

SEPTEMBER 2021

Volume 10 Issue 9

# VE3ERC-LUB

President: Ted VE3TRQ Vice-President: Frank VA3FJM

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: <a href="https://ve3erc.ca">https://ve3erc.ca</a>

#### **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.







A portable experience at a remote cabin near Wilno, Ontario. The wire is one leg of a 125 foot dipole. See more on page 4.

## THE PREZ

# This club is Radio-ACTIVE Luis club is Badio-ACTIVE

#### **President's Update for September 2021**

elcome to another year for the Elmira Radio Club. We are still, of course, under the restrictions of the COVID pandemic. I'm sure we are all looking forward to meeting in person again.

We still meet physically Wednesday mornings at the parking lot near the track at the Elmira (Woolwich) Recreation Centre when weather permits. We also meet virtually Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10 AM using the zoom platform (same as we use for Digital Nets). Of course we



have the daily radio nets on the VHF and UHF repeaters, as well as the EchoLink nodes connected to them. These all help us to keep in touch with one another. And don't forget the Thursday evening Digital Net (part social, part technical :-)

We will again miss the Bill Graham (VE3ETK) Memorial SK Dinner this fall - and when we restart those, we will need to find a new restaurant - the Crossroads Restaurant did not survive the pandemic. Maybe a bit further afield, like Anna Mays in Millbank? Think about places we can resume this activity, and remember our Silent Keys.

The goal for meetings this year is to have at least one technical or general interest presentation for each ERC meeting - this will provide more incentive to attend. All administrivia at a meeting makes for less interest!

All are welcome to provide either presentations or presentation suggestions. I will try to get the Diefenbunker presentation made to KWARK last year - it was fascinating. With Zoom, geography presents no limitations.

Also, a hearty welcome to our new members this past year.

Ted VE3TRQ

#### 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

**AUGUST 18 - WES VE3ML** 

**AUGUST 25 - BRIAN VA3DXK** 

SEPTEMBER 1 - BOB VE3IXX

**SEPTEMBER 8 - TED VE3TRO** 

**SEPTEMBER 15 - BILL VA3QB** 

SEPTEMBER 22 - MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 29 - KIRK VA3KXS** 

**OCTOBER 6 - REG VE3RVH** 

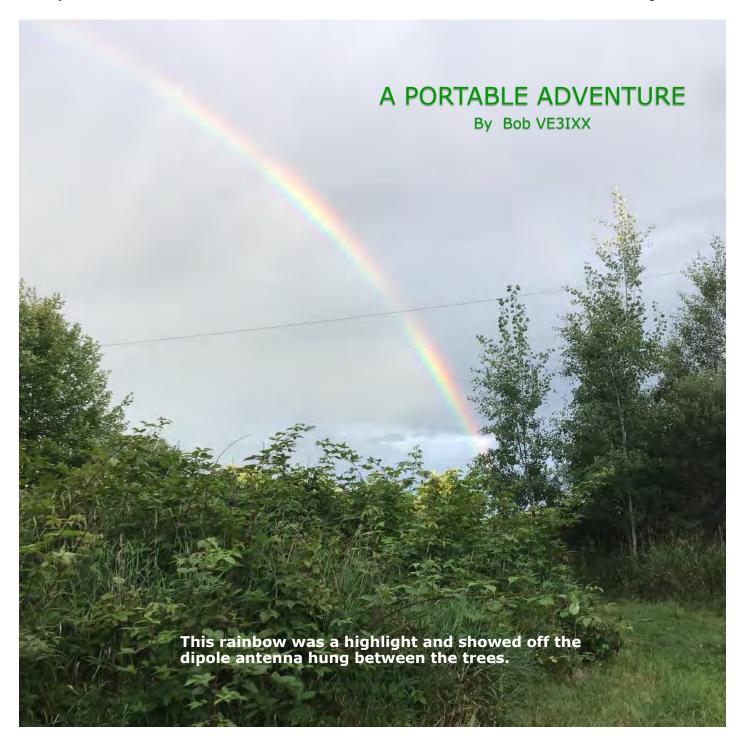
OCTOBER 13 - FRANK VA3FJM

OCTOBER 20 - TOM VE3DXQ

OCTOBER 27 - MEETING

**NOVEMBER 3 - TONY VE3DWI** 

**NOVEMBER 10 - WES VE3ML** 



When the opportunity to rent a remote cabin in the woods near the small hamlet of Wilno came up my wife Bonnie (VA3IXX) and I jumped at the opportunity. Wilno is a small hamlet between Algonquin Park on the west side and the Ottawa Valley on the east side and a two week time for a little rest and relaxation was just what we needed from the stresses of a basement renovation project.

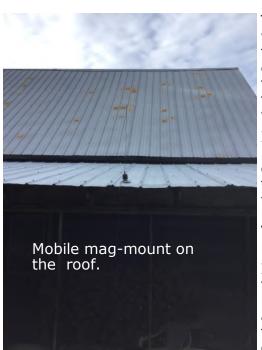
Taking along my HF radio was a given and I easily assembled all the necessities to set a portable station. Certainly there were no lack of trees for a 125 foot dipole antenna which was almost a perfect match on 3.755 Mhz although I still included an antenna tuner to work 40 M, 20 M and the 17 M bands.

But it was my Saturday morning net control on ONTARS that set my portable experience

to an unexpected new high. When I mentioned my location, I had no less then three checkins that were local. VA3IRV, Irving was in



Deacon, a short drive away on Golden Lake, Gordon VE3PY from Cobden which is in the Ottawa Valley and VA3XV Randy from Madawaska which is very close to Algonquin Park. Irving



introduced me to their local vhf repeater on 145.430 Mhz. The repeater, VE3UCR is located in Foymount, Ontario which is approximately 26 km away from our Wilno location. However, what is unusual about Foymount is that it is on a veritable mountain and has an extremely high radio tower on site as it was once a military base. Irving told me that VE3UCR has approximately a 200 km range. Well that was all I needed to know.

I had my Ft-8800 Yaesu mobile in the car so I took my 2M mag-mount antenna and attached it to the tin roof on our cabin and brought the mobile unit in the cabin and attached it to my battery pack. This opened a whole new vista for radio contacts as, besides those three already mentioned, I also talked with Brian VA3BJ and Brad VA3ABG who lives in Barrys Bay. VE3UCR is quite a busy repeater.

Irving talked of riding his motorcycle over for a coffee gettogether but because of time constraints it never happened. However, my daughter had lived in Cobden several years ago and she had asked us to check out their old house there if we should decide to take a drive. We did indeed drive there and I had hoped to meet Gordon VE3PY. He was not available during the day but I did meet his wife Leanne,

#### VE3MLT.

While talking with Randy VA3XV, he invited us to stop in at his home in Madawaska which was coincidentally on our route home. We did indeed stop and visit and Randy gave a wonderful tour of his station and antenna set-up. Randy has a full Delta Loop antenna for 80 M which is centred at the peak of a 65 foot tree and is fed with 450 ohm ladder line. It was quite impressive. Randy sent me some material about his set-up and there are some pictures which are included this issue of the newsletter.



I had some interesting contacts on the HF side as well. The dipole was only about 20 feet up in the air. Yet one of the most stunning received signals was from VK2CR, Peter in Sidney Australia who came through as a 5x5 signal of 20 M. it would have been nice to have made the contact with him but every time I tried, I was beat out by American stations. Peter even made a contact with VE1BB in Nova Scotia. I was prepared to keep at it all night if needed, but unfortunately Peter had to shut down his station and I never made a connection.

However, on the brighter side I did connect with Mike VA6MB in Cold Lake, Alberta and we had a great chat on 17 M right until the band gave out.

If you are planning a get-away, my advice is to bring along a portable station and be prepared for an adventure with lots of surprises.

Here is Bonnie VA3IXX enjoying some "R and R".

## Ways to send QSL cards

(this was information I sent a new Ham)

by Rick Danby VE3BK

- 1. The Incoming Bureau: They get your card from all over the world. You get the majority from the USA and Germany, if you work many there. They have volunteers they get your cards and file them for you, until you send them money for postage and envelopes to mail them to you. There are volunteers for every letter of 3 letter calls and one for all 2 letter calls like mine. I have 2 different volunteers as I have my original call as well as my 2 letter call, so I had to sent them money and addressed labels to both calls, so that they would mail me the cards. This service is done by volunteers (Hams) and is free, but you have to pay for the postage and envelopes. This link is probably the only one you need for both Incoming and Outgoing: https://www.rac.ca/qsl-bureau/
- 2. Outgoing Bureau: You have to be a RAC member to use this. You send cards to whoever you want to send out to, for all over the world and the USA to the outgoing bureau. You put in one envelope, put postage on it to mail to the Outgoing Bureau and they mail it to other Incoming Bureaus in different Countries of the World. This service is free to any member of Radio Amateurs of Canada. Check out the link to find out limitations on number and size of cards and envelopes that can be mailed at a time. QSL cards should be a standard size and the amounts they want you to mail them are all on the RAC website.
  - 3. Direct Mail QSOs: These are the ones to you direct in the mail, sent

to you by whoever you worked on the radio. You are at the mercy of the Post Offices, here and there, as to how fast you get them, or how fast the ones you send out are received. I usually find that the snail mail is not as bad as some people make out. So, I usually mail out any I get direct mail as soon as I can, and the ones I get via the Bureau, I send back via the Bureau. The guys you work, like DX stations you really want a card from, you would usually send them a card direct, with a return addressed envelope and US greenbacks (USA dollar bills) or an IRC from the post office. Keep in mind that we are not supposed to send money via mail, but all Hams do it for OSLs. Usually 2 greenbacks to the USA and maybe \$5 us to South American countries or Europe, but you may consider IRCs (International Return Curency) instead for those places. You get IRCs from other hams mailing you cards or you buy them from the Post Office, or sometimes other Hams might be selling them. They are usually pretty expensive, because they really take care of any postage from anywhere in the World. The Ham that gets one, can go to the post office and get a one stamp to mail back a card to the guys that sent him the IRC. If go to cash one in at the Post Office, the best you can do is a stamp good for an Overseas mailing or International Stamp. I think they are much more than a local stamp, but IRCs are more expensive than one of these stamps. Also you have to keep in mind, IRCs usually have an expiry date of them, so this is why many Hams use greenbacks.

- 4. eQsl (Electronic QSLs): You can join eQSL for free to send out generic electronic QSLs, or you can pay for membership, so that you can use your own designed card and receive one card in the mail every month. This is what I have for myself and for our Clubb. You can go to: https://www.eqsl.cc/QSLCard/Home4G.cfm to read all about it. When you work someone, you can send in your ADI file from you logging program or your contest program and the other guy does the same, then you both confirm the contact in you inbox and after you confirm it, it goes into an online archive. I get them to send me a hard copy, every few months, after I have let it go a few months, so they can send me a few cards at a time, privledge of my Gold Membership to eQSL. A lot of Hams use this, but many don't like this one, they either don't like electronic QSLs or they use the other ones. You can check me out at: http://www.eqsl.cc/Member.cfm?VE3BK
  - 5. Log Book of the World: This is done via the ARRL. You have to download special software for this, and I am not sure if you have to be an ARRL member to have this or not. I do not personally use this one as I started using eQSL as it was available first, plus I didn't really like the idea of installing more software on my computer. Some of the Contesters I know, think this is the only way to go because of the many contacts they make contesting. Some of the logging programs will go directly into this. I am not sure how it really works, but if you want to check it out, go to: http://arrl.net/searches/results
- 6. QRZ.com: This is where most Hams go to find a call: https://www.qrz.com/lookup/ve3dc but you have to have a login to get all the information available. QRZ has an online logbook, which works as a way to do Electronic logging too. They started this after eQsl and LOTW. Some Hams think that this is the way to go and use it all the time. Personally I don't use it, even though I have an online log that they started me with, for that and the Club callsign. If you have an account there, you can check out the logbook of VE3BK and VE3DC to see some of the electronic cards we received. I did confirm a few of them, but gave up as too much, we use eQSL, Bureau and direct, That is plenty.

Notes: The are other places like QRZ you might want to check out, like: World Lookup when not in QRZ

https://hamcall.net/call Canadian Calls https://apc-cap.ic.gc.ca/pls/apc\_anon/query\_amat\_cs\$.startup

01

https://hamster.foxhollow.ca/ccd/?keywords=Panopoulos&searchType=1&db=1995-08 or the US FCC one

https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchAmateur.jsp

With these,

you can lookup to see if they are legit Hams and get their address

I personally like the Direct QSL cards or Bureau QSL cards, because I have something in my hand to look at and read. I save them up in a photo album, which is perfect for this, available at most Walmart stores. It has plastic sheets with pockets in them that readily holds a standard size QSL. You can put in 2 in one pocket if they only have writing on one side, one backwards to see it on the opposite side of that page. They work great. I quit putting them in the holders to hang on the wall as I have too many QSL cards for that, even though some hams do it that way still, and have their shacks wallpapered in QSLs, not for me hi hi.

OK, we covered a lot, any questions, email me back. Hope this explains QSLing for you. This is something no one teaches, you learn on your own after you become a Ham, same as many things in Ham Radio.

#### 73 Rick VE3BK

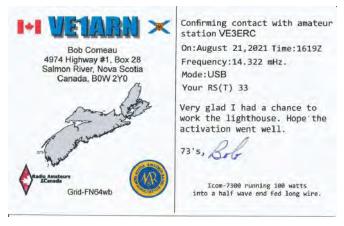


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### **CORRESPONDENCE**

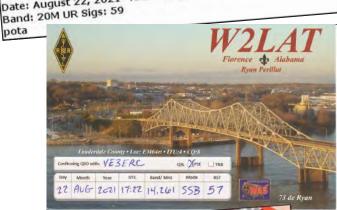
Kirk VA3KXS had set up a station at Point Clark for the Lighthouse Lightship Weekend which we highlighted in the last issue of the newsletter. Kirk sent along pictures of the QSL cards he received from his contacts. Here is just a sampling of some of those cards.

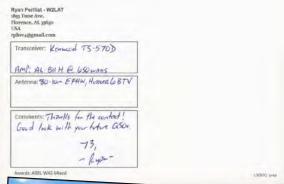




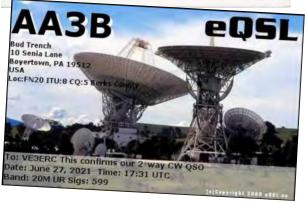














# From the

# **PAST**



This was the Elmira Club's QSL card for the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival in March of 2015. The card was designed by Al VA3TET.

### **ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc. - Meeting Minutes**

June 23, 2021

**Attendance - Members** 

Bill Reid VA3QB

Bob Koechl VE3IXX

Bruce McLellan VE3QB

Doug Kuhn VE3CXU

Graham Bauman VE3BYP

Harold Braun VE3CD

Jack Sinclair VA3WPJ

James Litwiller VE3JLC

Jim Heidmiller VE3JMU

John Linnerth VE3OVO

Judd Hodge N4WXU/VE3WXU

Ken Buehler VE3KCY

Linda Willis VE3CZ

Mike Willis VE3FE

Rich Clausi VE3DCC

Thomas Daniel VA3VRA

Tom Mahony VE3DXQ

Tony Lelieveld VE3DWI

#### **Attendance - Officers**

Ted Rypma VE3TRQ - President
Paul Curtin VA3PDC – Treasurer
Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS – Secretary

#### **Guests**:

**Meeting Location:** Zoom

#### **Meeting Minutes**

#### 1. Call to Order:

a. Meeting was called to order by President, Ted Rypma VE3TRQ at 7:33pm 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. The agenda was circulated via email prior to the meeting and Ted displayed a copy on the screen.
  - i. Paul VA3PDC proposed watching a 20 minute YouTube video as the Presentation this evening.

b. MOTION to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion by: Bill VA3QB

**Carried** 

- 4. Presentation Paul Curtin VA3PDC
  - a. YouTube Video: "Getting started in Parks on the Air K8MRD Radio" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQr5NoNY6Pc
- 5. Secretary Report: Presented by Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS.
  - a. Correspondence Received:
    - i. Several eQSL and physical cards received from Field Day and the ILLW event, which were displayed during the slide show at the start of the meeting and will be shared via Groups.io.
  - b. Minutes of the June 23, 2021 meeting were emailed to members on the same day.
    - i. No errors were noted
  - c. MOTION to approve the minutes of May 26, 2021.

Motion By: Kirk VA3KXS

**Carried** 

- 6. Treasurers Report: Presented by Paul Curtin VA3PDC
  - a. Details of transactions for the months of June, July & August were displayed on screen.
  - Paul expressed thanks on behalf of the Club to past President Brian Filbey VA3DXK for his hard work in past years and expressed wishes for a speedy recovery. Paul also congratulated our new President, Ted Rypma VE3TRQ and Vice-President, Frank Monteith VA3FJM on their new positions.
  - c. <u>MOTION</u> to approve the financial statements for June, July and August of 2021.

Motion By: Paul VA3PDC

**Carried** 

- 7. Presidents Report: Presented by President Ted Rypma VE3TRQ.
  - a. Ted welcomed members to another year of club activities. Monthly club meetings will be held virtually for some time due to renovations happening at the firehall. There are several other events happening for club members, such as Wednesday morning coffee meetings in the parking lot at the Woolwich Community Center in Elmira. We also have Friday virtual meetings and Thursday digital nets with virtual meetings. Members are welcome to attend any and all of these meetings.
  - b. The Silent key dinner will not take place this year partially due to COVID-19 and partially due to lack of venue.
  - c. The intent this year is to have at least 1 technical or other presentation per meeting to give folks incentive to attend. Everyone is welcome to provide ideas for presenters or presentations. Members are welcome to give their own presentations. Will try to arrange a presentation from the group that manages the Diefenbunker.
  - d. Welcome to Linda & Mike who are present and welcome to other new members who were unable to attend.
  - e. If anyone knows of anyone who would like to join the Elmira Radio Club, please invite them to email ve3erc@gmail.com.

#### 8. Committee Reports:

- a. Spring Field Day Committee Bill Reid VA3QB
  - i. Plan for next year is to use the runway on highway 86 & Northfield. Going to approach the owners soon.
- b. International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS
  - i. We had a successful activation of the Point Clark lighthouse on both Saturday and Sunday with around 112 total contacts.
  - ii. The area was busy and many locals stopped by to ask where the rest of the club members were as they recall events from past years.
  - iii. It is hoped that we can have a much larger presence next year.
- c. Repeater Technical Committee Bill Reid VA3QB / Tony VE3DWI
  - i. October is repeater month and volunteers will be needed. We plan to cover the doors of the repeater cabinets at the feedmill.
  - ii. Ted needs to contact Netflash to ask if we can get access to the Internet so we can connect to the Alma repeater.
  - iii. The firehall repeater is still with Tony, and likely won't be worked on this month. The UHF and link radios were very spotty this morning, Ted needs to investigate the antenna at his house.
  - iv. We need to find some time to spend at the feed mill to investigate an intermittent issue with the repeater that occurs randomly. May need to change jumpers or adjust the duplexer as it appears some de-sense is occurring. We may also consider replacing the duplexer with a better one.

#### 10. New Business:

- a. Bill VA3QB suggested investigating renting a room at the Woolwich Community center or perhaps Lions Hall in Elmira for an October meeting.
  - i. Ted VE3TRQ agreed to investigate both options and report back to the Executive to see if it can be arranged for October.
  - ii. Rich VA3DCC indicated the Elmira Legion rent is around \$113.
- b. eQSL membership renewal Kirk VA3KXS
  - i. MOTION to reimburse Kirk VA3KXS the sum of \$12 USD upon receipt of payment for renewal of Bronze membership at eQSL.cc

Motion By: Kirk VA3KXS

Carried

c. Public Event Coordinator position - Paul VA3PDC

- i. Al VA3TET used to perform this role. The position is essentially performing public relations for the club, coordinating with 3rd parties for the various events we participate in throughout the year (CAER, Maple Syrup Festival, Field Day, ILLW, etc).
- ii. If you like meeting new people, this could be a fun role. If you are interested, please let someone on the Executive know.
- d. Ideas for Presentations / Speakers / Workshops Ted VE3TRQ
  - i. Please pass along any ideas for presentations or speakers. If anyone has ideas for construction projects that everyone could get involved in, bring those forward as well.
  - ii. Bill suggested that fox hunts could be a fun event, perhaps late spring next year. Have the hunt run for a morning and meet for a meal afterwards. Provides an opportunity to build directional antennas with attenuators for the hunters. Rich has participated in a fox hunt with a metal box with an antenna to act as the fox, so it's a bit harder to find.

#### 11. Announcements

a. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

#### 12. Adjournment

a. MOTION to adjourn at 8:53pm

Motion By: Paul VA3PDC

Carried

#### **Action Sheet:**

Action Required	Reference(s)	Action By	<b>Deadline Date</b>
Investigate whether Woolwich Community Center or the Elmira Lions Club Hall are possible options for an October meeting and report to Executive.	10.a.i	Ted VE3TRQ	October 20, 2021
Pay annual fee for eQSL.cc Bronze membership	10.b.i	Kirk VA3KXS	October 1, 2021

## **THE 80m DELTA LOOP**

### By Randy Yakabuski VA3XV

This is not a complex antenna. If you have room for an 80m inverted V @ minimum 60' height, you may have room for a delta. The key is, you will need roughly an 80' - 90' free line of space for the bottom horizontal portion. Fortunately for my location, space is not an issue. The antenna runs along a bush line on the edge of the yard and the apex attached near the top of a 70' spruce tree.

The antenna can be fed in different ways using different types of lines. The method I chose for myself is inexpensive and find more efficient. (You don't have to worry about cutting for exact resonant length).

My application: 268' total length #12 AWG coated stranded wire, apex height @ around 65', horizontal bottom height 3' – 4' fed @ middle point with 100' of 450-ohm ladder line (horizontally polarized). About 1 DB gain over a dipole.

I initially tried this antenna vertically polarized for a month (optimum feed

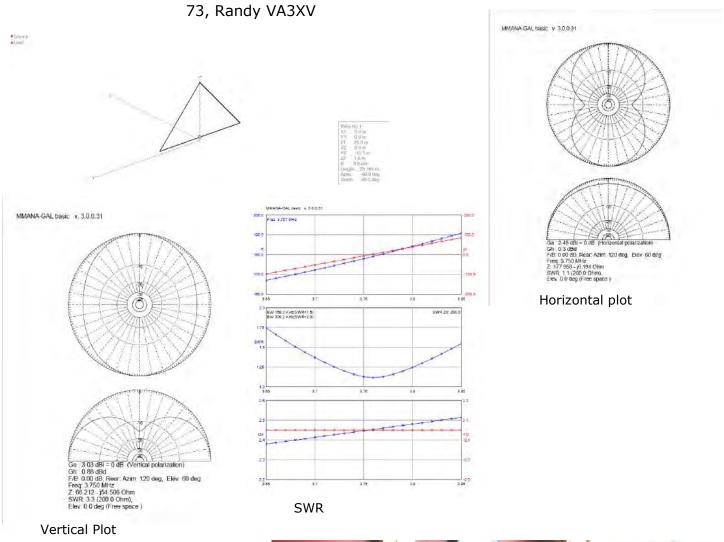
Barely Visible left vertical leg of the Delta loop going to top of tree

point is 1/4 wavelength down one leg from the top apex) and found it performed well for DX. However, local signals were down about 4 s-units on both RX and TX compared to a dipole or inverted V which I expected due to the polarity and lower angle-of-radiation. I then switched



the feed to horizontal and found it much better for local contacts without compromising overall gain, so I kept it this way. When vertical, it does have a somewhat omnidirectional pattern. When horizontal, it acts much like a dipole with maximum radiation at 90 degrees on either side or (broadside). The antenna is very quiet and wide banded. When tuned through the tuner SWR is under 2:1 between 3.6 - 3.9 MHz! It will load up on any band without much issue. However, it does not like 10m (RF in the shack). A good 1:1 current balun outside the shack then coax into the station might fix that.

I ran this design through MMANA-GAL basic antenna modelling software and attached the far -field radiation plot charts of both polarities for viewing.



Randy at his station.

