrics of the song, "The Spirit of Radio", by Rush.

Off on your way, hit the open road

There is magic at your fingers

For the Spirit ever lingers

Undemanding contact in your happy solitude

Invisible airwaves crackle with life Bright antennae bristle with the energy Emotional feedback on timeless wavelength Bearing a gift beyond price, almost free...

73 Cheers Joycee (VA3WXU)





# Back-of-the-Napkin Exeball

## **QSO** notes and stuff

### by Rich, ve3DCC

ften, over coffee, we look back at where THE HOBBY, always with capital letters and whispered with great respect, has evolved from and where it is moving to.

Amateur Radio Operators are attracted to THE HOBBY for a variety of reasons. It is a strength of the art that so many interests can be addressed under one tent; but ultimately, the roots of "HAM" radio are in the technical innovation and the curious mystery of radio communication. As the years passed, the home-brew rigs, then the "Heathkit" style kits, and the miniaturized vhf, uhf and hf rigs, became extraordinarily sophisticated. With the use of software to mimic the interconnections of discrete logic gates, transistors and filter networks, new and seemingly difficult horizons present themselves. The hobby has almost entered the realm of magic where black boxes and magical incantations/encryptions leave many in the proverbial dust. Is the hobby too sterile? Is it time to stimulate experimentation in the hobby?

Sadly, many of the opportunities to explore and experiment seem to have disappeared. The seminars at the (old) yearly RSO (Radio Society of Ontario) conventions and even the program schedules of Ham Clubs used to present exciting challenges to build, to see and to discuss leading and bleeding edge ideas. Those leading edges , in the past, included "radical" repeater, phone-patch, filtering, networking and satellite tricks. The Dayton Ham-vention often featured seminars that were worthy of the trip and the cost. Flea markets past offered "good stuff" that could be re-tasked.

Today, however, software, digital networks, new styles of antennae and, more importantly, the availability of new bands and new "tech" offer different abstract challenges to old and new hams alike. How do we meet the moment?

Al Macdonald, va3TET, of the Elmira Radio Club Inc. has proposed a novel "Back to the Future" idea. Why not have a one day ham-style event featuring seminars and demonstrations. The goal would be to provide building block skills in the new technologies. The event could be held in a small local hall with field space for antennae and stations. This would NOT be a flea market. A modest registration fee would be needed to cover expenses such as the hall, refreshments, insurance etc.

The prerequisite would be to have both INTERESTED attendees and WILLING presenters.

#### Accordingly,

Here is A Special Call-out for "HAM" Presenters, Experimenters and Research Paper Authors:

VE3ERC, the Elmira Radio Club Inc., wishes to examine the feasibility of a seminar/speaker/demonstration event in the Kitchener-Waterloo area, date to be determined.

This announcement is a Call for Speakers and Papers as we explore the merits of this service to the Amateur Community. The intent is to expand the knowledge base and the visibility of Amateur Radio.

Our preliminary plans call for a one day series of workshops and demonstrations targeting the Amateur Radio community."

This is NOT a flea market.

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If you wish to be a part of this activity, in any way, please contact

#### Al MacDonald, va3TET at

almac01@outlook.com

All Amateur Licensees and all interested parties are invited.

Can this ignite innovation and interest in our hobby? You be the judge.

de Rich, ve3DCC.

#### **WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

JUNE 14 - TED VE3TRQ

JUNE 21 - MEETING

JUNE 28 - AL VASTET

JULY 5 - REG VE3RVH

JULY 12 - TOM VE3DXQ

**JULY 19 - PAUL VE3PVB** 

**JULY 26 - TRACY VASTGY** 

**AUGUST 2 - BRIAN VA3DXK** 

**AUGUST 9 - BOB VE3IXX** 

**AUGUST 16 - JUDD VE3WXU** 

**AUGUST 23 - TED VE3TRQ** 

**AUGUST 30 - AL VA3TET + DIGITAL GROUP** 

# Re-purposing for Digital

#### By Judd VE3WXU

At this years HamFest FleaMarket, I scored a Yaesu LandLiner 301 for \$10. I had my eye out for such an item. It proved to be an excellent candidate for re-purposing, as phone patching is a lost mode, these units show up at the fleamarkets a lot, most folks use Satellite phones nowadays instead, and the need for phone patching has faded.



The conversion was quite simple. The LandLiner had 3 usable variable resistors, an on/off switch, two 600 ohm isolation transformers and a great enclosure with a removable chassis. Like the Signalink USB, I planned to have adjustable RX audio in, adjustable TX audio out and a PTT inhibit (on/off). Isolation for audio



in and out would be thru the two 600 ohm transformers. Low voltage from the TX audio transformer thru a simple opto-isolator circuit would provide the ground needed for the PTT. Connection to my Yaesu FT-7900R would be thru the 6 pin din. Computer connection would be USB, provide by a \$7 USB sound dongle.

I've not provided a reworked schematic, but have included a few pictures of before and after. Using diagrams and ideas from the internet, this approach could provide a cheat interface for your shack...my total cost \$20 ( plus items from the junk box). Very cheap compared to the retail cost of a Signalink USB.





### GREAT CANADA DAY WEEKEND BBQ

Because the club does not do anything together in July, Al and I thought it would be a good idea for us to have a BBQ together to celebrate Canada Day. Please bring your XYL or a relative or friend.

The date: Sunday, July 2, 2017

3:00. Libation and Face to Face On Air4:00 p.m. Munching and Chomping5:00 p.m. Desserting6:00 p.m. Lingering and Logging

The venue: Al and Joan's QTH

36 Orchard Park Cres.

Kitchener, Ontario

(519) 741-0281

#### The Necessities:

- -Chairs, unless you want to stand up all night
- -Your own utensils, if you do not like plastic ones
- -The liquid refreshment of your choice
- -A vegetable, or a salad, or a dessert,

or paper plates and paper towels to share with others.

\*\$10.00 per person to cover the main course which is steak and stuffed potato made by Al. Please Pay in advance at the June meeting.

An RSP is required (pretty please !!!) Send it to Joycee as soon as possible. Indicate if you will be there by yourself, or hosting a guest with you. Please indicate what kind of dish you will be bringing. Finally, if it rains that day, we will do it on the next Sunday, July 9th.

Will see you there..... 73 Cheers, Joycee



# Reporting Tip Sheet

#### From Geoff Coulson of Environment Canada

#### **How to Report**

- Amateur radio network (if applicable) Amateur Radio Condition Condition Codes: Code Green - Severe Thunderstorm Watch
   Code Yellow - Severe Thunderstorm Warning or Tornado Watch
   Code Red - Tornado Warning
- Email at storm.ontario@ec.gc.ca
   ec.cpio-tempetes-ospc-storms.ec@canada.ca
- Twitter with hashtag #ONstorm
- By phone at 1-800-444-WARN (9276)

#### What Your Report Should Contain

- Who your name, CANWARN ID, contact number
- Where your location and approx. location of what you are reporting
- What describe what are witnessing/what you witnessed
- When time of occurrence of event and duration
- Movement where phenomenon came from and where it is going
- Confidence level

#### What to Report - Spring/Summer

- Large Hail (use coins to describe size...nickel, quarter, loonie for larger hail...golf ball etc..)
- Heavy rain that has resulted in local flooding
- Damaging winds (damage from tree branches down to more significant tree or structural damage)
- Funnel Cloud
- Waterspout
- Tornado
- Dense fog visibility less than 1 km

#### What to Report - Fall/Winter

- Dense fog visibility less than 1 km
- Any occurrence of freezing rain or freezing drizzle
- Heavily accumulating snow (2 or more cm/hr)
- Whiteout conditions in snow/blowing snow (visibility near zero)
- Rapid freezing of water on road surfaces

#### - Weather Resources -

#### **Storm Spotter Websites**

https://ecalertme.weather.gc.ca

ECAlertMe - weather alert emails from EC

http://www.theweathernetwork.com/public-alerts/#alert-twn

Alert Ready

https://google.org/publicalerts

Google Public Alerts

http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/data/raw/ac/accn10.cwto..txt

(Daily Severe Thunderstorm Potential Bulletin from Environment Canada)

http://spotterguides.us/

(SKYWARN spotter guides...American equivalent to CANWARN)

www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf

(NOAA Weather Spotters' Field Guide)

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=spotterglossary

(Weather glossary for storm spotters)

http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu/pdfs/snowbook.pdf (Guide to snow measurement for winter reports)

#### **Lightning Information and Safety**

http://www.ec.gc.ca/foudre-lightning

http://www.lightningmaps.org

http://weather.gc.ca/lightning/index\_e.html?id=ONT

http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors.htm

http://safety.dri.edu/FieldSafety/Guidelines/Lightning\_Safety\_Guideline.pdf

#### **More Internet Weather sites**

**Environment Canada's Weather website:** http://weather.gc.ca

**Weatheradio Information:** http://ec.gc.ca/weatheradio

#### **Types of Weather Alerts in Canada:**

http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=D9553AB5-1

**National Weather Service:** http://w2.weather.gov/climate

<u>Jetstream – Online Weather School</u> \_http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream/

**WW2010 - Online Meteorology Course** http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/home.rxml

**The Ohio State University (OSU)** Current and Forecast Weather Information - http://asp1.sbs.ohio-state.edu/

#### **Weather Observations**

http://weatherobs.com

<u>Unisys Weather</u> – Current and Forecast Weather Information http://weather.unisys.com/

**Weather Underground** Current and Forecast Weather Information http://www.weatherunderground.com/

**Intellicast** Current and Forecast Weather Information http://www.intellicast.com/

<u>Windy</u> Forecast Weather Information

http://windy.com

#### CoCoRaHS Volunteer Weather Observing Network

http://www.cocorahs.org/Canada.aspx

**Weatheradio Listeners' Newsletter** 

https://weatherradiolistnersnewsletter.wordpress.com/

#### **Smartphone Apps**

<u>Météo – Canadian Weather</u> – Apple/iOS app

https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/meteo-canadian-weather/id925058325?mt=8

WeatherEh- Apple/iOS

https://appsto.re/ca/h-cvcb.i

Radarscope - Apple/iOS and Google Play https://radarscope.io/

# The 43<sup>rd</sup> Central Ontario Hamfest June 4 2017 Hosted by the Kitchener and Guelph Amateur Radio Clubs By Tom Mahony VE3DXQ

Well it is hard to believe another Central Ontario Hamfest has come and gone already. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> one I have attended. I got my Amateur Radio License in June 2013. So I have been going since I became a hamster. This year was different however as I was on the other side of the table helping with sales of the Elmira Radio Club VE3ERC.

The Day started early with Reg VE3RVH and myself VE3DXQ. Reg came over to my place at 6:00 am and the weather did not look too promising as there was a light drizzle. However we got my 20ft Ladder up on Reg's van ok.

The venue is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour from my place so we had to be there at 6:30 am to set up the 80M antenna for ONTARS. When we got there other members from the ERC club were already there to help set up the antennas. These included Al VA3TET, Frank VA3FJM, and Bruce VE3OB.

We attached one end of the antenna to the venue building and the other end to a tree out back. We put the ladder up against the tree and used a rope with a weight on it to get between 2 branches up, about 10 ft above the ladder. I got it on the second shot. Maybe I should have been a baseball pitcher. Joke Hi Hi!

Reg had his van packed with all the items for sale and everybody pitched in to get it set up on the 2 tables we had. We got everything in place an hour before the tables opened for business. Sometimes people come by before the tables are open. This should be discouraged in my opinion.

Once sales opened I was too busy to look at any other tables there. I was told that outside there were only about 4 tailgaters. The weather probably scared them off. The biggest portion of the sales was from Bill's VE3ETK equipment. Bill became a silent key last year. One interesting item that was sold was Bill's razor blade detector, about which he had made a presentation not that long ago. This was a well kept secret of WWII. It was a simple way to make a radio detector circuit, using a razor blade that had a special coating on it, that made it usable as a detector.

AL VA3TET was on ONTARS for an hour and said he had fun, even though he did not follow the protocol. Maybe that is what he means when he asks someone "Are you staying out of trouble" and they answer yes and Al says, "that's no fun!"

I also met a couple people at the hamfest that I have not seen for over 40 years. One guy was a neighbour on the street I grew up on in Guelph and the other was my high school electronics teacher. This was quite a surprise for me.

The experience of setting up and being on the other side of the table, gave me a real appreciation for the people who do this every year.

All in all I would say we had a successful day.

Thank you all!

**Tom Mahony VE3DXQ** 

# <u>Storm (from Weather Underground)</u> - Apple/iOS app https://www.wunderground.com/micro/storm/

#### **BOOKS**

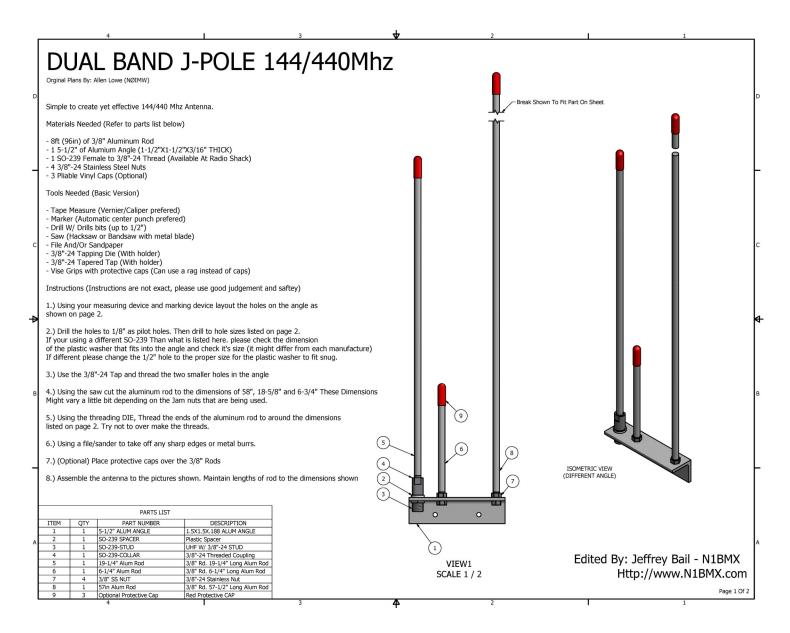
<u>Meteorology Today: An Introduction to Weather, Climate and the Envrionment - 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition - 2015</u> C.D Ahrens, Peter L. Jackson and Chris Jackson

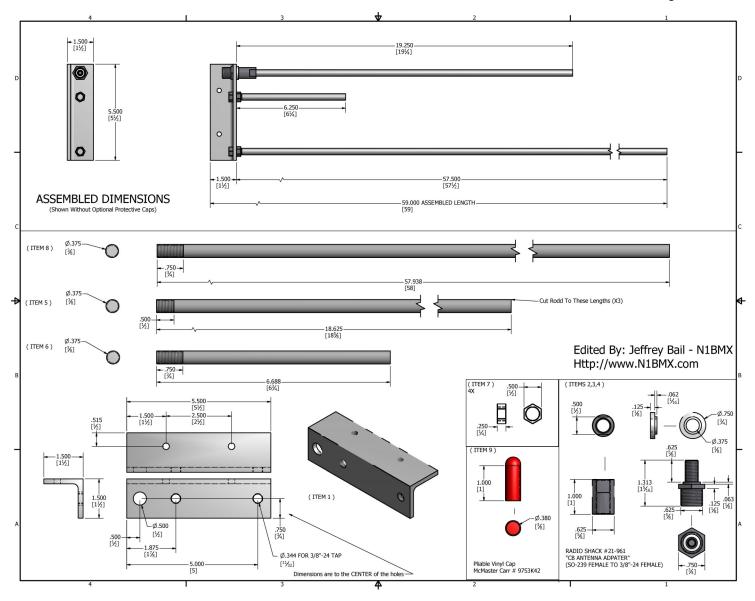
<u>The AMS Weather Book: An Easy-To-Understand Guide to the USA's Weather -2009</u> <u>Edition</u>, by Jack Williams

<u>The Weather Handbook: An Essential Guide to How Weather is Formed and Develops – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition - 2015</u>, by Alan Watts

National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Weather, by David Ludlum, Knopf Publishing

<u>Guide to Weather Forecasting: All the Information You'll Need to Make Your Own Weather Forecast,</u> by Storm Dunlop, Firefly Books





CHECK OUT NEXT MONTH'S

NEWSLETTER

FOR

A FULL REPORT ON

THE ERC FIELD DAY!

## VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

Minutes from June 21, 2017

#### 1. Open and roll call.

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

**Roll Call**: VA3TET AI, VE3DXQ Tom, VE3WXU Jud, VA3WXU Joyce, VE3QB Bruce, VA3DXK Brian, VE3TRQ Ted, VE3EIX Harry, VA3GWM Gord, VE3CXU Doug, VE3JMU Jim, VE3EIX Harry, VE3JXX John, VE3PDC Paul, VE3JVG Jason, VE3RVH Reg, VA3FJM Frank, VA3GSM Greg, VE3IXX Bob, VA3TGY Tracy, VE3CDF Andy, VE3YBM Brian, VE3RVH Reg, VA3SQD Dan, VA3JBO Johan, VE3DCC Rich, VE3YBM Brian, VA3QB Bill. Dave (Guest).

**Announcements:** Joycee VA3WXU reminded those present that there are ERC dues that are still outstanding and need to be paid.

Joycee also mentioned the Canadian BBQ at AL's place on July 2, 2017, starting at 3:00 pm. Al and Joycee would like to know if you are going and who will be coming with you, and what you will bring with you. Cost is \$10.00. You can pay at this meeting or whenever you can.

APOLOGY: Joycee VA3WXU apologized for the late notice of the change of ERC monthly meeting date. This was due to the fact that we needed to have the meeting before Field Day, which is this coming Saturday.

KUDOS: Joycee VA3WXU thanked all those worked to make our table and our involvement with the Ham-Fest a success. (Al, Reg, Tom, Frank, Jason, Bill, and Bruce.)

Report: Central Ontario Ham-Fest- Al said we got a lot of Bill Graham's (VE3ETK) things sold. We had 2 table and they were packed full, also things under the tables. The Flex radio got sold, and so did the ICOM, but the ICOM was returned as the display lighting did not work. This will be sold again once repaired and proceeds will go to Bill's Wife. Al VA3TET said he had 25 people checked in to ONTARS and had fun doing it even though he messed up protocols a little. Anything left over from Bill's Equipment is donated to ERC as per Marie. We did make a little profit on club items we sold. ERC will take the remaining profit from Bill's items that have not sold as yet, but will be sold in the future.

Special Event: Canadian BBQ- Joycee again mentioned this event at Al's place. VA3TET. She had handouts for people who did not receive the email regarding this.

Milton Flea Market is July 8<sup>th</sup>.

John VE3JXX contacted Nate's (young fellow from Maple Syrup Festival) Dad, John, and let him know about the radio receiver that the club is donating to Nate. His Dad was very touched by this.

Also John mentioned that the Elmira Legion is having a family fun day in September and this would be a good event to make people aware of our Club and what we do.



#### **Executive, Committee Chairs, and Members:**

Minutes from previous meeting- Tom VE3DXQ asked if there were any errors or omissions from last month's meeting. None were mentioned. Tom asked for the minutes be accepted, and Brian VA3DXK seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted.

Club Communities: Bill VA3QB and Bruce VE3QB said they are willing to come by and help anyone to set themselves up on the Club Yahoo Group.

Joycee VA3WXU said she really enjoyed the field trip to the Hammond Radio Museum. She also said she wishes someone could answer her most often asked question when she was there.

That question was "What is that?" The former member of the North York club was helpful in this regard. There was also a tour of the Hammond Transformer Plant.

Field Day: Al VA3TET asked for a show of hands of who would come to field day as operators. There were 5 people who showed an interest. The same number showed interest in putting up antennas. The weather does not look too favorable for this event, as it will be a cool and rainy week end. The discussion turned to the possibility of having field day run from the fire hall. However there would be no points as these are existing antennas. The matter is up in the air at this point.

Treasurer's Report: Reg said we had good sales at the Ham-fest. However one of the Radios that were sold had to be taken back as it had a problem. It will be repaired and resold. Marie Bill's (VE3ETK) wife was given a check for items sold that were Bill's. Reg gave the Clubs present Balance. Reg moved that the treasure's report be accepted, seconded by Bill VE3QB. Report accepted.

Point Clark Lighthouse: Al VA3TET said were good to go on this. We will string up the G5RV

off the lighthouse again. People will bring their own equipment as per last year. This will be on the 3rd weekend of August. He also mentioned that the Lake makes a good ground. The BBQ will be on the Saturday at noon.

Emergency Preparedness: Joycee VA3WXU said that when they went to the emergency preparedness event in Elmira they were supposed to receive a form to fill out, but have not received it as yet.

She said that we need to find out who in the club is interested in Emergency Preparedness.



Presentation: John VE3JXX did a presentation on Incident Command System. The following links will give you an Idea of what this is about.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incident\_Command\_System#/media/File:ICS\_Structure.PNG http://www.icscanada.ca/en/home.html

John gave 2 examples where there were different parties not communicating well with each



other or not at all. The examples were 911, and the wild fires in Alberta.

Rich VE3DCC mentioned how messaging through things like FLDIGI could be very helpful in Emergency situations.

John VE3JXX said that we can practice sending messages over the radio, without having to mention any emergency, so as not to have the public panic in case someone overheard a conversation about a practice emergency.

Bill VA3QB said that during a real emergency we should not use our call

sign as this could take more time and cause confusion.

Frank VA3FJM said that the St. John Ambulance Marathon is an excellent opportunity to practice our message passing capabilities. We used our location rather than our call sign.

Future Ham Convention: Joyce VA3WXU turned this over to Rich VE3DCC and Rich said there will be an Article in this month's news letter regarding a ham convention. Al VA3TET said this would offer something distinct to Amateur Radio. This would be a day of seminars or workshops. This would take place a venue such as the perimeter institute. This could also be a source of revenue for the club.

Rich VE3DCC mentioned that we will talk about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bill Graham memorial Dinner at the September meeting. The Dinner will be in October.

Meeting Closed at 9:15 PM

Submitted by Tom Mahony VE3DXQ