



JULY 2018

Volume 7 Issue 7

VE3ERC-LUB

- President: Brian VA3DXK**
- Vice-President: Ted VE3TRQ**
- Secretary: Tom VE3DXQ**
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- Repeater Manager & Maintenance: Wes VE3ML**
- Website Admin: Ted VE3TRQ**
- Lighthouse: Al VA3TET**
- Maple Syrup Display: Al VA3TET**
- 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.**

Come and join the Elmira Radio Club at Point Clark for the Lighthouse weekend on August 18-19.



Back-of-the-Napkin Eyeball

QSO notes and stuff

by Rich, ve3DCC

JULY 2018

Our dynamic hobby and your Radio License offer opportunities to build, explore, experiment and discover. My articles in this newsletter have attempted to reflect some of the discussion that occurs in our eyeball-qso's over coffee in the hope that the ideas might provoke discussion and insight.

Now, as part of our club's effort to facilitate curiosity and, perhaps, innovation, we are sponsoring a "Ham Happening"—a set of Saturday Tech Seminars dedicated to learning outside of the box. This is a bit of a throw-back to the ham conventions of old where "new" ideas in AM, FM, side-band, digital and even computing were introduced. We hope our offering will excite you and prompt more new "ham" thinking.

Our club (actually, our treasurer) has set "breaking even" as his goal. To allow this we have arranged to rent a local Legion hall and equipment for the day on Saturday, September 22, 2018. Registration will be \$30. We will host a maximum of 50 registrants on a first-come, first paid basis. The registration process and form is described below.

We plan to have 4 or 5 speakers address issues of interest in back-to-back one-hour plenary sessions, inclusive of questions. There will be a modest "funeral-style" lunch at noon. The day will begin at 9:00 am and end at approximately 4:00 pm with a short lunch window at noon. More details will be emailed to you after registration.

So far, Tentative Speakers and topics include:

-**Dr. Katanya Kuntz**, of IQC (the Institute for Quantum Computing) will speak on quantum communications;

-**Dr. Gord Hayward**, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph, ve3EOS, will present an innovative use of AM;

-**Ted Rypma**,ve3TRQ, will explain and demonstrate pop-up Mesh networks that use repurposed internet routers;

-**Robert Moyer**, ve3NXT, licensee for our local Digital repeater will explore several aspects of DMR(digital mobile radio).

Additional speakers are yet to confirm.

To register, follow these FOUR steps:

STEP 1: email your intent to attend by emailing the form, below, or a facsimile, immediately, to: raclusi@rogers.com

Attention: Registrations, ve3ERC Tech Seminar Day committee:

PLEASE ADD MY NAME TO YOUR ATTENDANCE LIST for Saturday Sept. 22 Ham Session

Full Name:

Call SIGN:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Full telephone number:

QTH: city/town

=====

STEP 2:

Print a copy of the form that you emailed, above.

MAIL it with a cheque for \$30 payable to "Elmira Radio Club Inc ve3ERC"

To "VE3ERC Tech Seminar c/o R.Clausi, ve3DCC, 1 Finch Place, Elmira, ON, N3B 3B3"

** Be sure to INCLUDE the printed copy of the form you emailed to us in STEP 1. Your name is on the final list when the cheque is received and processed.

STEP 3:

We will confirm via email that your name is on the attendance list when your cheque is cashed. More details will be provided with the confirmation.

STEP 4:

Arrive at 8:30 am, on site, on Saturday Sept. 22, 2018 to pick up your registration package, name tag and meal ticket. Enjoy!!!!

I hope you can join us.

De ve3DCC, Rich.

FEEDBACK

Tom, VE3DXQ sent the following e-mail:

Old radio shop in Belgrave Ont

Hi Bob

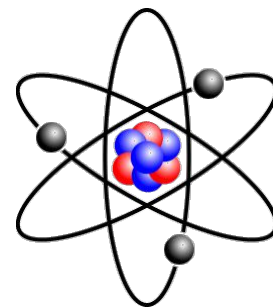
<http://www.oldtymeradio.ca>

On my way to our trailer I found this place. They have ham stuff, as well, including rare vacuum tubes.





ELMIRA RADIO CLUB VE3ERC
PRESENTS:



HAM TECH

**Seminars to advance and stimulate innovation
in the amateur radio community.**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2018 9 am TIL 4 pm
AT THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION HALL
ELMIRA, ONTARIO

FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Dr. Katanya Kuntz on Quantum Communications

Dr. Gord Hayward on Innovative Use of AM

Ted Rypma demonstrating Mesh Networks

Bob Moyer discussing DMR Radios

PLUS ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS PENDING CONFIRMATION

\$30.00 INCLUDING (light) LUNCH

REGISTER EARLY

ONLY 50 SEATS AVAILABLE

SEE REGISTRATION DETAILS ON PAGE 3

Thanks to Mike VE3MKX for sending the following: <https://illw.net/>
Subsequently, permission was granted to re-print the official flyer.

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend - ILLW

3rd Full Weekend in August since 1998

0001 UTC 18 August to 2400 UTC 19 August 2018 (48 hours)

For some reason or other August seems to have become the international weekend for lighthouses. Countries all over the world have become involved in one for or another of lighthouse activity. Some years ago the United States Congress declared August 7th as their National Lighthouse Day and during that first week in August amateur radio operators in America set up portable stations at lighthouses and endeavour to make contact with each other. Unlike the ILLW there are prizes and certificates awarded for this event.



Shoreham Lighthouse, Southern England. Photo: M0MNG

The Association of Lighthouse Keepers, [ALK](#), conducts International Lighthouse Heritage Weekend on the 3rd full weekend in August. Their objective is to encourage Lighthouse managers, keepers and owners to open their lighthouse or lightstation and related visitors centres to the public with a view to raising the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids, and preserving our maritime heritage.

However, the major event which takes place in August is the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend, [ILLW](#), which came into being in 1998 as the Scottish Northern Lights Award run by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group. The history of this event can be found elsewhere on this site. The ILLW takes place on the 3rd full weekend in August each year and attracts over 500 lighthouse entries located in over 40 countries. It is one of the most popular international amateur radio events in existence probably because there are very few rules and it is not the usual contest type event. It is also free and there are no prizes for contacting large numbers of other stations. There is little doubt that the month of August has become "Lighthouse Month" due largely to the popularity and growth of the ILLW



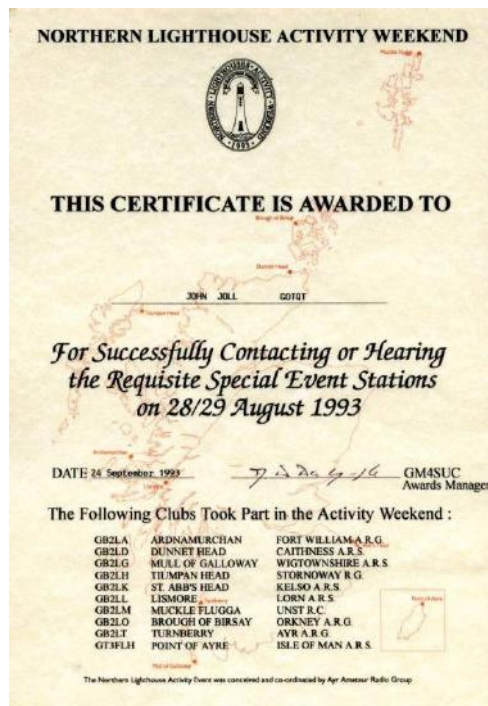
History of the Lighthouse Weekend



It all started in 1993 during a wet wintry evening when two members of the AYR Amateur Radio Group in Scotland, John GM4OOU and the late Mike GM4SUC, after a club meeting were talking about creating an event in the summer when club members could get out on a sunny weekend and play radio. Various themes were considered; ports, airports, historic Scotland sites, the Firths of Scotland, castles etc. but it was finally decided that lighthouses of Scotland would be ideal.

Following research it was discovered that the lighthouses of Scotland were controlled by the Northern Lighthouse Board in Edinburgh who were not only responsible for the lighthouses of Scotland, but also around the Isle of Man. Approval was sought and obtained from the Northern Lighthouse Board to establish amateur radio stations adjacent to their property. In February 1993 an invitation was sent to all Scottish clubs and the Isle of Man club to join in the fun of a weekend, to be called the Northern Lighthouse Activity Weekend, by establishing an amateur radio station at a lighthouse during the third weekend in August. This first year's event saw 11 stations established at lighthouses, operating primarily on the HF bands, with each station making approximately 750 QSOs over the weekend.

The following year the Scottish clubs were involved in a weekend activity with the theme of Scottish Firths (river estuaries), so two years elapsed before the next Northern Lighthouse Activity Weekend. During this period Anne-Grete OZ3AE enquired through a letter to Practical Wireless if there was any lighthouse activity on amateur radio. Following discussions with her it was decided that Danish stations could join in the fun of the weekend. Quickly Germany, South Africa and France asked to join, so the name of weekend was changed to The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend . It was at this time that John, GM4OOU, due to pressure of work, had to cease his connections with the event. The weekend became an annual event taking place over the third full weekend in August and has slowly grown in popularity and in 1999 there were 204 lighthouse/lightship stations in 36 countries until now when some 450 stations in over 50 countries take part. Full statistics and guidelines for participation can be found elsewhere on this web site.



The main reason the event has become so popular is because it is NOT a contest. It is a relaxed fun weekend without the pressure of a contest. The guidelines are simple and the onus is on the operators to act within the spirit of the weekend which is simply to expose amateur radio and the plight of lighthouses to the public. This is why it is important for the ham station to be as close to the lighthouse/lightship as possible and with the controlling body's approval.

August 1993 Certificate



Turnberry Lighthouse ILLW

A few years ago the International Association of Lighthouse Keepers decided to have an annual open day for lighthouses all around the world to encourage visitors to visit at their lighthouses. They decided that no better day could be decided upon other than the Sunday of the ILLW. This move has been highly successful as the media have become involved in quite a few of the countries involved in the event.

This year's event takes place on the 3rd full weekend in August so if you haven't done so already, find a lighthouse nearby and get a group together or do it solo and fire up a lighthouse station. In most cases if you don't intend operating from within the lighthouse itself or one of its cottages, you really don't need to get any approval. Most first time entrants are so enthused with the event that they return year after year. A report from the Burlington ARC, Canada summed their first participation in these few words:

"The greatest delight of the day was the active participation of the visiting children who showed a remarkable interest in the whole idea of amateur radio, especially the use of Morse Code.

It was an honour and a delight to participate in this adventure and we look forward with increased enthusiasm to next year's participation."

Sadly, Mike Dalrymple passed away in December 2005. He was the Treasurer of the Ayr Amateur Radio Group. The event is now dedicated to Mike's memory as is this official ILLW web site where you will find the event guidelines, an on line entry form and lists of participating lighthouse since 1999. In recognition of the link between Mike and Turnberry lighthouse, it now carries the unique ILLW identification number UK0000. Mike's friend, John Forsyth GM4OOU, is still in Scotland and is quite impressed and amazed the way their "baby" has grown over the years.

<http://illw.net>



Kevin vk2ce



International Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend

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Ed. Note: If you are interested in finding out all the officially registered lighthouses from around the world click on the following website:

<https://illw.net/index.php/entrants-list-2018-2>

**AND DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US AT POINT CLARK
ON AUGUST 18 AND 19**

Get your free copy of *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A link to *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf>) was posted to reddit recently, and I liked this document so much that I thought I would share it with you. It was originally written for the military, but is now available for free from the Defense Technical Information Center.

The preface to this document reads:

“Under project Agile, Stanford Research Institute has supplied several teams to assist operating personnel in improving the performance of field radio networks. In this work, it has been observed that U.S. military and civilian antenna manuals often contain misleading information regarding the operation of field antennas and tend to be overly complex. Consequently, this guide has been prepared to assist in training personnel concerned with the construction of simple HF antennas in the field.”

I must say that *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* does this very well. It not only explains how dipole antennas work, it also does a very good job of describing the basics of radio waves and propagation. And it does this without getting overly technical.

For example, below is Figure 10. It's used to describe current flow in a dipole antenna.

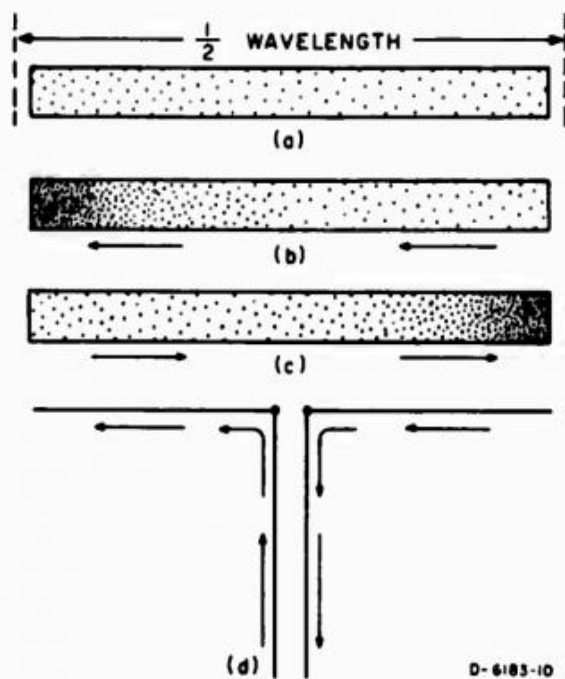


FIG. 10 CURRENT FLOW IN DIPOLE ANTENNA

The *Field Guide* reads:

“Electric current in a conductor consists of the flow of small particles called electrons. Figure 10(a) represents a dipole with electrons in it. When the transmitter is turned off, the electrons distribute themselves evenly throughout the dipole, as shown. All electrons repel each other and try to get as far from each other as possible; that is how they achieve the uniform distribution

show in Figure 10(a). When the transmitter is turned on, the electrons flow back and forth from end to end as shown in Figures 10(b) and 10(c). First the electrons flow to the left and crowded at one end as shown in Figure 10(b). Second, since the electrons repel each other, they push off to the right and get crowded together at the other end, as in Figure 10(c)."

It then uses this description to talk about voltage and current distribution along a dipole antenna:

"The difference between voltage (volts) and current (amperes) in a dipole is also illustrated by Figs. 10(b) and 10(c). You can see that the maximum flow of current is going to be in the middle of the dipole. An observer at the center of the dipole would see the electrons rush past, first one way and then the other. The center is the maximum current point. Very little current flows near the end of the dipole; in fact, at the extreme ends there is no current at all for there is no place for it to go. However, at the ends of the dipole, there is a great change of voltage; when the electrons are densely packed, this represents a negative voltage, and when there is a scarcity of electrons, it represents a positive voltage. Thus you can see that the voltage at each end swings alternately positive and negative. An end of the dipole is a maximum voltage point."

A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles is packed with all kinds of goodies like this. Download it (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf>) right now.

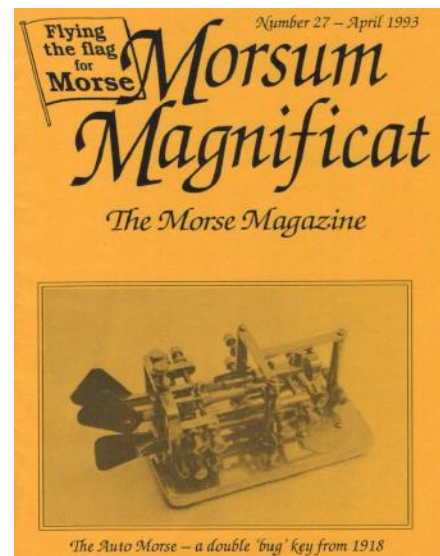
When he's not building dipoles or teaching ham radio classes, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about your experiences with simple HF dipoles at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

FEEDBACK

Mike VE3MKX sent the following website:

<http://www.n7cfo.com/tgph/Dwnlds/mm/mm.htm>

There are a total of 89 magazines that are free to download for personal use. Here is shown the cover of one of the magazines. As the title suggests, the magazines were for CW enthusiasts, contain interesting articles and date from 1986 to 2004.



VISIT THE ERC WEBSITE AT

www.ve3erc.ca

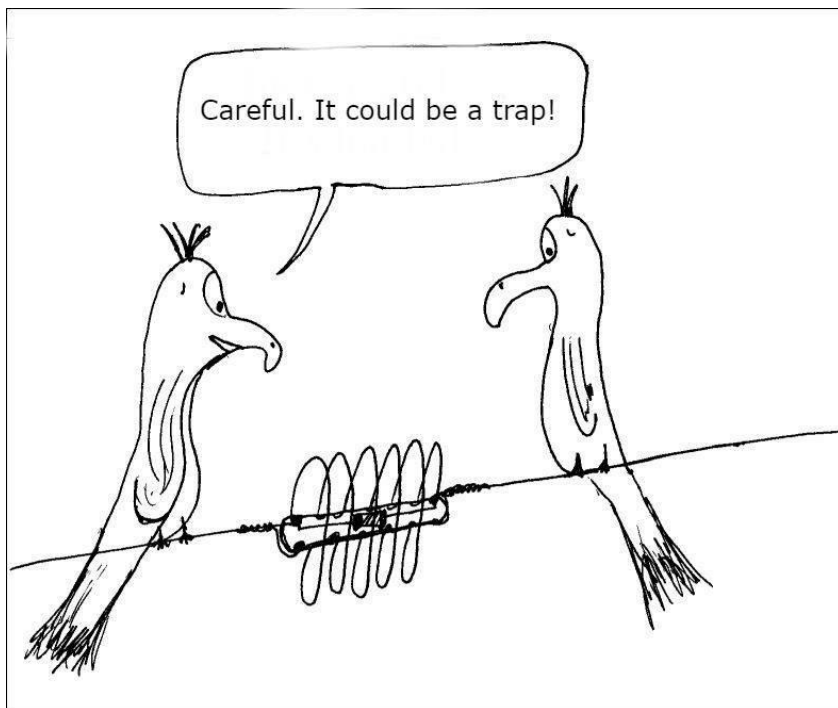
**CONTRIBUTIONS TO
VE3ERC-CLUB NEWSLETTER**

**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 special project you are working on or a special interest!

SEND THEM TO:

**Bob bobve3ixx@gmail.com
(519-787-2279)**



WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

- JULY 25 - BOB VE3IXX**
- AUGUST 1 - TED VE3TRQ**
- AUGUST 8 - AL VA3TET**
- AUGUST 15 - REG VE3RVH**
- AUGUST 22 - TOM VE3DXQ**
- AUGUST 29 - PAUL VE3PVB**
- SEPTEMBER 5 - BRIAN VA3DXX**
- SEPTEMBER 12 - BOB VE3IXX**
- SEPTEMBER 19 - TED VE3TRQ**
- SEPTEMBER 26 - MEETING**
- OCTOBER 3 - AL VA3TET**