



FEBRUARY 2020

Volume 9 Issue 2

# VE3ERC-LUB

**President: Brian VA3DXK**

**Vice-President: Ted VE3TRQ**

**Secretary: Tom VE3DXQ**

**Treasurer: Paul VA3PDC**

**Trustee: Wes VE3ML**

**QSL Manager: Tom VE3DXQ**

**Repeater Trustee: 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.**



**No "Couch Potato" here!**

**HF mobile while staying in shape!**

**Something to think about as Spring is coming!**



**Radio Amateurs  
of Canada**

# THE PREZ SEZ!

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



## President's Update for February 2020

**T**he Elmira Radio Club, by pure standard of membership, probably falls in the category of a mid-sized club. Yet the ERC remains a very vibrant club. Witness the number that come out for our regular meetings, the number that show up for the Maple Syrup Festival (which incidentally is coming up soon), the lighthouse weekend and all other club events. Witness the volunteers that come forward when a member needs help with an antenna, or equipment from an estate has to be settled, or even when someone may have an issue with their rig.

Yet one area we don't often think about are the every-day efforts put out by those members who run the daily morning and Wednesday Night nets for 365 days a year (barring of course our meeting nights). These are the bright stars that keep the Elmira Club shining in the forefront, not just for our own membership, not just for all the clubs around us, but, thanks to the IRLP and EchoLink, promoting our club internationally.

Make no mistake about it, being a net controller is an ART. Keeping nets moving smoothly, encouraging check-ins to participate and keeping topics moving is a well-honed skill. Our rugged volunteers also find that each time they run the nets, they get better and better in this art.

In the event of an emergency, the Elmira Club has an array of members who are skilled in stepping up to take control to ride out the storm, whatever it may be.

For these reasons we sincerely thank those volunteers who freely give of their time and effort to run the ERC nets. The club indeed owes you a debt of gratitude.

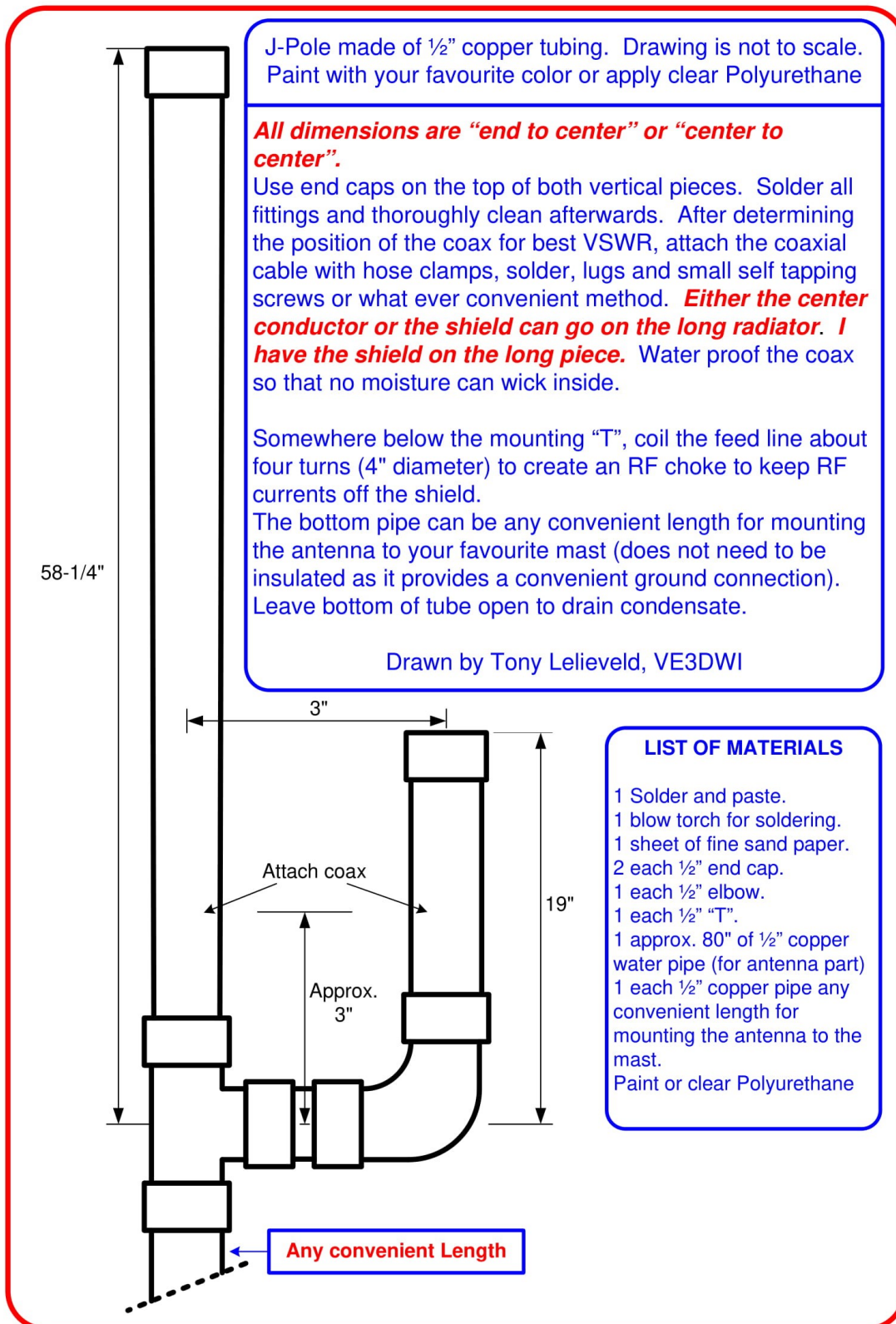
For those who might be interested in trying their hand at becoming a net controller, don't be afraid. We have a host of people willing to help and encourage you along. It can be a rewarding and FUN activity.

**Kudos to you all!!**

**'73 Brian VA3DXK**

Tony VE3DWI sent the following after last month's article on J-Pole and the Slim Jim:

**Here is a J-Pole antenna for 2 meter and 70 cm as well. I designed this around 1980ish and had it in use until 2016 when I gave it to another ham up North. It is the antenna Marianne used to talk to the astronaut Jim Voss on the International Space Station. It works well on 70 cm with good VSWR. '73 Tony**



# RAC BULLETIN

## ***For immediate release:***

<https://www.rac.ca/ontario-has-granted-permanent-two-way-radio-exemption-for-amateurs/>

Distracted driving regulations continue to be an area of interest for many Canadian Radio Amateurs. These regulations are made and enforced by provincial governments and can vary considerably from province to province and over time.

In Ontario, RAC Directors Allan Boyd, VE3AJB (Ontario North/East) and Phil McBride, VA3QR (Ontario South) have been working hard on this issue.

We are pleased to announce that effective February 14, 2020, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation has "made permanent the exemption under Ontario Regulation 366/09 (Display Screens and Hand-Held Devices) of the *Highway Traffic Act* for hand-held two-way radios for commercial drivers and Amateur Radio operators."

The official publication of the amendment to the regulations is available at the following links.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20018>

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**RAC MarCom Director**

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**Radio Amateurs**  
**of du Canada**

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## LINKS TO WEBSITES

Elmira Radio Club: [www.ve3erc.ca](http://www.ve3erc.ca)

ONTARS: [www.ontars.com](http://www.ontars.com)

Radio Amateurs of Canada: [www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.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)

**HERMAN®**



"You never heard of a ham operator before?"

## **WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**JANUARY 29 - BRIAN VA3DXK**

**FEBRUARY 5 - BOB VE3IXX**

**FEBRUARY 12 - TED VE3TRQ**

**FEBRUARY 19 - AL VA3TET**

**FEBRUARY 26 - M E E T I N G**

**MARCH 4 - REG VE3RVH**

**MARCH 11 - FRANK VA3FJM**

**MARCH 18 - TOM VE3DXQ**

**MARCH 25 - M E E T I N G**

**APRIL 1 - BILL VA3QB**

**APRIL 8 - WES VE3ML**

**APRIL 15 - PAUL VE3PVB**

**APRIL 22 - M E E T I N G**

# BOOK REVIEW

By **Bob Koechl VE3IXX**

**W**hen it comes to reading, I am always a sucker for books. I can never pass by a used bookstore or a thrift shop without checking the old used hard or soft covered tomes. Often I will also check out reading material that would suit the grandchildren when they come to visit. And that is how I came across this children's book, **"Clues for Super Sleuths,"** published by the Editors of 'Read Magazine' a Xerox Education Publication that was printed way back in 1978.

Now you may well ask, "What in the world does that have to do with amateur radio?"

Well as always, I will open up the book randomly to peruse the material, and as luck would have it, the first section I opened up to was titled "Radio Ham," so of course I had to check it out thoroughly. And of course I ended up paying the quarter to buy the children's book.

So just for the fun of it, I will give you a sampling of what the book is like. Here is the section entitled "Radio Ham."

*Relaxing in his office, sipping a cup of hot tea, Captain Reilly sat looking out his window. The buzzer on his intercom startled him out of his thoughts. "Yes? What is it?"*

*"Sorry to bother you Captain, but there's this...uh... strange man out here with some important news. He'll tell only you."*

*"Send him in Jarretts."*

*The office door opened and a mouse of a man stepped in. He stood only 5 feet tall, wore a dark suit, and carried an old-fashioned bowler hat in his hands. He twisted the rim in his fingers.*

*"Excuse me Captain," the man said nervously. My name is Charles Sylvester."*

*"Well?" Reilly asked him. "What's so important that you can only tell me?"*

*"Well sir," the man began, "I fancy myself a radio buff - you know I listen to the radio all the time, even the short wave."*

*"And?" Riley asked impatiently.*

*"Well," the man continued, "a very strange thing just happened. I had been getting so much static on my regular FM channels, I played the dial to find a new station to listen to - a clear one."*

*"Yes? And then?"*

*"I heard this curious message. A ham radio operator used the FM frequencies to say, 'First National... noon... today.'"*

*"What do you make of it?"*

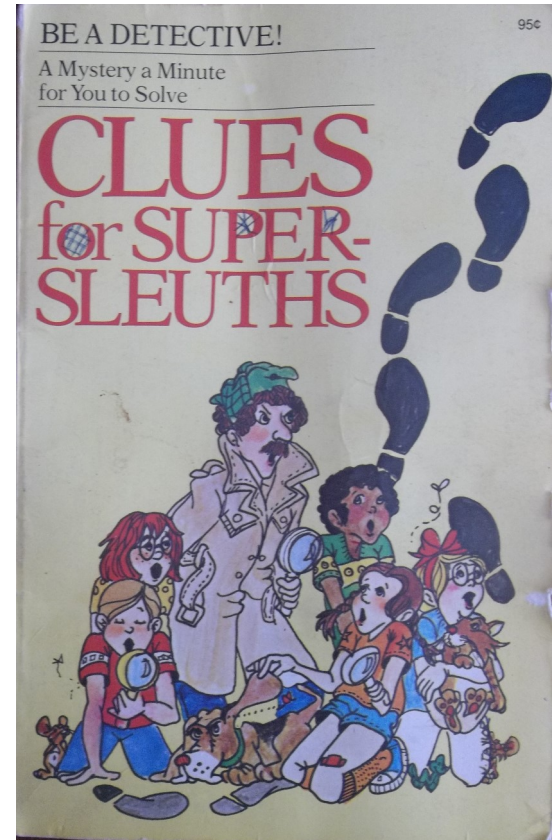
*"Well, it seems that someone is going to rob the First National Bank today at noon."*

*"And you heard this message on the FM Dial?" Riley asked pointedly, "not the AM, shortwave, or even a ham radio frequency?"*

*"I'm quite sure, Captain. You see, FM - that means 'full modulation' - might be the best to convey such a message. I'm a radio buff."*

*"Yes, I know," Reilly said. "What channel number was it?"*

*"It was sixty five, I'm sure."*



*"I'm not so sure you're sure Mr. Sylvester," Tom said, "I think you're pulling a trick on us."*

*What three clues made Reilly suspicious of Charles Sylvester?*

**To find out, go to page 9 to get the correct answers.**

On the ride home, my wife and I read some of the other stories, each ending with a mystery to be solved. We thoroughly enjoyed figuring out the clues which goes to prove that this book was definitely a book for children of "ALL" ages!

However, as I stated, it was the story about Ham Radio which sold it for me and I can hardly wait to try it out on some of my grandkids.

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## VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

### *Minutes from Feb 26, 2020*

#### **1. Call to Order & Welcome**

The meeting was open at 7:30 pm by our Club president Brian VA3DXK

**2. Roll Call:** VE3DXQ Tom, VE3DCC Rich, VE3DWI Tony, VA3DXK Brian, VA3DZZ Al, VE3RVH Reg, Paul VA3PDC, Roger VE3RKS.

**3. Adopt Agenda :** Brian VA3DXK said due to the fact that we did not have a Quorum present that no official business will be done at this meeting.

**4. Secretary's Report:** No approval of previous of Jan 2020 minutes as Quorum not present.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Paul VA3PDC let those present review the balance sheet on the flat screen TV. Al VA3DZZ asked Paul VA3PDC if he accepts email transfers for payment of dues. Paul said only in certain circumstances such as someone can not come in person.

**6. President's Report:** Brian VA3DXK

Brian reminded all present about our Annual membership dues \$40.00 per RAC members and \$50.00 for non-RAC members due in March. Brian also asked members present to help keep the club roster updated by letting the Executive know of any change of address or phone number. Brian reminded those present about Club Officer Elections to be held at the Club AGM in May. Brian asked those present if they were interested in getting on the nomination committee. Brian passed the club roster around to see if there were and corrections needed.

**7. Committee Reports:** Brian VA3DXK sent around a sheet with standing committees with names and positions to make sure they are correct as well. Brian is looking for a committee manager for the Maple Syrup Festival, which is coming up soon. Also volunteers for Ham Tech in the Fall. Frank VA3FJM has not come up with a date as yet. Rich VE3DCC asked if there were any Ideas for speakers at the Ham Tech. Al VA3DZZ had some Ideas for speakers but, needs to have a firm date to ask them. Reg VE3RVH said his son may be available to speak.

**8. Unfinished Business:** Paul VA3PDC brought up the fact that the club needs new antennas, and the club already approved a budget of \$500.00 for this. Paul said he is going to order up a good G5RV with flex weave wire. Brian VA3DXK said we also need a 1/2 wave end fed antenna.

**9. New Business:** -Club Insurance deductible. Paul said an invoice will be coming soon. There was some discussion if we pay it automatically or club needs to approve it.

**10. Presentations/Speakers/Workshop:** Video VSWR was not shown as those present wanted to get back earlier because of poor weather conditions.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next Meeting: Wed Mar 26, 2020

**12. Adjournment** – meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

# A Very Simple Tester for Coax Integrity

**By Geoff Haines, N1GY**

**This Little Tool Was Inspired By A Similar Device I Saw On U-Tube.**

**(Used with Permission)**

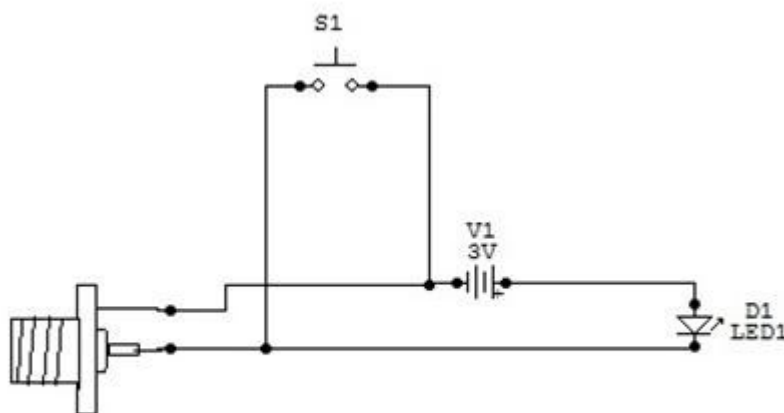
**A**s I was browsing around the web this morning I saw a video by another ham in which he used what he called his coax tester. He did not explain the circuit for his tester but it gave me an idea. Obviously what he had was a form of continuity tester with specific design elements for attaching it to a newly installed coax connector. It took only a moment to come up with a workable circuit.

The functionality of the tester is obvious. I have installed many PL-259s over the years and testing for a short with a regular digital meter sometimes seems to require three hands. This tester allows one to simply screw the PL-259 onto the tester to get an immediate "GO/NO GO" indication. If the LED lights up- you have a short circuit either in the coax or the connector. Start over. If the LED does not light up, the installation of the connector has no short circuit.

I mounted the components in a small plastic box left over from a previous project and labeled the box with instructions on its use. I included a test button in the circuit so that the user could make sure that the unit would give a proper indication when used. The button momentarily short circuits the tester so the LED will light up. If it does not then it is probably time to replace the two 1.5 Volt AAA batteries that power the LED. The actual size of the batteries is not critical, AA or AAA will work just fine. The important thing is to power the unit with 3 volts DC. That way, no dropping resistor is required.

If you want to use a 9 volt battery just add the appropriate dropping resistor to the circuit. A 330 Ohm 1/8 watt resistor will do the trick just fine for 9 volt power. I suggest the use of a battery holder to make exchanging the batteries as easy as possible.

A protective ring wall was installed around the test push button to prevent inadvertent short circuits while it is stored in a tool box, pocket, or go-kit. The ring wall is nothing more than a section of a PVC tubing connector, hot glued around the push button. It has to be higher than the button, but only by a fraction since you want to be easily able to operate the button when using the tester.





## Parts List:

- 1 SO-239 connector
- 1 Red LED
- 1 Momentary Push Button (Normally Open)
- 1 Battery Holder for battery(ies) of choice
- 1 330 Ohm resistor (only needed if using a 9 volt battery for power)
- 1 Suitable enclosure
- 1 protective ring to go around push button (section of PVC connector)
- Assorted hookup wire, hot glue, etc.

As you can see, the circuit is very simple. If there is a short circuit in the cable under test then voltage will be passed to the LED and it will light up. If the push button is activated then the circuit is also completed and the LED will light up.



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### Answers to the story HAM RADIO

Captain Reilly grew suspicious of Sylvester when he discovered three flaws in his statements. (1) Ham radio operators cannot broadcast on commercial FM channels. (2) The letters FM stand for frequency (not full) modulation. (3) The normal FM radio band does not go below 85 in channel selection. An additional clue: FM channels were originally designed to broadcast static-free on the very high frequencies.