

**FEBRUARY 2018**

**Volume 7 Issue 2**

# VE3ERC-LUB

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**Vice-President: Brian VA3DXK**  
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**Joycee VA3WXU**  
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## 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.**



**Take a good look at the wire antenna strung to the tall tree. This was part of Ken VE3KCY's adventure in Winter Field Day. See page 13 for the story.**

Radio Amateurs  
of Canada



# THE PREZ SEZ!

## Message from the President On a Leave of Absence

### A Special Hobby

According to Wikipedia, there are three million amateur radio operators worldwide. The majority of the operators based on population, reside in Japan, the United States, Thailand, South Korea and Thailand. Sadly, there are the governments of Yemen and North Korea that currently prohibit their citizens from becoming amateur radio operators. This tactic to mute their population from the rest of the world is utterly appalling. On this point, we can count our blessings in Canada.

One demographic statistic of amateur radio operators is that they are predominantly male. For example, twelve percent of operators in China are women and fifteen percent of the operators in the United States.



Another demographic is, "the most common language heard in the HF amateur bands (the bands below 30 MHz that support worldwide communications) is English."

In terms of age of the operator most countries have no minimum age requirement to become one. In spite of the fact that the number

of operators in many countries increases from year to year, the average age of the operator is quite high. This seems to suggest that the license was earned in their 40s or 50s.

One of the most interesting things about the hobby of Amateur Radio is that the world is its playground. There are very few other hobbies or pastime activities that are done on a global scope like amateur radio. This makes our hobby pretty special.





# THE VICE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE  
This club is Radio-ACTIVE

## Vice President's Update for FEBRUARY 2018

**F**irst, I would like to thank the executive & membership for giving me the opportunity to take the helm of the Club. 2018 promises to be a very interesting and adventurous year for the Elmira Radio Club.

I will ask you to bear with me during the next few weeks while I get a good handle on everything. This has been a busy time over the last month with getting myself up to speed with all the club activities in motion.

It is truly incredible to me how many members are constantly keeping busy with all the various activities the club is involved in. On behalf of the Executive I'd like to extend a belated but heartfelt Happy New Year to the membership and personally wish all of you and your families the best this year can bring.

As we jump into the upcoming spring and summer activity season, we do so with some uncertainty. Several of our members are experiencing the challenges of personal issues and or illnesses within their families. I ask you to keep them in our thoughts. For the time being we are without a President, Maple Syrup Committee, and QSL manager. We need members to step up and help out with our various events, committees, and activities.

At the moment, our club is in a time of flux and change. Change can have a psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things *may* get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things *may* get better. But to the confident it can be inspiring because the challenge exists to take control and *make* things better.

The next six months, March to August, is the club's busiest of times with many upcoming activities ranging from Maple Syrup Festival in April through Field Day in June and on to Lighthouse in August. It is my intent as Vice President along with the Executive, to lead us through our upcoming events and to effect a smooth transition of office when it occurs during the AGM May elections. I'm sure you will all agree with me that we are anticipating an active and exciting field season and that together we will make it great!

If you have any suggestions along the way or notice anything that needs to be attended to, please bring it to my attention. Let's work together to make 2018 an exciting and productive year for the Elmira Radio Club.

We have a membership of about 38+ licenced amateur radio operators, each of whom brings a very diverse collection of talents, skills and personality to our club. In the past year we have experienced a positive growth in our membership and together we have shared many good times and great radio events. No doubt this is a reflection of the comradery, and the generous individual efforts and contributions, of our members towards the many fun and exciting activities of this active and evolving amateur radio club – we truly are 'Radio Active'!



## The 'Lighter Side' – Accident Report

Submitted by Brian VA3DXK

I am writing in response to your (RAC) request for additional information for block #3 on the accident reporting form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause for my accident. Your letter said I should explain more fully, and I trust the following will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident I was working alone at the top of my 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work I discovered I had, over the course of several trips to the top of the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and hardware.

Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down from the top of the tower in a small barrel by using a pulley which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and the materials into the barrel. Then I went back down to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of gear.

You will note in block #11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh just under 175 pounds. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower.

In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers on my right hand were two knuckles deep into the top pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of the pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight, the barrel now weighed approximately 10 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block #11.

As you can imagine, I began a rapid decent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel on its way back up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations on my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools so only three vertebrae were cracked.

However, I am sorry to report that as I lay there on the tools in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel swaying back and forth 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope...



**Original author is unknown ~ remember safety 1st as spring & outdoor work approaches**

# Back-of-the-Napkin Eyeball

## QSO notes and stuff

by Rich, ve3DCC

**H**ow about A penny (or bitcoin) for your thoughts? A group of local Hams meet for breakfast each Saturday at Angels Restaurant in Waterloo. After breakfast, of course, we pay for what we ordered. Here is truly "food" for thought. What is this thing called money. Aristotle a Greek Philosopher and Polymath (384-322 BCE) wrote that money is "a medium of exchange and a way of providing relative value". It sure beats carrying about goats, chickens or whatever you might think you can trade for your breakfast at Angels. What we use to pay, cash and cash equivalent, has value because others will accept it in exchange for goods and services, and they, in turn, expect others to return the favour. The communication occurs at the moment you physically pay for the breakfast, and the server says "Thank you, have a good day!". It is tangible. It is finite. When it was decided to move off a Gold Standard—that is, rather than having Gold in storage for every Dollar (remember the phrase, "will pay to the bearer on demand, one dollar of gold") in circulation, the cash in circulation was decoupled from a foundation asset, gold, and governments could issue more paper currency than could be backed physically. No matter, really, since the one bill would be spent and re-spent, so economic activity could grow beyond, the one dollar in, one dollar out scenario. In fact, recent figures suggest that for every \$1 of income, people spend \$1.67 or more. In similar fashion, if the \$1 is NOT spent, then like a set of dominoes left untouched, all successive economic activity does not occur. In reality, our economy is a legal pyramid scheme that only collapses if people stop spending their dollars. Please note that there is a tangible currency at work that you can touch and handle but it does not match the total money spent.

This is about to change. Recently a great deal of attention has been paid to "cryptocurrencies" and "Block-chain" as substitute currencies. In the most recent edition of Macleans Magazine ( March 2018, page 54) , for example, Jeff Fraser explains his "Personal Bitcoin Nightmare: An accidental investor battles to cash out his one and only bitcoin". In the January 2018 edition of Scientific American, there are several articles dealing with these cryptocurrencies.

### What are these "bitcoins"?

Bitcoin and ethereum are but two of the crypto currencies that are in the popular media. These are virtual, in that. they exist only if YOU will accept them as payment, and you deal with someone who will accept them from YOU in exchange for a purchase. The currency is not backed by any commodity such as gold or silver. The coins are ledger "ether" entries that affirm that you own these credits. They are only tangible if, as described in the Macleans article, you receive a coin, stamped with a B and having on the reverse side an encrypted private key under a holographic tamper-proof sticker that links to a digital wallet, stored somewhere, either online or on a memory stick. The coin is not necessary—all that is needed is the encrypted key. How, then, are these things tracked and exchanged if they do not have a truly tangible form? The B coin has no value except that it has a key to a private wallet on it. According to Macleans, the coins are no longer issued—the encrypted key is the only essential.

Enter, "Block chain"... Block Chain is a recording mechanism or distributed ledger...To keep track of something that is invisible, in the absence of something tangible like, say, paper currency or gold or wheat, you need a ledger and a ledger, to be sure, that is not corruptible.

That is, every entry need to be entered and a very large number of people (or computers) need to have a current copy of each transaction within the copy of that ledger. It needs to be updated constantly,--usually within minutes. It must exist in a form that cannot be altered. If it is corrupted, then the pristine copies will "out" the fraudulent version. This is what Block Chain guarantees. It is a means to track trading activity. You may want to imagine a steel chain with links, where each link is a transaction, and entries are made by a "miner" who is able to break a link and add an encrypted transaction. This is "bitcoin mining". The encryption is the glue that joins the links or blocks. Seven miners must complete this operation, and when that happens, the transaction is validated. If you wish to buy, sell or exchange crypto, you must pay a fee to a miner. The miner takes payment in bitcoin or ethereum etc. This is "Bitcoin mining" but it comes with a "catch"... a miner must download an app... a software program which dominates his computer and that can be used to enter a link. In order to break a link, the program must try different encryption codes to break in and add the transaction....

Here is an example of what "hobby" mining for Bitcoins entails, using a Raspberry Pi hobby computer:

<https://www.cnn.com/2014/01/23/cnn-explains-how-to-mine-bitcoins-on-your-own.html>

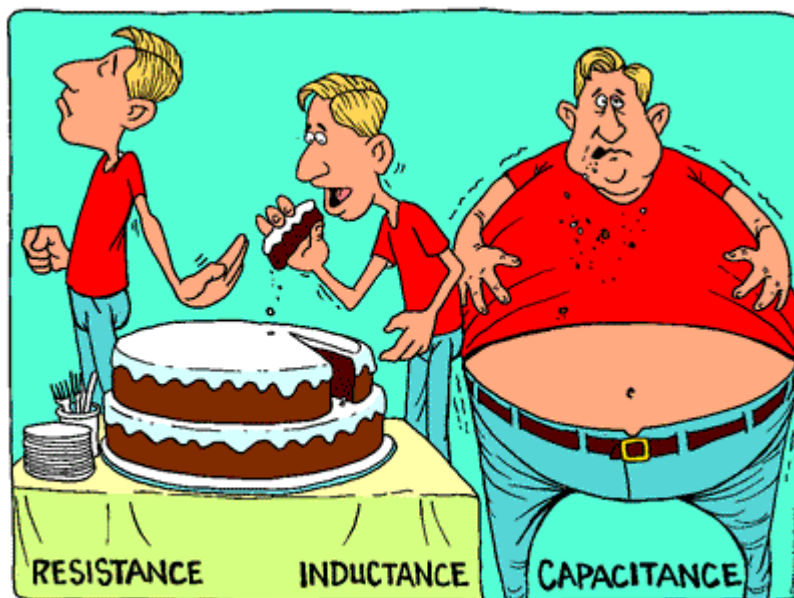
This seems like it could be fun. Did you notice that comment in the video about the heat generated. That is but part of the cost--those communication channels need to be very efficient. However, if the intent is to have a linked set of many interconnected nodes, the number of physical data exchanges approaches a very large number. The number of updates becomes a limiting factor in the distributed ledger. Think of the communications requirements. Imagine the computing power required. As a result, Large "Computer Farms" with dedicated software and custom chips are attempting to complete the many transactions required to earn many "mini" commissions. To take advantage of reduced electricity rates and cooler climates, many "computer farms" are now setting up in Canada, notably Quebec. However, over 70% of the current mining is occurring in China and India. Is this a red flag?

Since each transaction requires tracking, and a commission is paid to process the transaction, I wonder if a credit card is an equivalent and better "crypto" currency. But, wait, the use of cards is not pervasive enough.

Perhaps, the widespread adoption of the tracking is the bigger objective. Block Chain, if adopted universally, can track all transactions, which might include real estate contracts, stock trades, meal purchases at restaurants and even flea market purchases.. The audit trail effectively is an attack on the grey and black markets. An accurate GDP can be calculated and taxes collected, with no-where for hidden transactions to hide. The computer audit trail would track all records, almost like big brother on steroids. There are interesting implications for Ham flea markets! For this science fiction scenario to happen, there must be a general acceptance by the population. It is wise to remember that nothing fundamental backs the crypto-currency so the last person "in" may be left holding the bag, if it all collapses. After some thought, despite the allure of playing with the notion of "bit mining", I decided that this train has left the station. I certainly do not want to be the caboose since I suspect that someone else has already made the money. Beyond entertainment value, the bottom layer of a pyramid scheme is a dangerous place to be. I hope my perception makes some sense...or is it cents? And, Should this be called Klepto-currency? Watch for further developments.

**De ve3DCC, Rich**





## REMEMBERING THE GREAT DUTCH FLOOD

BY Tony Lelieveld VE3DWI

**"Watersnoodramp"** is the Dutch word for "terrible flood". As a boy of 11 years, I very well remember the terrible flood in the Western part of Holland in 1953. I feel lucky that I was able to obtain a book, written by Ham operators, called "Kanaal 3700" (channel 3700) which was the frequency used by Ham operators who provided much of the communications.

The book is a fascinating account of their ten days in action. Through work or otherwise, I have been in many of the locations, towns and villages described in the book. I was born in a small village called "Loosduinen" near the city of The Hague (Den Haag) not far from the North Sea. It was a frightening episode and if the dunes would have been breached by the ocean's storm surge our village, and many more, would have been flooded too.

A big part of the Netherlands is well below sea level and the last location where we lived, before immigrating to Canada in 1970, the water level would have been up to the eaves of the local church. Close to 2000 people lost their lives and many more lost their livelihood. Large areas of fertile farm land were inundated, and ruined, by salty ocean water. Thousands of life stock drowned in the rising waters too. The attached file is an excerpt taken from the book and translated from Dutch into English by **Dick Rollema PA0SE**.

At the top right of page 9 is a map where you can find (in the top left area of the map) the city of Den Haag. We were living just to the South/West of there. It may look that we are a fair distant from the stricken area but it was only about 20 miles from the nearest flooded locations. We were only about 2 miles from the coast of the North Sea. Just to give you an idea of the size of Holland, square mileage wise it fits 25 times in the province of Ontario. It's a nicely condensed article and you may find it an interesting read.

**73, Tony VE3DWI (ex PA0MIH)**

# Scanning the Past From The Netherlands

## Amateur Radio Emergency Network During 1953 Flood

It is well known that a considerable part of the land territory of The Netherlands is below sea level, and this territory has been, in point of fact, taken back from the powerful waters of the sea. It is usually kept dry by a system of dikes, canals, and pumping stations. The height of the dikes protecting the land from the North Sea has been based upon observations of the maximum sea level heights recorded over many years, and this system has successfully kept the country relatively dry now for several centuries. But there have been some unusual but serious problems over the years with this innovative land reclamation scheme and one of the most serious events took place just a little more than a half-century ago. This disaster illustrates a memorable example of the importance of communications technology and how it can be rapidly unitized by knowledgeable radio amateurs with much innovation, primarily on an *ad hoc* basis, in order to help save human life.

On the night of 1 February 1953, an extremely rare situation developed—a combination of spring tides and a north-westerly gale that reached speeds of up to 82 km/hr. Water was driven from the Atlantic Ocean and was forced into the narrowing funnel between England and continental Europe, and the sea rose to unprecedented levels, more than the dikes could withstand. The coastal barriers broke in 500 places, causing some 200 000 hectares of land (Fig. 1) to be covered by seawater (parts of Belgium and England suffered a similar fate but to a lesser extent). Most of the flooding occurred in the provinces of Zuid-Holland and Zeeland, in the south-west of The Netherlands (Fig. 2). In many villages and towns, emergency alarms were sounded by ringing church bells and messengers ran from house to house spreading the news, but unfortunately the warning did not reach people living in the countryside. They were completely surprised in their sleep by the unexpected surge of the sea and the quickly rising water that was soon surrounding their homes.

They fled in panic, to the upper floors of their homes, and when the water kept on rising, they climbed to the roof. Others trying to escape via the roads were swamped by the rising water, and they climbed into trees or up telephone poles in an effort to escape. Brave men in overloaded rowboats fought against the gale and high waves in an effort to rescue people. Quite a few lives were saved that way, some of them after waiting for three days for their rescue to be completed. Of the estimated total of 75000 people living in the stricken area, 1835 lost their lives. In addition, some 72 000 people had to be evacuated to higher ground, and a massive relief campaign was soon underway.



**Fig. 1.** Aerial photograph of one on the flooded villages in the province of Zeeland shortly after the dikes gave way under the enormous power of the sea.

### I. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

In the early hours of Sunday morning, the first day of February 1953, little news about the catastrophe that had struck the southwest part of the country reached the outside world, because telephone and telegraph lines were broken and most



telephone exchanges were not operating. However, all was not lost and some help was already on the way.

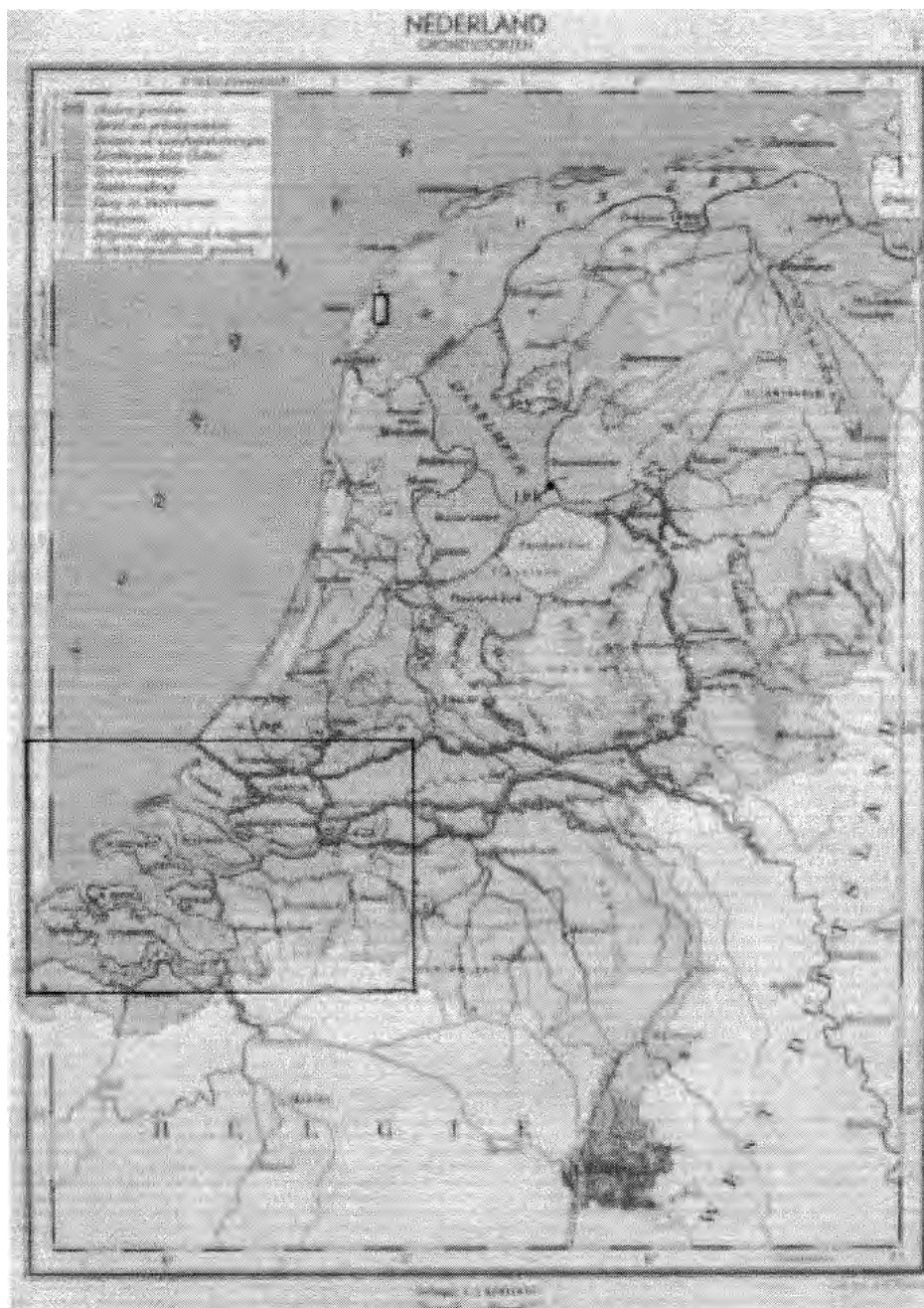
At the headquarters station of Veron, PA0AA, the Dutch amateur radio society, had just started their Sunday morning Morse code training course. Soon the first messages and calls for help came in from ham radio operators in the disaster area, with PA0AA passing these messages on to the relevant disaster recovery organizations. However, radio amateurs unfortunately were not allowed to handle third-party traffic. In the meantime, government officials in The Hague frantically searched for a means to restore communications capabilities with the inundated area. Radio hams seemed to be a logical way to do so. A powerful station in The Hague, PA0GVB, was given official permission to handle emergency traffic, and became the primary control station for the network that was quickly improvised. But first PA0GVB had to repair his antenna that came down in the gale during the night. PA0GER and PA0FT assisted him at his station. The frequency used was 3700 kHz. Because electric appliances, vacuum cleaners in particular, caused interference that hampered reception, PA0GER went from door to door with the request to refrain from using such equipment. Everybody im-

mediately complied, so well that even a week after the net-

work had closed down a woman came to ask whether she could use her vacuum cleaner again.

In the following days the emergency network took shape and became better organized. At both stations a civil servant of the Special Radio Service (a government intelligent service monitoring radio communications) was present all the time to assist when necessary.

The number of amateur stations in the disaster area was limited and many amateurs outside the area left their homes and relocated to suitable locations in the flooded areas, bringing their own equipment or using surplus World War II radio equipment. The Philips works provided military portable VHF transceivers and also portable power units using a hot air Stirling engine.



**Fig. 2.** The Netherlands as it was around 1953 when disaster suddenly struck. The rectangle on this map shows the affected area.





Fig. 3. Radio technician Hossfeld operating the telephone transmitter, which was quickly constructed using parts that were available, including the coil wrapped around the bottle in the center of the photograph.

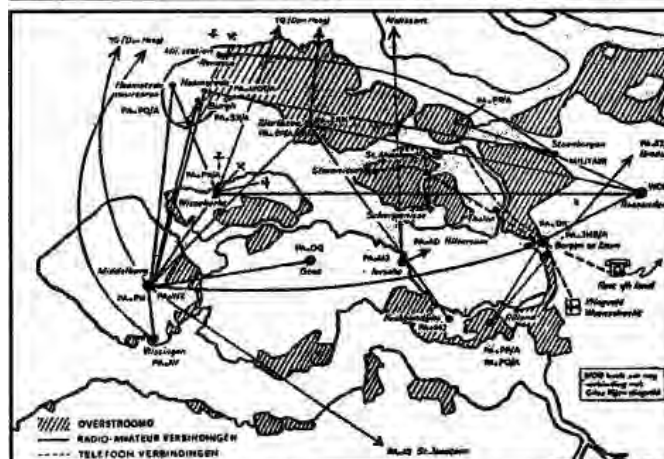
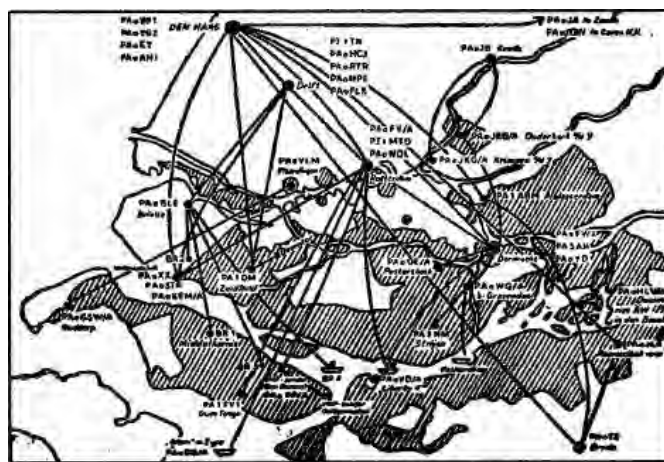
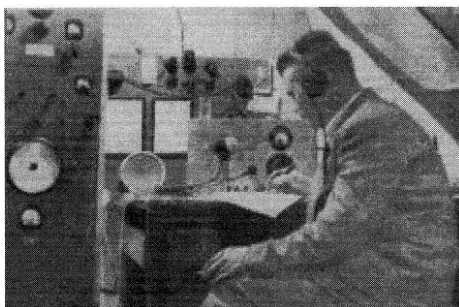


Fig. 4. Communications by radio and telephone during the disaster took place over the provinces of Zuid-Holland (top) and Zeeland (bottom). The areas shown with hatch marks were flooded. The broken or dashed lines were telephone lines, and the remaining ones were radio links.

A group of radio amateurs established an auxiliary station on the top floor of the 30-m-high Unilever building in Rotterdam. Due to the high antenna and being closer to the stricken area, they often could receive messages that were not copied by the net control stations. Sometimes propagation did not support direct radio contact with net control, but stations further away could receive the messages from the stations in the disaster area, and they relayed them to the organizations concerned. Other stations acted as watchdogs on 3700 kHz. Amateurs inadvertently starting transmissions on that frequency were informed of its use by the emergency network and were asked not to interfere.

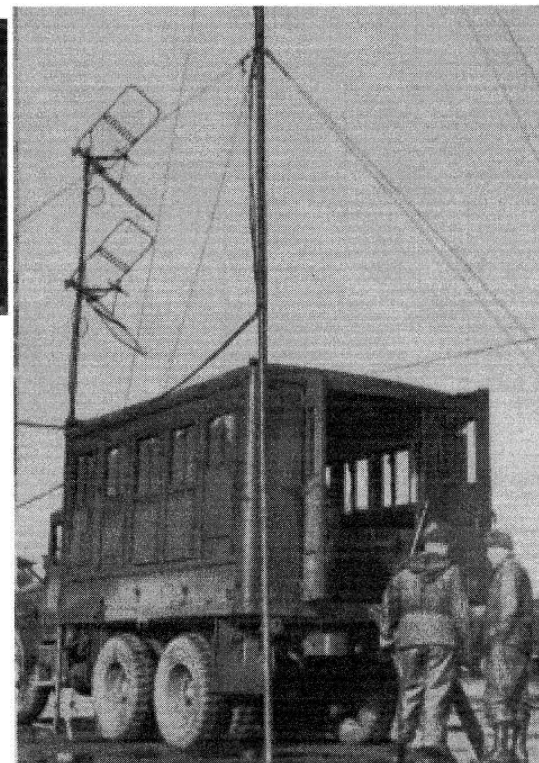
There were many stories of how individuals were able to improvise in order to communicate during the crisis. A radio technician, named Hossfeld, lived in the town of Zierikzee on one of the islands of Zeeland. Waking up on Sunday, he found the island inundated by seawater and without any means of communication. Hossfeld was employed as a technician in a radio repair shop at Zierikzee. He went to the shop and started constructing a transmitter (Fig. 3). It had to be a telephony one because Hossfeld was not a radio amateur and could not use Morse code. He soon had assistance from a student, Koopman, who happened to be with his parents, living at a farm 2 mi outside Zierikzee. As the water rose inside their home, they fled to the roof and were later picked up by a rowboat, which brought them to Zierikzee. Hossfeld and Koopman had never before built a transmitter and they had to improvise using components that happened to be available in the workshop. The coil for the final amplifier was wound around an empty bottle. Anode was taken from a Philips 20-W audio amplifier and another amplifier was used as a modulator. Antenna current was indicated by a small bulb. After overcoming many difficulties, the transmitter came on the air under the self-assigned call sign PA0ZRK (ZRK for Zierikzee), first on the 137-kHz marine frequency, but without results. The frequency was then changed to the 80-m amateur band, and that Sunday night their frantic calls were finally answered by PA0WZ at Middelburg, also in the province of Zeeland. Contact with net control stations was also established. From then on, a stream of messages started that continued during the whole period the network was operational. The haywire transmitter performed without a glitch the whole time. Fig. 4 shows the many radio links and telephone lines of the emergency network. Figs. 5 and 6 show amateur stations active in or near the inundated areas.



**Fig. 5.** Station PA0TZ at Breda using radio telephony.



**Fig. 6.** Station PA0TRI at Dordrecht using Morse code communications.



**Fig. 7.** U.S. military forces also provided some radio links with the disaster area.

Apart from passing messages, an important task of the amateur stations was to guide aircraft, bringing much-needed materials to the drop zone. Because so much land was under water, pilots had considerable trouble finding the right spot. Often the drop zone and the aircraft were within view of an amateur station, so the pilot was "talked in" toward his destination. On Tuesday 10 February 1953 at 0100 hr, the amateur radio emergency network was officially closed down.

## II. NOT ONLY RADIO AMATEURS HELPED

Apart from the amateur network, several other radio networks came into operation.

One of them was run by fishermen, using their ships' radios at the 137-kHz marine frequency. Their base was the former island Urk, now part of the Noordoostpolder, land reclaimed from the sea (see Fig. 1). Their fishing areas were the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. These fishermen had a very religious background and, therefore, returned to Urk for the weekend in order to go to church on Sunday. To avoid the long trip to Urk and back, for which locks had to be passed, they would leave their boats in the harbor of Breskens in the province of Zeeland and take the train home. When the news about the flood reached them, they immediately returned to their boats and moored them at several harbors in the disaster area, thus establishing radio contact with these places. The fishermen also saved many lives, picking up people from the upper floors and roofs of their homes. The fishermen simply sailed along the streets of the flooded villages, ignoring the risk of their boats running aground or being damaged by unseen obstacles. The Dutch Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Company, a government organization, set up radio links using Philips-made VHF car phones, called mobilophones. Police forces also used their radio equipment for emergency traffic.

Great help also came from the Dutch army. Soldiers helped to evacuate people and later to repair dikes. The army signal corps set up several radio links, sometimes in cooperation with the amateur network. Readers who have been in the army will understand the complaint of the signalman that the amateur stations do not use a standard message protocol and communication discipline left something to be desired. The military gradually took over the task originated by the amateurs so the amateur network could close down on 10 February.

Help also came from other countries. The American army in Europe provided welcome radio links (Fig. 7). The Norwegian Red Cross sent over 50 walkie-talkies; operating in the 7-m band, they were used to coordinate repair of the dikes. Gradually, the land was once again drained and things returned to normal, but the role played by amateur radio operators in unexpected disasters is an important one and it continues in today's world when unexpected events take place.

**DICK ROLLEMA   Leiderdorp, The Netherlands**



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
VE3ERC-CLUB NEWSLETTER**

**Do you have an article you'd  
like to submit? Or photos?**

**Do you have any comments  
you'd like to make?**

**Perhaps you'd like to share a  
photo of your shack, a spe-  
cial project you are working  
on or a special interest!**

**SEND THEM TO:**

**Bob [bobve3ixx@gmail.com](mailto:bobve3ixx@gmail.com)  
(519-787-2279)**



**WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**JANUARY 24 - M E E T I N G**

**JANUARY 31 - PAUL VE3PVB**

**FEBRUARY 7 - TRACY VA3TGY**

**FEBRUARY 14 - BRIAN VA3DXK**

**FEBRUARY 21 - TONY VE3DWI**

**FEBRUARY 28 - M E E T I N G**

**MARCH 7 - BOB VE3IXX**

**MARCH 14 - TED VE3TRQ**

**MARCH 21 - AL VA4TET**

**MARCH 28 - M E E T I N G**

**APRIL 4 - REG VE3RVH**

**APRIL 11 - TOM VE3DXQ**

# WINTER FIELD DAY 2018

**By Ken Buehler VE3KCY**

**S**aturday January 27th & 28th was Winter Field Day 2018. This year was the first time for Winter Field Day for Paul VA3PDC, Jason VE3JVG & myself Ken VE3KCY. We are all members of GARC & ERC. We hauled in equipment by snowmobile and set up early Saturday afternoon in my maple sugar bush near Wallenstein. We operated two stations out of my trailer / cabin which has limited amenities but it has a wood stove which



kept us warm if one kept putting wood on the fire.

Our stations were two Elecraft KX3's with 100 watt capabilities powered by a Honda 2000i generator. Logging was done with N3FJP's software which takes the guesswork out of scoring. Station 1 was running 40 meter SSB. Station 2 was mostly CW on 80 Meters. We operated as VE3ZM (Guelph Amateur Radio Club). Band activity was a lot less congested than Summer Field Day (so obviously less participants). We were joined by visitor Brian VA3DXK later in the afternoon who helped run up the SSB contact numbers till 9pm or so.

Supper was a sausage on a bun cooked over an open fire courtesy of PaulVA3PDC.. Sunday we racked up some more contacts till the event ended at

2pm. We then had lunch, rolled up coax & antennas then disassembled the equipment to load up and haul everything back by snowmobile to our vehicles parked out near the highway.

Overall we had a great time operating and sharing stories. While there were some technical difficulties with antennas, things went ok for us winter field day rookies. Will we do this again .... absolutely ! We are already planning improvements for 2019 Winter Field Day.

How we fared out remains to be seen when the scores are posted. With bonus points for operating from a remote location and off the grid we ended up with 3,338 points which I think is good for a first attempt.





Winter Field Day is one more way to enjoy the hobby and demonstrate ham radio's capability to operate in all environments. Winter field Day is not a contest, but like the ARRL Field Day, a scoring system has been established for contestants to examine their performance and provide a benchmark for the next year. Since Winter Field Day occurs in the winter, planning for proper shelter, safety, and support is important.

**73**

**Ken VE3KCY.**





# ELMIRA RADIO CLUB INC

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## *Minutes of ERC meeting for February 28, 2018*

Brian VA3DXK opened the meeting at 7:30 pm

**Roll Call:** Brian VA3DXK, Gord VE3GWM, Jim VE3JMU, Brian VE3YBM, Al VA3TET, Roger VE3RKS, Wes VE3ML, Ken VE3KCY, John VE3JXX, Paul VE3PDC, Bruce VE3QB, Tony VE3DWI, Frank VE3FJM, Rich VE3DCC, Dan VE3SQD, Bob VE3IXX

The agenda was accepted by the members.

Brian wished everyone a belated New Year and then thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to lead the club. We have 38 members, a positive growth, but there are a number of positions that have to be filled. The club is always evolving.

The January minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul VE3PDC gave the treasurer's report. Then he moved that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Al VA3TET. Then Paul made a motion to file the taxes for 2017. This was seconded by Al VA3TET.

A discussion regarding Revenue Canada ensued. With small organizations, Revenue Canada does not require paying an accountant (auditor) to file taxes. So Paul put forward a motion that in the future the taxes can be completed by the Treasurer. This was seconded by Tony VE3DWI and the motion passed.

**Vice President's Report:** Brian reported that some of the committees have to be updated such as the Maple Syrup Committee and the QSL Manager. Paul VE3PDC offered to take over the QSL Manager.

Club dues are up for renewal in March and must be in for the May General Meeting at which time club elections will take place.

A discussion about the Light House committee took place and Al VA3TET offered to take on this job.

The Nomination's Committee are asking for people who are interested in running for the various positions.

**Winter Field Day:** Ken VE3KCY gave a report on this year's event. He said for a first time event it went very well. They used the Guelph Amateur Radio callsign this year.

Wes VE3ML reported that he, Bruce VE3QB and Bill VA3QB also participated using the Elmira Radio Club callsign and made 71 contacts of which 4 were CW.

**Elmira Maple Syrup:** The festival take place on April 7 and Joyce VA3WXU had already registered our club. Al VA3TET said he will take on the preparations but will need help. Paul VE3PDC, Wes VE3ML and Frank VE3FJM all volunteered to help especially with the antennas. Bob VE3IXX will contact Barry VE3ISX (ONTAR's manager) about running ONTARS from the festival site. Al also said we will need volunteers to operate during the Maple Syrup Festival.

**Field Day:** Brian noted that RF reception was rather poor at the Fire Hall last year because of a lot of noise. While Bob VE3IXX's farm is available, it would be nicer to have something closer to Elmira with visibility to the public. John VE3JXX will check out some spots.

**Point Clark Light House:** The light house has been reserved for this coming year and Al noted that we will need to replace our club G5RV antenna and suggested using a long wire antenna this year.

**Emergency Preparedness:** John VE3JXX is still working with the Arena staff regarding setting up antennas and a station there.

**NEW Special Event:** Al VA3TET and Rich VE3DCC are working on a one day seminar (tentatively set at the Legion for September 22) on the topic of "All Things Amateur". They are hoping to have five sessions and have lined up a few people. They would like to have topics such as Very Low Frequency (VLF) talk, a session on antennas, a discussion on Quantum Communications and also Spread Spectrum Communications. The cost for each attendee is tentatively twenty dollars. They are hoping to confirm this event within the next few weeks. They would need 50 people to attend and hope to promote this among other clubs.

**RAC Insurance:** As an affiliate club to RAC we qualify for insurance coverage for club events. However Brian pointed out that there is a \$1,000.00 deductible and wondered if we should have a contingency fund for that purpose. It was decided that for the time being we would just maintain the status quo. John VE3JXX pointed out that we could do a fundraiser under the auspices of the Legion that could raise a few hundred dollars.

**Club Repeaters:** Brian asked if the club owns all three operational repeaters and it does. Carl VE3FEF is the trustee for the club callsign VE3ERC but is not presently a paid-up member. After much discussion, it was decided to table a motion to award Carl a membership in order to maintain trusteeship of the repeater.

**Other Business:** Al mentioned that he has been in touch with Ralph Brubacher VE3EUC who is in a home and wants to dispose of his radio equipment. He will need some volunteers to help take an inventory of his equipment. Frank VE3FJM and Jim VE3JMU volunteered to help.

John VE3JXX mentioned that Dave Reimer who was in the building next door and who had in the past attended one of our meetings had passed away.

**Next Meeting:** March 28

Paul VE3PDC made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Ken VE3KCY.

**FOR LOADS OF INFORMATION  
CHECK OUT THE ELMIRA CLUB WEBSITE**

**AT**

**[www.ve3erc.ca](http://www.ve3erc.ca)**