



SEPTEMBER 2023

Volume 12 Issue 9

VE3ERC-LUB

President: Reg VE3RVH
Vice-President: Frank VA3FJM
Secretary: Tom VE3DXQ
Treasurer: Ted VE3TRQ
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.**



Repairs being made to the communications tower for the gas station in Alma, Ontario, just down the road from Ken VE3KCY. See Ken's first POTA experience on page 9.



Radio Amateurs
of Canada

THE PREZ SEZ!

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

President's Update for September 2023

Wow to be sitting in the chair of the President. I am honoured.

In 1998 I joined this successful club and I have been the treasurer for many years. I have watched it grow from 10 to 44 members. Experiences and co-operation has shown success by way of the membership.

Our full slate of candidates for the following year 2023-2024 will prove the continuing qualities that ERC leadership has in spiritual, co-operative and high technical knowledge.

Come out and join the ERC club at a breakfast meeting. If you are not yet a ham, bring your enthusiasms and pass that exam, obtain your own call sign licence and join us to be on the air communicating with other hams.

Thank You

Reg VE3RVH



FROM THE RAC WEBSITE

Calling All Amateurs: We Need Your Help During Solar Eclipses!

Members of the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) will be making radio contacts during the 2023 and 2024 North American eclipses, probing the Earth's ionosphere. It will be a fun, friendly event with a competitive element – and you're invited to participate.

Both amateur and professional broadcasters have been sending and receiving radio signals around the Earth for over a century. Such communication is possible due to interactions between our Sun and the ionosphere, the ionized region of the Earth's atmosphere located roughly 80 to 1000 km overhead.

The upcoming eclipses (October 14, 2023, and April 8, 2024) provide unique opportunities to study these interactions. As you and other HamSCI members transmit, receive, and record signals across the radio spectrum during the eclipse, you will create valuable data to test computer models of the ionosphere.

For more information, go to

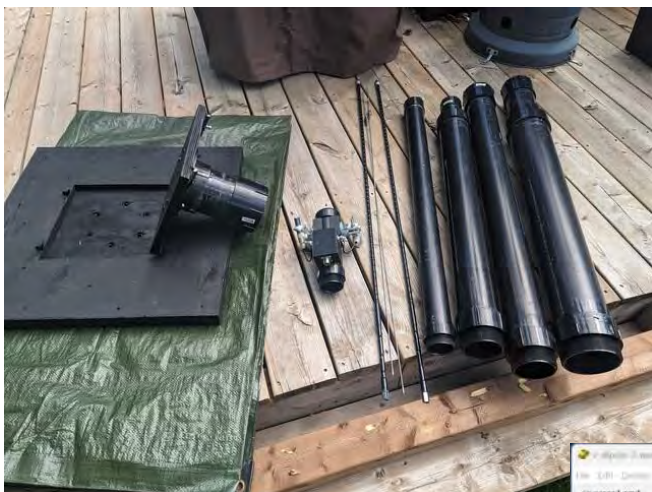
<https://hamsci.org/festivals-eclipse-ionospheric-science>

Portable Antenna mast

By Hagen Kaye VE3QVY

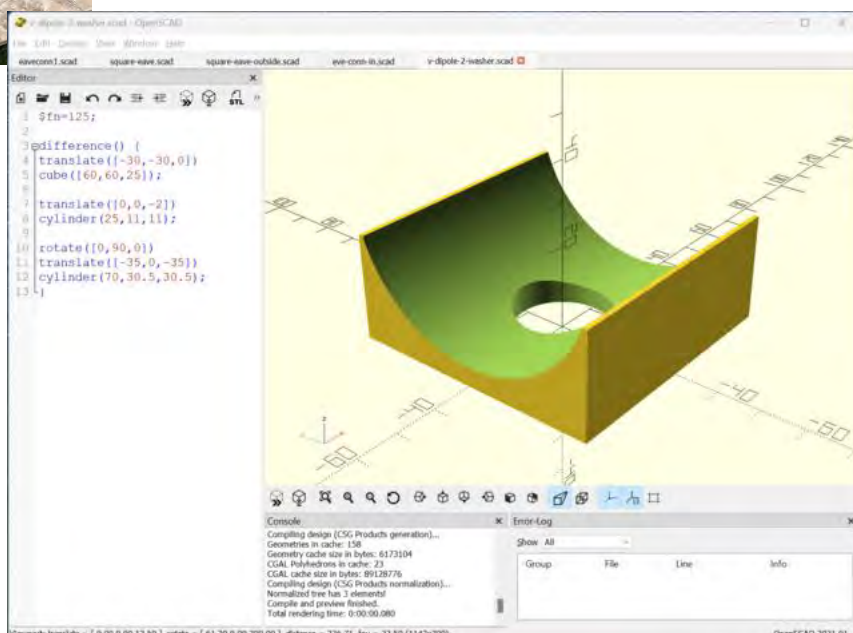
I wanted to build a portable antenna mast that I could easily transport and setup in the field by myself. I didn't want to rely on trees or anything on site so I figured I would have my car and could use it to secure the mast by driving a tire over a platform. Thinking of what readily available materials are easy to come by, I decided to go with ABS drain pipe as its easy to work with and I can use available plumbing fittings to create sections that can be screwed together.

My first attempt went badly, I used union joints and a 2" ABS pipe at the top with an antenna tuner. This proved to be top heavy and the union joints snapped. Not to be discouraged, every failure is a learning opportunity, I redesigned it with better joints, some 3D printed parts and eliminated the antenna tuner and went with a simple 1:1 current balun instead. The end result is great, I have a 14ft mast that is easily transportable and can be made taller in the future by adding more ABS pipe sections. The bottom sections start at 4" then 3" and tapers to 2" at the top for strength and stability.



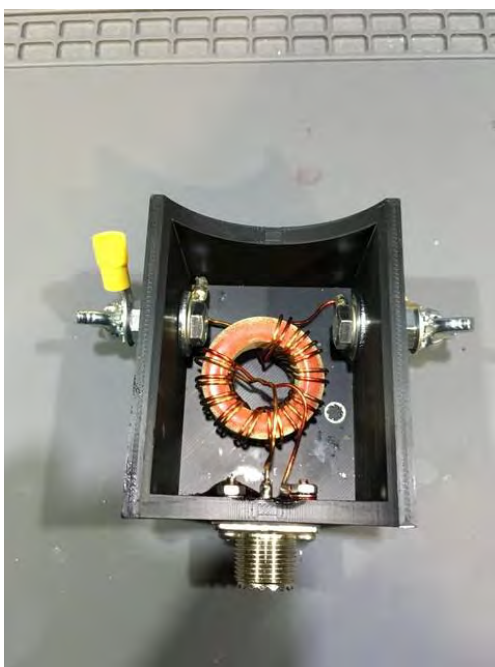
The base is made of plywood with a hinge that allows me assemble the mast and antenna on the ground and then prop it up vertically. The actual antenna is made from two 20m hamsticks and I made two different top sections that can either have a horizontal dipole or a V dipole. Disassembled, all the pieces fit easily in my hatchback. In the future I can add more hamsticks for different bands to my go kit.

For the V dipole I printed up some basic parts with ABS. I like to use OpenSCAD to design parts as I'm not very good at drawing, but being a computer programmer I find it natural to type in code, so to speak, to create the 3D objects. This is a washer of sorts that is curved on one side to match the 2" ABS pipe and flat on the other.





And here are all the pieces to make the V dipole mount. Using a 3/4" threaded rod (which I cut to length) and two aluminum mirror mounts I can set any angle for the dipoles, in this case the angle is 45 degrees upwards to give the antenna a little more height - after all dipoles like to be up in the air, minimum 1/4 wave length to 1/2 wave length. With the 14ft mast and the V dipole I was DXing from Ontario (my QTH) to Kansas and easily made 10 QSOs on my first test of the antenna



I also 3D printed a small enclosure for the 1:1 current balun. Each dipole connects one side of the balanced side and a SO-239 connector goes to the feed line.



I made two different heads for experimentation. Using a MFJ-347 mini dipole mount I also have a horizontal dipole option in the field and can swap these out easily.

In the future I may make other mounts for J poles and even an end fed mount with 1:9 balun and 53ft of wire (of course I'll probably need a tree on the other end). Hope you found this construction technique interesting and 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)



A big thanks to Bill VA3QB for this one!

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

AUGUST 23 - REG VE3RVH

AUGUST 30 - FRANK VA3FJM

SEPTEMBER 6 - TOM VE3DXQ

SEPTEMBER 13 - BOB VE3IXX

SEPTEMBER 20 - TED VE3VE3TRQ

SEPTEMBER 27 - M E E T I N G

OCTOBER 4 - TONY VE3DWI

OCTOBER 11 - BRIAN VA3DXK

OCTOBER 18 - TED VE3TRQ

OCTOBER 25 - M E E T I N G

NOVEMBER 1 - BILL VA3QB

NOVEMBER 8 - BOB VE3IXX

P.O.T.A.

AT THE ELORA GORGE

By Rod VA3 MZD and
Gary VE3JGK

A photograph of a picnic shelter at Elora Gorge. The shelter is a large, open-sided structure with a brown roof and wooden support posts. Inside the shelter, there are several wooden picnic tables. A yellow car is parked to the left of the shelter. In the foreground, a radio antenna is set up on a tripod in a grassy field. The background is filled with tall, green trees under a blue sky with some clouds.

After breakfast at the Gorge Restaurant on September 21, Gary VE3JGK and Rod VA3MZD went to the Elora Gorge Conservation Area and set up two radios for a POTA activation.



Gary's Icom 7300 easily made over 10 contacts.



Rod made a total of 4 contacts on 20 and 40 while hunting and calling CQ on both SSB and FT8.

Rod started out on 20, then let Gary have 20 once he was set up.

Some of the other bands, 17 and 15 were improving but alas, Rod gave up trying for 10 contacts after 2 hours.



Clearly Rod's 6W FT818 with end fed random wire were no match for Gary's 7300 doing 40W+ into a vertical.



From the PAST



All our civilization is based on invention; before invention, men lived on fruits and nuts and pine cones and slept in caves.

— *Reginald Fessenden* —

AZ QUOTES

Reginald Fessenden, the Father of Radio Broadcasting, whose voice was the first-ever to be broadcast by radio waves and heard by another person, was a Canadian, born in East Bolton, Québec, on October 6, 1866.

His boyhood years were spent in Ontario – in **Fergus** (north of Guelph) and later, in Niagara Falls.

My First POTA

By Ken VE3KCY

I've been meaning to attempt to do a POTA activation since early spring. After all it can't be that hard can it ?. For some that know me, I am can be very good at procrastinating. So last week Paul VA3PDC asked me what was I doing Sunday morning, I answered nothing that I know of. At that point Paul stated "meet me at the Woolwich Reservoir off Reid Woods Road north of Elmira bring your equipment and you're going to do your first POTA activation on Sunday". (Kinda like I coerced him into taking a morse code exam years back).

On Saturday evening I watched a youtube video explaining how to configure N3FJP software to accept POTA logging. Assembled a 30 foot telescoping pole for my antenna. Charged a battery for the morning & I was pretty much good to go for the morning by midnight.

I proceeded to the park for 8am and there was Paul already there waiting with a MacDonald's breakfast & coffee. After consuming that we set up my KX3 and set up the 30ft whip with some coax & we were on the air by 8:30. It took a few call outs after Paul spotted me on the POTA site. Shortly after that the fun began. The outcome in approx 1hr 20min was 39 contacts and 4 Park To Parks in the log. I was overwhelmed with calls, it was like was like breaking into a pileup but I was the pileup. With Paul logging for me it was much more manageable. After submitting the log Sunday night I have yet to see how I fared out. But park VE-5610 is in the books for me. Overall it was a great experience and I will definitely attempt more parks in the future without being arm wrestled to comply. So thanks Paul we are even now :)

If anyone is thinking of doing Parks on The Air, give it a shot. It's lots of fun. Paul & Rod are old pro's at it by now and can answer most questions you might have. The POTA web site also offers lots of information & has a data base of Q&A.



CORRESPONDENCE

Rob Noakes VE3PCP sent the following:

Simulated Emergency Test - Saturday October 7, 2023

Hello All:

As I had previously announced at the end of August, we have a scheduled Simulated Emergency Test for Saturday October 7, 2023. Thanksgiving weekend.

We will be set up at our local Fall Fair in Tiverton, On.

I have made arrangements with Barry, VE3ISX to pick up one hour as the net control station for ONTARS as part of our test. 3.755 mhz, LSB

We will do that from 11 AM until Noon.

From Noon until 1 PM will be on VHF 2M accessing local repeaters in the area. Monitoring and looking for contacts. Mostly informal.

We will use VE3PER, Port Elgin on 146.820- offset, no tone and VA3CAX in Berkeley, On.

145.290 - offset, 156.70 tone. These repeaters provide the best coverage in the area.

Starting at 1 PM until 2 PM, we will be on 7.130+/- on 40M LSB.

We will have a full station for HF and VHF at the fall fair and running a full sized NVIS linked dipole and an amplifier at 300 to 400W output on 80M and 40M.

We will be running off generator and battery power.

We will also employ our remote stations at my home QTH, about 5 km to the west on both HF and VHF and will livestream our operations.

One key advantage of livestreaming the full operation is that it not only provides a live look to where we are operating and what everyone sounds like but, as it is recorded for playback on Youtube, it serves as an archive to look back upon and review the results from that day as far as the coverage area, signal strengths and the general propagation from that point in time.

I'm confident we all know that we have many ways to pass messages whether by voice, CW or digital which includes Winlink, however, none of them would be possible without first having an over the air connection..

That is what our tests are for, demonstration of over the air connectivity and the ability to test different set ups that we may end up using in an emergency.

Propagation is always changing not only with time of year but with time of day and with varying different conditions that the sun may decide to send our way.

By being active and on the air, we will know what band typically works at different times of day and under different scenarios.

Hoping to hear you on the air.

73, Rob VE3PCP

for

[VA3KEO, Inverhuron Ham Radio Club Emergency Operations](#)

Amateur Radio Station

VA3KEO

Inverhuron Ham Radio Club

Simulated Emergency Test,
@ Fall Fair Tiverton, On
October 7, 2023

HF 80M, ONTARS, 11AM - Noon
VHF 2M Noon - 1 PM
HF 40M 7.130 1 PM - 2 PM

The poster features a background image of a sunset over water with a radio antenna. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular logo with a red maple leaf in the center, surrounded by the text 'Amateur Radio' and 'Simulated Emergency Test 2023'.

VE3ERC Elmira Radio Club Inc.

Minutes from Sept, 27 2023

1. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was open at 7:30 pm by our Club president Reg VE3RVH

2. Roll Call: VE3TRQ Ted, VE3RVH Reg, VE3IXX Bob, VA3PDC Paul, VA3QB Bill, VE3AOR Steve, VA3FJM Frank, N4WXU Judd, , VE3DCC Rich, VA3MZD Rod, VE3DXQ Tom, VA3JGK Gary, VA3RRP Rene, VA3PT John, VE3KCY Ken, VE3WBE Ron, VE3XMT Marianne, VA3VRA Tom, Tony VE3DWI.

3. Adopt Agenda : Ted VE3TRQ showed the Agenda on the flat screen tv and Agenda was accepted.

4. Presentations/Speakers/ Workshop: You-tube video on Echo Link and IRLP cancelled due to technical issues. Ted VE3TRQ has sent out a link so you can watch it at home. Reg showed a Sun Tent he said would be donated to the club.

5. Secretary's Report: Tom VE3DXQ asked if there were any errors or omissions from the June 2023 minutes none were mentioned. Tom VE3DXQ motioned to accept minutes. Seconded by Frank VA3FJM carried.

6. Treasurer's Report: Ted VE3TRQ displayed the treasurer's report which showed a very quiet month. Judd N4WXU donated his coffee fund \$30.00 received from Luther Village coffee fund. Thanks Judd. Ted VE3TRQ motioned to have treasure's report accepted, seconded by Paul VA3PDC. Carried.

7. President's Report: Reg VE3RVH said that he is new in this position and everyone is doing a good job and he is counting on our support. He said he has been with the club since 1998. Reg said he was very pleased to see VA3TET call sign used for the Alma repeater. Reg VE3RVH said in the near future the club may have a fox hunt. Gary VE3JGK said he recently did a fox hunt and was successful. He said it took 40 min of the allotted time of one hour.

8. Committee Reports: Repeater Technical Committee (Bill VA3QB, Tony VE3DWI)

Tony VE3DWI said when he gets back from his trailer in a couple weeks he will be checking out the repeaters in Elmira and Alma. He said he will check out the feed line and install the UHF repeater in Elmira.

Club Equipment Review- Bill VA3QB said that Ted VE3TRQ now has possession of 2 Yeasu 8800. That he had. Ted VE3DXQ said he still has a few things to pick up from Kirk VA3KXS.

9. Unfinished Business: for presentations- Karen RT systems, Mike Walker Flex, Yaesu John Crook.

Ted VE3TRQ said that RT systems should be interesting, because it involves connecting VHF radios to computers. Ted said that we may have to do it in November as there may be a silent key dinner in October. The John Crook presentation is on WiresX and fusion radios.

10. New Business: Simulated Emergency Operation Dark Skies Oct 14, and 16

Simulated Emergency Test (SET) 2023 - Radio Amateurs of Canada (rac.ca) Ted VE3TRQ said to go to the RAC website to get more info. The Idea is to see the effect of the eclipse on radio communications.

Rod VA3MZD took a poll to see how many in our club would be interested in wires x net. Rod is suggesting a Thursday night.

Bill VA3QB made a suggestion about putting club members pictures and call sign on our Google Drive.

Silent Key Dinner: Rich VE3DCC asked about the silent key dinner. Not clear at this point if there is going to be one. Reg VE3RVH mentioned some silent key members.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Frank VA3FJM said that Jim VE3JLC is moving. His new address is Parkwood Mennonite Home 726 Newhamshire in Waterloo. Frank said to call him for instructions to visit Jim. He is doing better as he can now stand, but not walk yet.

Next Club meeting: Oct 25, 2023.

12. Adjournment – Meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

RUNNING PORTABLE By Bob VE3IXX

We were able to get away for a few days to what I call the Cabin in the Woods. As usual, I set up my portable station and operated on HF and managed an hour on ONTARS as well. I got excellent signal reports. While the cabin actually supports the internet, this time around, the whole system had crashed. Without the internet or cell phones, our only method of communication was radio: a novel experience.



My set-up was on a screened-in porch which looked into the woods. Noise on the bands was almost non-existent.



We stopped at the Visitor Centre at Algonquin Park on route to take a picture of the park communications antennas as well as some of the Fall colours which were beginning to show.

