



APRIL 2024

Volume 13 Issue 4

# 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.**



**Rob VE3PCP using his roll-up J-Pole.  
 See his letter on page 11.**



# THE PREZ SEZ!

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

## President's Update for April 2024

**This month I am enclosing the letter that Ted VE3TRQ sent regarding membership renewals. I also want to remind you that we have booked 3 tables at the Central Ontario Hamfest.**

Good afternoon Elmira Radio Club members.

This is just a reminder that if you plan to remain a member of The Elmira Radio Club, yearly dues for the current year should be paid by the Annual General Meeting, which is the 4th Wednesday of May.

Dues for the year are \$40 for RAC members (please provide your RAC membership number if you have joined RAC since your last renewal - we need to supply RAC with the list for reduced rates when renewing our insurance). Non-RAC member dues are \$53 yearly to reflect the extra cost of RAC Affiliated Club insurance. A spouse or partner of a paid member may join for a fee of \$10.

To summarize:

- RAC member: \$40 yearly
- Non-RAC member: \$53 yearly
- Spouse / partner: \$10

Preferred payment is via eTransfer to

[elmiraradioclubfunds@gmail.com](mailto:elmiraradioclubfunds@gmail.com),

or by cheque to "The Elmira Radio Club", or least preference, cash :-). Please ensure your callsign, first name, and year of ERC renewal (2024) is on any communication.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Ted VE3TRQ  
[ve3trq@rypma.ca](mailto:ve3trq@rypma.ca)



**A friend said that there are many nuts in ham radio. May I join you?**

Thanks to Tony VE3DWI.



**From  
the**

**PAST**

## ***On This Date In Amateur Radio History***



**April 15, 1912**

**A Welsh ham radio operator named Artie Moore picked up the distress signals from the Titanic on his homemade radio. "CQD CQD SOS de MGY Position 41.44N 50.24W. Require immediate assistance. Come at once. We have struck an iceberg. Sinking....We are putting the women off in the boats..." Then came the final signal: "Come as quickly as possible old man; our engine-room is filling up to the boilers".**

Thanks to Graham VE3BYP for sending this: **A sad day in history!**

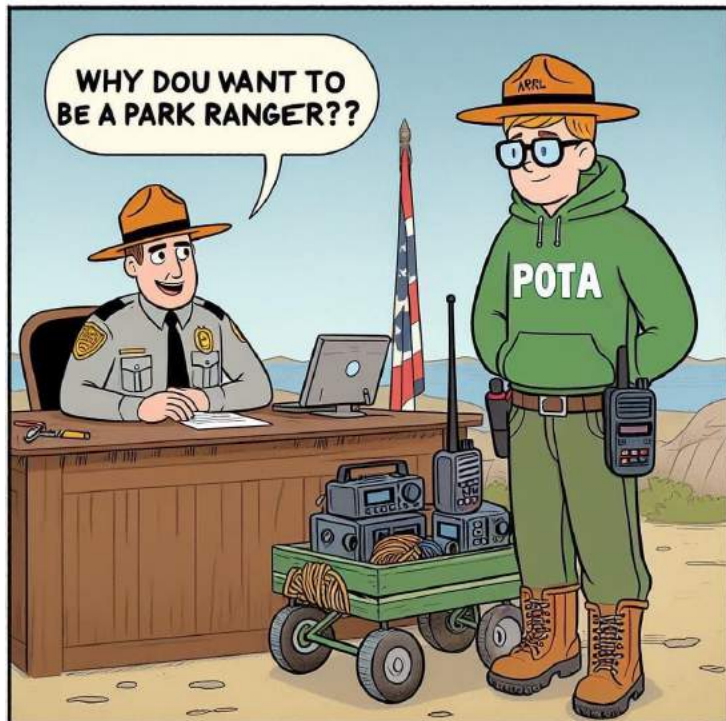
**CONTRIBUTIONS TO VE3ERC-CLUB NEWSLETTER**

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](mailto:bobve3ixx@gmail.com)  
(519-787-2279)**



**WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**MARCH 13 - BILL VA3QB**

**MARCH 20 - BOB VE3IXX**

**MARCH 27 - MEETING**

**APRIL 3 - REG VE3RVH**

**APRIL 10 - HAGEN VE3QVY**

**APRIL 17 - FRANK VA3FJM**

**APRIL 24 - MEETING**

**MAY 1 - TOM VE3DXQ**

**MAY 8 - TED VE3TRQ**

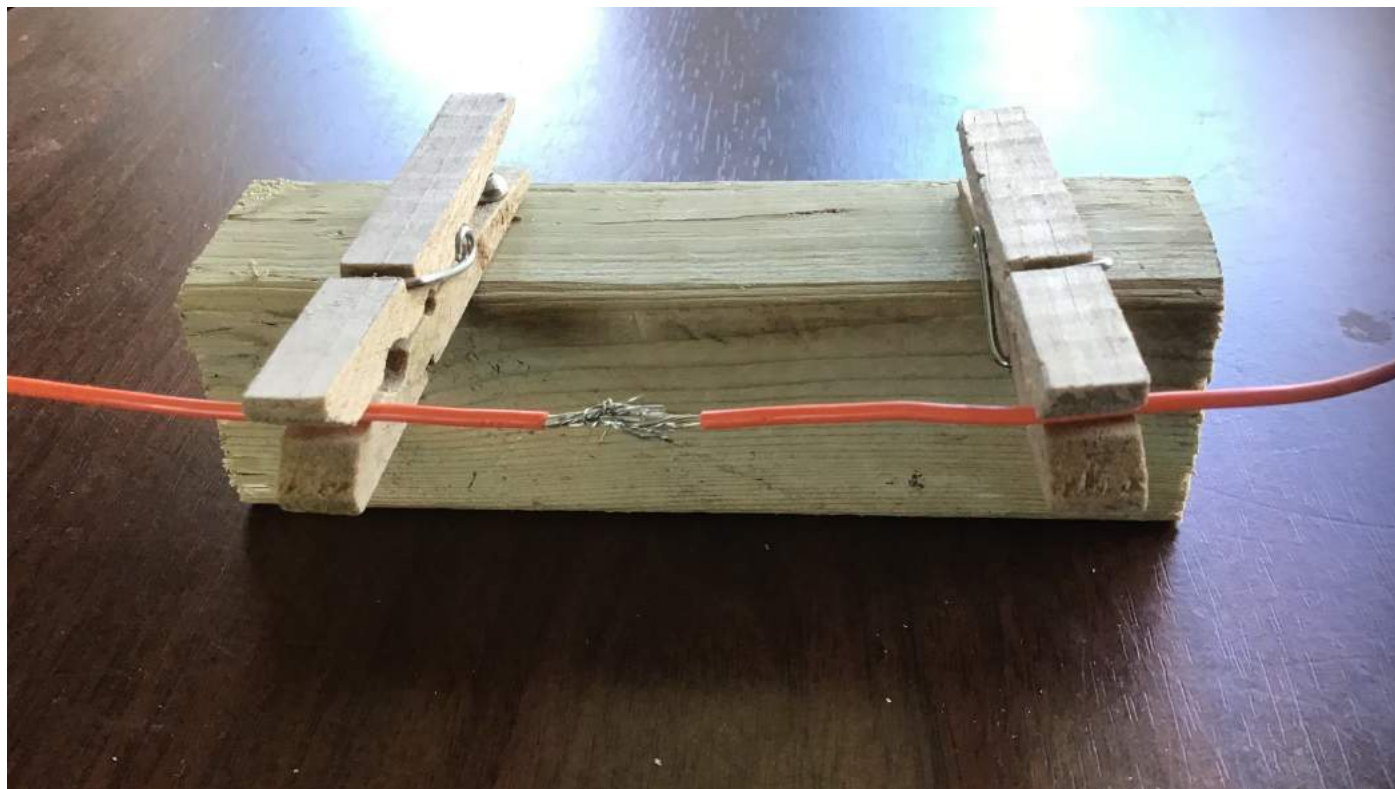
**MAY 15 - TONY VE3DWI**

**MAY 22 - MEETING**

**MAY 29 - BRIAN VA3DXX**

**JUNE 5 - BILL VA3QB**

# Tech Tips



Have you ever had to solder two wires and just needed that extra hand?

I came across this ever so simple device you can build that costs almost nothing and can save you much frustration.

All you need is a short piece of two by four, or in my case, a two by two with two wooden clothes pins and two wood screws.

The clothes pins are easy to pivot and can hold a circuit board for simple soldering.

A two by four would probably be a bit more stable and be less likely to tip.



# Another RSP1 clone for 2024

by Daniel Romila VE7LCG



I always needed a general coverage receiver, capable of receiving everything from long waves to UHF, in a small package, with capability of demodulating various types of signals, SSB, FM, AM, and CW. I need a big display, since usually I use this kind of general receiver while multi-tasking; watching the oscilloscope, doing some soldering or moving antennas and cables.

In this article I am talking about this (see left picture), which is declared to work between 10 KHz and 2 GHz:

In 2024 RSP1 has become obsolete, because other similar products have developed and are being sold. SDRPlay, the company making this family of SDRs (the original ones, not the clones) developed a new software called SDRconnect which does not function with the old RSP1 and its clones.

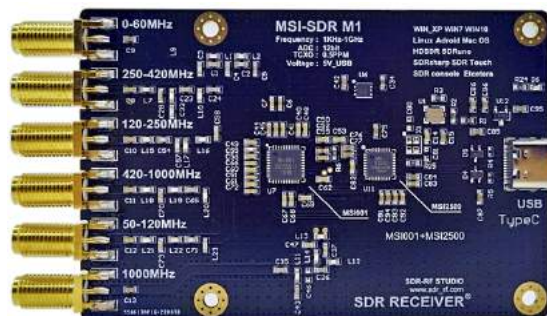
At any rate, the SDRUno software just got a new version, v1.42-1128 on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2024, so it is not abandonware, and it works with the RSP1 radios.

I bought this product because:

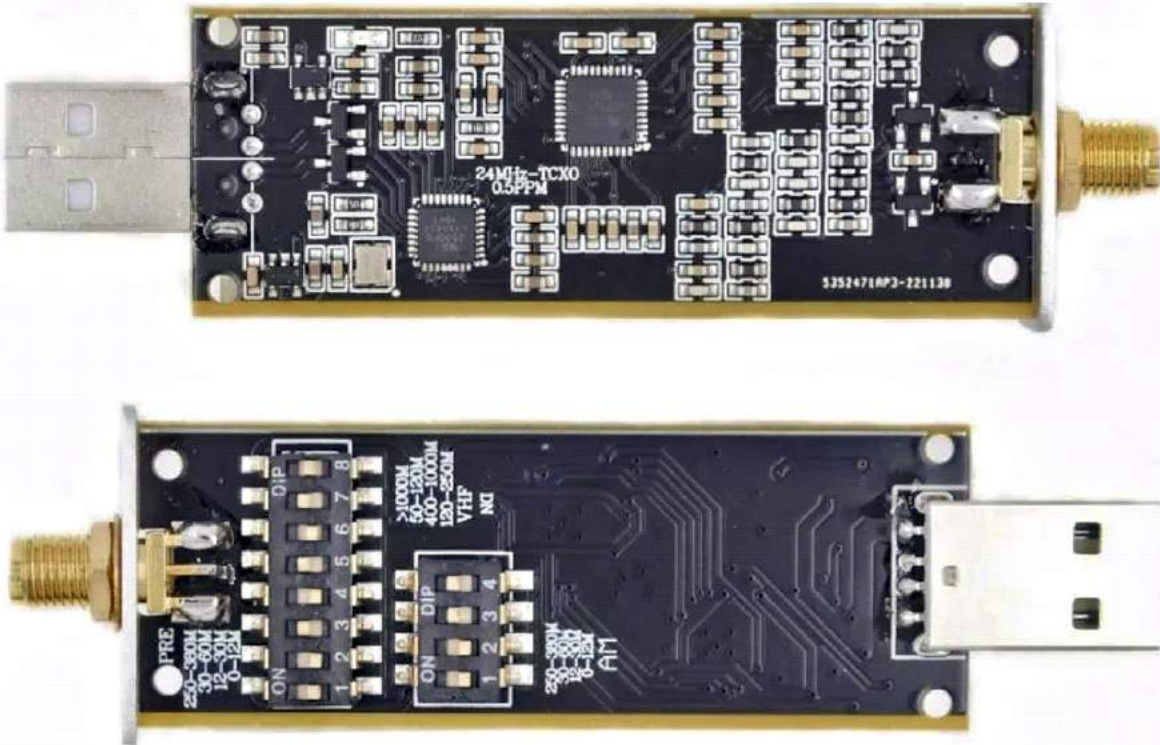
- It is a general receiver, in a small package, capable of having a big display (it works only attached on the USB port of a computer).
- It has a metallic case, with the USB connector at one end, and the SMA antenna connector at the other end.
- It is protected at the antenna port with diodes. See the double diodes groups D1 and D2 in the detailed pictures.
- It has one antenna port, but it has filters for several frequency bands.



I already had an RSP1 Chinese clone, which did not have protection diodes in it and I had to solder 10 diodes in its 5 antenna connectors. Initially I was happy to have 5 antenna connectors instead of one, but in practice it is inconvenient to screw and unscrew antenna connectors. I have combined antennas for 144 MHz and 432 MHz bands, but my old RSP1 clone wanted me to move the antenna from one connector to another every time I switched from VHF to UHF bands, while I needed to fast switch from the 144 MHz to the 432 MHz band.



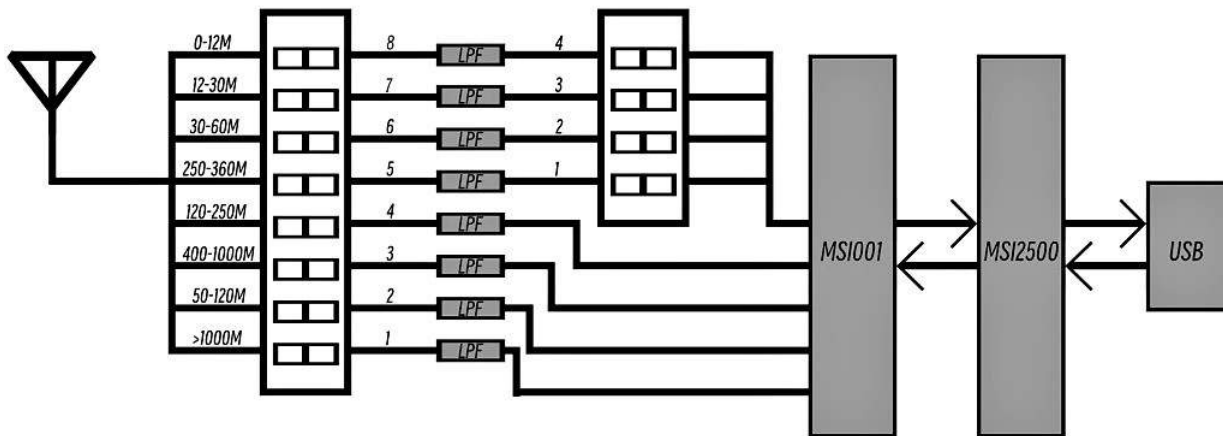
The sensitivity of such RSP1 clone is measured/declared anywhere between 5 microvolts up to the awesome 0.5 microvolts. Let's not forget the sensitivity is usually defined for 50 mW audio output. Moving the same RSP1 clone from one computer to another will dramatically change the measured sensitivity, not only because of the different audio modules in computers, but also due to difference in radiation between one computer to another. At least this version of RSP1 has a metallic case, which was something I was awaiting for a long time, as the 2023 model of this RSP1 clone only has a PCB board, no case, not even a plastic case.



If you really want to know about its sensitivity, let's just say it is not on par with a radio amateur transceiver. It has all kind of unwanted images, and it overloads easily. So in an electrically quiet place one user might be able to obtain 0.5 microvolts sensitivity, while another user, less lucky, in an electrically noisy environment, would count on

a much worse working sensitivity, in the microvolts value.

One can see in the pictures above, two rows of switches. The big DIP set of switches can connect the antenna to 8 low pass filters (LPF). The second group of DIP switches can add together several bands of frequencies, already selected and filtered, towards one single dedicated input of the MSI integrated circuit.



Of course, one has to open the case, unscrew 4 screws and change the filters' switches when moving from a set of frequency bands to another.

I cannot decide which of my RSP1 clones is more inconvenient to work with. It would have been



great if the switching could be done in the software.

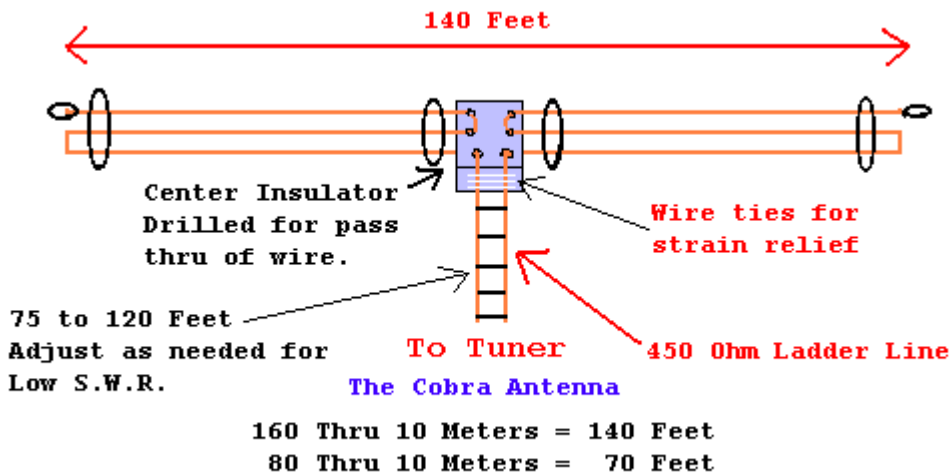
I paid \$35 CAD (\$26 USD) in February 2024, with shipping and taxes included.

# Wet Antenna

By  
Dan Romanchik KB6NU

## Rain puts a damper (literally!) on 30m operations

I love my homebrew Cobra antenna...



N4UJW

...but it suffers from one big drawback. When it rains, the ladder line impedance changes and I have to retune the antenna. And, when it rains constantly for more than a couple of hours—like it has been here for the past 24 hours or so—I can't tune it at all on 30 meters. That's a bummer because 30 meters is my favorite band.

Oh well....It looks like the rain has finally let up here, so I should be back in business on 30 meters this evening.



**Thanks to Tony VE3DWI** who writes:

Here is a poem I found in an old issue of TCA from Feb. 1984. I kept it for so long because of an interesting technical article. I was perusing it and came across this poem from Linda Brown, XYL of VE5ACP. That call does not exist anymore so he may very well be a silent key.

## Cause He's a Ham

He used to talk of many things when we at first were married  
On any subject that came up his interests were varied.  
But that was before....

He listened very carefully to all I had to say,

and remembered to do the errands that had to be done that day.

But that was before....

He often helped with shopping and piled the grocery cart high.

He even did it cheerfully without a groan or sigh.

But that was before....

He used to be ready for meals while they were piping hot

and say how much he enjoyed them whether they tasted good or not.

But that was before....

He spent time with the children and questioned them each night

about the things they did that day and why they had a fight.

But that was before....

I used to understand him he spoke the same to me.

He used ordinary words like location and wife and frequency.

But that was before....

We used to buy nice clothes when we were in the mood

and other silly little things like furniture and food.

But that was before....

Then after many weeks of listening to dah-di-dah-di-dah he gradually  
began to change. Now this is how things are. You guessed it he is a  
Ham!

His conversation, now of course, is on one topic only

and I have to chat about it or else become very lonely.

Cause he's a ham!

Now what I say goes in one ear and quickly out the other.

And errands, well... they'll get done one day or another

Cause he's a ham!

The shopping it still gets done but now of course it's me

who pushes the old shopping cart. He has no time you see.

Cause he's a ham!

And now when supper's ready and the table is all set

he says "I'll eat it later, cold, I should check into the net.

Cause he's a ham!

His time he spends with the children is used in a different way.

They listen politely to him as he says "di dah is A"

Cause he's a ham!

And when our pay cheques arrive, I immediately know that all our hard-  
earned cash into radio equipment it will go!

Cause he's a ham!

Do I exaggerate? Well, maybe a bit. It's really a good hobby I have to

admit. So, I guess I'll let him stay around in spite of what he does. And

if you wonder why, well it simply is because

He's still the same old ham!

## Trillium Venture Exercise May 3,4,5, 2024

Greetings All

My name is Marvin Double. I am President of the Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club and the ARES/ACS EC from Bruce County. I am writing today looking for volunteers to participate in a coming Emergency Training exercise to be conducted by the 31st Signal Regiment (Reserve Unit) of the Canadian Military.

Amateur Radio operators have been asked to participate in this event. I am working with John David VE3JHD, First Chairperson of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club to recruit Amateur Radio volunteers for this exercise.

The event will take place on the Weekend of May 3rd 4th and 5th, however HAM radio involvement will only be needed on Saturday May 4th through Sunday May 5th. The assignment will be to operate at one of 8 locations, four in Huron County and four in Bruce County. I am recruiting volunteers for Bruce County. We will be asked to monitor and log traffic and provide Field Reports to our military supervisors.

This is a massive training exercise and the first of what may be others to follow. The military understands the potential value of working with Amateur Radio operators to supplement their communications capacities. In some regards this is both a teaching and learning experience for both military and civilian operators.

The locations involved will be as follows Lions Head, Warton, Mildmay, Port Elgin. There will be Military EOC in Port Elgin and this is where I will be located. We will be expected to use our own Amateur Radio Gear and I anticipate both 2 meters and NVIS HF operators. Given the little I know about planned activities I expect most of our focus will be on 2 meters.

For information about local repeater frequencies I have a list I can share on request.

I will need roughly 8 operators for the 4 locations in Bruce County who are willing to commit to working in shifts and to be on site for 24 hours over Saturday and Sunday of the exercise weekend. Volunteers should consider this to be a Field Day on steroids type event with a variety of simulated emergency. If you wish to volunteer you should be flexible and have a sense of adventure. I expect it will be educational and fun.

To learn more about what to expect please read the following article from a recent Owen Sound Sun Time article.

<https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/military-training-exercise-coming-to-bruce-county-on-may-3-5>

For more information of to volunteer please contact me at [mdoublester@gmail.com](mailto:mdoublester@gmail.com) or [ve3vcg@winlink.org](mailto:ve3vcg@winlink.org) Please also put Trillium Venture in the subject line. You can also call me direct at 226-930-1373.

I hope for a good response and anticipate that we'll have a great time.

73

Marvin Double / President of GBARC, Bruce County EC ARES/ACS.

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

At this month's meeting Rod, VA3MZD suggested doing a "Comment Section" where readers had the opportunity to mention an amazing dx contact they might have made, or a new mode tried which caused much excitement or maybe a new antenna which was successful. We love to hear from you!!

Send it to

[bobve3ixx@gmail.com](mailto:bobve3ixx@gmail.com)

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Rob VE3PCP sent the following:

Hello All:

In preparation for the upcoming Trillium Venture operation on the first weekend in May, we will be setting up our portable/mobile setup this coming Sunday at [Inverhuron Provincial Park](#).

We do many portable operations over the summer months but this will be the first for this year.

We will be set up using our NVIS 80/40/20 Linked dipole and our Kenwood TS-850. We will set up at 7.130 mhz with a start time of 2PM Local time and will stay on the air for an hour.

We will also set up our roll up Jpole on the fiberglass pole we use for holding the dipole up and will access several local repeaters in the region. We use a dual band Kenwood radio that is capable of being used as a cross band repeater so you can access vhf repeaters or simplex from a local handheld.

As well, we will test our cell phone repeater to establish a data connection so that we can access our remote station at our home QTH to hopefully use to livestream the operation for future review.

We also have a dual band VHF/UHF remote station that we can access to monitor the repeater activity that we have from our portable station set up.

So this will be a full on system test for us.

We hope that you can join us on the air with your own stations whether as portable or home stations.

We did a full system operation at the local fall fair last October 7th but also did an hour on ONTARS to start off the day.

You can watch the livestream recording to see and hear how it all went.

[Video Here.](#)

Look forward to hearing you on the air this Sunday.

73

[Rob VE3PCP](#)  
[VA3KEO](#)

Inverhuron Ham Radio Club

**Amateur Radio Station**

**VA3KEO**

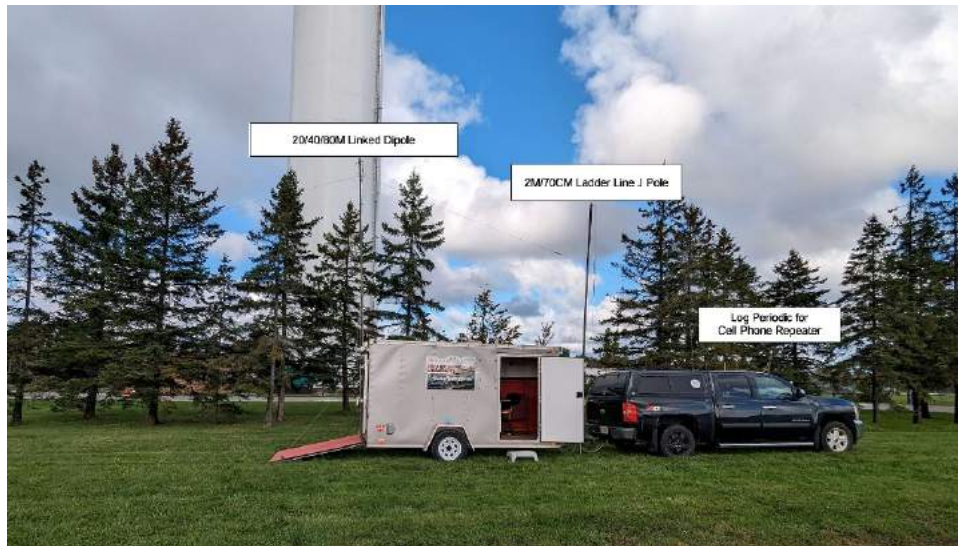
**Inverhuron Ham Radio Club**

**40M HF Test Net,  
Special Operation,  
In Preparation**

**Sunday April 28, 2024**

**HF 40M 7.130 2 PM - 3 PM**

Rob - VE3PCP



*Thanks to Ted VE3TRQ for sending us the following sad news:*

# MFJ Going Out of Business

*From MFJ's Facebook page*

April 25, 2024

Dear Fellow Hams and Friends,

It is with a sad heart as I write this letter.

As many of you have heard by now, MFJ is ceasing its on-site production in Starkville, Mississippi on May 17, 2024. This is also the same for our sister companies' Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vectronics.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything in businesses including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement but life is so short and my time with my family is so precious.

I want to thank all of our employees who have helped build this company with me over the years. We have many employees who have made MFJ their career for 10, 20, 30, 40 and more years.

We are going to continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. We have a lot of stock on hand. We will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our customers and our dealers who have made MFJ a world-wide name and a profitable business for so many years. You all are so much appreciated.

Sincerely Yours, 73s

Martin F. Jue, K5FLU

## Elmira Radio Club VE3ERC Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 24, 2024



Before the meeting began, Hagen VE3QVY checked over a circuit board that Rod VA3MZD had assembled.



VENUE • Elmira Fire Hall – 44 Howard Ave, Elmira, Ontario

7:00pm Virtual Eyeball QSO – Setup, Social time & Coffee

7:30pm

1. Meeting Call to Order, Welcome - Frank VA3FJM called the meeting to order
2. Roll Call & Quorum – in attendance were: Ken VE3KCY, Rich VE3DCC, Paul VA3PDC, Hagen VE3QVY, Bob VE3IXX, Tony VE3DWI, John VA3PT, James VE3JLC, Tom VE3DXQ, Frank VA3FJM, Rod VA3MZD, Steve VE3BVS, Bill VA3QB, Ted VE3TRQ, Roger VE3RKS, John VE3JXX, Ron VE3WBE. Via Zoom- Judd N4WXU
3. Adopt Agenda - Rod VA3MZD • Motion to adopt Agenda of April meeting by Tom VE3DXQ seconded by Steve VE3BVS. Carried.

#### 4. Presentations/Speakers/Workshop

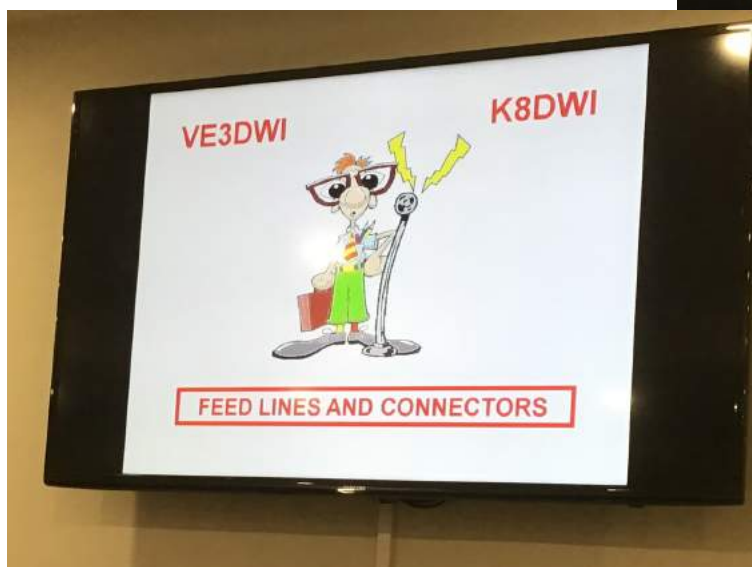
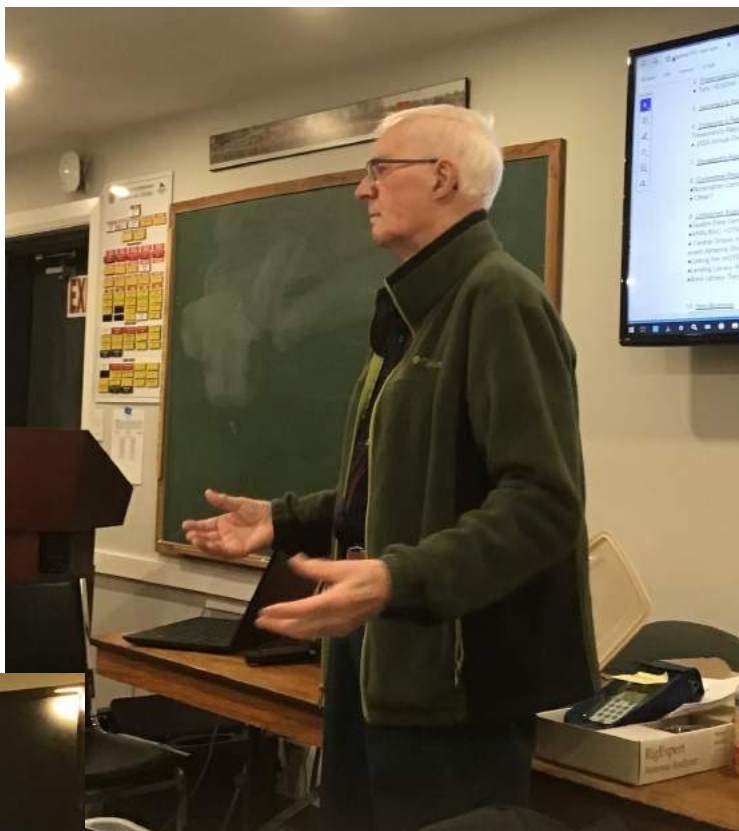
- Tony VE3DWI - Coax and Connectors - What did we do before Coax?!! Tony gave an in-depth

presentation on the history and technical aspects of Coax. The information covered included

something previously unknown by most in attendance, starting with the Graph of Power vs

Voltage vs Attenuation which answered the age old question: Why 50 Ohms? BNC means Bayonet Neil Concelman

due to its bayonet connector and its two inventors, Neil and Concelman, and is a true 50 Ohm connector.



Tony VE3DWI gave a presentation on Feedlines and Connectors. He started with a brief computer introduction and then proceeded to show and demonstrate a whole variety of coax cables and connectors. See the following pictures.



A cornucopia of various feedlines, common coax and hardline including a huge array of connectors for various types.



5. Secretary's Report Rod VA3MZD • Motion by Rod to accept Minutes of March Meeting. Seconded by Ted VE3TRQ. Carried

6. Treasurer's Report Ted VE3TRQ • Monthly Financial update and Motion to accept Treasurers's Report. One member paid their dues in April. Moved by Ted VE3TRQ, seconded by John VE3PT. Carried

• 2024 Annual Dues are due by AGM in May!

7. President's Report - Reg VE3RVH • Frank spoke about participating in the upcoming May 3-5, 2024 Military Exercise for which civilian Amateur Radio Operator volunteers are needed. Frank VA3FJM is going to participate. **Contact Frank if you are planning to attend.**

Info: Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club (GBARC) email via Web to Ted VE3TRQ - Military Simulation with participation of local Amateurs. More are required from other clubs. KWARC, ERC, GARC

**Contact: Marvin Double VE3VCG**

<https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/military-training-exercise-coming-to-bruce-county-on-may-3-5>

8. Committee Reports • Repeater Technical Committee - Tony VE3DWI - no updates  
 • Nomination Committee for 2024 AGM - Rich VE3DCC/Bob VE3IXX - AGM  
 Nominees are: President- Frank VA3FJM, VP- Tom VE3DxQ, Treasurer- Ted VE3TRQ, Trustee- Wes- VE3ML, Secretary- Rod VA3MZD

#### 9. Unfinished Business

- Guelph Data Centre tour Dave VA3DAS, Ted VE3TRQ - Ted will send an email blast to all about possible dates for the tour, which may get postponed to the Fall 2024.
- ARRL/RAC YOTA Summer Camp, Halifax, NS, July 7-12- Sponsorship - Bob VE3IXX - no go for any of the families of the recently licensed hams in Milverton
- Central Ontario Hamfest - Barry VE3SLD chair has requested that we consider putting on an event (Antenna Shoot Out?), or just having a booth for the club, or running a station- Reg VE3RVH has booked 3 tables for the club and members to sell items. Contact Reg if you have items to sell. Frank VA3FJM wants to set up an antenna and transceiver to run ONTARS from the Hamfest. Contact Frank if you can assist.
- Linking the VA3TET and GARC VE3RKL Wires-X repeaters - contact with Barry VE3SLD - discussion postponed
- Lending Library- Rene VE3RRP - discussion postponed
- Book Library- Tony VE3DWI - discussion postponed

#### 10. New Business

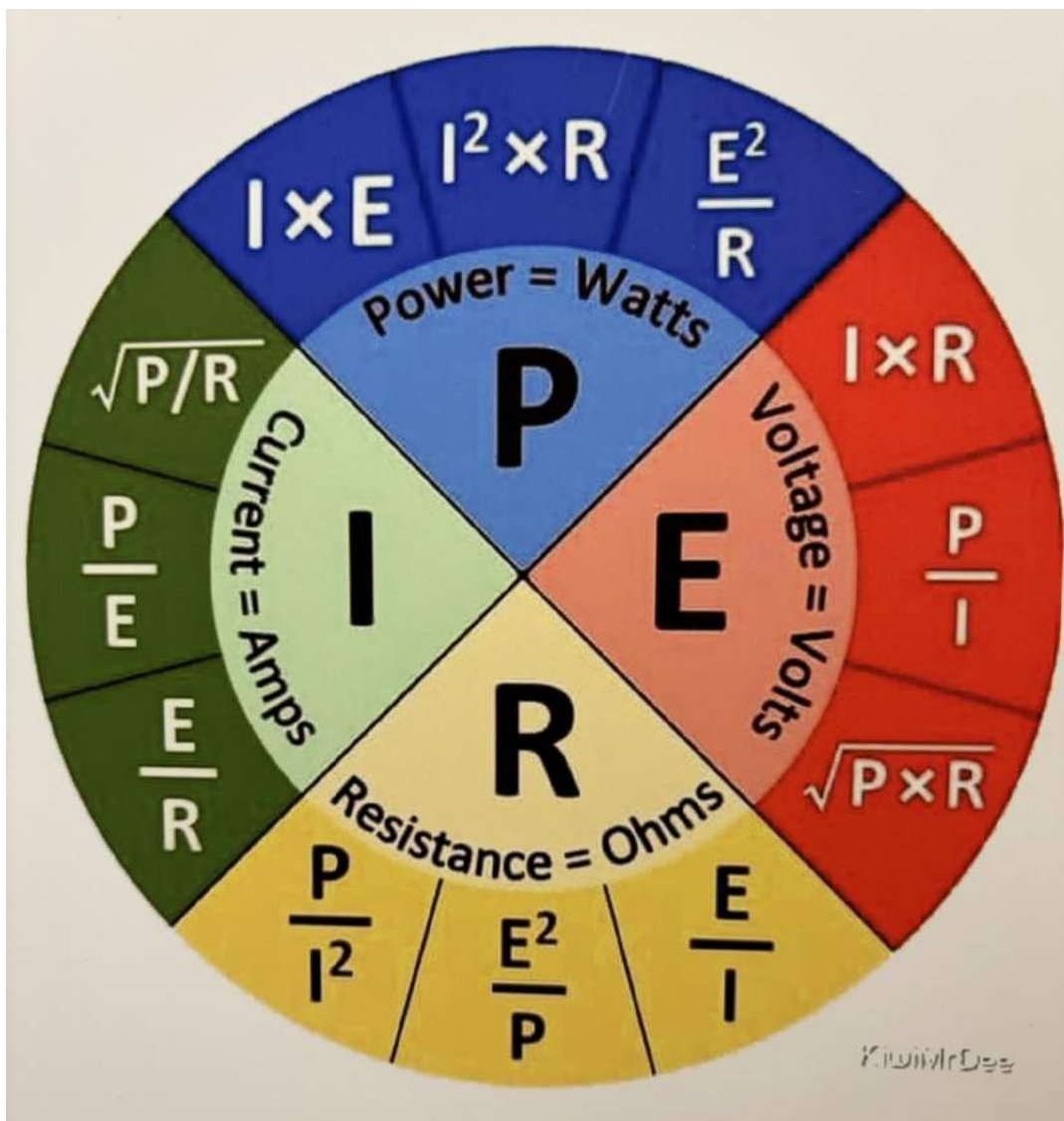
- Field Day Budget - Bill VA3QB - Bill requested \$500 for supplies, food, etc. Moved by Ted VE3TRQ, seconded by Ron VE3WBE. Carried.
- After February cancellation, a suggestion for a protocol for canceling in-person meetings and moving to Virtual only via Zoom- Rod VA3MZD - discussion postponed

#### 11. Announcements

- Next meeting: 4th Wednesday of the month- Wednesday, May 22, 2024 which is our AGM where we will be voting for the 24/25 Executive!!
- Next Meeting - Speaker - AGM so no speaker is scheduled.

- 2024 Annual Dues are due by AGM!
- Breakfast TOMORROW at 10 am Thursday, April 24, 2024 is moved from St Jacobs to Stacked Pancakes in Elmira (it was well attended BTW!)
- Wires-X Net - 4th Thursday of the month -Thursday, April 24, 2024 TOMORROW!  
Net Controller is Rod VA3MZD
- WiresX Net - Thursday, May 23, 2024

12. Adjournment • Motion to adjourn the meeting - Frank VA3FJM moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 pm



**Thanks to Tony VE3DWI for the chart of all of the formulas to calculate Power and Ohms Law.**