



MAY 2021

Volume 10 Issue 5

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.**



Radio Amateurs
of Canada



Rick Brown VE3IMG gave a presentation on the installation of his new tower. See page 11 for more pictures.

THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

President's Update for May 2021

Our Annual General Meeting took place during our May 26th regular meeting. Amongst other things we once again sanctioned all our club-based activities for the year from now until our next AGM. As an incorporated club and an affiliated member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) we have the added benefit of RAC's insurance coverage for our club and its members. I encourage our members to join RAC if they have not already done so as we all benefit from and should therefore share the cost of the group coverage.



I would like to thank everyone that participated in making the voting process for our new executive go so smoothly. I add a hearty welcome and congratulations to

Ted Rypma VE3TRQ as our new President,
Frank Monteith VA3FJM as Vice-President,
Wes Snarr VE3ML as Trustee,
Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS as Secretary, and
Paul Curtin VA3PDC as Treasurer.

As well I would like to thank the current executive for all their hard work and efforts. It is their efforts that have helped to make the Elmira Radio Club the vibrant and exciting club that it is today.

I'm sure many of you have noticed my silence on the airwaves and at virtual club meetings, etc. for the past several months. Having stepped back for medical reasons I just want to let you know that have been ill for several months and diagnosed with cancer. I am currently receiving radiation & chemotherapy with daily treatments at the London Regional Cancer Program. My prognosis is very good for which I am so grateful. This is a very challenging time for me, but I have the wonderful support of my wife Cindy and my adult children.

As you already know the club is in the very capable hands of the current executive. Ted VE3TRQ has stepped up to assume the president's responsibilities and will easily transition to president of our club come September. Enjoy the radio waves and the many upcoming spring and summer radio activities!

CORRESPONDENCE

Ted VE3TRQ sent the following:

HamSci project is looking for participants. Published in the ARRL Letter, May27, 2021.

See <https://www.hamsci.org/> for more info.

June 2021 Eclipse Festival Seeks Ham Participants

HamSCI is looking for radio amateurs to record time-standard stations during the June 2021 annular solar eclipse across the Arctic Circle as part of a citizen science experiment. Researchers

will use the crowd-sourced data to investigate the superimposed effects of auroral particle precipitation and the eclipse on HF Doppler shift.

Participants would collect data using an HF radio connected to a computer running open-source software. A precision frequency standard, such as a GPS-disciplined oscillator, is desirable but not required to participate. Radio amateurs and shortwave listeners around the globe are invited to take part, even stations far from the path of totality. Last year's eclipse festivals included more than 100 participants from 45 countries.

The experiment will run June 7 - 12. All participants will receive certificates as well as updates as the data is processed. This is a pilot experiment for HamSCI's Personal Space Weather Station project,



which seeks to develop a global network monitoring the geospace environment. For more information and set-up instructions, visit the June 2021 Arctic Eclipse Festival page on the HamSCI website.

This eclipse will be an unusual annular or "ring of fire" eclipse. This occurs when the moon is too far from Earth to fully block the sun, but will fit entirely within it. The eclipse path will cross over the North Pole, so it first will travel north and then south.

While those living in parts of Canada and Russia will experience the full "ring of fire" effect of the eclipse, residents on the East Coast of the US may be able to briefly experience a partial solar eclipse -- a preview of the total solar eclipse that will cross the US in 2024.

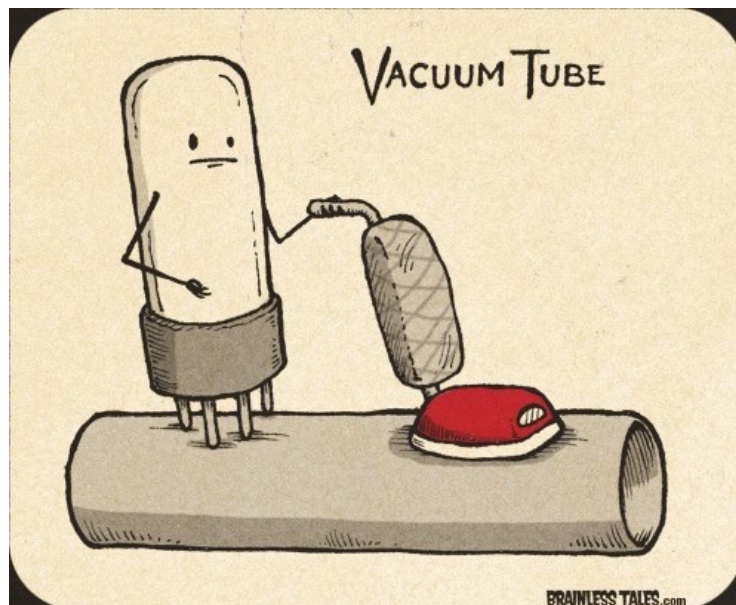
CONTRIBUTIONS TO VE3ERC-CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 19 - TONY VE3DWI

MAY 26 - M E E T I N G

JUNE 2 - WES VE3ML

JUNE 9 - BRIAN VA3DXK

JUNE 16 - BOB VE3IXX

JUNE 23 - M E E T I N G

JUNE 30 - TED VE3TRQ

JULY 7 - BILL VA3QB

JULY 14 - KIRK VA3KXS

JULY 21 - REG VE3RVH

JULY 28 - FRANK VA3FJM

AUGUST 4 - TOM VE3DXQ



From the PAST

Following is a reprinted article from our February 2015 newsletter. Paul who is now a Silent Key had written this true story showing how he and ham radio was instrumental in averting a possible serious crime back in the late 1970's.

INTRIGUE ON THE AIR WAVES

By Paul Coles VE3EWN (SK)

Back in 1978, I was in my shack reading an insurance policy. It was Monday, my day off from Zehrs. I had my rig tuned to 40 meters and every now and then I would tune into a conversation. I picked up a man and a woman talking in serious terms and they seemed quite determined about something. It just didn't seem like a typical chat between two hams.

I had a little recorder next to my rig and I started to tape their conversation. It wasn't long before they mentioned something about a high level French politician who was visiting Ottawa that day. They talked about somebody letting their people into the cafeteria of the parliament buildings. More strange things were mentioned about how they would get this man and then they made a schedule for 2:00 pm that day on 20 meters, to find out how things had worked out.

At this point I phoned the RCMP. I told them I was a Ham and I had made a recording that might just interest them. They asked about the content of the tape. I told them it had to do with a French politician's visit to Ottawa that day. They asked for my address and in 20 minutes there were two men at my door. One wore a pin strip suit, and the other still had breakfast in his beard. I invited them in.

They listened to the tape and then they asked if they could use my phone. The one chap came back to me and said they had just put 14 men on the cafeteria of the parliament building. Then they asked if they could come back at 2:00 pm to be here when the pair had scheduled their next contact.

Just before they left, I received a call from the RCMP office in Kitchener and they told me that the woman was a licensed Ham in Quebec and the man on the radio was bootlegging out of New Jersey.

Shortly before 2:00 pm, one of the officers who had been here that morning telephoned and requested me to tape the scheduled contact as he was involved in another problem. If I heard anything that sounded important, I should call them immediately.

Well, this encounter on the air went on to be a six month event. I would leave my work at

Well, this encounter on the air went on to be a six month event. I would leave my work at anytime a schedule was made, tape it, call the RCMP and they would pick it up. They would return the previous cassettes, but always with the content erased.

I had a friend here in Guelph who was a top aid to President Kennedy and Johnson, he wrote 3 books and his first "The Detail" sold over 750,000 copies. His name was Wilson McCarthy. When the two people I was monitoring used code words in their conversation (not CW) I would ask Wilson what they were talking about. It could be anything from plastic explosives to arms; the Mounties would tell me the same thing when I asked them. Wilson had to go to Secret Service school for six months to learn how the Service dealt with any problems that might develop with the president and he knew all this security slang... While at the White House he became the coordinator of security. So he too was quite interested in what was being heard.

Finally after six months I got a letter from the RCMP thanking me for my help and also telling me they were turning this over to their communications Dept. for further investigation as they did not have the ability to hear and react quickly enough.

When I gave the last tape to the RCMP it was in the Zehrs store that I managed and after a long chat I asked the two men what really happened. They said they could not tell me. Then they said to think of the word "possibility- the possibility that an international situation was avoided".

But, the best thing that happened at this last meeting was when the RCMP knocked at my office door and I invited them in. My supervisor who we called "white gloves" was in my office at the time. I asked him if he would excuse us. He looked at me strangely and left the office.

When the officers left, he came into the office and asked, "Who were they?"

I said, "RCMP".

With amazement on his face he asked, "what did they want?"

I replied, "sorry John...I can't tell you!" As he stared dumbfounded, I left. I could have told him but it was much more fun this way.

I was happy with that.

Paul Coles VE3EWN was a member of the Guelph Amateur Radio Club. He had an interest in radio since he built his first crystal radio as a child and obtained his amateur license in 1970 at age 30 while happily married with seven children. One year later he obtained his Advanced ticket. Paul did a two hour jazz broadcast on station CFRU in Guelph on Sundays. His other youthful interests involved working at the Brampton Flying Club from ages 11 to 19. He learned to fly Aeronica Champs and J3 Cubs at a very young age when flying regulations were less stringent. Paul was always active on the bands.

CORRECTION

Please note that
Tony VE3DWI
was missed on the attendance list
for the April Meeting.
We apologize for the typo.

ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc. – Annual General Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2021

<u>Attendance - Members</u>	<u>Attendance - Officers</u>
Bill MacKay VA3WFM	Ted Rypma VE3TRQ - Vice President
Bill Reid VA3QB	Paul Curtin VA3PDC – Treasurer
Bob Koechl VE3IXX	Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS – Secretary
Brian McNally VE3YBM	
Bruce McLellan VE3QB	
Doug Kuhn VE3CXU	<u>Guests:</u>
Gary Kornstein VE3JGK	Rick Brown VE3IMG
Harold Braun VE3CD	Jeremiah N VE3EJN
Jack Sinclair VA3WPJ	
James Litwiller VE3JLC	
Jim Heidmiller VE3JMU	
John Linnerth VE3OVO	
Judd Hodge N4WXU/VE3WXU	
Rich Clausi VE3DCC	
Rod Murray VE3MZD	
Roger Sanderson VE3RKS	
Thomas Daniel VA3VRA	
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 7:40pm and he welcomed everyone present.

2. Roll Call:

- a. 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 presented.*

Motion by: Bill VA3PDC

Carried**4. Presentation**

- a. Rick Brown VE3IMG shared slides of his new antenna installation before and after the meeting.

5. Secretary Report: Presented by Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS.

- a. Correspondence Received:
 - i. Dave Raycroft (VA3RJ) sent an email to make the club aware that Point Clark Lighthouse, being a National Historic Site, is eligible to be activated under the World Wide Flora & Fauna (WWFF) award program. The lighthouse reference is VEFF-1392. Full information about Canada Flora & Fauna can be found at <https://www.qsl.net/va3rj/veff.html>. Information about WWFF can be found at <https://wwff.co/>.
- b. Minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting were emailed to members on the same day.
- c. MOTION to approve the minutes of April 28, 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 April.
- b. MOTION to accept the Treasurers Report

Motion By: Paul VA3PDC

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

- a. Ted announced this meeting is the AGM for ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc. and will include Officer elections. Due to COVID, there will be no written ballots, rather show of hands for voting, per allowances made by Ontario Government.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Safety Officer - Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS
 - i. Nothing to report.
- b. Spring Field Day Committee - Bill Reid VA3QB
 - i. Field Day is June 26-27, 2021.
 - ii. It is anticipated Ontario should be out of lockdown in the next couple of weeks and we should be allowed to have groups of 10 by Field Day.
 - iii. Ken Buehler VE3KCY has volunteered his property for field day (off of Highway 86 past Wallenstein). There is a nearby field which can be used for tents/trailers. There is a porta-potty on-site. Everyone is responsible for their own food/snacks/drinks.
 - iv. Antenna setup will be on Friday and we will wait until Saturday to setup the radios. Individuals will be bringing their own radios and antennas. Bands will be planned (who works when). 8'-10' separation required between participants in open spaces (under tents, etc).

- v. Next meeting we will confirm everything and finalize coordination.
- c. 24th Annual International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend - Paul Curtin VA3PDC
 - i. 0001 UTC 21 Aug to 2400 UTC 22 Aug
 - ii. Per last meeting, we are not planning a formal event. Paul won't be able to participate this year. Kirk is planning to casually operate at various points on the weekend and will communicate plans to the email reflector during the summer.
 - iii. KB6NU in Michigan wants to visit - may need to coordinate their visit.

9. Unfinished Business:

- a. Repeater Technical Committee - Bill Reid VA3QB / Tony VE3DWI
 - i. Due to lockdown, there has not been any opportunity to do work on the VHF & UHF repeaters. Bill and Tony plan to get started once restrictions lift.
 - ii. Bill is going to request a network connection from the Feed Mill operators to link with Alma, otherwise we will need to do a line of sight connection, but distance may be an issue.

10. New Business:

- a. Officer Elections - Meeting Chair
 - i. Per the bylaws, voting shall be done during the AGM and in the case of an unopposed slate, in which a nominee is the single candidate nominated for a particular office, the nominee is elected by 'acclamation'. This is the case for all executive offices this year.
 - ii. Elmira Radio Club members nominated for executive positions, all unopposed:
 - 1. President - Ted Rypma VE3TRQ
 - 2. Vice President - Frank Monteith VA3FJM
 - 3. Trustee - Wes Snarr VE3ML
 - 4. Secretary - Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS
 - 5. Treasurer - Paul Curtin VA3PDC

iii. MOTION to accept the slate of candidates as presented.

Motion By: Judd Hodge N4WXU

Carried

- b. Club Sanctioned Events – Meeting Chair

i. MOTION to declare that all club organized activities for the upcoming year are officially sanctioned events.

Motion By: Rich Clausi VE3DCC

Carried

- c. Temporary Transfer of Treasurer Duties – Paul Curtin VA3PDC

- i. Paul will be unable to fulfill the Treasurer duties for the next few months. Ted Rypma VE3DCC has agreed to perform these duties while Paul is away. Since Ted is the incoming President, who also has signing authority, Paul will have the bank grant Ted signing authority this month instead of waiting until September.
- d. Year End Financial Report - Paul VA3PDC
 - i. Paul presented the Year End financial reported and answered questions from the membership.
 - ii. MOTION to accept the Treasurers Year End Financial Report as presented.

Motion By: Paul VA3PDC

Carried

11. Announcements

- a. The next meeting will be held June 23, 2021 via Zoom.
- b. The June 23 meeting is the next opportunity to finalize Field Day.

12. Adjournment

- a. MOTION to adjourn at 8:18pm

Motion By: John Linnerth VE3OVO

Carried

Action Sheet:

Action Required	Reference(s)	Action By	Deadline Date
Submit Notice of Change to Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services outlining changes to directors and officers.	10.a.iii	Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS	Before September



Before and after our May ERC Zoom meeting, Rick Brown VE3IMG gave a presentation on his tower and antenna installation. Here are some of the pictures.



Measuring power and SWR with an analog Astatic PDC2 meter

By Daniel Romila VE7LCG

The Astatic PDC2 SWR & power meter is an analog device having two analog meters. Everything written in this article is in function for other models having two analog meters, where we are mostly interested in obtaining the best tuning and we care less for the precision of measurements.



Astatic PDC2 is sold as a CB device for tuning the CB transmission end and CB antenna. But looking at its specifications, one can understand it is also usable for ham radio bands:

<https://www.bobscb.com/shop/product/1246/Astatic-PDC2---Compact-SWRRF-Power-Meter-100-Watt-Load-Capacity-17-150MHz-Meter/#:~:text=Frequency%20Range%201.7%20to%20150,10%20Watts%20and%20100%20Watts>

- Compact SWR/RF Power Meter Measures Up to 100 Watts In 2 Ranges
- Also Reads Field Strength
- Includes Antenna for Use as Field Strength Meter
- Frequency Range 1.7 to 150 MHz
- 52 ohm Impedance
- Switchable RF Power Settings of 10 Watts and 100 Watts
- SO-239 UHF connector on each end to connect to radio (jumper required) and antenna
- UPC 0093642016560
- Color: Black
- Manufacturer's Limited Warranty - 1 Year

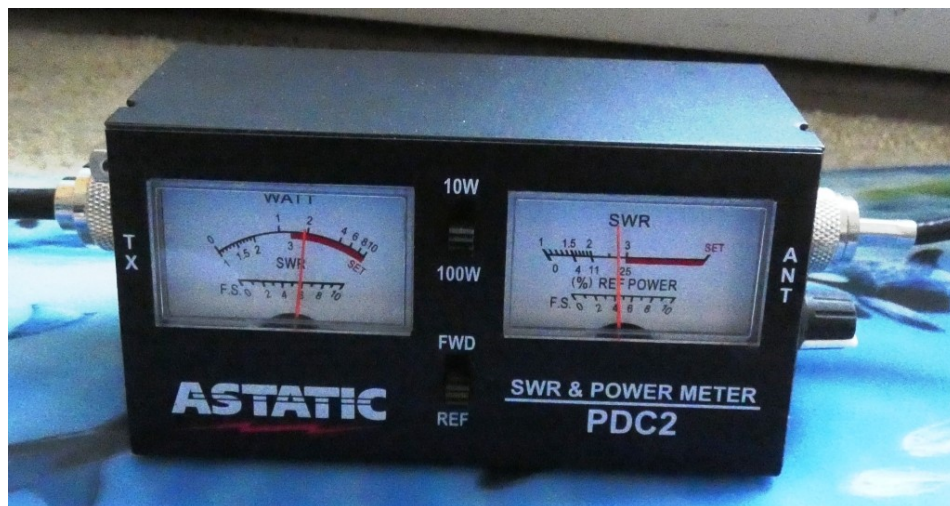
Such an analog device is by no means a precision instrument, but can be fun to work with and can do a good job for obtaining the best in a given situation.

We start by connecting the transmitter on the left side, on the connector labeled TX and the antenna on the right side, labeled ANT. The upper button selects the power and it should be at 100 Watts. The lower button should be at FWD. Now transmit a carrier.



The right side potentiometer must now be rotated until the indicator on the right meter is at the maximum of the red zone, where the meter indicates SET. My transmitter generates 20 Watts towards the antenna (see left meter), so I required the 100 W scale range. If the indicator is very low, just move the slider into the 10 W position, and re-adjust the potentiometer to move the needle to SET, at the end of the red zone, in the right meter.

Switch the transmitter OFF, into the receiver position.



Move the lower slider into the REF (reflected) position. Transmit again. Now we can read the SWR on the right meter. As you can see my antenna is not great at 3. (I used a 2 meter transceiver, with a different antenna not designed for 2 meter).

On the left meter we can still measure the power injected into the antenna (around 20 W). This is not a precise measurement. I can go and trim the antenna to $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength and the reflected wave would be less and I would obtain a better SWR. It is good practice not to take any measurements after adjusting the antenna without first re-calibrating the meter. So switch the lower slider into the FWD position, key on the transmitter switch again and adjust the potentiometer for the needle for the right meter to the end of the red zone (SET). Then key OFF the transmitter, move the slider into the REF position, and key the transmitter on again.

A youtube video which is only 4 minutes and 31 seconds can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXgWQi2-_KI

What amateur radio clubs and services are worth paying for?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the amateurradio subreddit (<https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/>), someone asked:

I have always wondered what subscriptions/memberships are worth having? Is ARRL worth the \$50/year? What about QRZ \$30/year for XML data? Is there something that is a must have ?

Several replied in the affirmative about the ARRL:

I joined the ARRL so they can lobby for amateur radio when needed.

I think ARRL is worth it.

If you care about things like DXCC awards, and are in the US, you will need to be an ARRL member. Now that QEX, The National Contest Journal, On the Air and QST digital are all member benefits, I would say you get enough for your \$50 to make it worthwhile

Of course, there were differing opinions:

They [expletive deleted] up the Parity Act so badly that it's almost hilarious. ARRL will never see a dime from me.

There were a lot of comments about subscribing to QRZ.Com:

I spend a bunch of time on QRZ every day, and I log every contact in their logbook, and then send it to LoTW, so the XML is well worth it. Also, will all the time on the forums and the articles I spend I enjoy not having the ads, and supporting what I believe is a fantastic website.

QRZ is worth it so you can integrate with logging software or if you want upload your ADIF file from WSJT-X, if you do FT8, that sort of thing.

I've never felt the need for a QRZ subscription. Only when I was the noobest of noobs and couldn't tell the difference between ON4 and OH2 did I ever run up the 100 lookup a day limit. Now with...alternate... lookup services even hitting the limit might not matter for most hams.

There were some comments about supporting local groups:

You should definitely seek out your local club(s) and join whatever ones seem like a good fit to you. You can learn a lot from a good club, and having a couple of hands to help with antennas/ loan equipment is a fantastic benefit.

I donated to the repeater I use the most.

As for me, I am a member of the ARRL, and at various times, have been a member of:

AMSAT

Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS)

TAPR

QRP Amateur Radio Club Intl. (QRP-ARCI)

Quarter Century Wireless Assn. (QCWA)

Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF)

Michigan QRP Club

ARROW – the amateur radio club here in Ann Arbor

My membership is current in AMSAT, ARLHS, QRP-ARCI, MI QRP Club, and ARROW.

I would encourage you to become an ARRL member and a member of other groups that serve your particular interest in amateur radio. I like operating from lighthouses, so I'm a member of ARLHS. If you're a big DXer, join NCDXF. If you're a QRPer, then QRP-ARCI is the group for you. Becoming a member really will help you have more fun with amateur radio.

You probably belong to your local club if you're reading this column, but I'm curious about what other amateur radio subscriptions you have or which services you pay for. Feel free to email me and let me know which groups you support and why you do so.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (<https://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/>), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (<https://icqpodcast.com>). When he's not paying his dues, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the low end of the HF bands.





CANWARN 2021 and Beyond: A Special Event

<https://www.rac.ca/canwarn-2021-and-beyond/>

For immediate release:

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the national association for Amateur Radio in Canada, is pleased to present a special event for Amateurs and non-Amateurs: **CANWARN 2021 and Beyond.**

CANWARN (CANadian Weather Amateur Radio Network) is a network of volunteer Amateur Radio operators who observe and report both winter and summer severe weather conditions.

In this special one-on-one session, Jason Tremblay, VE3JXT, RAC Community Services Officer, and Geoff Coulson, Warning Preparedness Meteorologist, will discuss the past, present and future of CANWARN – which like everything else has been impacted by the global pandemic.

Although formal training may not happen as often in the future due to resource pressures, online training materials and the continued interest of Amateur Radio clubs to set up CANWARN nets during potentially severe events will ensure the continuity of storm reporting through Amateur Radio for years to come.

Date: Wednesday, June 9

Time: 7 pm EDT

Cost: There is no registration fee for this event.

Biographies:

Geoff Coulson, Warning Preparedness Meteorologist:

"Geoff Coulson has been a Meteorologist for 37 years. He worked for Environment Canada for 35 of those years as an Operational Forecaster, Trainer, Outreach Officer and Warning Preparedness Meteorologist (WPM).

As a WPM, he provided a variety of clients with weather information from media to other levels of government and the private sector. He managed the CANWARN Storm Spotter Program in Ontario and sat on the Provincial Flood and Forecasting Committee for a number of years.

Since retirement, Geoff has continued to provide weather presentations and has returned to Environment Canada on a part-time basis to help with specific projects. Recently, he began to learn to play the digital piano. His wife is very happy the digital piano has a headphone jack."

Jason Tremblay, VE3JXT, RAC Community Services Officer:

Jason Tremblay, VE3JXT, has served as RAC Community Services Officer since January 1, 2020. He received his Amateur Radio certification in 2014 and served as the Emergency Coordinator for the Barrie and South Simcoe ARES team for three years and as the District Emergency Coordinator for the Lakes District in Ontario for two years.

Jason's focus has been on promoting and educating his local communities about Amateur Radio and the benefits of the service in our community. He previously served as the Director of Community Services for the Barrie Amateur Radio Club and served as its Vice-President, and worked with the public and community groups and other organizations for public and educational events.

Jason's background is in Emergency Services and Security. He previously volunteered with St John Ambulance and with the Red Cross as an Instructor and a member of Disaster Services, where he "learned about working with others and the critical need for great support and defined training systems".

Jason resides with his wife and family in Beeton, Ontario and is a member of the Barrie Amateur Radio Club.

Registration: Please register now by clicking on the following link:

https://adric-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5AlcumtpjIqHdxFSfjGrpxwcr3P_QciZ03e

Additional information about CANWARN:

CANWARN (CANadian Weather Amateur Radio Network) is a network of volunteer Amateur Radio operators who observe and report both winter and summer severe weather conditions.

Severe storms can occur at any time of the year. Spring and summer thunderstorms can flare up suddenly and race along at speeds in excess of 80 km/h. Large hail, damaging winds, flash floods and tornadoes are all linked to severe thunderstorms. Large-scale fall and winter storms can deliver significant impacts over a broad area. Heavy snow, freezing rain, rain and strong winds can occur with these storms.

CANWARN volunteers are trained to look for clues in the sky as to which spring and summer storms may produce damaging weather. They can also report information like hail size and any damage that has resulted from the passage of a storm. For fall and winter storms, CANWARN volunteers can report things like occurrences of freezing precipitation and snowfall amounts.

These volunteers come from all walks of life: Amateur Radio operators, first responders, government employees and members of the general public with an interest in providing a service to others.

Reports are passed on via Amateur Radio to a network controller who triages the reports and sends the significant ones on to the forecasters of the Ontario Storm Prediction Center in Toronto.

In Ontario, their reports are sent to the Ontario Storm Prediction Centre (OSPC) in Toronto through social media and/or a special email address. These timely reports can help the forecasters better understand the nature of a given storm and help to tailor the messages they send to the public about them.

Jason Tremblay, VE3JXT
RAC Community Services Officer

Alan Griffin
RAC MarCom Director

www.rac.ca

