



JULY 2022

Volume 11 Issue 7

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.**



Radio Amateurs
of Canada



Communications Tower at Forks on the Credit Provincial Park. See more POTA on page 11.

THE PREZ SEZ!

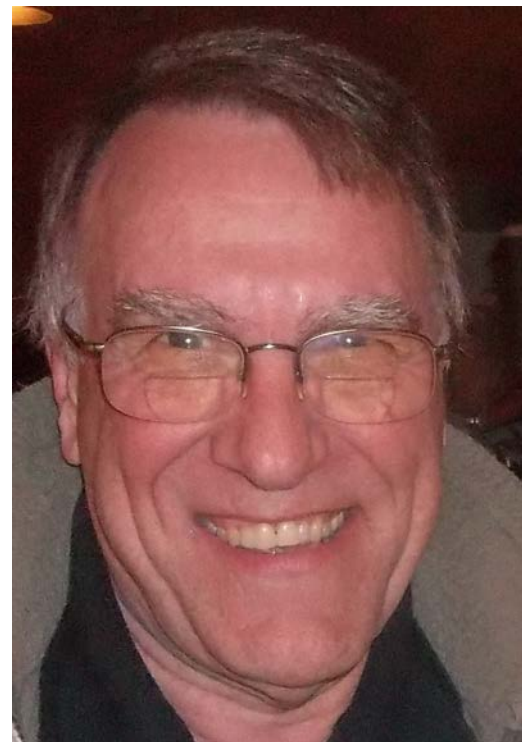
This club is Radio-ACTIVE
This club is Radio-ACTIVE

President's Update for June 2022

Summer is half over, we are closer to the next big event, the Point Clark Lighthouse activation. Hopefully we will have a good number out to not only enjoy each others company, but to get some contacts with other lighthouses and lightships, and to those hunting them. We have missed being there for a few years, although Kirk VA3KXS did a great job last year.

On another note, a week or two ago we were reminded why we have radios for emergency communication. With the Rogers outage, and all of my communications devices being Rogers devices, the ONLY way I could get to the outside world was radio! My clock radio and AM/FM radio gave me news access, as the cable television was dead. And of course I could still talk to whoever was on the other end of HF, VHF, and UHF radios. My only connection to the local community were the local repeaters. Long live repeaters! And two-way radios.

This hobby is not only fun, but useful.



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)**



**I was just shoveling out a hole
for my tower base and found
this badger den...**

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

JUNE 29 - TOM VE3DXQ
JULY 6 - TONY VE3DWI
JULY 13 - BRIAN VA3DXK
JULY 20 - BOB VE3IXX
JULY 27 - TED VE3TRQ
AUGUST 3 - BILL VA3QB
AUGUST 10 - KIRK VA3KXS
AUGUST 17 - REG VE3RVH
AUGUST 24 - FRANK VA3FJM
AUGUST 31 - TOM VE3DXQ
SEPTEMBER 7 - TONY VE3DWI



LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND
August 20 and 21
In Point Clark

Fun for the whole family!

Yes, I have a walkie-talkie and no, I am not the security guard

By Daniel Romila VE7LCG

I live in an apartment building with the balcony having free view towards South. I am at 103 meters above the sea level, which gives awesome radio opportunities. But the hill continues behind the building, so it is possible to have even better conditions, and reach repeaters even further away.

So, I took my walkie-talkie and went up the hill, in Higher Mountain Park. I was calling CQ when a bystander came over to me with a report to me that some delinquent children were spray painting garbage bins. I was looking for a signal report, not a painting report. I told the complainer that I had no authority and he went away disgusted.

As if this was an invitation, another person came to complain about an intoxicated guy acting erratically. It seems that having the walkie-talkie in hand guaranteed my success to socializing but seemed to interfere with making any contacts.

I tried to explain that I am not the right person to talk to, but I was immediately asked:

"Aren't you the security guard?" Now perhaps they suspected me of being a drug dealer.

This seemed to open up the flood gates and another group of people nearby gathered together giving me "the evil eye". At this point I felt it was easier to leave than to stay and explain that I was an amateur radio operator.

Being so unsuccessful in my first attempt I felt something has to be changed. I was thinking that maybe my rubber duck stock antenna was the source of confusion and recognized and prevented me from being admired as a radio amateur.

Perhaps a longer, better, stronger antenna like the telescopic RH-770 was the answer to all the problems. I mounted it on the walkie-talkie and went uphill, this time in Bali Lake Park, where nobody was (yet) upset by my presence.



I extended my antenna. It is a very long and impressive telescoping antenna: 91 centimeters long.

"Hey buddy this place is taken!"

I moved away.

"This spot is taken, too!"

I was between fishing rods. I tried to explain that what I had was a walkie-talkie with a long telescopic antenna, not a fishing rod, and that I have an earpiece. I tried to explain I was a licensed amateur radio operator and the documents to prove it.

"Take your gizmo and go! Wait your turn."

My life had taken a sad turn. As many radio amateurs have pointed out, almost all problems come from the antenna. Not enough space! Trying to keep it hidden! Trying to show it off! And so on!

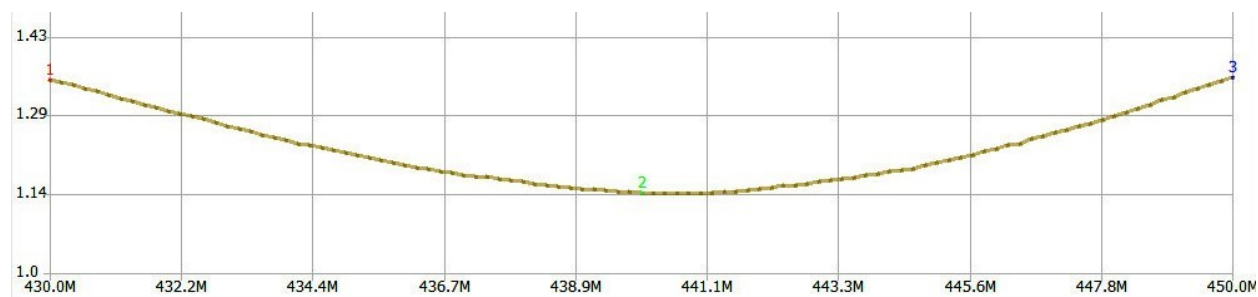
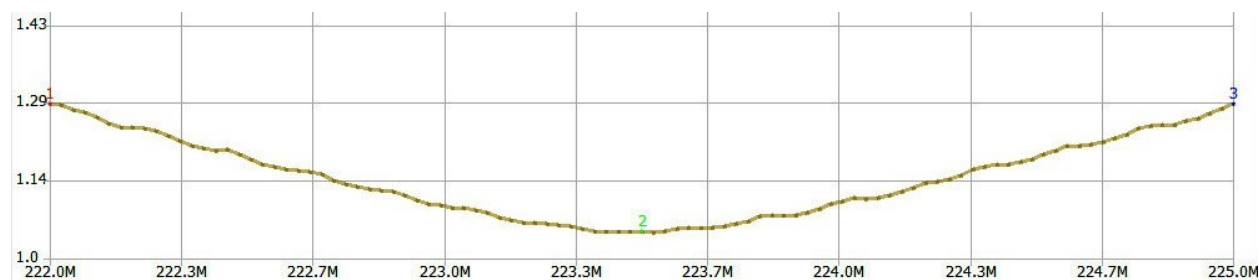
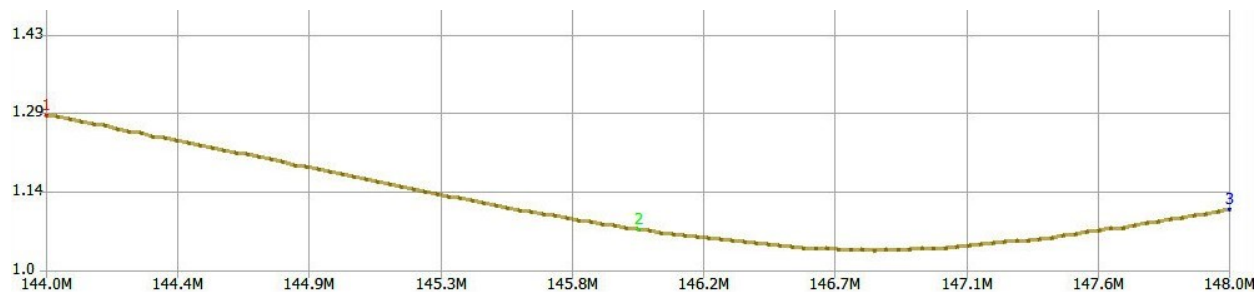
Life is not fair.

I was thinking that maybe a more obvious antenna, something home brewed would make me more visible as a radio amateur. I was thinking of a tri-band dipole antenna put on top of my walkie-talkie that would make me stand out of the crowd. The radio performance would be better, too.

I took an SMA connector, soldered it on a double-sided perforated PCB. Above the connector I put three dipoles, each one for a different band connecting all the left arms and all the right arms but separated at the centre.



I used telescopic antennas, extended them (the dipoles lengths: 94 cm for the 144 MHz band, 70 cm for the 222 MHz band and 38 cm for the 70 cm band) and in no time, with the help of a NanoVNA everything was tuned and I obtained a nice SWR. The practical tuned lengths varied somewhat from the online calculators by several centimeters. You can eventually repeat my described construction and play with the tuning, and you will obtain even better results. I was anxious just to try it out.



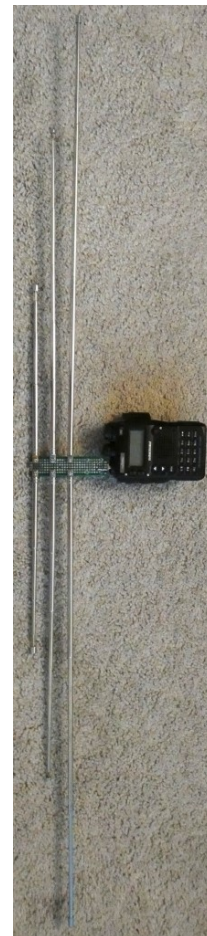
With some intrepidity I went out again. But well prepared.
I took out the piece of paper on which I carefully written down the lengths for each of the six arms of dipoles. I used the measuring tape, taken out from another pocket.

Shockingly, people stopped and paid attention to me. I felt a wave of admiration coming from them. Children surrounded me and their mother took pictures. Some teenagers took a video of me to post on the Internet.

I felt somebody patting me friendly on my back. I turned around.
“ It’s never too late for Halloween, it’s never too early for Halloween. “

“What? “

I guess there is a little Halloween in each of us. We’re cool!



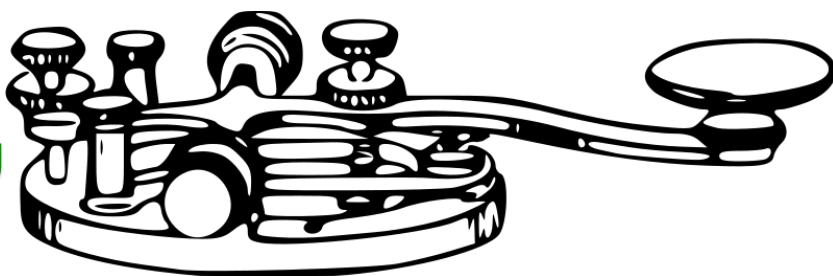
Correspondence

From Mike VE3MKX we get the following: Isn't that how it [working DX] works already??? LOL



All Keyed Up by

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



Is Field Day still relevant?

July 1, 2022 By Dan KB6NU



I always enjoy Field Day, and this year was no exception. But, as I sat there, punching call signs into N1MM and watching my log and the logs of the other networked stations, it occurred to me that there were an awful lot of 1B, 1D, and 1E stations. I'm guessing that the majority of these stations were one-person operations operating from their back porch.

I know that Covid is still an issue, and some hams are just anti-social, but I think that these folks are really missing out. I mean, it's nice to try something new once in a while, and the first year was fun. I operated completely QRP and battery-powered. The second year, however, was completely unsatisfying, even though we did manage to cobble together a small group.

Is Field Day still relevant?

This year was a lot better. Our club was 3A, but even so, attendance was way down. Noting that, and noting all the single-operator stations, I'm beginning to wonder if Field Day is still relevant. I've always described Field Day as a combination club social event, emergency preparedness exercise, and public relations event. With so many single-operator stations, it's certainly not much of a club event, and I doubt that the 1B, 1D, and 1E ops are doing much public relations.

I suppose that the 1B and 1E stations are exercising some of their emergency communications capabilities, but a lot of training is now required to really take part in emergency communications. I'm not sure that knowing that your generator is working and how to start it would be all that valuable in a real emergency situation.

Even with all the 1B, 1D, and 1E stations on the air, it seemed to me that participation was down. At least it was down on CW. After searching and pounding a bit, I had no problem at all finding a clear frequency on which to start calling CQ.

Should Field Day encourage more VHF/UHF operation?

Another reason that makes me wonder about the relevance of Field Day is that operation mostly takes place on HF. Sure, some clubs have VHF/UHF stations, but I'd say that those are the exception rather than the rule. And, since the majority of licensed hams are Techs, how appealing is it for them to come out and participate in Field Day?

Also, most emergency communications now take place on VHF, UHF, and above. How is making rapid-fire CW contacts on 80 meters training people to be better at emergency communications?

I mentioned this to my friend Mark, W8MP, who happened to wander into the CW station while I was pondering this idea. He said, "Well, at least this is getting people on the air." That's true, I guess, but there are all manner of contests and operating events that get people on the air.

I'm not exactly sure what we can do to increase Field Day participation, but here are a couple of ideas:

- Give more points to VHF/UHF and up QSOs to encourage more operation on those bands.
- Require every club operation to have a GOTA [Get On The Air] station, or give more points to GOTA contacts. It seems to me that GOTA stations are one of the really good things about Field Day and it should be promoted more.
- Give points for activities specifically directed at Tech licensees. I'm not sure what that would be, though.

I'm certainly interested in hearing what you think about this? Am I off base here? If not, how would you make Field Day more relevant to the situation that amateur radio finds itself in these days.



As can be seen from the Field Day experience of the Elmira Radio Club, they are NOT missing out. ERC had great participation and a lot of fun to boot. Thanks to Bill VA3QB and his drone for this aerial shot.



**From
the**

PAST



Pictured above is the Field Day group for The Elmira Radio Club in 2004.

POTA Activation

By Paul Curtin VA3PDC

activated Selkirk Provincial Park this evening with a different antenna setup. A 31.5 ft piece of speaker wire taped to a 40 ft spider beam telescopic pole. It fit nicely in the corner between the propane tank and the milk crate, couldn't be any easier. The 3 analyzer pics are with no radials, one radial and two radials. They were abt 12 ft long. I couldn't believe the difference. I made over 70 contacts in just under 45 minutes, wow



No Radials



One Radial



Two radials

[Below] is a picture of the antenna hookup, nothing fancy but sure does work good!! 83 contacts in an hour.

I am using my Yaesu FT-991a at 100 watts. Last night I had a few reports of distorted audio and then the radio just shut down???



I put the choke in line and it cured everything!!! All and all a very good learning experience and a lot of fun!!!

