



DECEMBER 2021

Volume 10 Issue 12

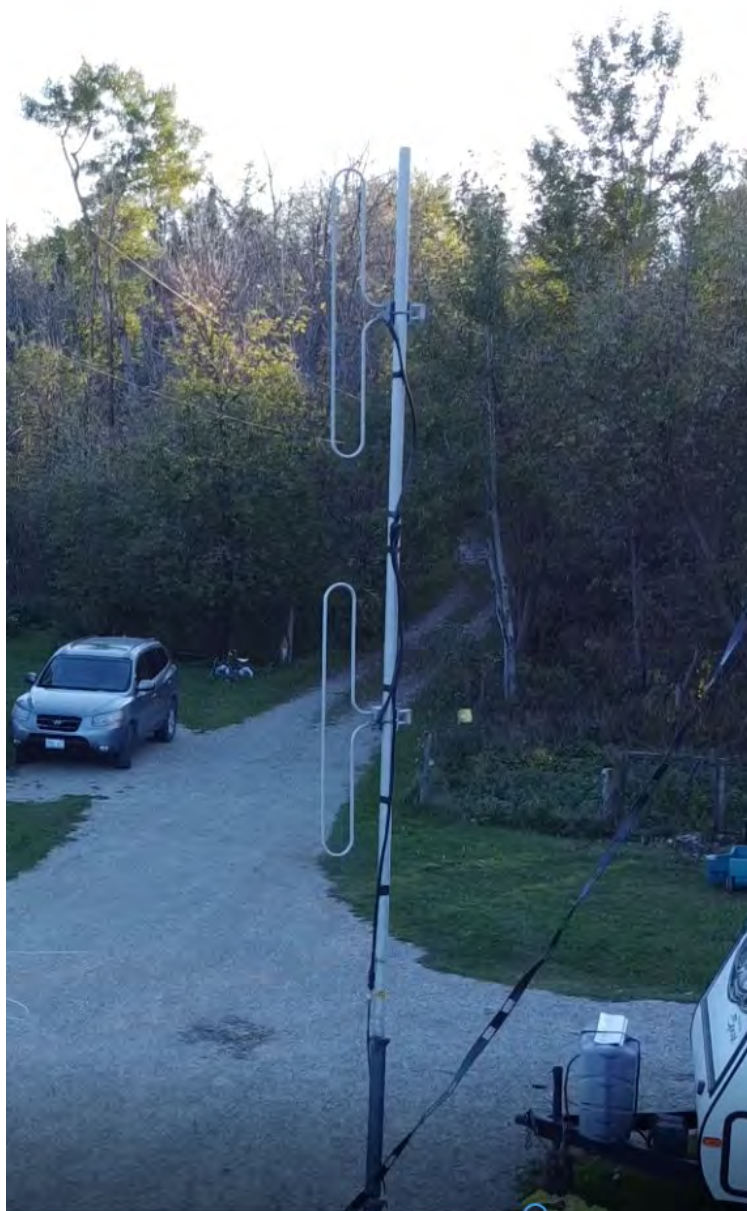
# VE3ERC-LUB

**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:** <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.**



The two metre antenna above the station that enjoyed a most remarkable visit from none other than Santa Claus. See page 8.



Radio Amateurs  
of Canada

# THE PREZ

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

## President's Update for December 2021

**W**ell, it's a new year, with hopefully some in-person meetings coming sometime in the future. The challenges to getting together physically have been many: first COVID arrived, then Firehall renovations started on the space we use to meet, then cold weather prevented our Wednesday coffee get togethers outside in Elmira. Thanks to John VE3OVO, we at least have a warm space now in the winter to meet - hopefully this new virus variant won't end that time together also. We will just have to see. At least we still have our regular Zoom meetings, including the monthly ERC meeting, Wednesday and Friday social meetings, and the Thursday evening Digital Nets.



Once we are able to start meeting physically together, we should continue also to use Zoom in order to facilitate distant speakers, and to allow attendance by those not being able to make it to a meeting. The Firehall has a nice large monitor, so all we need is a laptop and Internet connection, which the Firehall also has. And speaking of making it to meetings, I hope soon I won't need to depend on others to go places - not being able to drive is a drag!

Rich VE3DCC and Tom VE#DXQ are starting the process of finding ERC officers to nominate for next year. It is traditional for the positions of President and Vice President to be for two years, but if you have a hankering to be more involved in Club affairs, speak to either one about your wishes (or suggest someone you feel is a good fit).

All the best in the New Year, good DX, and hope to talk to you on the radio and in person again soon.

Ted VE3TRQ

## A TRIBUTE TO AL MACDONALD VA3TET-SK

### My History of Research with Alan Macdonald VE3TET

Alan and I became acquainted when I joined the Elmira Amateur Radio Club in 2011. We all know Alan was clever, astute, witty and always ready to give or enjoy a good joke. But Alan was also a great innovator. He had a strong background in commercial electronics and of course Amateur Radio theory and practice. In the late 1990s, he became interested in an invention, by my now partner, Ted Hart of Georgia, USA. Ted had patented the EH Antenna which implemented the Poynting Vector approach, which Ted had experimentally demonstrated. RF radiation was shown to come off the antenna directly with no reactive electromagnetic region as with the common Hertz Dipole Antenna. This was state-of-the-art technology of the time and quite frankly still is. It allowed for a small antenna to do a pretty good job of amateur radio communication. Hence, allowed persons with small back yards, apartments, condos, field operation to have effective communications.

Alan decided that he would build a 20m EH antenna of his own design and make this a building project for the Elmira Amateur Radio Club. This is exactly what he did way back in 2002, a first here in Canada amongst the nation's amateur radio operators! The antenna is about six feet in length whereas a Hertz Dipole was 35 feet in length, a reduction of over 7:1 ! This was called the Super T. There is a chapter in my book with Ted Hart (The Poynting Vector Antenna™, available on Amazon) re Super T for further detailed information.



In 2012 Ted Hart and I started looking at cones as EH elements. I mentioned this to Alan and we embarked on what now is called the Ultra T. The length was only about 3 feet so the reduction ratio became almost 12:1 in size!! You can look up details for this antenna on the Elmira Amateur Club site-the Ultra T.



Alan was always interested in building an EH Poynting Antenna that exhibited front-to-back ratio, that is, a directive antenna with gain if that was possible. This endeavour lasted for a number of years as we encountered only very moderate success. This search continued until the Covid19 ended our R&D meetings. It was always great fun working with Alan for a couple of hours each 2 or 3 month intervals. Lots of great discussions and I learned so much from his expertise.

[Al was also a great prankster.]

Al told me a great story of a prank he played on a fellow amateur in the USA. (BTW Al hated the use of the word "ham" favouring amateur radio operator! )



Al was operating with ~ 100 watts but had a linear amplifier handy.

After making contact, the ham said Al's signal was just over the noise, a bit low for a good copy.

Sharp Al said the following to this fellow:

" Just hold on a bit while I swing my 160m 3-element beam your way !! "

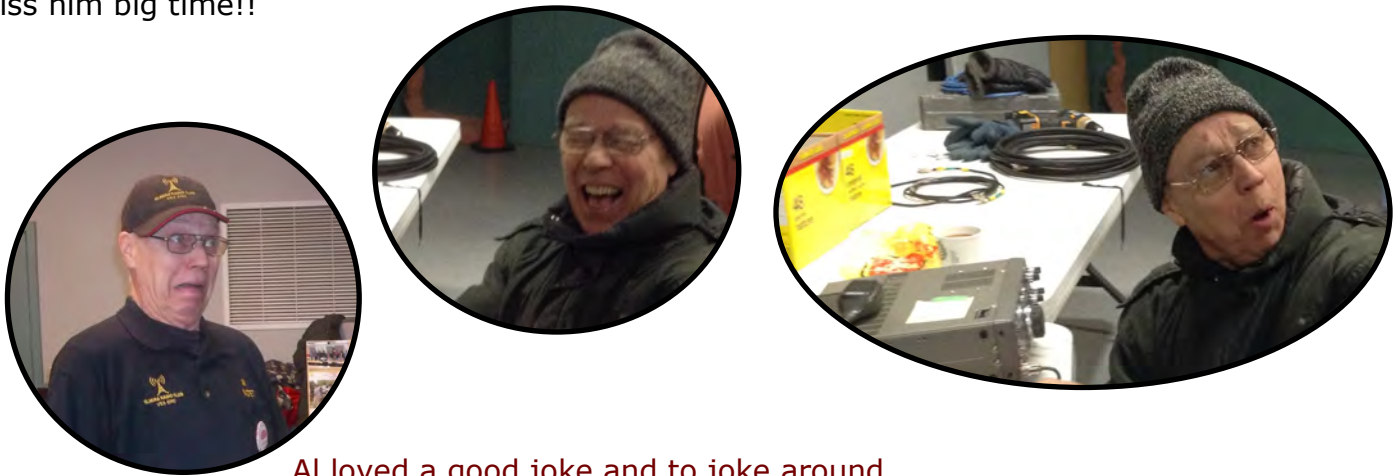
Al quickly flipped on the linear to lowest setting while the tubes warmed up

After about 30 seconds Al started talking to the ham while he slowly but continually turned up the power on the linear, a delta, from 100 to 600 watts.

It was one of the funniest stories Al told to me, but taught me a lot about Al.

Sharp, smart, quick witted and **always ready for a joke**, Al and I had a ball together at most meetings !! and yes a great cook, always made me fresh coffee from beans when we were together for "Poynting Vector Antenna talks and development of related ideas. Al introduced the PVA to the Elmira Club in 2002 !!

Miss him big time!!



Al loved a good joke and to joke around.

Paul Victor Birke, BAsC, MEng, PEng VE3PVB

Guelph 21.12.2021



For anyone who never met Al VA3TET, here is a picture of Al, his wife Joan and Santa Frank VA3FJM. I took this picture at the last Christmas dinner Al organized at Luther Village Sunshine Centre on Dec. 5th 2018. He will be missed by all.

73, Tony VE3DWI

Was looking at the ONTARS SK page and noticed a listing for Alan MacDonald VA3TET.

VERY saddened to read of his death. I got to know Al many years ago through a mutual friend, a former Windsorite and avid ham radio operator, Mike Dent VA3FTL / VE3JN. I made the trek down to KW to visit Mike more than a few times and each time I also had an enjoyable visit with Al.

It was a decade ago that Mike Dent joined the ranks of the Silent Keys but I was able to continue to have comms with Alan as work had me constantly on the road between Windsor and Toronto. When I was within comm range of KW I knew that I could share a few words with Alan and always we brought up our friend Mike.

I know that Alan was one of the movers and shakers within the Elmira club and am sure that he will be deeply missed within it's ranks.

Alan was perhaps my last link to our mutual friend Mike and upon reading that VA3TET had passed it brought back so many great memories.

All the best to Alan's family and to the members of the Elmira Radio Club.

**73, Bill Leal VE3ES**

**Windsor, ON**

**President, Sun Parlour ARC in Leamington.**



**From  
the**

**PAST**



Al, VA3TET-SK who often referred to his call sign as  
"VA3 Tasty Edible Treats"  
enjoying himself at Field Day in 2014.



### **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](mailto:bobve3ixx@gmail.com)  
(519-787-2279)**



### **WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**NOVEMBER 24 - MEETING**

**DECEMBER 1 - TED VE3TRQ**

**DECEMBER 8 - BILL VA3QB**

**DECEMBER 15 - KIRK VA3KXS**

**DECEMBER 22 - MEETING**

**DECEMBER 29 - REG VE3RVH**

**2022 JANUARY 5 - FRANK VA3FJM**

**JANUARY 12 - TOM VE3DXQ**

**JANUARY 19 - TONY VE3DWI**

**JANUARY 26 - MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 2 - BRIAN VA3DXK**

**FEBRUARY 9 - BOB VE3IXX**

## VISIT FROM THE NORTH POLE

On December 17 and 18, Santa Claus (alias Frank VA3FJM) took time off from his busy schedule at the North Pole to embrace more modern technology than the standard chimney climbs and talk to children of all ages on ONTARS.



I brought two of my granddaughters aged four and two and a half to look through the window of my shack where they saw in wide-eyed wonder none other than Santa himself.

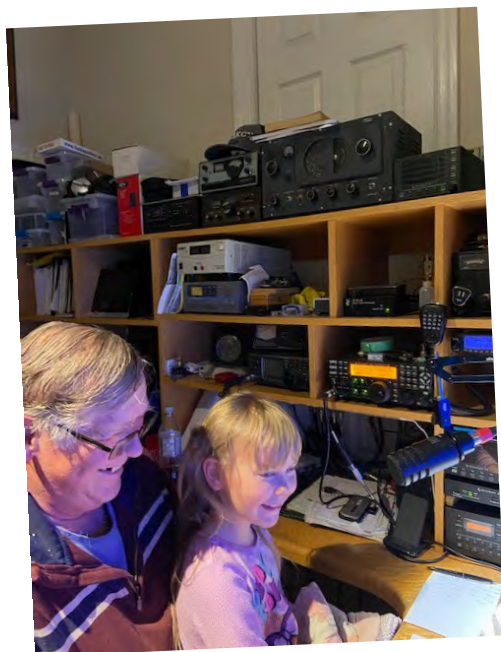






For one hour on each of the two days Santa managed to talk to a good number of children from the large area covered by ONTARS. It was very successful and Santa hopes to do even better next year. A lot of fun was had by all.

73 Bob VE3IXX



Ken VE3KCY sent a picture of his granddaughter Addie talking to Santa on ONTARS.



But not everyone was impressed. Here is 11 month old Zelig who was not adverse to showing her disapproval.

**Merry Christmas Ho Ho Ho**

## "To QRP or NOT to QRP... That is the Question"

Back in November of this year, Tracy McKim VE3TWM gave a talk on running portable stations. In his discourse he suggested having a additional QRP transceiver to use for such occasions. His argument was that QRP rigs put much less stress on the battery packs used for stations set up in wilderness areas.

Well this set a flurry of discussion on the emails. Many argued that if you are going to spend good money on a rig, you might as well get a 100 watt transceiver and simply turn the power down. Following is a letter from Terry VE3XTM who presented a most interesting viewpoint.

Let me give you my experience with QRP. Until last month I owned an ELAD FDM-Duo which is an Italian-made QRP rig. It is an excellent rig, but not inexpensive. I was interested in having a QRP only rig. One can always add on an amplifier if one so desires, but there are special challenges running QRP vs running a 100W rig. I laughed when I saw [the] comment that some people consider 100W QRP these days and with the over abundance of HF amplifiers out there, indeed 100W is, while not QRP, decidedly low power.

My very first contact with the ELAD was to Columbia. I heard two hams talking in Spanish to each other with good strong signals. I waited for a lull in the conversation and threw out my call-sign. Much to my surprise, they came back to me, fortunately in English, and acknowledged my call. I told them I was trying out a new rig and they asked me if I had an amplifier connected to it as my signal was 10 over! I told them I was operating at about 4W and they were amazed at the strength of my signal and they also commented on the high quality of the audio. I was very pleased with their reports for sure. I think I was favoured by very good band condition on that day. I think it was on 20m, but I can't remember precisely now. I was using a multi-band vertical antenna with the rig.

If you are intent on going QRP then you will have a lot of wait time under regular band conditions. You will not break pileups with a QRP rig and many won't be able to or will be too lazy to come back to your call, given that it will most probably be down in signal strength. It has been my experience that many operators are drawn to the loudest signals when they are handling pileups. It is easier and there are many of them. But, and it is a big but, I think anyone can put an amp on a 100W rig and blow the competition out of the water so to speak, but where is the challenge in that?

I used the ELAD to check into various nets and have found many of them are becoming more aware of QRP operators and see their signals as a challenge for their stations and antenna arrays. For sure, most of the work is being done by those who have great antenna systems and can pull your signal out of the mud. Some nets are now taking time to pause the high-watt guys and asking only for low-power and QRP stations to check in. When this is done, it is amazing how many people can hear your 5 or less watts of power output. I also found that people on the nets were then keen to make contact with a low power station so that they could "test" their stations receive ability. Not all nets do this and certainly during contest times the high wattage stations will prevail, but I do think the challenges of QRP are worth the time spent to make those contacts. I would often add QRP to the end of my call so that prospective contacts would be aware that there was a QRPer out there trying to make contact. I think it helped and some operators are aware that the low power stations present a much bigger challenge than some guy running the legal limit. Often people will ask you what rig you are running and if it is indeed a QRP rig they will note that. If you are operating with a 100W rig turned down in power, they may be a bit skeptical about your claims of low power, as it does leave an element of doubt.

So, in summary, I think QRP can be a lot of fun, but you will need to have much patience, a good antenna and good band conditions to make it work for you. If you think you may get easily frustrated by long wait times and a much lower number of contacts, then it is probably not the way to go. I think it is worth the time to at least give it a go. With QRP it is a matter of quality over quantity in my estimation.

**73 Terry VE3XTM**

# SAGA OF A SHORT WAVE RECEIVER

By Tom Daniel VA3VRA

Saga of the shortwave receiver that will illustrate my immense knowledge and expertise with electronics, something that Hams should have, given the vast training and mentoring they've received, to say nothing of the 'Licence' they possess.

Back in about 1986, I accepted a contract to deliver a Twin Otter to Iraq. The Iraqis were the good guys back then because they were at war with the Iranians. As such, Canada gave them a 99-year, \$1-a-year lease on a brand new Twin Otter through CIDA (Canadian Industrial Development Agency which equals our tax dollars at work... yea...) Since they had never owned Twin Otters before, I was contracted to stay in Iraq to do Pilot and Mechanic training for three months. The reason I got the contract was that none of de Havilland's own Technical Representative staff was willing to travel to a war zone and spend three months at airports that would be the targets of Iranian bombing raids and rocket attacks. But Tom Daniel hadn't worked for about a year and a half at that point after being laid off from Air BC and decided that he'd take a chance - the pay was pretty good, I might add. So a DHC Pilot and I flew the airplane over to Iraq, a trip that took seven days, flying about 8 hours or 1,400 nautical miles per day, plus a one-day stop-over in Alexandria. The DHC Pilot buggered off back to Canada the day after we landed in Baghdad. I parked the airplane near a BOAC 747, figuring that if there was an air raid, the Iranians would want to avoid damaging a BOAC airplane since they themselves relied heavily on BAOC for contact with the civilised world and for what little foreign help they were still getting. Since I knew that we would be in a war zone and couldn't rely on local news to tell us what's happening - all we'd get would be local propaganda on how great the Iraqi troops were doing and how great a leader Saddam was, I decided to take a shortwave radio with me.

At what was at the time a huge outlay of funds, I bought a Sony ICF-2010 receiver. It had a lot of things going for it. It received the entire HF band continuously up to 30MHz, upper and lower sidebands, had synchronous tuning, adjustable RF gain, local/dx switch, external antenna connections as well as a long whip and a ferrite bar antennas, also received LW, AM, FM and the Air Band, had a clock, alarm and sleep modes, digital (LCD) display with a back-light, rudimentary but effective tone control, 32 memory slots that remembered sideband etc. settings with a separate pair of batteries for memory and ran on 3 'D' cells or a really quiet AC adapter. It cost about \$485 which was a fortune for a shortwave receiver in 1986. Since then the ICF-2010 has been around the world with me several times, including my stints with the Swiss Red Cross in Angola and Mozambique, also war zones. There's nothing like curling up with shortwave radio and listening to broadcasts from home and around the world on a good pair of headphones while you're far away from home and feeling a bit lonely in a hostile environment. It keeps you focused and sane...

So I've taken reasonable care of the ICF-2010 over the years, and recently I took it out to use in my office as a second receiver to a Yamaha tuner in the living room. To my surprise, the 3 Duracell 'D' cells kept it going for three weeks, even though I accidentally left it on at low volume overnight a couple of times. Then a message came up on the display that said, "Error 3." Since the LCD display is old and dim anyway, I couldn't tell if it was the two 'AA' memory batteries or the main 'D' cells that were low. I replaced the 'AA's and the receiver came to life. The main battery condition monitor LED's said that the mains were at about 60% charge. I connected a 12 VDC cigarette lighter adapter which has a 4.5 VDC output to a small 12 V lead acid battery and powered the radio that way for a couple of days, however the lead acid wouldn't hold a charge and I had to keep a 12 V power supply on it to keep it going. Then the radio started displaying the "Error 3" message again. I bought some connectors and a proper female cigarette lighter receptacle because my alligator clip array wasn't really a good idea. I made proper soldered connections and plugged in the 4.5 VDC adapter which immediately stopped working - I'm still troubleshooting it. Everything is the right polarity and the inline fuse I added did not blow so I didn't know what had happened. I



decided to go back to all battery power. I bought new 'Energizer' 'D' cell batteries and I charged a couple of Duracell 'AA's for the memory. I still got the 'Error 3' message. So I looked on the internet and found that the ICF-2010 has a serious weakness. The battery box, which is part of the case, makes push-on spring type contact with the circuit board in two places to transfer power to the radio. These two spots corrode with time or deforms enough to lose contact. I took the radio apart and bridged the connection points with alligator clips and leads. No joy - still got 'Error 3' messages. I started probing around with a meter. I played with it for an hour or so. Then, the great, licensed Ham that I am, I measured the voltage of each of the brand new 'D' cells. They were all less than 1.2 V and that was with zero load!!! They're duff batteries!!! That should have been the first thing I checked. They came in a pack of four - I only need three at a time(!?!?!?) - and the three that I installed were between 1.02 and 1.18 V instead of the 1.5 V on the package. So they would probably come down to under one volt under load. The fourth one was 1.62 V. So it was out to Canadian Tire (the last ones were from Home Hardware) for some new batteries. I'll modify the battery box and hard wire the leads to the circuit board so it won't matter if the contact points corrode. So, the **BIG TIME PILOT, AIRCRAFT MECHANIC AND LICENSED HAM** left the most obvious fault point last.

### [As an Addendum]

We were not allowed to fly the Twin Otter in Iraq because there was a complete ban on day-time flying due to the war - civilian flights arrived and left strictly at night. That being the case, the airplane wasn't being used, nothing would brake on it and it would not need any inspections or maintenance. The airplane was going to be based at the airport in the Basra oil fields, the first target when the Iran-Iraq war started. The authorities wouldn't even allow us to position the airplane from Baghdad to Basra. An Iraqi officer with more stripes than I could count and a Russian .45 strapped to his hip advised that I/we don't hang around the airport, especially close to airplanes, because enemy fighters attacks tended to focus on soft targets like airplanes sitting on the ground. I could train neither Pilots nor Mechanics and there was nothing to do except put the airplane in storage (tie off the propellers so they don't windmill, put extra air in the tires, top up all the fluids and tape up all of the nooks, crannies and door seams). Then I got on the first flight out of there. I later heard that the military saw a shiny new airplane (the Twin Otter) sitting on the ground and decided that it would make a nice addition to their fleet. They made the airplane flyable and one of their top jet-jockeys was selected to fly it from the civilian airport in Baghdad over to a nearby military airfield. Said hot-shot had never flown a Twin Otter and it had been years since he'd flown anything with a propeller. He got the airplane off the ground, pulled the nose up a little too steeply, stalled the wings and crashed. He and a co-pilot died, the airplane burned completely in fifteen minutes and was a total write-off. It had less than 100 hours on the clock. The oil company that was going to use it for pipeline patrol was left with no airplane and a fleet of vehicles and an army of men had to patrol the desert to look for oil leaks in the sand after each Iranian air raid. Oh, and de Havilland refused to pay me the contracted amount for which I was hired because I "did not complete the contract" although it was clearly their fault by not checking the state of the war and any civilian flying restrictions before they sent us into a war zone.

**Cheers and 73**

**Tom VA3VRA**

## W5LFL Owen Garriott

By Tony Lelieveld VE3DWI

Here is the story of Owen Garriott W5LFL and the very first Ham Radio contact from space. His son Richard, a paying customer, was also a ham on the ISS in July 2008. I had the pleasure of talking with Richard, while mobile between Sault Ste Marie and Sudbury, on the very day, and hours before, he was returning to Earth. Several weeks later I received a very nice letter from Richard. He wrote:

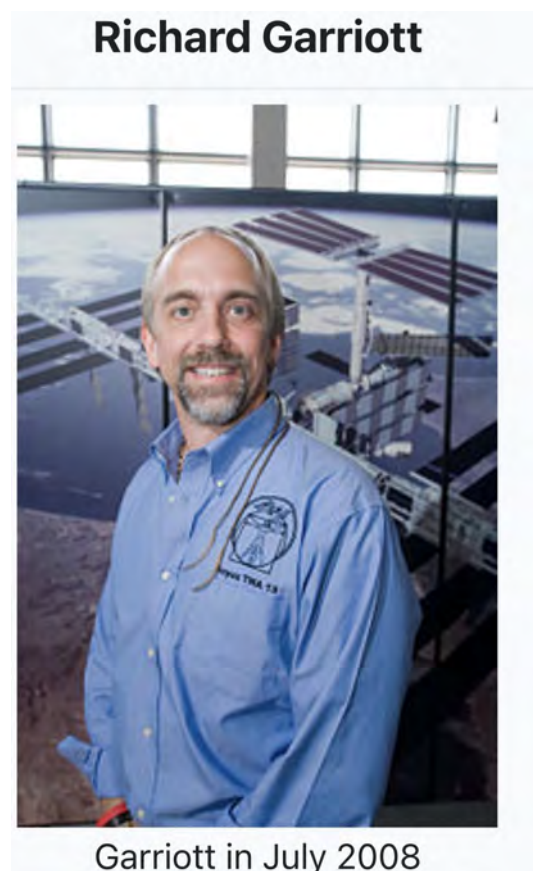
ON Dec 1st, 1983, Dr. Owen K. Garriott (W5LFL) an extra class amateur radio operator, American astronaut, and City of Nassau Bay resident became the first person to operate an amateur radio station from space. On this day in 1983 I was a sergeant in the Nassau Bay Police Department.

On Space Shuttle STS-9, Garriott used a handheld 2-meter radio and his own callsign W5LFL to make over 350 calls. Although he was limited by NASA to one-hour of operating a day, the tremendous interest it generated helped him convince NASA that amateur radio would be useful to get students involved in space. This led to the Space Amateur Radio Experiment, also known as SAREX. Five years later (1988) I would obtain my first amateur radio license. In 1990 I became the vice-president of the NASA JSC Amateur Radio Club.

After Garriott, many more astronauts and cosmonauts began operating from space and the use of amateur radio became an important activity on dozens of shuttle flights, Space Station Mir and continues today on the International Space Station. Interestingly, while Owen Garriott held the highest level amateur radio license (extra class), only an entry level (technician class) license is required to operate the low power VHF radios commonly used by astronauts and cosmonauts. As a result, most of those operating from space have obtained a Technician li-



Here are two pictures of Owen and his son Richard Garriott.



cense just for that purpose.

Garriott obtained his first amateur radio license before the age of 15 (1945); a BS in electrical engineering in 1953, a MS in 1957; and a Ph.D in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 1960. While an engineering professor at Stanford he applied to NASA. He was one of the first six candidates accepted as NASA scientist-astronauts.

Sadly, Garriott passed away at his home on April 15, 2019 at the age of 88.

## ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc. - Meeting Minutes

December 22, 2021

<u>Attendance - Members</u>	<u>Attendance - Officers</u>
Al Dee VA3DZZ	Ted Rypma VE3TRQ – President
Bill Reid VA3QB	Paul Curtin VA3PDC – Treasurer
Bob Koechl VE3IXX	Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS – Secretary
Bruce McLellan VE3QB	
Colin Jones VA3BLW	<u>Guests:</u>
Gary Kornstein VE3JGK	Craig Martin VE4CDM
Jack Sinclair VA3WPJ	Jim Clayton VA3JIC
Jim Heidmiller VE3JMU	Bob Crossley VA3ZZS
John Linnerth VE3OVO	
Judd Hodge N4WXU/VE3WXU	
Linda Willis VE3CZ	
Mike Willis VE3FE	
Reg Horney VE3RVH	
Rich Clausi VE3DCC	
Rick Brown VE3IMG	
Rod Murray VA3MZD	
Roger Sanderson VE3RKS	
Thomas Daniel VA3VRA	
Tom Mahony VE3DXQ	

Meeting Location: Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order by President, Ted Rypma VE3TRQ at 7:31pm and he welcomed everyone present.

#### 2. Roll Call:



**3. Approval of Agenda:**

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

**Motion By:** Ted VE3TRQ

**Carried**

**4. Presentation**

- a. None.

**5. Secretary Report:** Presented by Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS.

- a. Correspondence Received:
  - i. None.
- b. Minutes of the November 24, 2021 meeting were emailed to members on the same day.
  - i. No errors were mentioned.
- c. MOTION to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2021 meeting.

**Motion By:** Kirk VA3KXS

**Carried**

**6. Treasurers Report:** Presented by Paul Curtin VA3PDC

- a. Details of transactions for the month of November were displayed on screen.
- b. There was a discussion regarding how much money should the club have in reserve. At what point should we look at reducing fees or returning funds to members?
  - i. This topic will be deferred to a future meeting.
- c. MOTION to approve the financial statements for November 2021.

**Motion By:** Paul VA3PDC

**Carried**

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

- a. Ted wished everyone a Merry Christmas and lamented that we were unable to meet in person for a celebration this year. Hopefully we will be able to get back to that next year, perhaps with a summer barbeque.

**8. Committee Reports:**

- a. Winter Field Day Committee – Winter Field Day – January 29/30, 2022
  - i. Bill plans to operate Winter Field Day from his southern QTH. Recommends members participate from home this year and we aggregate our scores via the website.
- b. RAC Winter Field Day – December 18/19, 2021
  - i. Colin & Bill participated and had a good time.

**9. Unfinished Business**

- a. Repeater Technical Committee - Bill Reid VA3QB / Tony VE3DWI

- i. No update this month.
- b. Nomination Committee - Rich VE3DCC
  - i. Tom VE3DXQ has agreed to join the committee.
  - ii. There will be a call for nominations in the new year, but anyone interested in volunteering should email Rich.
- c. Options for camera/audio for future in-person meetings - Gary VE3JGK
  - i. No update at this point. Need more clarity on how much money we want to invest. There is a vast range of prices and quality.
  - ii. John VE3OVO's laptop seems to work well at the coffee meetings. With a larger monitor and someone moderating the meeting, it may be possible.
  - iii. Audio is the main problem - ensuring people at the in-person meeting are heard well. A wireless mic that can be passed around may work but need to ensure only one person speaks at once and is using the mic.
- d. Wednesday Coffee get togethers
  - i. The in-person gathering next week (between Christmas and New Years) will be cancelled, but there will be a Zoom meeting. The next in-person meeting will be the first Wednesday in January.

## 10. New Business

- a. Purchasing more hats for new members - Paul VA3PDC
  - i. MOTION to approve the purchase of 12 more club hats for new members.
  - Motion By:** Paul VA3PDC
  - Carried**
- b. Fee structure for RAC / non-RAC members - Paul VA3PDC
  - i. RAC fee structure has changed since we changed our policy. Insurance for non-RAC members has increased from \$10 to \$13
  - ii. MOTION to increase our fees for non-RAC members from \$10 to \$13 to match the RAC Insurance costs.
  - Motion By:** Paul VA3PDC
  - Carried**
- c. Emergency Simplex frequency conflicting with another signal - Tom VE3DXQ
  - i. We will need to review this at the next meeting when Tony is present.
- d. Condolences & memorial for Al MacDonald VA3TET
  - i. Bruce VE3QB – is the club sending a card of condolence to Al MacDonald's family?
    - 1) Reg VE3RVH is willing to send a card to Joan.
    - 2) Ted VE3TRQ will provide the address information to Reg.
  - ii. John VE3OVO – could the club consider renaming one of the repeaters with Al's callsign?
    - 1) Consensus is that it could be a good memorial.
    - 2) We would have to investigate whether it would be possible to have the callsign assigned, whether the family wants the callsign, whether they may want to donate it, what the cost and mechanics are of procuring and maintaining it would be.

- iii. MOTION for Reg VE3RVH to make donation of \$50 to the Canadian Cancer Society via Erb & Good in the name of Al MacDonald on behalf of the Club.

**Motion By:** Reg VE3RVH

**Carried**

## 11. Announcements

- a. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

## 12. Adjournment

- a. MOTION to adjourn at 8:28 pm

**Motion By:** Bruce VE3QB

**Carried**

### Action Sheet:

Action Required	Reference(s)	Action By	Deadline Date
Add future business item to discuss a budget, how much to have in reserve, etc.	6.b	Kirk VA3KXS	January Meeting
Purchase 12 more club hats for distribution to new members.	10.a	Paul VA3PDC	None
Update website to reflect new fee structure for non-RAC members.	10.b.ii	Ted VE3TRQ	January Meeting
Add future business item to discuss emergency simplex frequency conflict	10.c	Kirk VA3KXS	January Meeting
Send a condolence card to Joan MacDonald	10.d.i.1	Reg VE3RVH	January Meeting
Make donation to Canadian Cancer Society on behalf of Al MacDonald	10.d.iii	Reg VE3RVH	January Meeting