



JANUARY 2022

Volume 11 Issue 1

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: 146.550
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.**



Tony VE3DWI sent this amazing picture of his antenna installation bathed in the golden light of the sun.



Radio Amateurs
of Canada

THE PREZ

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

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President's Update for January 2022

Well, it's a new year, so maybe time for some new pursuits to add to the old ones.

Of late, there has been a lot of Digital Voice (DV) activity in the Club - new radios purchased, new (and old) hotspots set up, code plugs programmed, and in many cases, new friends made. We have quite a mix of operators very familiar with DV, and others just learning. What a perfect opportunity to be an Elmer to someone wishing to learn something new! Personally, I have resurrected a DV4Mini USB stick that was kindly given to me. These devices were non-functional on DMR until recently, but software and network changes have once again made them useful - put it on a Raspberry Pi, and you have a capable UHF hotspot - you don't need to pay \$700 for a SharkRF :-). And you can get a Pi Zero-based hotspot for a little over \$100 (maybe less) - very portable with a cell phone and a USB battery pack. If you're more adventurous, buy a Pi and a radio hat, add Pi-Star software, and Presto! A hotspot. Our topic for discussion at the January meeting was just this - DMR Hotspots.

Another area of interest to some in the Club is Radio Direction Finding (RDF) - that's a great subject for a build project. There are antennas to build, radio interfaces to design, and even doppler direction discrimination tools to add - as complicated or as simple as you want.

As to old, we have the ARRL Winter Field Day this coming weekend (January 29-30), something we can participate in no matter the gathering restrictions imposed on us all. And of course there are always other contesting opportunities, in addition to just plain ragchewing. POTA, anyone?

Isn't this hobby just fascinating? Something for everyone, and always something new to do.

Ted VE3TRQ



50 Years of ONTARS

On January 8, ONTARS celebrated its 50th Anniversary. As usual, the net ran a full day of net controllers in one-half hour increments. It was a very busy day with a count of 924 check-ins. This in itself is a tribute to the hard work of the ONTARS Net Manager, Barry VE3ISX and the Assistant Net Manager, Richard VE3OZW.

Our thanks to Barry for permission to print the following article which appeared in "The Ontario Amateur", the magazine for "The Radio Society of Ontario" (R.S.O.), Issue 6 in 1972. It details the history of the founding of ONTARS.

ONTARS CELEBRATES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

3755 kHz. 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. Daily

By Bruce Carveth VE3BC

Communications Chairman and ONTARS Manager

For several years prior to 1967 there was an informal daytime net usually around 3790 kHz. Largely due to the efforts of the late Clifford Marsh, VE3BQI. In 1967, Rees Powell, VE3DJK, in a letter to Bill Choat, VE3CO, then R.S. O. President, listed a set of "R.S.O. Long Term Plans to 1972." Among the items on the list was, "Operate a 5-day week 75 metre net." This would fill the gap left by the passing of VE3BQI. R.S.O. was very busy with other objectives and this item was left in abeyance until December 1971. At that time the writer made a suggestion for a daily net to Tom Atkins, VE3CDM. In a very few days an investigation and a managerial appointment were made. Then came a series of preliminary announcements and the ONTARS net got started at 7 A.M. on January 8th, 1972.

Yes, the skeptics were quick to howl: "I've been on 75 during daytime hours for 20 years and it won't work!" and "Not another net!" etc. etc., but ONTARS started on schedule and has been a far greater success than even the most optimistic proponent thought it would be. Even those who at first panned it now use it.

Originally set up on 3775 kHz., ONTARS has, since October 23, 1972 operated successfully on its new frequency of about 3755kHz. On the first day on 3755 however, there was conflict with a long-established VE2 PL group which we had not known about. Despite language difficulties, this problem was quickly resolved with our VE2 friends agreeing to move down. This act on their part was very much appreciated.

A small core of regular operators, including some Whit-caners, control the net most of the time. However, additional willing and capable volunteers seem to be almost always available when the need arises. Even in the complete absence of a controller, there are usually many throughout the province who monitor the frequency and who are ready to help anyone who calls in. Should an emergency arise, the ONTARS frequency of 3755 kHz. Is an excellent spot to make a call.

An important reason for calling into the net, even if you have no traffic, is to let others

know that you and your location are available. If you do have traffic, you can often find the contact you need without having to search around the band. This is particularly important if you are operating mobile. Weather and road reports can be helpful as well as interesting. Once having made your contact through net control, both stations should move well off the net frequency. If you are located near net control or another station using the net, you should take this into account in the shift that you agree upon.

The service which ONTARS provides could be improved with just a few more volunteer controllers. Many have volunteered, even for a half hour or an hour, and have enjoyed it. Controlling is not a high pressure activity and you may meet some new or old friends as well. Just tell any of the controllers on the net that you are available.

The R.S.O. Bulletin is on ONTARS every Saturday and Sunday at 5 P.M. Listen to the latest news! We hope to be able to keep you up-to-date between issues of The Ontario Amateur.

At present, the average number of daily check-ins is about 300, but during Christmas week of 1972 the weekly total was over 3000!

ONTARS Net Manager is Bruce Carveth, VE3BC, and Assistant Net Managers are Ed, VE3AXR, Fran, VE3EYL and Dick, VE3GBR. Suggestions for improving the net are always welcome. Bear in mind, though, that it is on the air seven days a week and for eleven hours each day. Also, we must cover as much of the province as possible under daytime conditions.

As an interesting aside, I joined many others in trying to check into the anniversary net as often as possible to many of the controllers. On several occasions I had to throw in my call a few times as I was not heard because of pile-ups. However at the four o'clock to four thirty slot I had no trouble getting in. Mark VA3MW did a unique half hour of asking for only QRP call-ins. I caught most of Mark's shift and was surprised that I heard everyone who called in. It was a great idea to show how 5 or less watts can work well. [Ed.]



"When I said I want to see foreign countries, I didn't mean for you to show me your EQSL cards!"



**From
the**

PAST



**Two Former ERC presidents
at 2014 Field Day.
Rich VE3DCC and Al VA3TET-SK**

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)**

Someone stole my radio out of my van.

Police followed three leads. One came out positive, one came out negative, and the third is still up in the air.

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

DECEMBER 15 - KIRK VA3KXS

DECEMBER 22 - M E E T I N G

DECEMBER 29 - REG VE3RVH

2022 JANUARY 5 - FRANK VA3FJM

JANUARY 12 - TOM VE3DXQ

JANUARY 19 - TONY VE3DWI

JANUARY 26 - M E E T I N G

FEBRUARY 2 - BRIAN VA3DXK

FEBRUARY 9 - BOB VE3IXX

FEBRUARY 16 - TED VE3TRQ

FEBRUARY 23 - M E E T I N G

MARCH 2 - BILL VA3QB

MARCH 9 - KIRK VA3KXS

Trailer Hitch Mount

Trailer hitch mount based on Ed VA3EDB mount

Quick and easy POTA mast antenna mount ! I used a flag pole mount that I found on Amazon.

It required a 2" receiver and I only have a 1 1/4" on my vehicle so I had to go to Canadian Tire and get an adapter.

I added some reflective tape so I don't trip over it at night.

The flag pole mount is used with either a 22' or 32' telescopic fibreglass mast.

73 Kieran VA3KS

(Ed: Thanks to Mike VE3MKX for sending this)



Resistance Challenge

Tony VE3DWI sent off this circuit with the challenge to try to calculate the resistance between A and B. Out of Elmira club members who have so far responded, only two got the correct answer. Try your hand at it.

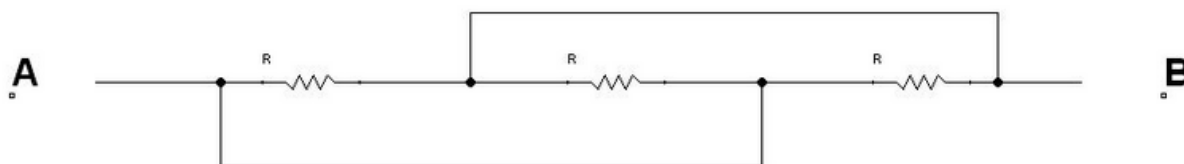
Tony wrote:

Here is a challenge for all of you. Use Ohm's law to calculate the resulting resistance of this circuit.

73, Tony VE3DWI.

All Resistors are 33 Ohm

Calculate the resistance between point A & B



ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc. - Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2022

<p><u>Attendance - Members</u></p> <p>Al Dee VA3DZZ</p> <p>Bill Reid VA3QB</p> <p>Bob Koechl VE3IXX</p> <p>Bruce McLellan VE3QB</p> <p>David Johnson VE3MRJ</p> <p>Doug Kuhn VE3CXU</p> <p>Graham Bauman VE3BYP</p> <p>Jack Sinclair VA3WPJ</p> <p>James Clayton VA3JIC</p> <p>Jim Heidmiller VE3JMU</p> <p>John Linnerth VE3OVO</p> <p>Judd Hodge N4WXU/VE3WXU</p> <p>Ken Buehler VE3KCY</p> <p>Linda Willis VE3CZ</p> <p>Marianne Lelieveld VE3MXT</p> <p>Mike Willis VE3FE</p> <p>Rich Clausi VE3DCC</p> <p>Roger Sanderson VE3RKS</p> <p>Teresa Clayton VA3LTH</p> <p>Tom Mahony VE3DXQ</p> <p>Tony Lelieveld VE3DWI</p>	<p><u>Attendance - Officers</u></p> <p>Ted Rypma VE3TRQ – President</p> <p>Paul Curtin VA3PDC – Treasurer</p> <p>Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS – Secretary</p> <p><u>Guests:</u></p> <p>Eric Brown VE3EB</p> <p>Bob Crossley VA3ZZS</p> <p>David Bell VE3CSB</p>
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Meeting Location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

- a. Meeting was called to order by President, Ted Rypma VE3TRQ at 7:31pm 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 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: Bill VA3QB

Carried

4. Presentation

- a. Setting up and Operating DMR Hotspots – Eric Brown VE3EB.

5. Secretary Report: Presented by Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS.

- a. Correspondence Received:
 - i. None.
- b. Minutes of the December 22, 2021 meeting were emailed to members on the same day.
 - i. No errors were mentioned.
- c. MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2021 meeting.

Motion By: Kirk VA3KXS

Carried

6. Treasurers Report: Presented by Paul Curtin VA3PDC

- a. Details of transactions for the month of December were displayed on screen.
- b. MOTION to approve the financial statements for December 2021.

Motion By: Paul VA3PDC

Carried

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

- a. There has been a lot of digital voice activity in the club lately with lots of members with new digital radios, resurrected hotspots and other equipment. You don't need to pay lots of money for a commercial device, you can build RaspberryPi based devices for much lower cost. Ted is now working on integrating DMR to our repeaters so people can get into our nets from DMR radios and hotspots.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Winter Field Day Committee – Winter Field Day – January 29/30, 2022
 - i. Bill recommends everyone submits logs in their own name, but use the Club name in the appropriate field of the Cabrillo file. It's a good opportunity to make contacts, even if you just jump on for a short time.
 - ii. Ken extended an invite to club members who might like to come out to the sugar shack for Winter Field Day.
- b. Other Contests / Events
 - i. The Elmira Maple Syrup Festival has been officially cancelled.
 - ii. Paul VA3PDC has registered the club to activate the Point Clark Lighthouse for ILLW. This will be the 25th anniversary event. Hopefully we can have a larger group and an opportunity for a BBQ to commemorate Al VA3TET.

c. Nomination Committee - Rich VE3DCC / Tom VE3DXQ

- i. Very likely to be the same slate as last year, however nominations are open - if anyone would like to put their name in the hat, please do so.

9. Unfinished Business

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

- i. UHF repeater is still at Tony's QTH awaiting repairs.
- ii. Morning net sometimes hears crackling, usually when it is really cold. UHF repeater is not connected to the EchoLink system so it does not interfere.
- iii. Likely no changes until the weather is decent and warm.

b. Wednesday Coffee get togethers

- i. Although restrictions are changing soon, John VE3OVO will need to confirm with building management when in-person meetings could resume.

10. New Business

a. Emergency Simplex frequency conflicting with another signal - Tom VE3DXQ

- i. The original designated emergency simplex frequency of 147.510 is now being used by a repeater in Chatham/Windsor.
- ii. Our emergency 2m Simplex frequency is now 146.550 and Tony ran a very successful simplex net last week. The website has been updated with the new information and Bob will update the bulletin as well.
- iii. Suggestion to also do a UHF simplex net as well. We may do this in the future.

b. Paul VA3PDC confirmed that Reg VE3RVH made a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society via Erb & Good in the name of Al MacDonald on behalf of the Club.

c. Paul VA3PDC confirmed he has ordered 12 hats and noted that prices have increased since last time. Hats are provided to new members and Paul has 10 waiting distribution to recent new members. We could order shirts again at some point if there is a desire.

d. Paul VA3PDC welcomed Teresa and Jim Clayton to the club.

e. Tony asked if we could request an update of the KWARC website information on our repeaters, since the tone information appears to be wrong.

- i. Roger VE3RKS will contact the appropriate folks to have it fixed

f. Bill has uploaded Eric's DMR presentation to the Files section of Groups.io. If you need help joining Groups.io or accessing the files, please contact Bill

11. Announcements

- a. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

12. Adjournment

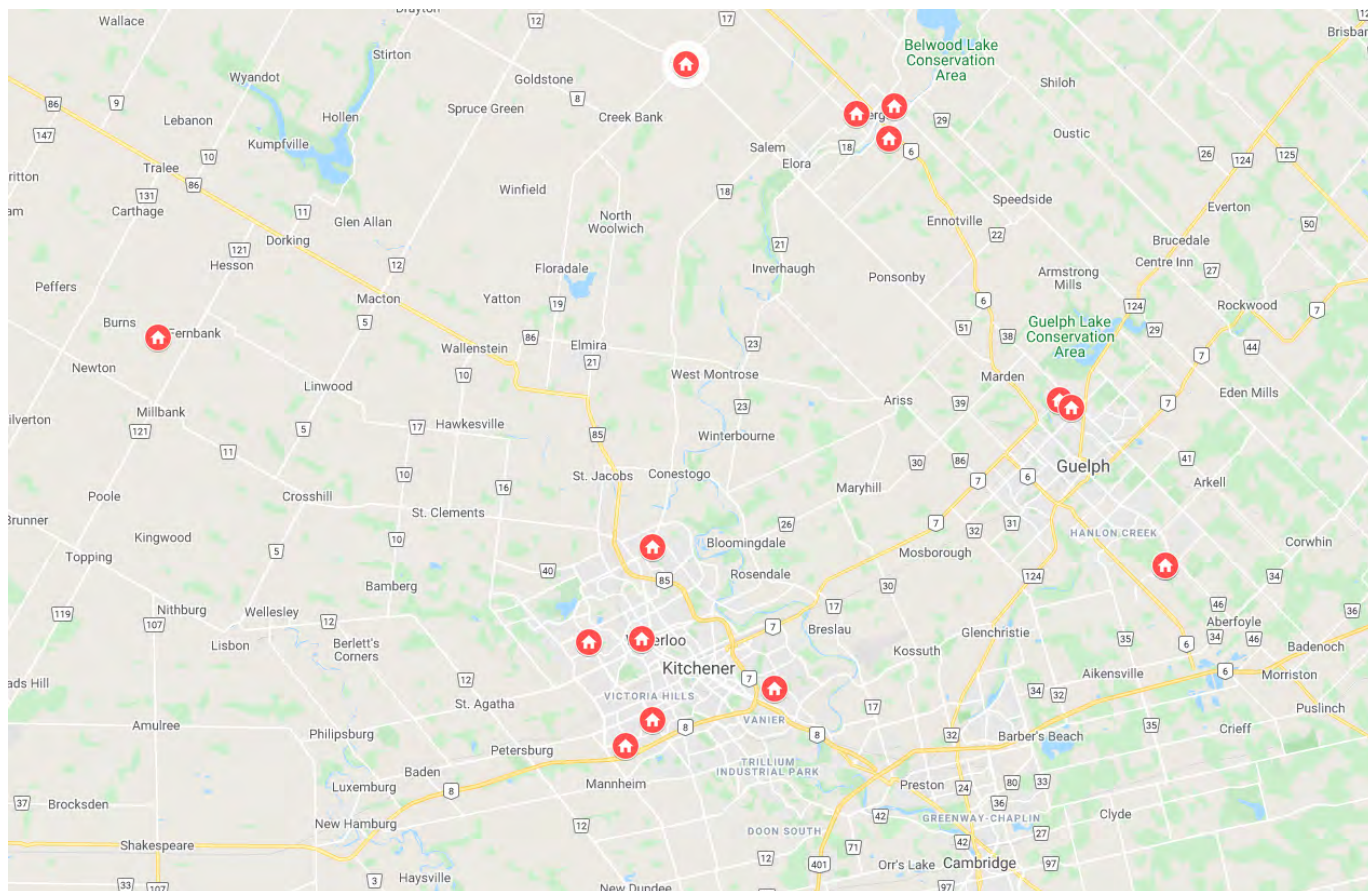
- a. MOTION to adjourn at 8:54 pm

Motion By: Ted VE3TRQ

Carried

ERC Simplex Test

By Bob Koechl VE3IXX



On January 19 the ERC Wednesday Night was run on 146.550 MHz simplex channel instead of the usual club repeaters (and echolink nodes). It was a test to see how well the club members could hear each other directly without the repeaters.

Rod, VA3MZD placed each of the stations on Google Map and Brian VA3DXK designed an Excel program where each member could place himself at the head of the sheet and the program would automatically calculate how many kilometers to each individual station. You can view my chart on the next page.

It was a lively interchange with Tony VE3DWI taking net control. In the first round Tony asked each check-in to give their grid square. Then in the second round each person could specify whom he could not hear.

This turned out to be such an interesting trial that it drew out 25 members and some non-members. It also showed that distance alone was not always a factor for who you could hear. Elevation and antenna height was sometimes more important.

	QTH Callsign	Name	Maidenhead	Lat	Lon			
	VE3IXX	Bob	EN93US24RW	43.770486	-80.310764			
			Maidenhead			Station Heard		Distance Km
	Callsign	Name	Grid Square	Lat	Lon	Enter Y / N	Bearing	from selected QTH
1	VA3BLW	Colin	EN93UN97HE	43.571528	-80.255903	Y	168.7	22.58
2	VA3DAS	Dave	EN93SK38LM	43.452083	-80.471181	Y	200.1	37.73
3	VA3DXK	Brian	EN93RJ59HR	43.415451	-80.539236	N	205.1	43.60
4	VA3DZZ	Al	EN93WO37WK	43.614236	-80.134028	Y	140.7	22.47
5	VA3JH	Erik	EN93UQ21ID	43.671454	-80.313897	Y	181.3	11.03
6	VA3JIC	Jim	EN93VL69LR	43.498785	-80.196181	Y	163.0	31.62
7	VA3KXS	Kirk	EN93SK66PB	43.44184	-80.444792	Y	196.5	38.15
8	VA3LTH	Teresa	EN93VL69LR	43.498785	-80.196181	Y	163.0	31.62
9	VA3MZD	Rod	EN93TQ56KT	43.694965	-80.371528	Y	210.2	9.72
10	VA3PDC	Paul	EN93RK09CK	43.455903	-80.582639	N	212.1	41.31
11	VA3QB	Bill	EN93TQ37UA	43.695833	-80.384722	Y	215.6	10.22
12	VA3WPJ	Jack	EN93RM71IS	43.507292	-80.522222	Y	210.2	33.89
13	VA3ZZS	Bob	EN93WI97JS	43.365625	-80.088542	Y	158.2	48.50
14	VE3BYP	Graham	EN93NO94PV	43.603646	-80.836458	N	246.5	46.21
15	VE3DWI	Tony	EN93RK72IP	43.427604	-80.52222	Y	204.1	41.80
16	VE3FE	Mike	EN93UN88KA	43.575	-80.263194	Y	170.0	22.10
17	VE3IXX	Bob	EN93US24RW	43.770486	-80.310764	X	0.0	0.00
18	VE3JLC	Jim	EN93SK09LN	43.456424	-80.496181	N	203.2	38.02
19	VE3KCY	Ken	EN93RR95VB	43.72934	-80.501042	Y	253.4	15.97
20	VE3ML	Wes	EN93TQ29WP	43.706771	-80.392361	Y	222.8	9.66
21	VE3OVO	John	EN93RL61NP	43.465104	-80.528819	Y	207.4	38.27
22	VE3QB	Bruce	EN93TR50SK	43.710069	-80.36875	Y	214.8	8.18
23	VE3RKS	Roger	EN93RL29VS	43.498958	-80.559375	Y	213.6	36.26
24	VE3RVH	Reg	EN93RK72MH	43.426215	-80.520833	Y	203.9	41.90
25	VE3TRQ	Ted	EN93RL21LE	43.463194	-80.562847	Y	210.8	3 9.79