



JUNE 2022

Volume 11 Issue 6

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:**
- Maple Syrup Display:**
- 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.**



Field Day 2022

Brian VA3DXK set up his Hex Beam for 6 meters at the ERC Field Day June 25-26.



THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

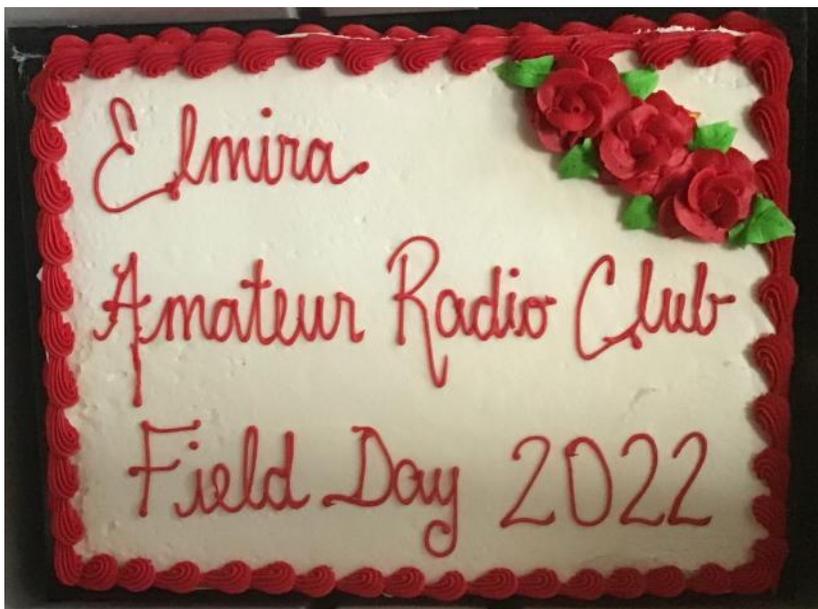
This club is Radio-ACTIVE

President's Update for June 2022

What a glorious Field Day! FD is always a highlight in June, but this year was almost a release. After 2 years plus of pandemic restrictions, it was so nice to all get together, in person and close up, to accomplish something and get to see in person some of the faces only glimpsed on computer screens, or see the faces associated with voices only heard on the radio. And the sunshine sure added to the day.



A big thank-you to Bill VA3QB for being the organizer, especially for the wide open site we enjoyed, and to Teresa VA3LTH, Jim VA3JIC and Paul VA3PDC for some good food and the means to cook it. The cake baked by Teresa was a welcome dessert.



Then there was the "Moosehead Rep", or rather the rep's father! Rod VA3MZD came equipped with a cooler that provided some welcome refreshment in the heat - appreciated by most.

I really do hope this is a predictor of things to come. The Elmira Radio Club is alive and well, and is an interesting bunch of folks - and growing in numbers. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for the Point Clark Lighthouse weekend in August (20th, 21st) and we will get a good turnout there as well.

Ted VE3TRQ

A Tale of Two Field Day Stories

Paul's Story By Paul Curtin VA3PDC

After much planning and anticipation, VE3ERC Field Day 2022 was here.

First off, many thanks to Wally for letting us use this awesome site for our field day event, also to Bill, for arranging this for us to use. It is huge and well maintained, just perfect.



Kirk VA3KXS at his station

We started gathering around 11:00 Friday morning at the site to set up trailers etc. When that was done, we of course had to go for lunch, Betty Lou's in Floradale was suggested. Jim VA3JIC, Teresa VA3LTH, Bill VA3QB, Gary VE3JGK, Ted VE3TRQ and myself were there. Well fed we went back to the site and began putting up antennas and running power from generators to trailers etc.



Brian VA3DXK manning his station. Brian's site and antenna are shown on the front page.

Bill put up a 20 meter dipole using some army surplus tent poles and guys to hold it. Ted installed an OCF dipole, lashed to a few nearby conveniently located fence posts.. Ken VE3KCY arrived about 2:00 , set up camp and strung up a 130 foot end fed from the same type of tent poles to a few near by trees. Myself I had a G5RV using three sets of tent poles between the trailer, a staked set in the middle and another one tye wrapped to the fence post at the far end.

Brian VA3DXK arrived later in the day and put up his home made 6 meter spider beam and an end fed as well as a picnic shelter.

Around 5:30 we all took a break from the heat and had some of my not so famous chili and toasted buns for dinner.

Saturday morning while enjoying my morning coffee, I heard a motor overhead? I looked up and here was a paramotor coming in for a landing, at the far end of the now abandoned air field where we were.



I had a real informative chat with Marcus, the pilot, about what I consider to be a very unique hobby. There's a lot more to it then one would imagine. It ends up his father is new ham, welcome to the hobby, I hope you did something fun for field day....

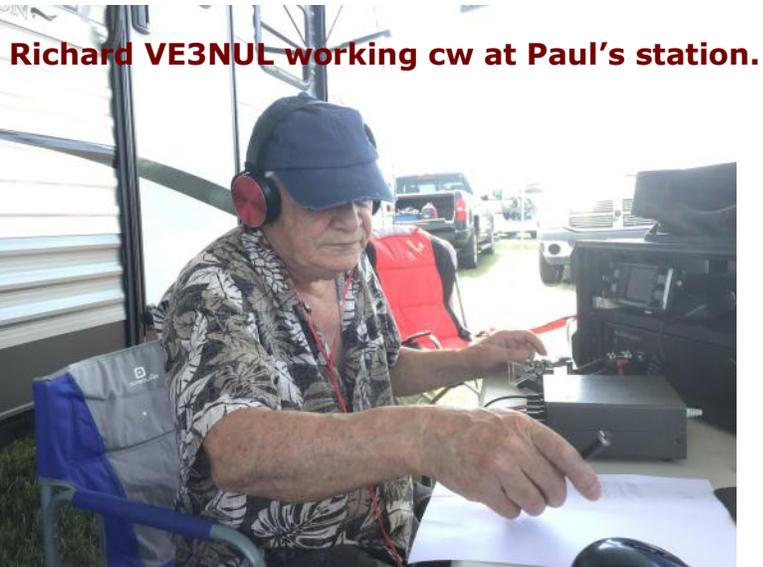
Kirk VA3KXS, arrived early and set up his truck and radio gear. He has an end fed that is held up with two extended fibreglass poles. His truck has a camper insert and he spent Saturday night at the site as well as Ken and myself.

At 2:00 PM the bands came alive and Field Day 2022 was underway. We were designated as 6 Alpha, meaning six separate stations, running on generator or battery power.



Rod VA3MZD showed up in the afternoon and set up his QRP station with a home made sloper. He worked under his own call and had great success, for it being the first time deployed with that setup. He made many FT8 contacts and one on SSB as well. Several visitors came and went through the day. Some tried out a station or two and some just came to chat and observe.

We all took a break around 5:30 for dinner. Jim and Teresa provided a feast of hamburgers and sausages along with cookies and a huge cake for dessert. Thanks again from all of us for doing that!!!



Richard VE3NUL working cw at Paul's station.

Richard, VE3NUL, who summers down the road, worked CW on my rig for a while in the afternoon, and was having so much fun he came back after dinner with his own setup. He used Bill's shelter and antenna, as Bill had gone home for the night. He was there 'til after 1:00AM.

Ted dismantled his station before dark to avoid the forecast of rain on Sunday. Ken and I stopped enjoying the sun. Some more people came to visit Sunday, but at 2:00 PM, Field Day 2022 was in the books. Many contacts were made along with a few new friends, I'm sure.

We tore down our stations and packed up and headed home, already making plans on how to improve things for next year.

Thanks to everyone that stopped by and made it what it was. I think I can speak for everyone, I had a great time and look forward to doing it all again next year!!!!!!

Paul VA3PDC



Bob VA3ZZS, Ted VE3TRQ and Richard VE3NUL putting up Ted's antenna



Bob VA3ZZS tightening the antenna.



Gary VA3JGK drove in specially to help set up Bill's VA3QB shelter and station.

Paul VA3PDC, Bob VA3ZZS, Teresa VA3LTH and Jim VA3TIC putting up support for Paul's antenna.



Wes VE3ML running cw at Ken's VE3KCY station.



Ted VE3TRQ running his digital station while Rene VA3RRP looks on.



Planning strategy at Paul's VE3PDC trailer.



Bill VA3QB running phone at his station.

Rod's Story

By Rod Murray VA3MZD



Many thanks to Bill VA3QB and all who helped organize Field Day. I attended from noon until 9 pm yesterday and it was, from the perspective of a new ham, an excellent experience! I really appreciated the fact that so many in attendance stopped by, checked out my set up, offered assistance (especially Paul who lent me his Bioenno battery so I could run 6w!) and offered advice and technical assistance! Thanks Ken for the recharge of the laptop! Thanks Jim and Teresa for the food support!!

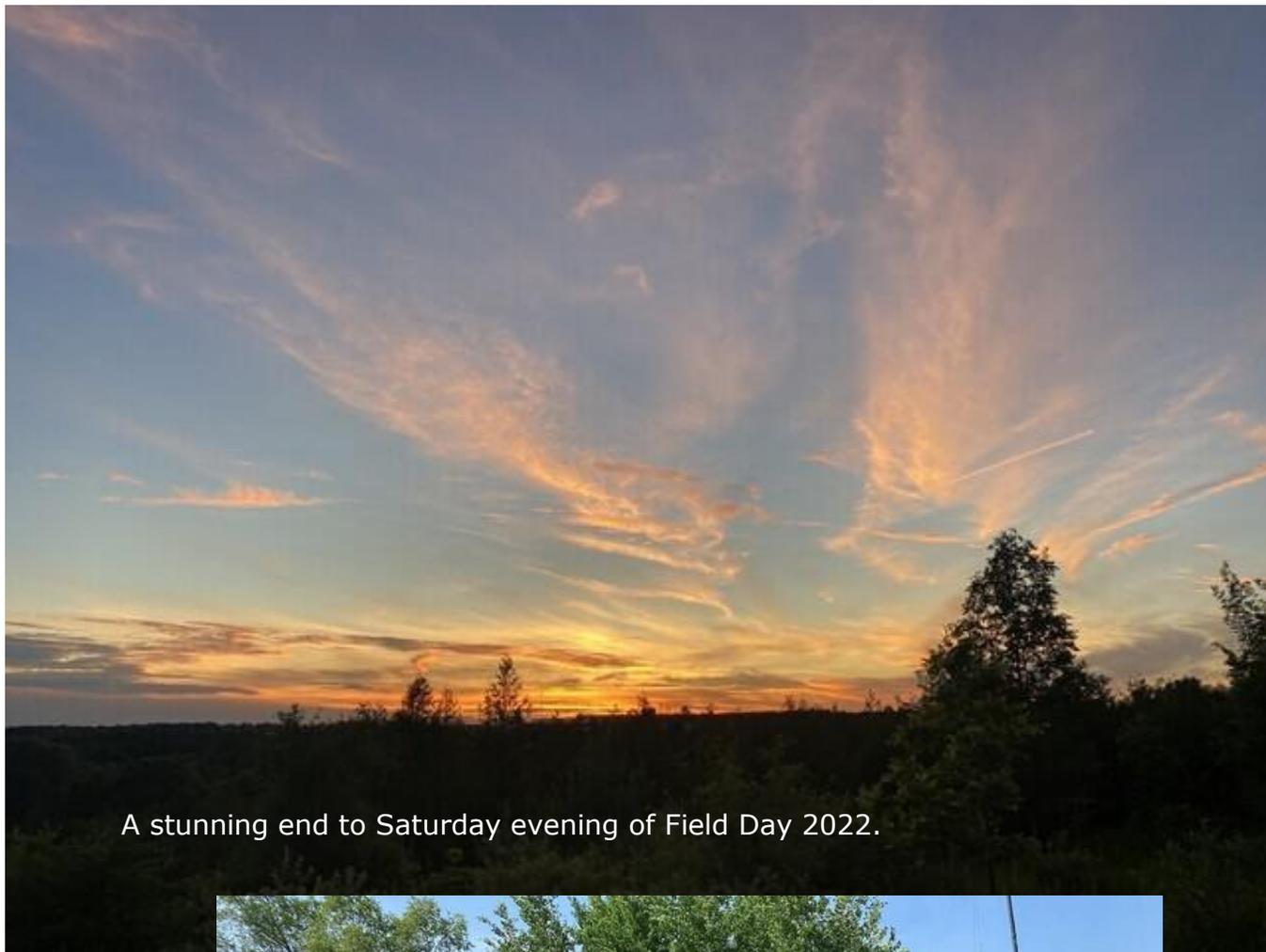
I made 14 contacts, all but one on FT8. The single SSB contact was on 20 from North Dakota. My first and last contacts were with VE3 stations, and most of the others were in New England and mid-Atlantic states, and one from Puerto Rico.

Things I learned-

- 1-When WSJTX pops up with a "Do you want to enter Field Day Mode?" notification, you need to figure that out more quickly! It took me until late afternoon to get into the Advanced Settings and make the adjustment so that Class and location are recorded.
- 2-Reid's Corollary to Murphy's Law is true: When Calling "VA" just say "Victor America" to avoid misunderstanding with your call sign with US hams.
- 3-My experimental 41' long wire antenna with Nelson matching box using #18 speaker wire up 25' in a tree in "sloper" configuration was working well. I was able to manually tune it using an old MFJ 16010 tuner while watching the little SW meter on the miniature screen on the radio. I was able to tune 80, 40, 30, 20 and 15. One of my contacts was on 30 so it doesn't count.
- 4-Hams are exceptionally patient, even when contesting. I could hear a young girl on SSB coming in at 59 repeating her call sign, with dad's coaching, over and over while the receiving ham was having difficulty copying it from his location. He patiently asked her to repeat it so he could confirm the contact. She was thrilled! So was I.

Some pics for the record.





A stunning end to Saturday evening of Field Day 2022.



The group gathered around Ken's VE3KCY station.

Ed. Note: Because of some technical difficulties, the pictures from Bill's (VA3QB) drone were not included, but will be included in the July newsletter.

To PL or Not to PL.

By Tony Lelieveld VE3DWI

Just who invented the first mobile in-vehicle two-way radio is a matter of some controversy. The main contenders include an Australian Senior Constable called Frederick William Downie, who introduced radio sets into police Lancia patrol cars in 1923. The radios were so large they took up the whole of the back seat!

In 1933, the Bayonne, New Jersey police department in the USA pioneered the use of communications between a central fixed station and the radio transceivers installed in police cars. This enabled a dispatcher in a fixed central command and control room to direct police cars dispersed around the county to the site of emergencies in a much faster and more coordinated way.

Other contenders for the invention of hand-held radios include the Canadian Donald Hings, who created a portable radio signalling system for his employer CM&S in 1937, which he called a “packset” – later known as the “Walkie-Talkie”.

Another Canadian, Alfred J. Gross, patented his own version of the Walkie-Talkie in 1938, one of many patents he was to take out over his lifetime in the field of wireless technology. His model C-58 “Handy-Talkie” was used by the military by 1942. Yet another contender was the US firm Galvin Manufacturing Company (later to become Motorola), whose SCR-300 backpack mounted model was first used by American troops in 1943 during World War II. The company also developed the first handheld walkie-talkie in 1941, the AM SCR-536 transceiver, referred to as the “Handie-Talkie”.

Going forward to the 50’s and 60’s, “Two Way Radios” became more common place in public service, commercial and industrial users. Also, Police, Ambulance, Fire Departments, Transit systems, Railroad, Taxies, City and County Works Departments and many others. The advantage of instant and efficient dispatch of vehicles and personnel to a location was cutting response time for emergency services to a minimum.

Frequency co-ordination was generally performed by Government branches such as the DOC in Canada and the FCC in the USA. It wasn’t long before they ran out of dedicated frequencies and had to put several commercial users on the same frequency. This meant that co-ordination of the type of users was also needed. No need to explain that two or three construction companies or Taxi services on the same frequency would be somewhat contentious.

Motorola was one of the first companies to create a system that would so called “Privatise” communications by using a tone “Encoder/Decoder” system known as “Private Line” or PL for short. This tone, at a low frequency below 300 Hz, modulated the TX carrier at a deviation of 750 Hz. At the receiver this tone would be decoded, converted to a DC Voltage which was used to un-mute the audio amplifier so the voice could be heard through the radio speaker.

Other users on the same RF frequency would have different tones which would keep the audio muted until they received a carrier modulated with the tone assigned to them. These tones were called “sub-audible” which is a misnomer as they are within the range of human hearing. Notch filters in the receiver audio path would notch out this tone so it would not be heard in the speaker. These tones range from 67.0 to 254.1 Hz. If you have an older radio without this notch filter you can hear these tones, especially the higher frequency ones such as 203.5 Hz. The tones are only several Hz apart therefore the decoder filters have to be very sharp.

Commercial two-way radio businesses developed repeaters that have tone panels which could decode/encode all available tones. They rented space on these repeaters for businesses who could not have their base station in a good coverage location and have the means to talk from mobile to mobile just like we do on our repeaters. These systems are called **RCC** repeaters which stands for “**R**adio **C**ommon **C**arrier.

The Tone encode/decode system’s generic name is **CTCSS** which means “**C**ontinuous **T**one **C**oded **S**quelch **S**ystem”. Different manufacturers gave it their own name. Motorola is **PL** for Private Line, General Electric is **CG** for Channel Guard, RCA used **QC** for Quiet Channel. There are many other ones with similar names. The Marconi Company actually called theirs **CTCSS**.

The early Motorola encode/decoders used mechanical/electrical tone reeds. The best way to visualize this, is a mechanical tuning fork with a coil on each leg. Excite the one coil with the tone of the fork to make it vi-

brate while the second leg of the fork induced a voltage in the coil on the other leg. Only tones with the frequency of the tuning fork would make it vibrate. Any other tones would not.

Other manufacturers would design elaborately tuned circuits with precision parts to achieve the needed selectivity. These systems would need a separate tone module for every available tone. Modern tone encode/decode systems use microprocessor derived tones which are very accurate and are selectable with DIP-Switches. The designers came to a standard selection of tones that were not harmonically related so that they would not create spurious decodes.

Some tones were less used than others. 118.8 Hz. was one of them. A radio with bad 60 Hz power supply hum, could generate a second harmonic of around 120 Hz. This could falsely cause the 118.8 Hz tone decoder to be activated. In the transmitter the tone modulates the carrier with a deviation of 750 Hz. This was chosen to make the decoders work reliably. Modern decoders will decode with as low a deviation of 150 Hz. or less. However, noise and other impulse noises can cause this to decode intermittently.

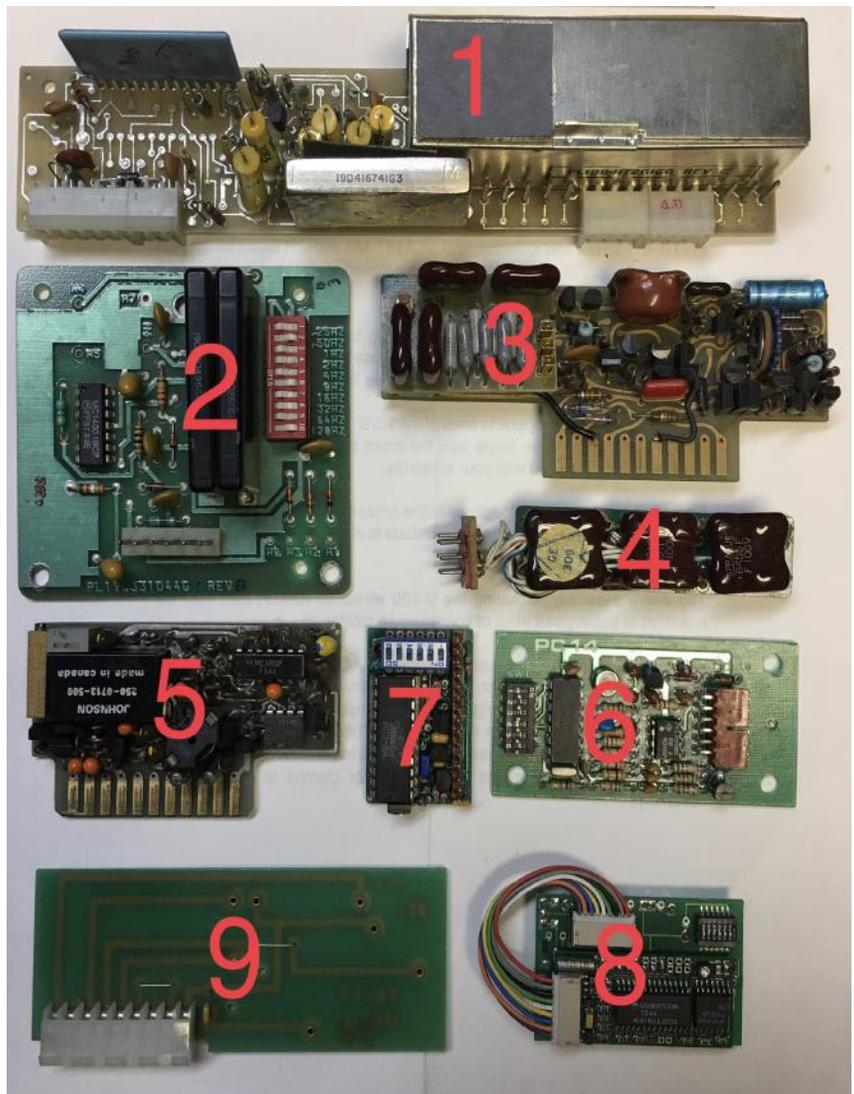
The mechanical reeds had a tendency to keep vibrating for a while when the tone transmission stopped. This created a finite time for the audio to be muted. In order to mute the audio and eliminate the squelch burst at the end of a transmission, the encoder would, at the end of transmission, reverse the phase by 180 degrees for about 20 milliseconds. This would instantly stop the reed from vibrating. Motorola calls this "**Reverse Burst**" while GE calls it "**STE**" for "**S**quelch **T**ail **E**limination". Some microprocessor generated tone encoders give the option to change the phase to something other than 180 degrees. Actually, some cheap handhelds such as Baofeng and Wouxun send a burst of some obscure tone at the end, I've seen 55 and 80 Hz. This causes the decoder to mute the audio very effectively.

Another option is to turn off the encoder and transmit just the RF carrier for 0.25 to 0.5 seconds this gives the decoder time to mute the audio. This is how I do it with my base station. When I stop transmitting you will hear a click from the PTT button, the PL tone is immediately turned off and the carrier stays on for half a second. The repeater audio is muted before my carrier cuts off.

The picture shows various old and new style PL encode/decode modules. For scale comparison, the page size is 8½ by 11".

- #1 Is a single tone only GE Decoder module for a MASTR-II repeater.
- #2 Is a multi tone GE Encoder for a MASTR-II repeater.
- #3 Is a single tone EF Johnson Encode/Decoder. The tone module element is under the # 3
- #4 Is only the tone generating circuit for an old-style GE exec. mobile encode/decode module.
- #5 Is another Johnson encode/decode module with a potentiometer to set the tone.
- #6 Is an encode/decode selectable tone module. What radio I don't remember.
- #7 Is an encode/decode selectable tone module for a Standard Portable radio.
- #8 Is an encode/decode selectable tone module by Communications Specialist.
- #9 Is a mother board for #8 so it can be used for a GE MASTR-II repeater.

73, Tony VE3DWI.



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

JUNE 1 - KIRK VA3KXS

JUNE 8 - REG VE3RVH

JUNE 15 - FRANK VA3FJM

JUNE 22 - M E E T I N G

JUNE 29 - TOM VE3DXQ

JULY 6 - TONY VE3DWI

JULY 13 - BRIAN VA3DXX

JULY 20 - BOB VE3IXX

JULY 27 - TED VE3TRQ

AUGUST 3 - BILL VA3QB

AUGUST 10 - KIRK VA3KXS



From the PAST



FIELD DAYS PAST

Back to Field Day 2010 with
John VE3JXX operating and Jim VE3JMU recording.

ACTIVATING LAUREL CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

BY PAUL CURTIN VA3PDC

Tuesday May 31

Here is a quick look at my portable setup. I used a 71 ft end fed with a 9:1 unun strung between two trees.



I did a POTA activation from our sight at Laurel Creek Conservation Area this morning and had 29 contacts. The band went away at about 9:45 local.. It is great fun to be camping again and play some radio too. I hope to do another activation tomorrow morning...can't wait.



Today I was using 120 volt and a power supply. Tomorrow I plan to use my battery that can be seen on the left.

I added the picture of the back of the go bag. It opens for access for various hookups. There are separate connections for HF & UHF/VHF antennas and a switch to go from Ac main to battery.

CONCLUSION

The only thing I can add is I had 57 contacts over the two days. It's pretty easy when you are camping and can leave it set up. I worked 40 meters one hour each

day and had a blast.

Now that Laurel Creek is on the list I may do more activations because it's so close to home???

Take care,

Paul VA3PDC

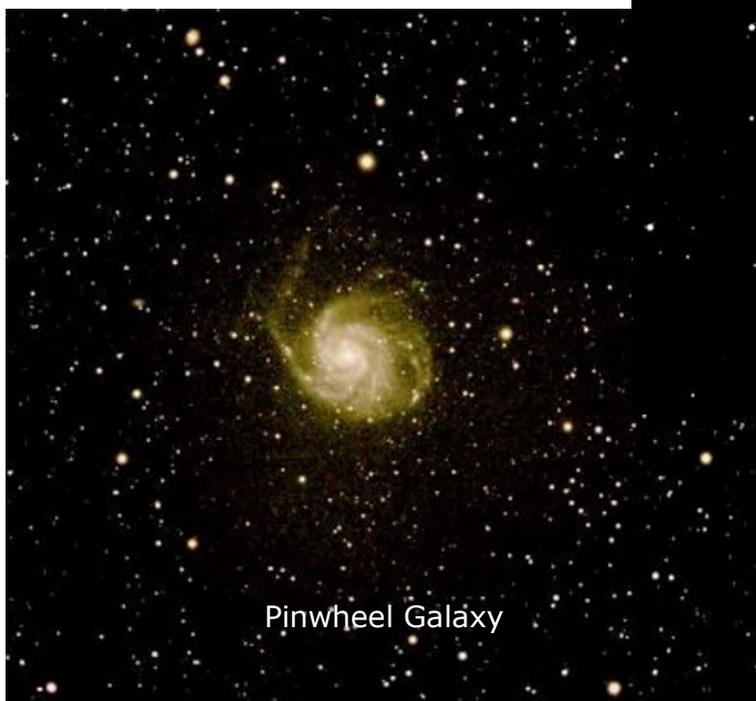
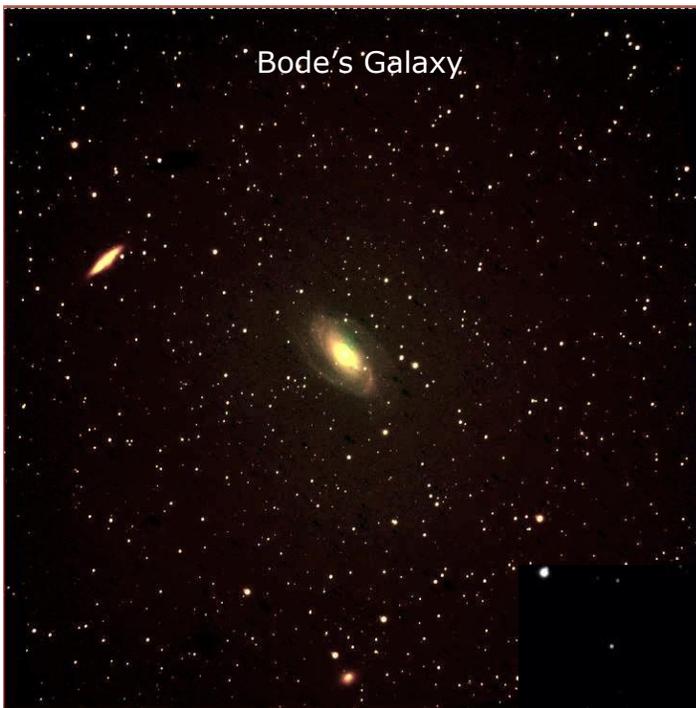


CORRESPONDENCE

Terry Maurice VE3XTM sent the following note as well as some amazing pictures:

I have moved on and am now deeply into astrophotography. Astronomy was one of my childhood interests and I thought I would take it off the bucket list before it was too late. As with amateur radio, I am still collecting photons, but I have just gone up-scale as far as wavelength goes.

Here are a couple of my recent pictures of galaxies, mostly in the northern sky. It is presently galaxy season when many of these targets are high in the sky. We are now moving into nebula season and there are many beautiful nebulae to photograph.



Thanks also to Terry for obtaining permission to use the blog from Steve VE7SL on the following page.

VE7SL - Steve - Amateur Radio Blog

FT8 and the Magic Band

Posted: 03 Jun 2022 10:52 PM PDT

Now that 6m is in full swing once again, many of you will be operating FT8 on 6m for the first time! Things are a little different on 6m compared to operating FT8 on HF and here are a few things for newcomers that might help to keep you out of the naughty corner! (originally published in 2020 but still important today)



Today's blog is directed to those that may be new to 6m or new to using FT8 on 6m. Some of the things discussed will make your experience on the magic band better for you and better for your neighbors.

Unlike using FT8 on the HF bands, 6m presents some different challenges, especially if you operate in a region where there may be a lot of other locals also using the band at the same time.

Although the weak-signal capability of FT8 has made it possible for many smaller stations or those with makeshift antennas to take advantage of the unique propagation 6m has to offer, it also can create problems for other users of the band when used inappropriately. In regions of dense population, even small stations can create very high local signal levels, often making it impossible for their neighbors to hear weak signals. This is not deliberately-caused QRM but arises when some operators operate 'against the flow' and transmit on the opposite 'sequence' to everyone else in their local area.

On HF, one can transmit or listen on whatever time sequence they wish. Choosing 'TX 1st' or 'TX 2nd' is usually determined by who you hear calling CQ or who you wish to work. On 6m however, in a densely-populated region of local operators, choosing to transmit whenever you want to is a luxury that can create big problems for your neighbor who may be trying to hear that weak DX signal while you are transmitting!

These problems will not occur if everybody in the region uses and follows the same transmit-receive periods, so that everyone is listening or everyone is transmitting at the same time ... one or the other. Unfortunately, this 'ideal' system falls apart easily when one or more of your neighbors is not using the same sequence as everyone else.

For the past few years, a protocol that seeks to alleviate this problem has become popular and well accepted by those familiar with it. Those new to 6m may not know about it or understand the reasoning behind it.

Above all, I would urge new users of the band, or to the FT8 mode, to first listen carefully for a few minutes, before beginning operation, to determine what the majority of stations in their local region are using for sequencing. If they are using 'TX 1st', then your choice of 'TX 2nd' will likely cause hearing difficulty for many others, as well as for yourself.

Although there are no strict rules, there is a very successful and well-practiced protocol, and that is that the 'easternmost' station transmits on '1st' while the 'western end' goes 2nd'. This is why you will hear most eastern stations in the morning hours transmitting '2nd', as they are usually calling or looking for Europeans to their east, who are transmitting '1st'. By the same token, you will also hear western stations transmitting on '2nd', who are also looking for Europe to their east, transmitting on '1st'.

This sequencing protocol usually reverses later in the day when signals from Asia become a possibility, and all North Americans then become the 'easternmost' stations and will transmit on the '1st' sequence ... unlike in the morning. I can easily see how newcomers to the band could become confused, when they hear both sequences being used! The best thing, once again, is to listen carefully first and then 'go with the flow'.

You can read about the UK's Six Metre Group's initiatives regarding these protocols [HERE](#).

OK... so you're not interested in EU or Asia? Then it shouldn't matter to you which sequence that you use and best operating practice would again be to 'go with the flow' in consideration of other users.

A few days ago I saw a prime example of exactly what not to do, in too many respects. I made a posting on the [ON4KST 6m chat page](#) that VE1SKY in NS (Nova Scotia) was being decoded here, mainly to alert others in my region that European signals might be coming next, as hearing the VE1s in BC is often an indicator that the European path is building.

In less than a minute, an S9+ local began calling 'CQ NS' on the exact opposite sequence of all others ... effectively blocking the waterfall and any possible hope of hearing weak EU signals. I'm sorry, but this is just terrible operating procedure, with almost zero chance of success, while showing no consideration for nearby users.

Just like working DX on CW or on phone, the best way, as it always has been, is to '**listen, listen and then listen some more**'. You will work FAR more DX by listening and calling at the right time, than you will by calling CQ.

I also see some local stations everyday, calling endless CQs, often for over 60 minutes straight and often with many replies that go unnoticed. With FT8, one can check 'work 1st', go away, and return later to see who they might have 'worked'. Perhaps this is what these operators are doing, but they should understand that they are also creating non-stop QRM for other users ... those that choose to listen carefully to the band rather than to endlessly CQ. Once again, this is just poor practice.

You may argue that if nobody called CQ, then there would be no contacts made. There is nothing wrong with a few CQs but CQing for an hour? And don't worry, there will always be other stations CQing endlessly for you to hear, even if it's not a great way to operate.

With a little pre-planning for sequencing and consideration for your neighbors, everyone can and should be able to enjoy 6m FT8 with very few problems ... and that is my hope for all of us.

After forty-eight summers of CW and phone on 6m and two summers on FT8, these are some of my initial thoughts on how to best operate for **maximum success** and **consideration for other band-users**.

The latter is part of the basic framework upon which amateur radio was originally established, when back in 1914, the ARRL described in their 'Code of Conduct' for amateurs ... "**The Amateur is Gentlemanly. He never knowingly uses the air for his own amusement in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.**"

Now, let the magic, and the pleasure, continue!

ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc. - Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2022

<p><u>Attendance - Members</u></p> <p>Al Dee VA3DZZ</p> <p>Andy Vanesch VE3CDF</p> <p>Bill Reid VA3QB</p> <p>Bob Koechl VE3IXX</p> <p>Brian Filbey VA3DXK</p> <p>Bruce McLellan VE3QB</p> <p>Doug Kuhn VE3CXU</p> <p>Gary Kornstein VE3JGK</p> <p>Graham Bauman VE3BYP</p> <p>Jack Sinclair VA3WPJ</p> <p>James Clayton VA3JIC</p> <p>James Litwiller VE3JLC</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>Mike Willis VE3FE</p> <p>Reg Horney VE3RVH</p> <p>Rich Clausi VE3DCC</p> <p>Rod Murray VA3MZD</p> <p>Roger Sanderson VE3RKS</p> <p>Teresa Clayton VA3LTH</p> <p>Thomas Daniel VA3VRA</p> <p>Tom Mahony VE3DXQ</p>	<p><u>Attendance - Officers</u></p> <p>Ted Rypma VE3TRQ – President</p> <p>Paul Curtin VA3PDC – Treasurer</p> <p>Wesley Snarr VE3ML – Trustee</p> <p>Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS – Secretary</p> <p><u>Guests:</u></p> <p>Richard Kelly VE3NUL</p>
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Meeting Location: Elmira Fire Hall & Zoom

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

- a. Meeting was called to order by President, Ted Rypma VE3TRQ at 7:30 pm and he welcomed everyone present.

2. Roll Call:

- a. A roll call established those present and it was noted quorum had been attained.

3. Approval of Agenda:

- a. Ted displayed the agenda onscreen for those in the room and on Zoom.
- b. MOTION to approve the agenda as circulated.

Motion By: Brian Filbey VA3DXK

Carried

4. Presentation

- a. None.

5. Secretary Report: Presented by Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS.

- a. Correspondence Received:
 - i. None.
- b. Minutes of the May 25, 2022 AGM were emailed to members on the same day.
 - i. No corrections were noted.
- c. MOTION to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2022 AGM.

Motion By: Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS

Carried

6. Treasurers Report: Presented by Paul Curtin VA3PDC

- a. Details of transactions for the month of May were displayed on screen.
- b. MOTION to approve the financial statement for May 2022.

Motion By: Paul Curtin VA3PDC

Carried

7. Presidents Report:

- a. Ted welcomed everyone to our first in-person meeting at the Elmira Firehall in several years. The only requirement for using the space is wiping down the tables and doorknobs when we are done. Field day is coming up this weekend and we will spend time tonight discussing the details. We also have the Lighthouse weekend in August. Beyond that we will work on getting organized with some projects for the fall (e.g. building fox hunting equipment, direction finding equipment, etc.) and perhaps even have a fox hunt. It's great to be back meeting in person.



The first in-person meeting in several years was a "hybrid": an in-person meeting and zoom meeting combined.

- b. Ted extended thanks to Al MacDonald VA3TET(SK) and his estate. Reg Horney has sold a good amount of Al's equipment on behalf of the club and has a couple of thousand of dollars that will be donated to the club.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Summer Field Day Committee
- Bill Reid VA3QB

- i. Field Day is this coming weekend and we will be setting up as a club at the airport located at 6600 Line 86 Elmira, ON N3B 2Z2. There will be two trailers on site and a black Club banner will be displayed on the fence near the silver gate.
- ii. Trailer setup will be Friday morning, with a lunch in Elmira. Setup of antennas and equipment will start Friday afternoon (per the rules).
- iii. Vehicles, cars, trailers will be on runway, antennas on the grass. No problems putting in tent stakes. Try to keep generators, cables, etc. off of the runway as people will be driving there.
- iv. Unable to get a porta-potty delivered. There is one on site, so we will pay Wally (airstrip owner) \$150 for use of the one on site.
- v. There will be chili from Paul VA3PDC on Friday evening - please let him know if you plan to attend.
- vi. Paul will be camping overnight on Friday. Setup will continue on Saturday morning. Field day starts at 2pm and runs for 24hrs. Everyone is welcome to come out and run a radio or just watch. There will be people doing CW, SSB and Digital. We would like as many people to come out as possible, at any time.
- vii. No food or drinks will be provided - so make sure you bring your own. BBQs will be available if you want to bring something to cook.
- viii. If you want to setup a station, please let Bill know in advance as we will count them to our score. N3FJP software will be used for logging. We will likely be a 5 or 6 Alpha. Bring an extension cord if you need power, there should be capacity on one of the generators being setup.
- ix. If you are operating from home, you can include "Elmira Amateur Radio Club" as the Club name and count to our aggregate score.
- x. Feel free to email or phone Bill VA3QB for additional details if needed.



- xi. Brian VA3DXK thanked Bill VA3QB for all of his work arranging Field Day this year.
- b. International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend Committee - Paul Curtin VA3PDC
 - i. Paul will be going up to operate and any others are welcome to stop by. He will be parking his trailer onsite during the day and returning to Point Clark at night.
 - ii. An email will be sent out closer to the date with additional details.

CORRECTION

Due to a computer glitch, Tony VE3DWI was missed in last month's attendance for the ERC meeting. We apologize for the inconvenience.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Repeater Technical Committee - Bill Reid VA3QB / Tony Lelieveld VE3DWI
 - i. No update on the equipment repairs this month.
 - ii. It was suggested we ask Al MacDonald's family if they would be willing to donate Al's callsign (VA3TET) to the club as a memorial. This would be assigned to one of our repeaters currently using the VE3ERC callsign. Ted will contact the family to ask if they have plans for his callsign.
 - iii. Bruce VE3QB offered his second callsign (VE3FBI) as another callsign we could potentially assign to a repeater. The Alma repeater may need a new one soon as Tony VE3DWI likely wishes to use his secondary callsign on his new DMR repeater. More discussion to follow.

10. New Business

- i. None.

11. Announcements

- a. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 28, 2022.

12. Adjournment

- a. MOTION to adjourn at 8:14 pm

Motion By: Jim VA3JIC

Carried



All Keyed Up by

Dan Romanchik,
KB6NU



Knots for ham radio

When I was a kid, a friend of mine tried to get me into Boy Scouts. The first thing that they tried to teach me was how to tie knots. At that point, I wasn't really much of an outdoors type, so the utility of knowing how to tie a variety of knots was lost on me. As a result, I didn't stick with the Scouts that long.

Now, I regret that. Knowing how to tie knots is extremely useful when putting up antennas, especially when operating portable. I did learn how to tie a bowline knot (see right), and that has been very useful, but there are other knots that I really should have in my repertoire.

Well, recently, someone on Twitter posted:

So here's a statement of fact, and a question: I suck at tying knots. What types of knots should I learn how to tie, that would be most applicable to tying off antennas and such?

He got a lot of great responses, so I thought I'd post some here:

I like a tautline hitch for lines that need to be tightened and then secured. newlangsyne.com/doc/tautline.h... the bowline is good too.

4 knots you can't go wrong with: -clove hitch -bowline -trucker's hitch -sheet bend There are lots of fancier, more specific, or frankly better options, but this covers a lot of life. -Tie to something -Make a loop -Tie and tighten -Tie two ropes.

The bowline is my go-to for lots of things, including attaching a rope to the insulator of an end-fed antenna.

I usually revert to trucker hitch.

Clinch knot. Good for thinner rope, won't slip or stretch with time.

I second all of these. Sheet bend is the all time most useful knot IMO, clove hitch close second. There's also one called a taut line hitch, useful as well.

Learn the trumpet knot, because it's fun. Really only used for taking slack out of lines.

Learn the Sheep Shank!

I find myself using arbor knots pretty often these days.

Lots of cool knots here. One site that I've found to help me learn these is [Animated Knots](#). This site has short videos that step you through tying a knot.

