OCTOBER 2022 Volume 11 Issue 10

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 146.550
For coordination and assignments.

Rob VE3PCP manning his Emergency Communications trailer at the Hannover Haul

THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

President's Update for October 2022

Portable operating - one of the things many hams find very appealing. Of course "portable" means many things to many people. In the case of ISED, it means operating anywhere other than your home station. For most of the rest of us, it usually means operating from battery, in a remote location, often with carried-in antennas and radios. However, operating from a vehicle, using the vehicle battery (and often the vehicle's heater!) also qualifies. I have seen at least one or two articles featuring a ham in the UK with a trailer behind a bicycle with antenna and all equipment on board - definitely very "portable".

POTA - operating from an officially designated park - appears to be very popular among some of the participants of our morning net and Club members. I want to take the opportunity to thank Rod VA3MZD and Paul VA3PDC for sharing their experiences - Rod's presentation was informative and interesting, and his enthusiasm was very much in evidence.

Many of us are also motivated to be effective emergency operators, and operating portable certainly helps prepare us for operating when some or all of our home amenities are missing.

Our meeting last night was preceded by our now annual SK dinner prior to our Club meeting. It gives us the opportunity to remember all those amateur operators who helped us build the Elmira Radio Club to what it is. Our newsletter editor, Bob VE3IXX, has published a list of SK members as far as we know and remember. Thanks Bob for helping us keep them in our hearts and minds.

SILENT KEY DINNER

ERC SILENT KEYS

Al MacDonald VA3TET-SK
Harry Eix VE3EIX-SK
Wallace Caughell VE3LCR-SK
Ralph Brubacher VE3EUC-SK
Ken Moore ?
Syd Lennox VE3CQO-SK
Bill Graham VE3ETK-SK
Michael Dent VA3FTL-SK
Bing Harris VE3BAH-SK
Ross Mills VE3BZC-SK
Wayne Peti VE3CWY-SK
Bob Naylor VE3AEE-SK
Fred Mosher VE3IXY-SK
Ted Bodman VE3CD-SK
Alan Ward VE3UTO-SK

From the PAST

Bill Graham VE3ETK-SK hosting the ERC meeting from his home in October 2015. Bill began the club tradition of commemorating our Silent Key members every October.

The multimeter

by Daniel Romila, VE7LCG

For every radio amateur the tool that one can never miss having, is the multimeter. Many non-radio and non-electronics people have in house such a tool to verify cables and power outlets. This article wants to give information about what is available out there to buy as multimeters, in the cheap budget range, and what problems some models have. This mainly comes from my own experience. Precise analog multimeters are very expensive. I will mostly focus on digital multimeters.

The most common model is DT830D. It is comfortable to use. It can even measure the amplification factor of transistors. It contains a 9V battery. I was scared initially as the battery is known to die immediately, but I had the nice surprise. The included battery lasted more than 6 months. I have now a better battery (from the Dollar Tree – LOL !) that has been inside my digital multimeter for more than a year, closer to two years, and I use it every day. I just periodically verify to be sure it is not leaking. The DT830D can be bought for less than $6 CAD ($4.6 USD), shipping and taxes included, as of September 2022.

It comes with test leads, but I would not count on them. The first pair lasted one hour. The second pair came already broken. Anybody deciding to buy such multimeter (same for many other models) should be able to also buy some bananas and solder his/her own test leads. In order to replace the 9V battery one has to unscrew the back of the case. Some newer models have a dedicated compartment for the battery, easier accessible, without the need to unscrew anything. It is good to verify if the vendor includes the 9V battery. I bought the black version of DT830D.

Because it was cheap and is still cheap, exactly the same price as above, I also bought a very small analog multimeter, the MF110. I use it sometimes as a VU-meter for audio signals and also to follow real time increases/decreases in signal levels. I found it is more comfortable for me to do it with an analog instrument. It also can measure without a battery inside (except for measuring resistors), so it is a nice backup for the digital multimeter I usually use.

An advanced version of DT830D is XL830L which has backlit display and data retention (memory). It costs under $11 CAD ($8.50 USD), shipping and taxes included, also in September 2022.

If one wants to shed some $20 - $22 CAD ($15.32 – 16.85 USD) shipping and taxes included, in September 2022, one can buy a digital multimeter with AUTO range, 3 lines display. The model S7 is the cheaper one, with S9 being the more expensive, but which is able in addition to measure capacitance and low frequencies, under 1 KHz.

The more money one spends, the more functions he/she can have on the multimeter. There are digital multimeters capable of measuring radio frequencies, generating signals and even containing oscilloscopes.

The ET836 model is capable of displaying signals in the audio range, under 20 KHz. It costs around $80 CAD ($61 USD) shipping and taxes included, in September 2022.

The KK828 has color display and can display up to 1 MHz signals, for the same price as the ET836.

An even more serious combined multimeter – signal generator – data storage – dual channel oscilloscope up to 50 MHz, model HO50 comes with a price tag of $190 CAD ($145 USD) shipping and taxes included, in September 2022.

Me, personally, I preferred to buy a classic bigger size digital oscilloscope and a cheap digital multimeter, not a combined one. This is not only for having a bigger display (not the point because almost all digital oscilloscopes, even some combined portable models, can be connected to a computer and in this way to a very big monitor, like a 65 inches TV/ monitor), but also for having enough space for buttons and connectors.

Remembrance Special Event station VA3IFF

Want to operate as VA3IFF this year...

I am pleased to let everyone know that we will be operating at the Hammond Museum of Radio as the Remembrance Special Event station VA3IFF. We will be physically at the Museum Wednesday November 9th 1pm to 4pm, Thursday November 10th 1pm to 4pm and Friday November 11th 9am to noon. If you wish to visit the Hammond Museum of Radio during these times, please let me know, and have a mask with you, as they are mandatory in the Museum.

Local Amateurs have been operating this **Special Event for Remembrance** for 34 years originally from the McCrae House Museum, which was the birthplace of Col John McCrae, who wrote the poem **In Flanders Fields**. The last few years we have been operating from the Hammond Museum of Radio in Guelph. This Special event helps to promote Remembrance and World peace while making contacts with amateurs around the world.

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We are also opening up for local hams to operate as VA3IFF, from November 5th to November 11th. You are required to schedule a time slot with me, as we can only have 1 station operating at a time. We also require a copy of your log for our net manager.

I am pleased to be able to operate as VA3IFF on ONTARS November 11th, from 10:55am to Noon. I am also going to be doing my 7am hour on November 6th as VA3IFF.

Thank you

Linda VE3CZ/VE3ILJ ve3ilj@gmail.com
or text 519-830-9549

Mike VE3FE

Thanks to Mike VE3MKX for forwarding an interesting antenna plan from the WAX group:

Half-square antenna

The half-square antenna design attached is for 20m when fed at the top corner. The pattern shown is for 20m in this configuration.

But if fed at the bottom end (using a 49:1 or 64:1) it becomes a halfwave endfed that will cover 10, 15, 20 and 40m. Excellent antenna to fit into a small lot.

Here is a video about it

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xu9MRG6Jh-0&t=196s
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xu9MRG6Jh-0&t=196s>

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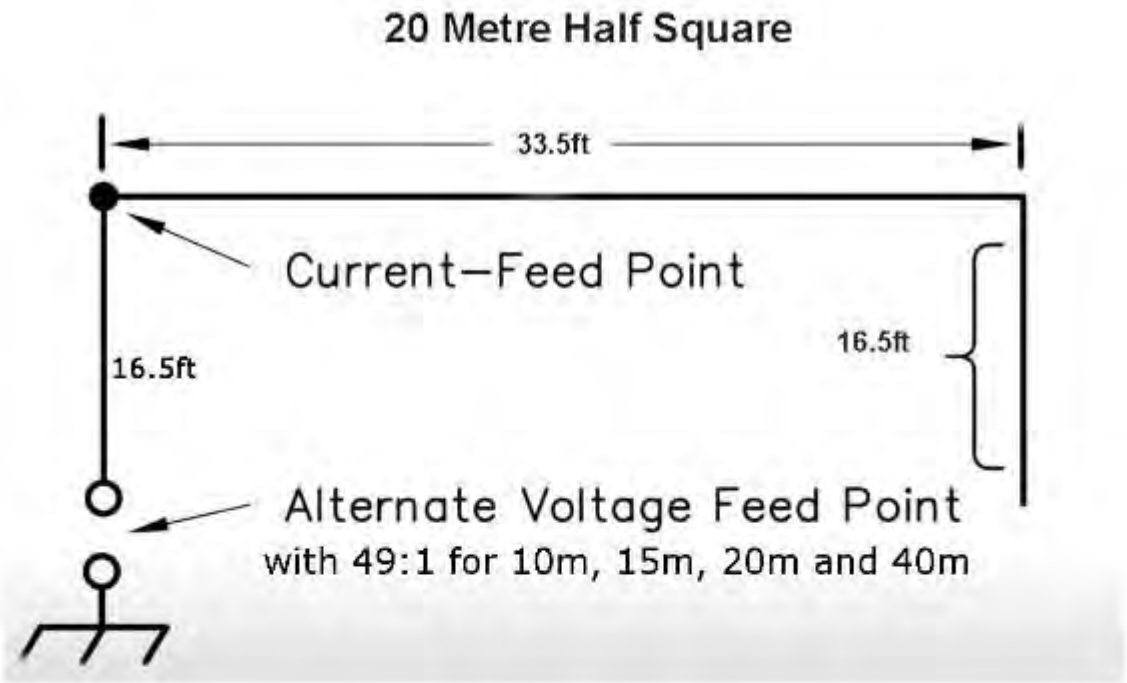
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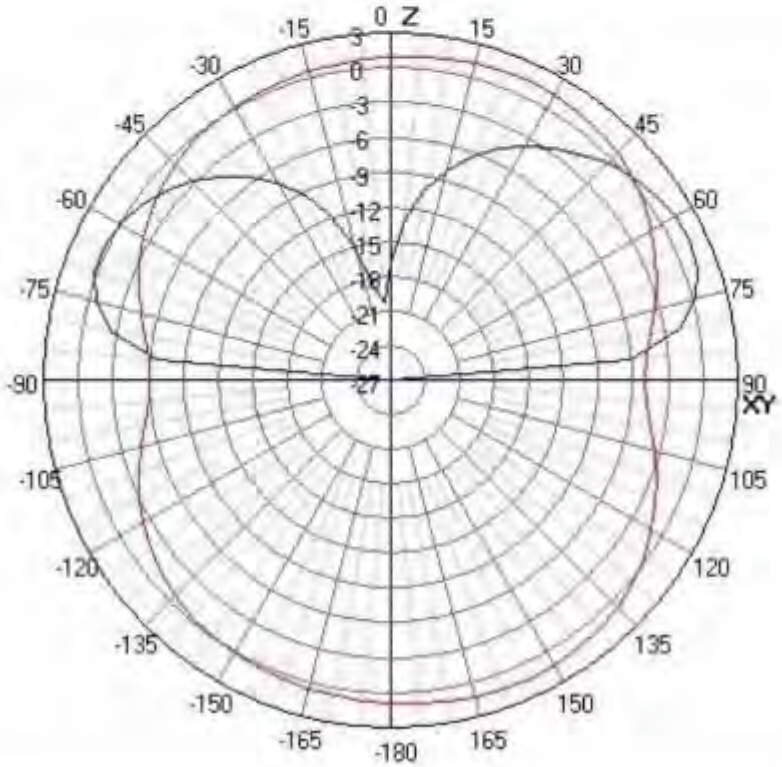
with 49:1 for 10m, 15m, 20m and 40m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CONTRIBUTIONS TO VE3ERC-CLUB NEWSLETTER

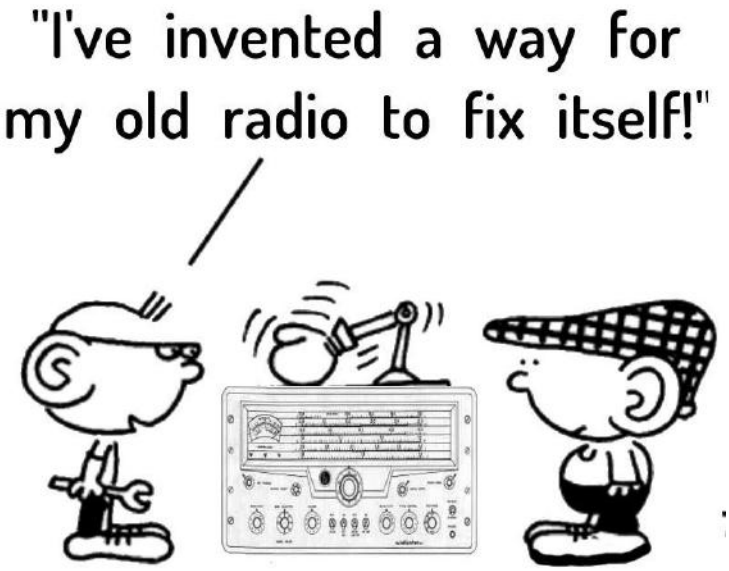
Do you have an article you'd like to submit? Or photos? Do you have any comments you'd like to make?

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

SEPTEMBER 28 - M E E T I N G

OCTOBER 5 - TED VE3TRQ

OCTOBER 12 - BILL VA3QB

OCTOBER 19 - KIRK VA3KXS

OCTOTOBER 26 - REG VE3RVH

NOVEMBER 2 - FRANK VA3FJM

NOVEMBER 9 - TOM VE3DXQ

NOVEMBER 16 - TONY VE3DWI

NOVEMBER 23 - M E E T I N G

NOVEMBER 30 - BRIAN VA3DXK

DECEMBER 7 - BOB VE3IXX

Ojibway –
A 1st Time Activation for Parks on the Air (POTA)
By Brian Filbey VA3DXK

I've been in the amateur radio hobby for six years now and although I'd heard of it pretty much from the beginning and made a few sporadic QSOs, I've only recently actively been hunting down Parks on the Air – POTA stations. Fully enjoying this, I decided to take the plunge, take my radio gear outdoors, set up in a park, and become a POTA Activator!

Parks On The Air (POTA) is an amateur radio non-profit organization operating a unique and very enjoyable portable, international, amateur radio operations and award program. Inspired by the work of Sean Kutzko (KX9X) and Norm Fusaro (W3IZ) from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) in 2016, the program has grown from initially a regional and American entity to a North American, and now fully international entity. Just to give you an idea of the plethora of worldwide parks to hunt down from the comfort of your QTH: there are currently 5824 parks in Canada, 9268 in the United States, Ireland – 163, Azores – 157, Norway – 2523, New Zealand – 241, Costa Rica – 26, Faroe Islands – 1.

Radio operators who set up a portable station at a park (usually for a few minutes to a few hours at a a time) are known as 'activators', and those who contact or 'work' activators are known as 'hunters'. If you're interested, log in to POTA at https://pota.app/#/signup and create a free account so that you can track your progress and be eligible for numerous free awards.

POTA's aim is two-fold: i) to encourage licensed amateur radio operators to 'activate' parks by getting outdoors and operating portably from unique, sometimes remote, outdoor locations, ii) to 'hunt' parks on the air from the comfort of their QTH. In doing so POTA activators and hunters bring more visibility, awareness and appreciation of a country's unique national/federal and state/provincial level parks and historic/heritage sites.

Locations must be approved by POTA administration and include not just national and state/province level parks, but also National Monuments, National Preserves, Wildlife Refuges, Wetland Management Districts, National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems, Wildlife Management Areas, Conservation Areas, Antarctic Stations, National Military Sites and Parks, and Historical Sites and Trails.

Points are awarded to the activator for activating (operating from) a park, and to each of the hunters who successfully work (contact) the activator. The rules specify that, 'You and all the equipment you use need to be within the perimeters of the park, and on federal or state/provincial owned land.' This encourages ham operators to get out of the house and operate. By doing so POTA activities maintain our portable communications and emergency preparedness, increases exposure to the public, furthers interest in amateur radio, and adds newer participants to the hobby.

Each POTA site is specified by a reference number such VE-4890 Woodside National Historic Site (Canadian), or K-0921 Dinosaur National Monument (American), GM-0151 Orkney Islands – Hoy and West Mainland Scenic Site (Faroe Islands, Scotland).

Support for activators and hunters abounds, including a pdf Activators Guide and an excellent five part series of ten-minute POTA Activators Content videos covering all aspects of activation from getting started as an activator, planning and set-up, through to logging and uploading your log for credit.

If you're a hunter, a dedicated website, https://pota.app/#/ shows real time information about the ongoing and planned activations ("spots" and "alerts"). There's a pdf Hunters Guide

and a POTA Hunters Content series of three of short videos. For activators https://pota.app/#/user/activations lets you register the date, time, frequency, and park for your planned activation.

Similar to Field Day, you grab your gear, set up in a POTA recognized park, start calling CQ POTA and have fun. Typically a lower noise floor and very often beautiful views and opportunities for wildlife watching in the great outdoors will make for a most enjoyable time. Every activation has different challenges: terrain, space constraints, weather, accessibility, but it's an opportunity to perfect your portable radio kit, always evolving it to suit your operating style. It makes you a better operator and keeps your skills sharp.

Even on a slow day if you spot yourself on the POTA Spotter site you will be hunted. More likely you'll get good steady come-backs and maybe even a pileup as hunters jump in trying to work you. Make 10 or more QSOs on one UTC day while inside the boundaries of the park on any band your privileges allow and you have successfully activated a park. There is no specific exchange beyond callsign, although the traditional RST is usually given along with QTH. Log the date, time, and band in your favorite logging program and export as an ADIF. Submit this ADIF to your call area coordinator along with your call and POTA park number.

Once I got up to speed on the how-to of activation, I had to decide on a park to activate. You can search for parks via this website providing a searchable list of worldwide parks or by a map of searchable DXCC entities. Search for Ontario parks and you can choose from over 1047 currently registered parks. Information is provided for each park with details, location, website, activation stats, etc.

Ten-thousand years ago during the Wisconsin Ice Age, glacial ice and meltwater laid down layers of gravel, sand, silt, clay and till to a depth of about 30 metres over the bedrock of Southern Ontario. Over millennia, soils, forests, open woodlands, rivers and wetlands developed. Surprisingly, tall-grass prairie and savanna commonly found only in the prairies covered large sections of Southwestern Ontario.

Historic accounts and present-day physical evidence indicate that tall-grass prairie was once widespread in the extreme southwest of Ontario, primarily in Essex and Kent counties, covering approximately 1000 km^2 – today less than 3% remains.

The largest of these remnants is located in a small tract of land within the municipal boundaries of Windsor and Lasalle in Southwestern Ontario. Known as Ojibway, the area is in a vast bowl of poorly drained, yellow coloured sandy soil lying over a thick bed of clay. The sand is saturated with water in spring but very dry in mid-summer. This situation is more suited to grasses and wildflowers than trees which require a more consistent wet environment.

Fire, of course, provides a tremendous protection to the prairie. Without the aid of fire to burn back the invading woody plants, the prairie would never have been able to maintain its tenuous foothold in the province of Ontario. In the distant past, lightning strikes would do the job. Now prescribed burns are performed do the trick.

So how did Southern Ontario lose almost all of its tall-grass prairie? In the end, neither the forest nor the prairie won the battle. It was the axe and the plough that were the ultimate vic-

tors. Essex County, in extreme southern Ontario, now with less than 6% of its original natural forest cover has only 0.5% of the original prairies and savanna remain. The largest relicts which survived were those on lands controlled by native aboriginal peoples, such as Walpole Island, and those wedged between the developed urban portions of Windsor and LaSalle – the Ojibway Prairie Complex.

The **Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve** is the largest (105 hectares) and best known tall-grass prairie remnant, situated within a five-park system known as the Ojibway Prairie Complex – a collection of six closely situated natural areas. designated as the Ojibway Prairie Remnants Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). It is unique, as it hosts one of the largest remnants of Tallgrass Prairie in Canada.

The most striking aspect of Ojibway Prairie Complex is the tremendous variety of its vegetation and animal life. Wetlands, forest, savanna and prairie provide habitat for a great number of rare plants, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals. The prairie landscape, characterized by a lack of trees (less than 2.5 trees/hectare) includes grasses and flowers that grow very tall and lush. Hence the name - tallgrass prairie. This flat, sandy to silty plain is very wet in the spring and very dry by late summer making it ideal for prairie vegetation. The area includes tracts of untilled tall-grass prairies, open woodlands called savanna and reclaimed agricultural lands. Fire is a key component of maintaining prairie vegetation. In order to mimic this formerly natural process, controlled fires are applied as a management tool at many Ontario prairie sites owned by conservation agencies.

Since prairie areas are so rare in Ontario, the flora and fauna associated with them are also uncommon in the province. In this rare and quite unique ecosystem can be found more than 500 flowering plants of which about 18 per cent are considered to be rare in Ontario. Slender Bush Clover thought to be extirpated in Canada, is found here along with another rare prairie wildflower, Tall Green Milkweed, currently unknown elsewhere in Canada. Other wildflowers such as Ladies' Tresses orchids and Fringed Gentian bloom profusely at this site.

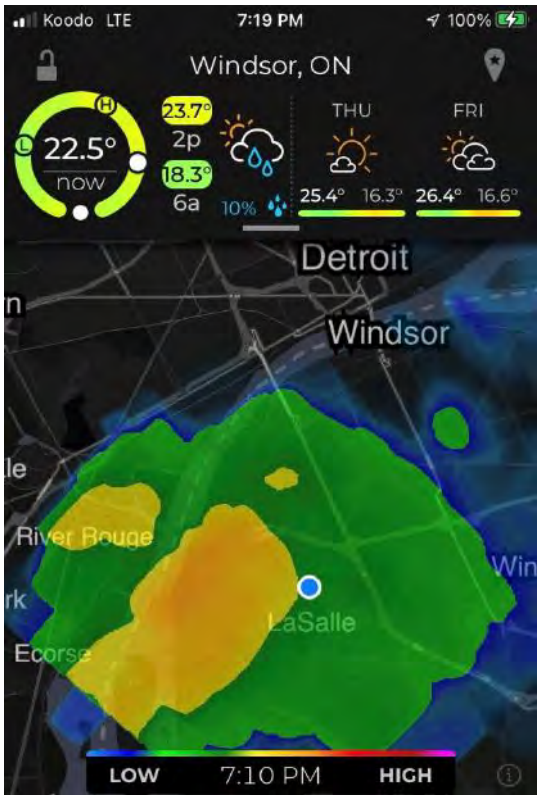
Like many of its plants, this ecosystem's fauna also has southern and western affinities. Butler's Garter snake, Northern Bobwhite and Yellow-breasted Chat are three such species. Near ponds one might find the Double-striped Bluet and Pronghorn Clubtail dragonflies. Provincially rare butterflies which can be seen visiting prairie wildflowers include the Southern Cloudy wing and Wild Indigo Dusky Wing along with the now endangered/threatened Monarch butterfly. The Red-bellied Snake, Butler's Gartersnake and Eastern Foxsnake are common park reptiles.

The Eastern Massassauga rattlesnake, once abundant here, is Ontario's only venomous snake. Although the venom is potent, its small size and more so its reclusive habits make it a minor risk to humans. The massasauga has faced widespread persecution for decades, despite the fact that it poses little threat to public safety and that deaths as a result of massasauga bites are virtually unheard of in Ontario. In First Nations traditions, the massasauga rattlesnake is the medicine keeper of the land — a reminder to tread lightly and to take only what we need from the land. This snake has been officially designated as a Threatened Species and is protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act.

Ojibway supported the only remaining population in extreme southwestern Ontario but unfortunately not a single massasauga has been seen in Ojibway since 2019. Now suspected to be extirpated,

biologists have begun efforts to return the massassauga to the Ojibway tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

As you've likely assumed by now, I chose Ojibway Prairie Provincial Park VE-0328 as the location to attempt my first POTA activation. I also wanted to make it a Lateshift activation – meaning your activation must commence after 00:00 UTM which is 8:00 p.m. in our Eastern Daylight Savings Time timezone. July 14, 2022 shaped up into a typical hot and sunny, hazy and humid, southwestern Ontario afternoon with large cumulous clouds amassing as the late afternoon wore on. With the forecast indicating a possibility of late afternoon and evening thundershowers I was being to worry that my activation plan would be sabotaged. This was my only day to play radio so I kept a close eye on the weather radar, prepped my gear, and performed a full practice setup.



At six in the evening I checked the weather radar. There were a few scattered storms developing to the northwest in lower Michigan but it appeared their tracts would skirt Ojibway. I was hoping to set up in daylight, activate for about an hour into dusk and then beyond 8pm/00:00UTM into the evening to qualify for a lateshift activation. Good to go, let's make this happen! I loaded the car and set off on the short twenty-minute drive to the park. Bounded by city streets and fenced off along its perimeter, Ojibway Nature Reserve has limited access – a dirt path delineates its northern side providing access for visitors. This footpath is accessed at each end from city streets by short gravel roads providing parking areas. I parked at the eastern one and did a quick walkabout to choose a setup location along the path, being sure I was inside park boundaries.

Over the next few minutes, I lugged my folding table and chair, heavy 12V deep cycle marine battery, and six or seven stackable aluminum military poles and guy ropes for the twenty-eight-foot antenna mast to my setup location. More time then to single-handedly raise the military mast, hoist up and tie off the antenna… By then I was overheating so I returned to my car in the shade to rest a minute. All this time I'd noticed a rather large cumulous cloud to the northwest developing by the minute into a darker, more ominous cumulonimbus. The weather radar confirmed my suspicions, rain was coming in fast and would hit in twenty minutes right as I would finish hooking up the radio and begin calling CQ. This damn storm was going to ruin the entire activation. Should I pack up or wait and hope it would clear?

Skies darkened quickly as I returned the folding table and chair to my car and checking the weather radar confirmed that at least the storm was small and fast moving – it would hit in five minutes, the rain would last just under an hour, and then it would clear again for the remainder of the evening. Sure enough, about fifty minutes later the rain slowed, the sun came out, the humidity broke, and the storm diminished to a sun-shower. A few more patient minutes and out I

went with radio in hand to hook up to the antenna, adjust my microphone on its boom, plug in my headphones, and begin my activation during a wet but sunny, warm, Southern Ontario evening. It was now just about 8:30 p.m., I had about forty minutes of sunlight then dusk, and on into dark if necessary – this first-time activation was going to happen and it was going to be a Lateshift activation at that!

I scanned the 40-meter band, found an open frequency, spotted myself on the POTA website, and began calling CQ POTA. Very quickly I had a comeback from VE3PYJ, Gerry Bell, a well-established POTA hunter and activator from the Toronto area – my first POTA contact! W1OP the Providence Radio Association out of Rhode Island was second, and thereafter a pileup began. I was using my homemade, portable End-fed Half Wave (EFHW) antenna. Cut for 40m, it's a great little lightweight, highly portable antenna that's efficient and very reliable in the field. I really enjoy working pileups – so many operators calling in at once, listening carefully to discern a callsign, sometimes taking the first or second one you hear, sometimes snagging the tailenders, other times grabbing someone in the middle of the pack. It does take some effort and diligence to take charge and be authoritative, and stay in control of the pileup, or it will quickly digress into chaos as the pack can quickly take on a nefarious character of its own. I'm used to this from contests, field day, lighthouse weekend, etc. so I will not acknowledge those who try to cut in out of turn or if, for example, I ask for the callsign ending in RND to comeback and an unrelated callsign tries to cut in. From experience I have come to understand that it is important to pause occasionally and call specifically for weaker stations – other Park-to-Park operators along with QRP, mobile, VE and VA, and DX stations. At times if the pileup is huge, perhaps because you are activating a new or rare POTA location, you may even have to work by the numbers or call areas to successfully work it.

Before I knew it the sunny evening faded into a beautiful sunset which dissolved into a star-filled night. I was talked-out and it was time to QRT and pack up. Being my first POTA activation, and a Lateshift activation at that, it was a fabulous first-time experience! I thoroughly enjoyed working my pile-up. I made 131 QSOs in 1 hr. 16 min., had two Park to Park QSOs, along with some QRP, YL, and mobile stations. To top it off I also completed a contact each with Belgium and Venezuela!

If you haven't yet, consider becoming a POTA hunter or challenge yourself to become a POTA activator. I hope this article perhaps provides a bit of a primer and inspires you to grab your radio, a portable antenna, pencil and paper or laptop and get outdoors to enjoy this fantastic hobby in another exciting way!

A yet another POTA Activation!

By Rod Murray VA3MZD (Friday Oct. 7)

Yesterday and today, while hiking the Bruce Trail around the Hockley Valley, I attempted two POTA activations. Yesterday's "two-fer" was an unsuccessful attempt on 40m and 20m to activate VE-0229 Hockley Valley Nature Preserve and the Bruce Trail VE-5628 which passes through it. Only got 4 contacts.

Today, at a lovely spot on the Trail at the top of a steep climb through a creek valley overlooking a waterfall, I successfully activated VE-5628, The Bruce Trail, on 20m in grid square EN93xx64. Today's activation was particularly good as the band was active, I made 11 contacts with mostly good signal reports and my QRP radio, running at only 2.5 watts (due to the fact I'd left my 12v LiFePo battery behind!). I was heard in NY, IL, WI, VA, CT, IN, GA, TN, AR and DC! The DC station was operating from K-7302, The National Mall in Washington!

A great 10k hike, spectacular colours and a POTA all in one day.

Rod Murray VA3MZD Fergus, ON

Watch on Youtube as Rod connects with N3GT in Indiana using 2.5 watts.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hKHmkZR4OE

ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc. - Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2022

Attendance - Members	**Attendance - Officers**
Bill Reid VA3QB Bob Koechl VE3IXX Bruce McLellan VE3QB Graham Bauman VE3BYP John Linnerth VE3OVO Judd Hodge N4WXU/VE3WXU Ken Buehler VE3KCY Marianne Lelieveld VE3MXT Mike Willis VE3FE Reg Horney VE3RVH Rene Paquin VE3RRP Rich Clausi VE3DCC Rod Murray VA3MZD Roger Sanderson VE3RKS Tony Lelieveld VE3DWI	Ted Rypma VE3TRQ – President Frank Monteith VA3FJM – Vice President Paul Curtin VA3PDC – Treasurer Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS – Secretary **Guests**: Ronald Webb VE3WBE Judy Monteith

Meeting Location: Elmira Fire Hall & Zoom

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order:**
    a. Meeting was called to order by President, Ted Rypma VE3TRQ at 7:40 pm and he welcomed every-one present.
2. **Roll Call:**
    a. A roll call established those present and it was noted quorum had been attained.
3. **Presentation**

    a. POTA, Portable Operations, Radios & Antennas - Rod VA3MZD.
    b. Telescoping fiberglass poles, chokes, baluns & wire antennas for portable operations - Ted VE3TRQ.
4. **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: Paul VA3PDC **Carried**

5. **Secretary Report:** Presented by Kirk Sinclair VA3KXS.
    a. Correspondence Received:
        i. Invitation to submit our RAC 2023 Affiliation & Insurance Forms.
    b. Minutes of the September 28, 2022 meeting were emailed to members on the same day.
    c. MOTION to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2022 meeting.

    Motion By: Tony VE3DWI

    Carried
6. **Treasurers Report:** Presented by Paul Curtin VA3PDC
    a. Details of transactions for the month of were described by Paul.
    b. MOTION to approve the financial statement for September 2022.

    Motion By: Paul Curtin VA3PDC

    Carried
7. **Presidents Report:**
    a. Thanks to everyone who came out to the SK dinner. The food was great and it seemed like everyone had a good time. Our October meeting is a time to remember our friends who are now Silent Keys. Ted has great memories of October gatherings in the basement of Bill Graham's house, eating baked goods.
    b. Ted and others acknowledged additional Silent Key members: Al MacDonald VA3TET-SK, Harry Eix VE3EIX-SK, Wallace Caughell VE3LCR-SK, Ralph Brubacher VE3EUC-SK, Ken Moore, Syd Lennox VE3CQO-SK, Bill Graham VE3ETK-SK, Michael Dent VA3FTL-SK, Bing Harris VE3BAH-SK, Ross Mills VE3BZC-SK, Wayne Peti VE3CWY-SK, Bob Naylor VE3AEE-SK, Fred Mosher VE3IXY-SK, Ted Bodman VE3CD-SK and Alan Ward VE3UTO-SK.
8. **Committee Reports:**
    a. Repeater Technical Committee - Bill Reid VA3QB / Tony Lelieveld VE3DWI
        i. Tony provided an update on some of the repeater systems he has been working on.
9. **Unfinished Business**
    a. An update on the estate of Al VA3TET - Reg VE3RVH**.**
        i. This evening Reg presented the club with an additional cheque for $1000 on behalf of Al's estate, resulting from the sale of Al's equipment.
    b. Yaesu System Fusion Repeater Installation Program - Paul VA3PDC
        i. The repeater has been ordered and is currently shipping.
        ii. Paul VA3PDC noted that Ken VE3KCY has a Yaesu HRI-200 Internet Linking system which would allow the new Yaesu Repeater to connect to the Internet, which he no longer requires personally. Ken is willing to provide the Internet service at the Alma repeater site.
        iii. MOTION to re-imburse Ken VE3KCY $125 for a Yaesu HRI-200 for use with the new Yaesu repeater.

New Business

a. RAC Affiliation & Insurance Renewal - Paul VA3PDC / Kirk VA3KXS.

i. The RAC base insurance fee increased from $200 to $220. Fee per user the same at $13 for non-RAC members and $1.25 for RAC members.

ii. Kirk VA3KXS pointed out the RAC insurance policy states re-imbursement is for ACV (actual current value, based on age & condition), not new value.

iii. ***MOTION*** *to submit the RAC Affiliation and Insurance application forms (including coverage for our 4 repeaters, worth a grand total of $5200 ACV) and pay the invoice when it arrives (expected to be in the $550 range).* **Motion By:** Paul VA3PDC **Carried**

iv. Club Equipment - Ted VE3TRQ

v. The club has equipment such as radios, antennas, test equipment, etc. which we struggle to keep track of, few people know who has it and the equipment is in unknown condition.

vi. If we are going to keep equipment, we should have a program to test it annually.

vii. Frank VA3FJM, Tony VE3DWI and Kirk VA3KXS will form a committee to review our inventory list, ensure it is accurate and confirm the equipment is in working order.

viii. Kirk VA3KXS will send out the current inventory list to the entire club and encourage everyone to provide feedback.

ix. **Announcements**

The annual Christmas Dinner will be held at The Harvest Moon in St. Jacobs on December 7, 2022, at 6:00pm. An RSVP request will be sent out 2 weeks prior to the event. We hope to see everyone & their spouses!

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 23, 2022.

There will be no December meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn at 8:51 pm

Motion By: John VE3OVO

Carried

All Keyed Up by

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Meters or MHz?

October 12, 2022 By Dan KB6NU

In something that I wrote recently, I referred to "70 cm repeaters," meaning, of course repeaters that operate between 420 MHz and 450 MHz (at least here in the United States).

One of the reviewers took me to task for my use of this phrase, writing:

Another thing that amateur radio gets wrong is the use of terms like 70 cm. WE old hams know what that means, but there aren't any radios that display a frequency in cm, so in my opinion, it's best to spell out frequencies and not wavelengths. To rewrite this, I'd say, "440 MHz repeaters" instead.

While I see his point, I'm not so sure that he's right about this. Back in the day—and I'm talking the 20th century here—we used to call the 70 cm band, the 440 band (at least here in the Midwest). Note that we'd say "440" and not "420," because most, if not all, the repeaters were located at the top end of the band.

Now, however, I think it's becoming more common to hear 70 cm instead of 440 MHz. Why call that band 440 MHz when we refer to all that other bands—at least all those lower in frequency—by their wavelengths? What I suggested is that I re-word "70 cm repeaters" to read "70 cm-band repeaters" or "repeaters for the 70 cm band."

In his reply to this suggestion he wrote:

To each his own, I guess. In my writing, I'm trying to make amateur radio seem accessible and inclusive to those who aren't currently hams, but might be interested. I'm not trying to "dumb it down"—my intended audience is techies—but I think that one only understands wavelength measurements once you're on the inside of amateur radio. To a non-ham it's cryptic to say 70 cm; non-ham wireless experimenters are used to seeing 433 MHz, 900 MHz, so that's why I use frequencies, not wavelengths.

I think that perhaps what I'll do is to continue to refer to the band as the 70 cm band when writing for amateurs, but be more specific when I think that non-amateurs will be part of the audience. For example, I might refer to "repeaters operating in the 70 cm band (420-450 MHz)."
What do you think?