



MARCH 2021

Volume 10 Issue 3

VE3ERC-LUB

President: Brian VA3DXK
Vice-President: Ted VE3TRQ
Secretary: Kirk VA3KXS
Treasurer: Paul VA3PDC
Trustee: Wes VE3ML
QSL Manager: Kirk VA3KXS
Repeater Trustee: Wes VE3ML
Website Admin: Ted VE3TRQ
Lighthouse: Al VA3TET
Maple Syrup Display: Al VA3TET
Newsletter: Bob VE3IXX
ERC Website: <https://ve3erc.ca>

ERC REPEATERS

UHF 444.700 + TONE: 131.8
UHF 444.700 + TONE: 123.0
VHF 147.390 + TONE: 123.0
VHF 147.255 + TONE: 131.8
EMERGENCY SIMPLEX: 147.51
UHF-IRLP node 2404,ECHOLINK VE3ERC-L
VHF- IRLP node 2403,ECHOLINK 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.**



KA6LMS when they were on the air previously on November 6th from CBS Studio Center.

KA6LMS will be going QRT with their last episode and will be on the air one last time until March 30. See page 17 for more information.



Radio Amateurs
of Canada

THE PREZ SEZ!

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



President's Update for March 2021

Every spring for many past years members of the ham community have attended seminars for CANWARN presented by Environment Canada. Well this year we are in for a change. Read the following letter from Geoff Coulson, dated March 22, 2021.

CANALERTE Ontario / CANWARN Ontario (EC)

<ec.canalerteontario-canwarnontario.ec@canada.ca>

As you know, due to COVID, last year we were unable to offer the same CANWARN training program that we have offered for many years: training sessions in many regions of the province covering severe weather spotting and reporting. We did experiment with webinars in a few cases, but we recognize that many of you were unable to participate in them.

This year, our travel restrictions will continue, at least in the short term. Meanwhile, the technology that has enabled much of the digital revolution has also changed weather spotting. Social media, in particular, has become ubiquitous and is now the primary means by which meteorologists gather storm information from the public. Furthermore, the work of meteorologists at Environment and Climate Change Canada is changing as we move increasingly towards more impact-based forecasting.

For these (and other) reasons, we have had to make hard choices about our limited resources. With respect to CANWARN, we have decided to prioritize our provincial, municipal, and other emergency management partners. As a result, for this year at least, we will no longer be organizing CANWARN training sessions as we did in the past. However, at the invitation of our emergency management partners, we will be pleased to provide them with training sessions tailored to their needs; in a few cases, they may be opened to members of the public. This will allow us to support our partners in their community emergency preparedness while raising the awareness of weather safety among new audiences.

We regret making this decision, and we know this will disappoint many of you. Some of you have been faithful weather spotters for years, even decades. We are grateful for your support over the years and we want to assure you that we will continue to monitor your severe weather and damage reports sent by e-mail or via Twitter. That will not change. To assist you in continuing to send us your weather reports, we are attaching a tip sheet here. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Geoff Coulson, Peter Kimbell, and Gerald Cheng
Ontario Warning Preparedness Meteorologists

PS: In case you are not aware, Environment and Climate Change Canada has a weather app (WeatherCAN), released in early 2019, available for both Apple and Android devices. This app represents the most direct way to receive our severe weather alerts. The app can be found in the App Store or Google Play.

Reporting Tip Sheet

How to Report

Email ONstorm@canada.ca

Twitter with hashtag #ONstorm

What Your Report Should Contain

Who – your name, 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 – Summer

Large Hail (use coins to describe size...nickel, quarter, loonie, golf ball, etc.) Heavy rain that has resulted in local flooding

Damaging winds (from tree damage to more significant structural damage) Funnel Cloud

Waterspout Tornado

What to Report – Winter

Dense fog – visibility less than 1 km

Any occurrence of freezing rain or freezing drizzle

Heavily accumulating snow (2 or more cm/hr); snow amounts Whiteout conditions in snow/blowing snow (visibility near zero) Rapid freezing of water on road surfaces

Websites of interest:

US National Weather Service Spotter Guide:

https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/Weather_Spotter_Field_Guide.pdf

National Weather Service Spotter Glossary: <https://www.weather.gov/oun/spotterglossary>

Environment and Climate Change Canada Lightning Safety:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/lightning/safety.html>

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

FEBRUARY 10 - WES VE3ML

MARCH 10 - BRIAN VA3DXK

MARCH 17 - BOB VE3IXX

MARCH 24 - M E E T I N G

MARCH 31 - TED VE3TRQ

APRIL 7 - BILL VA3QB

APRIL 14 - KIRK VA3KXS

APRIL 21 - REG VE3RVH

APRIL 28 - M E E T I N G

MAY 5 - FRANK VA3FJM

MAY 12 - TOM VE3DXQ

MAY 19 - TONY VE3DWI



**From
the**

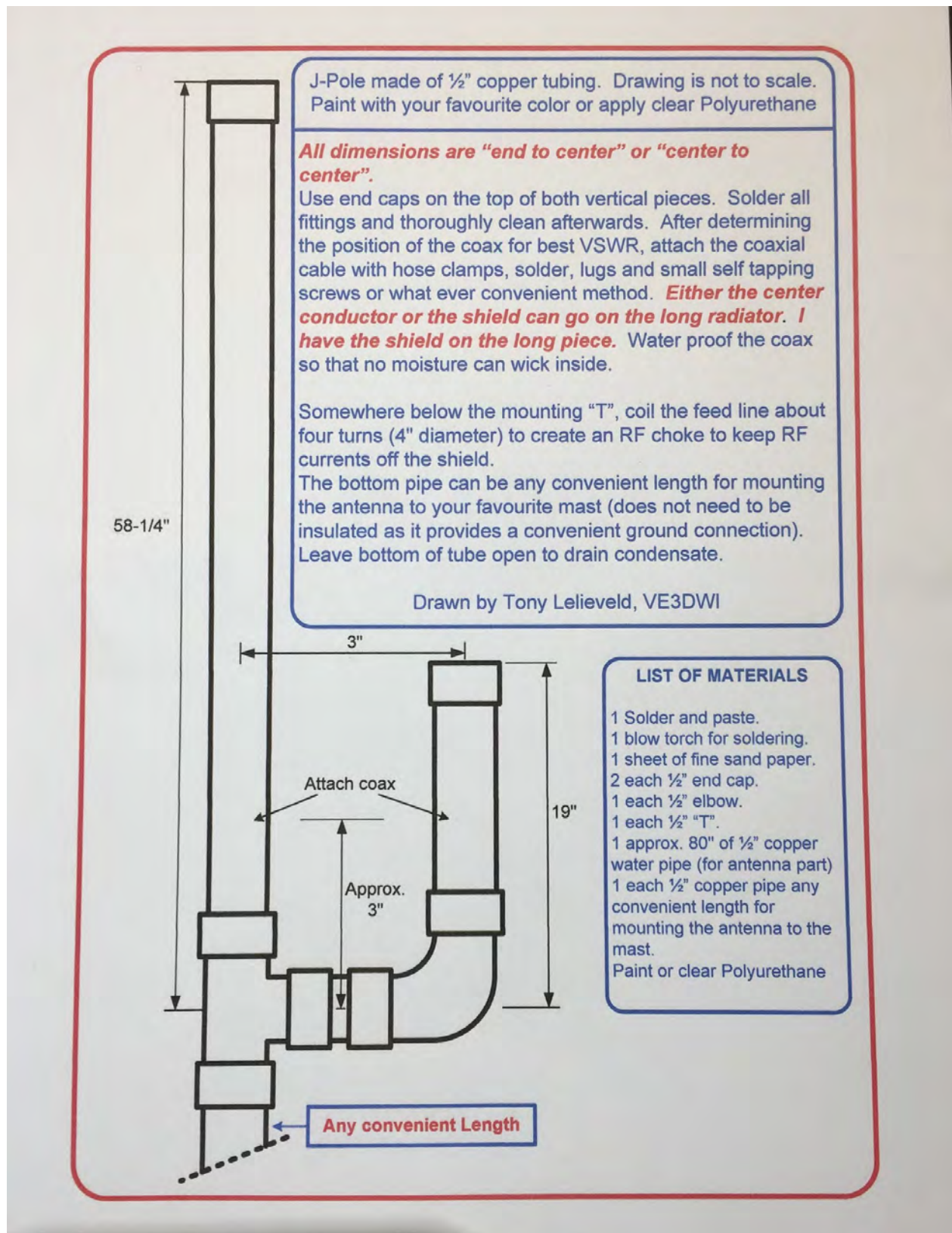
PAST



"I'M NOT SURE I CAN HEAR YOU!"

Tom VE3DXQ checks out the new hearing aids along with old museum antique radios.

Thanks to Tony VE3DWI for posting this plan for a DIY J-Pole made from half inch copper pipe. This was included in the newsletter in a previous year but because of the interest shown, we are reprinting it.



Modify Soldering Guns for Forced Air Cooling

By Daniel Romila VE7LCG

Many of us still want to use soldering guns and the market offers us cheap alternatives and replacement soldering tips.

The quality of the cheap available soldering guns is not good. Also, they work from 220V, which is not the standard for North America, and requires a powerful 100 – 150 Watts adapter. When I have to solder a lot I use my soldering station. But if I just need to solder a few soldering points I immediately grab one of my soldering guns. This is what can be found on the Internet, for under \$25 CAD, shipping and taxes included:



The gray one has more cooling vents than the orange model. The tip is directly held by two screws for the orange model. The gray model has a kind of flower with 4 petals into which the soldering tips are inserted, and screw caps on top of the flower keep everything tied. Both soldering guns are low quality. They overheat and the gray model easily breaks the soldering tip catching parts. So

one can even ask why am I wasting my time with these tools.

As already mentioned, I have those soldering guns in addition to a soldering station, hot air and other smaller soldering tools. It is just fun to play with and experiment. There are way better quality soldering guns one can buy made by Weller and MotoMaster, with power between 60 Watts and hundreds of Watts, and even nice models with two steps of power, usually 100 and 150 Watts. But those models are heavy, more than 1 kilo, and I simply cannot keep them in hand and solder.

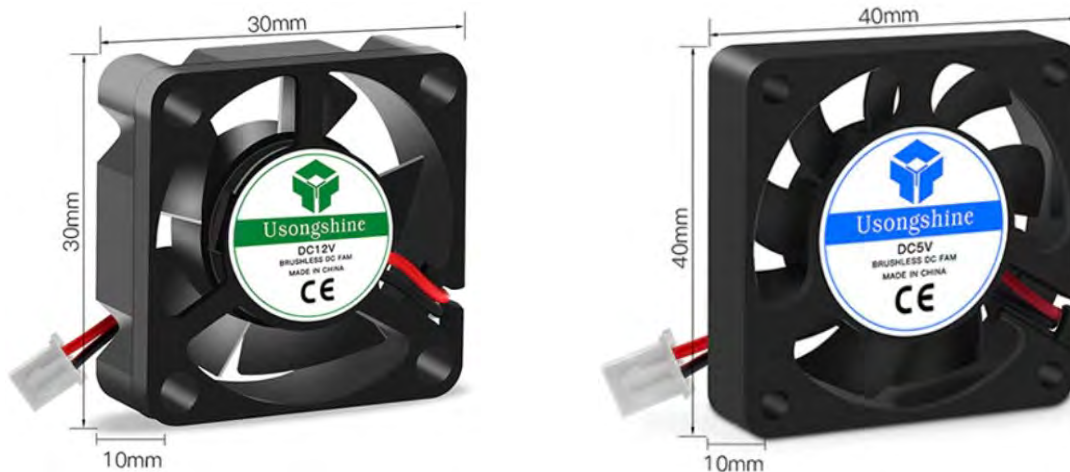
The whole point of using a soldering gun is having a hand grip in addition to the pen grip I have with the soldering iron from my soldering station and with the cordless ones.

I measured the weight of the soldering guns I have:



I cannot stress enough how important is the weight of such soldering gun when soldering electronic components as opposed to automotive cables.

The vents they have in the plastic case are insufficient for cooling. They can execute just several soldering points before they no longer melt the solder and the case is hot (and the transformer inside). The solution is to use some extra fans which do not add too much weight and which are easy to power. Such small fans can be found on the Internet, and I decided the models that I need are one fan, type 4010 for the gray one and two fans of 3010 type for the orange one.



Both models are available for 5V, 12V and 24V. I bought the 5V models, in order to be able to eventually over voltage them for faster air flow. I found that 5V – 6V are sufficient.

I was curious to find out their weight, since weight is so important for handling the soldering tool. Please keep in mind that in the end there will also be – eventually – a small switching power supply board required in the handle of the soldering guns. A few grams will be lost because of drilling ventilation holes in the case.



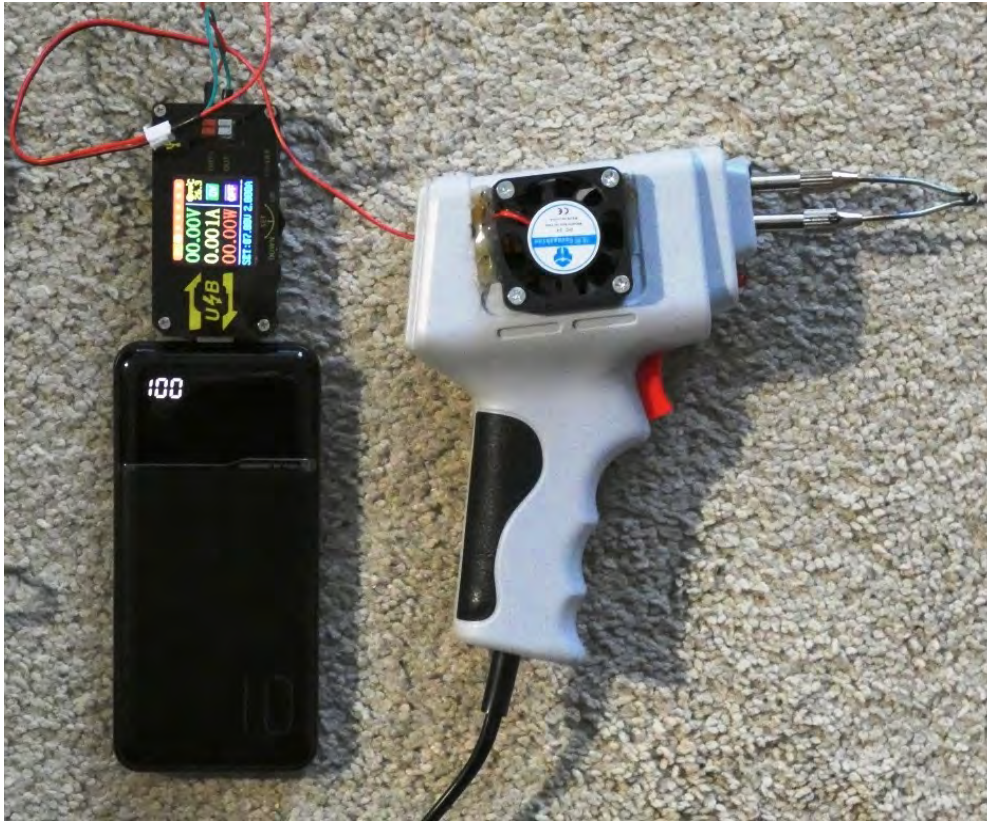
It seems everything is fine, from the weight point of view. This is how the gray soldering gun looks inside, after it had the light bulb and the bulb socket replaced with a LED and resistor (330 Ohm) in series:



Pretty cheap. If you want to try this experiment (after all experimenting is a part of our hobby) I recommend the orange soldering gun. Just skip to the part to modify that orange soldering gun.

For efficient air cooling it is important the fan keeps the transformer cool, and the air flow is not blocked in any way. What I did was first to fix the 4010 fan with screws on the half of the case, and used plastic glue around for sealing. I recommend for the first phase to just seal with plastic glue, no matter how it looks. Verify everything, and open the case after for final esthetical gluing (re-gluing), when it is clear everything is working and then add the finishing touches. As you see in the picture below, the sealing temporarily does not look nice; it is a temporary appearance. To finish, the whole plastic glue can be reheated over the whole surface, and it will make a nice glass like layer. This plastic glue is forgiving and can be reheated several times. If it doesn't look good reheat until satisfied. In my experience this glue is so friendly that it never caused trouble and looked professional.

So, for the moment I just sealed and left the esthetics part for the next stage:



I had a variable power adapter and I started to solder, to see if the experiment worked. The transformer did not overheat anymore. The soldering gun now cools itself. Some 5 – 6 Volts are enough for efficient cooling. The next step is to disassemble the soldering gun again, make the plastic sealing nice and add a switching power supply small board inside the handle as I can find plenty online with \$3 – 4 CAD, drawing under 300 mA.

The orange soldering gun case allows the mounting of two 3010 fans, one next to the other, and it looks nicer on the case. The fans themselves can hide the ugly holes one makes for ventilation, and with a little luck no sealing glue is necessary at all. The screws for the fan can be put in the existing air vents, so the case will look much nicer than in the case of the gray soldering gun:



The consumption for the two 3010 fans, at 5V is 230 mA. The orange case is more generous with space, and it is easy to install a small switching power supply board for the fans inside the handle. The result was good and ready for a test. I had some connectors to solder, some transistors to take out from an old board, and a piezo filter before I finally stopped. It worked perfectly. Because it is under 500 grams, the whole soldering gun with the fans is very comfortable to handle.



I present this as a fun experiment. It is not intended to replace a proper soldering station. However I must add that in my youth I did all my soldering with just this kind of tool.

73 Daniel VE7LCG

RELATIVITY

There was a young ham named Bright
Who travelled much faster than light,
He started one day
In a relative way,
And returned on the previous night.

ANONYMOUS

ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc. - Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2021

| <u>Attendance - Members</u> | <u>Attendance - Officers</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bill Reid VA3QB | Ted Rypma VE3TRQ - Vice President |
| Bob Koechl VE3IXX | Paul Curtin VA3PDC - Treasurer |
| Bruce McLellan VE3QB | Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS – Secretary |
| Doug Kuhn VE3CXU | |
| Graham Bauman VE3BYP | <u>Guests:</u> |
| Harold Braun VE3CD | Judd Hodge N4WXU/VE3WXU |
| James Litwiller VE3JLC | Mike VE3MKX |
| Jim Heidmiller VE3JMU | John VE3FDK |
| Ken Buehler VE3KCY | Don VE3WPK |
| Reg Horney VE3RVH | Kevin VA3RCA |
| Rich Clausi VE3DCC | Lenny VE3ISS |
| Roger Sanderson VE3RKS | |
| Terry Maurice VE3XTM | |
| Tom Mahony VE3DXQ | |
| Tony Lelieveld VE3DWI | |

Meeting Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

- a. Meeting was called to order by Vice-President, Ted Rypma VE3TRQ at 7:32pm and he welcomed everyone present.

2. Roll Call:

- a. President Brian Filbey VA3DXK sends his regrets.
- b. Roll call established those present and it was noted quorum had been attained.

3. Approval of Agenda:

- a. Ted displayed the agenda on screen, which had also been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b. MOTION to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion by: Ken VE3KCY

Carried

4. Presentation

- a. Weather Stations - Mike Kassay VE3MKX

5. Secretary Report: Presented by Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS.

- a. Correspondence Received:
 - i. Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. sent our Insurance Certificate and invoice for our Affiliation fee and Insurance. The total cost was \$404.45. Of note, we pay Insurance fees of \$1.35 per RAC member and \$14.04 for non-RAC members.
- b. Minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting were emailed to members on the same day.
- c. *MOTION to approve the amended minutes of January 27, 2021.*

Motion By: Kirk VA3KXS

Carried

6. Treasurers Report: Presented by Paul Curtin VA3PDC

- a. Paul displayed the details of the transactions for the month of February.
- b. Paul indicated the RAC Affiliation and Insurance Invoice has been paid.
- b. *MOTION to accept the Treasurers Report*

Motion By: Paul VA3PDC

Carried

7. Presidents Report: Presented by Vice-President Ted Rypma VE3TRQ.

- a. Reminder that annual membership dues of \$40 per RAC member, \$50 per non-RAC member, and \$10 for family-members of RAC members are due in March.
- b. Brian Filbey VA3DXK has indicated he will step back from President duties due to personal reasons. Ted VE3TRQ, our current Vice-President will take up the duties for the remainder of the year
- c. Ted welcomed our 3 newest members, Terry Maurice VE3XTM (in attendance) as well as Colin Jones VA3BLW & Cameron Jones VE3FBY
- d. Ted referred members to the CANWARN announcement that they are switching from using HAM radio spotters to Twitter reports during weather events

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Safety Officer - Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS
 - i. Nothing to report.
- b. Nominations Committee - Rich Clausi VE3DCC & Tom Mahony VE3DXQ
 - i. Tom presented the current slate of nominees the committee has confirmed: Ted Rypma VE3TRQ for President, Frank Monteith VA3FJM for Vice-President, Wes Snarr VE3ML for Trustee, Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS for Secretary, and Paul Curtin VA3PDC for Treasurer. Tom asked for additional nominees during the meeting and none stepped forward.
 - ii. It was noted that the Bylaws require an additional call for nominees 1 month prior to the AGM. Since the AGM is in May there will be another call for nominees during the April meeting and the formal list will be presented to the President at that time.
- c. Spring Field Day Committee - Bill Reid VA3QB

- i. Field Day is June 26-27, 2021.
 - ii. Bill is seeking interest from club members for an in-person Field Day, and estimates that most members should be vaccinated at that point.
 - iii. Bill is going to talk to the owner of the airstrip at 86 and Northfield to see if the owner is still willing to allow our club to use the property.
- d. 24th Annual International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend - Paul Curtin VA3PDC
 - i. 0001 UTC 21 Aug to 2400 UTC 22 Aug
 - ii. Paul confirmed we are registered with ILLW as the Club activating the Point Clark Lighthouse. He also noted that we will play it by ear to determine what sort of event we can have due to COVID-19. We may also need to sort out an alternate antenna configuration as the lighthouse may be closed and all of the nearby trees have been removed.
 - iii. Bruce asked if we need to contact the management of the lighthouse to confirm we are welcome. Paul volunteered to reach out to Al MacDonald for details.
- e. Net controllers - Bill Reid VA3QB
 - i. Bill suggested we revise the list of net controllers since Al MacDonald VE3TET and Al Dee VA3DZZ are no longer able to participate in the rotation. Bill is seeking additional volunteers. Bob VE3IXX has agreed to update the list of net controllers with the new roster.

9. Unfinished Business:

- a. Club Membership Roster - Ted Rypma VE3TRQ
 - i. Ted will soon update the ve3erc.ca website with a new roster to include our recent new members.

10. New Business:

- a. Updating the Constitution & Bylaws to account for the new fee structure - Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS
 - i. Kirk noted that review of the Constitution and Bylaws after the meeting last month revealed *Bylaw 5 Dues, Fees and Assessments* will need to be updated to align with the new fee structure. As per our Constitution Article IX, changes to the Bylaws must be presented & seconded at one meeting and debated and voted on at the next. A majority of the full membership must approve any motions to amend the Constitution or Bylaws.
 - ii. *MOTION* to amend *Bylaw 5. Dues, Fees, and Assessments* by replacing the first sentence, which begins "Annual dues of..." with the following: "Annual dues of \$40 per member of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC member), \$10 per additional household member of a RAC member and \$50 per non-RAC member is hereby assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Constitution for the purpose of providing funds for expenses."

Motion By: Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS

Deferred until the April meeting per requirements of Constitution Article IX

- b. Updating the Constitution & Bylaws to allow for non-paper voting at the AGM - Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS
 - i. A question was raised last week by Brian Filbey VA3DXK via email whether the requirements of *Bylaw 6.ii Voting* pertaining to "paper ballots" would prevent the club from holding elections during the AGM in May.
 - ii. After some research, it has been determined that temporary measures, which are still in effect, have been added to the Ontario Corporations Act (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90c38>) specifically allowing electronic meetings, regardless of any provisions to the contrary in letters patent, supplementary letters patent or by-laws of a corporation. They also state "the chair shall conduct a vote or election by ballot or by such other manner as the by-laws of the corporation prescribe, if feasible, otherwise the chair may direct the vote or election by alternate means."
 - iii. Since paper ballots are not feasible at an electronic AGM, the chair has discretion to direct the vote or election by alternate means. Changes to our Bylaws are not immediately required at this time to address the issue. We may however wish to address this section for the future. It was agreed by members present that we do not need to change our bylaws to address this issue as the temporary measures provide a solution this year.
 - iv. There was some additional discussion of paying for use of an electronic election platform (with a cost of approximately \$30 per election) for future elections (assuming we don't have an acclaimed slate). It was agreed we may wish to revisit this item next month after the list of nominees is finalized.

11. Announcements

- a. The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival which is usually in April is a Virtual Expo on March 27th this year due to COVID-19.
- b. Our next meeting is Wednesday April 28, 2021 and will be again held via Zoom. This is the last opportunity to add your name as a nominee for office. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Rich Clausi VE3DCC or Tom Mahony VE3DXQ before the meeting if they wish to be added as a nominee.
- c. Annual Club Membership dues are due by the end of March.
- d. The May meeting will feature our AGM and Club Officer Elections.

12. Adjournment

- a. *MOTION to adjourn at 9:09pm*

Motion By: Roger VE3RKS

Carried

Action Sheet:

| Action Required | Reference(s) | Action By | Deadline Date |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Send email notification to members of motion to amend Constitution & Bylaws at the April meeting. | 10.a.iii | Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS | Prior to next meeting |
| Upload the latest roster to the ve3erc.ca web-site. | 9.a.i | Ted Rypma VE3TRQ | Prior to next meeting |
| Contact owner of airstrip at 86 & Northfield regarding usage by Club during Field Day | 8.c.iii | Bill Reid VA3QB | Prior to Field Day |
| Find a contact for the Point Clark Lighthouse | 8.d.iii | Paul Curtin VA3PDC | Prior to ILLW |
| Update the roster of Net controllers | 8.e.i | Bob Koechl VE3IXX | Prior to next meeting |

CORRESPONDENCE

Ted VE3TRQ sent the following update on the regular Thursday evening digital net:

We have had lots of fun trying out SSTV (Slow Scan TV - aka sending still pictures by radio :-)) for a few weeks now. All of us have now had some success sending and receiving pictures of various sorts. For my part, it's surprising how well a bit of wire in the ground receives radio signals! My LoG antenna continues to perform quite well, my neighbour's new noise-emitting electronics notwithstanding.

This week we plan to continue sending and receiving files and pictures, but using the various modems in Fldigi - probably start with MFSK32 on 80m. And we'll follow that up in future sessions with file attachments in email sent by radio (WinLink - preferably the VARA modem).

Ted VE3TRQ

On the past Wednesday, Mike VE3MKX gave a great presentation on weather stations. This was well timed as Environment Canada has cancelled this year's seminar on weather watch and CANWARN. Bill VA3QB sent two weather sites that would be of interest to all weather watchers.

<https://www.windy.com/?43.894,-79.794,7>

<https://www.ventusky.com/?p=43.47;-80.28;7&l=wind-10m&t=20210325/0000>

Thanks to Mike VE3MKX for alerting us to the last chance to contact KA6LMS, the station on the TV set for "Last Man Standing". Mike wrote:

Last Man Standing station—on now!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18tUpkpipt8>

Southgate Amateur Radio News wrote the following:

Going QRT with a bang! KA6LMS special event

If you're a fan of Tim Allen's TV series Last Man Standing, you'll have a final chance to contact the show's Amateur Radio Club station before it goes QRT.

The weeklong KA6LMS radio special event starts on March 24 at 00:00 UTC and runs through 23:59 UTC on March 30, which is the show's final day of shooting.

This will be an all-mode, all-band event. Fans will have the opportunity to work the bonus 1-by-1 stations; K6L, K6M, K6S, W6L, W6M and W6S. Stations from every call sign area will operate as KA6LMS/0 through KA6LMS/9, providing nationwide coverage. The remote operators are a virtual "who's-who" of ham celebrities, contesters and podcasters.



Many will livestream their operations. Check spotting sites like DXSummit for pop-up operations on any day and at any time during the event week. We expect the "on-stage" radios to be in operation from the studio in California on Saturday, March 27th at 18:00 UTC using 20 Meters and on Sunday at 22:00 UTC using 40 Meters. Remote stations will act as relays to give everyone an opportunity to make contact with the stage.

If you're a fan of digital modes, Saturday, March 27th is your day. At 17:00 UTC - KA6LMS will be using D-STAR on reflector 12 Alpha, hosted by the PAPA Repeater System. At 19:00 UTC - The D-STAR action moves to reflector 30 Bravo, hosted by Georgia D-STAR.

At 23:00 UTC - Amateur Logic.TV will host the KA6LMS Multi Mode QSO PARTY Using: Allstar, DMR via Brandmeister, D-Star, NXDN, P25, Echolink, Hamshack Hotline, Wires-X and Yaesu System Fusion.

A livestream of this activation will be available at: <http://live.amateurlogic.tv> Going QRT with a bang! KA6LMS QSL cards will be available for stations who contact the stage directly or through relay stations. Special event certificates including "Clean Sweep" endorsements will be available via download.

The KA6LMS radio event is sponsored by the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club's 12 Days of Christmas and K2Heros teams, in association with [Amateur Logic.TV](http://AmateurLogic.TV), The PAPA Repeater System and Georgia D-STAR

For more information go to www.gsbarc.org/lms

• Our thanks to **Ian, G3ZHI** for the above information

