



**JUNE 2024**

**Volume 13 Issue 6**

# 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.**



**See More on Page 12.**



# THE PREZ SEZ!

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

## President's Update for June 2024

**A**s summer lies ahead, we look forward to the excitement of future plans, meeting family and friends we haven't seen in awhile.

Cottage time brings us together with kids splashing and having fun with mom and dad, the old folks relaxing and talking about old times past and the hum of the barbecues going full tilt with hamburgers, hotdogs, and steaks along with a nice salad.

School days are done until September.

Ham radio enthusiasts carry on regular routines reaching out for new contacts across the globe. For those hams who attended field day, they will have memories to talk about.



In the fall will begin a new year for hams. I hope the new executives will maintain the club's interest along with new members for another good year.

Sincerely yours,  
REG. VE3RVH



# Central Ontario Hamfest

June 2, 2024

## A Collage of Pictures



Frank VA3FJM  
Running ONTARS



Seated from left to right: Bill VA3QB, Reg VE3RVH and Jim VE3JMU



Tony VE3DWI



Bill VA3QB

Thanks to Kevin VA3RCA for Pictures





# From the PAST

This is the clock my parents received as a wedding gift. It's now 100 years old.

It still runs and chimes on the half hour and hourly. One dong at the half hour and multiple dongs announcing the proper hour. When I was a little boy and if I woke up in the middle of the night, I could hear this clock in the hallway go tik, tok and chime. It was always a comfortable feeling to hear it.

Not long ago it chimed the hour on the half hour and vice versa. I took the clock mechanism out so I could observe the chiming sequence and discovered that I had to make an adjustment on a little lever by bending it slightly.

It is a work of art with all the gears and such. The speed of the chime is controlled by a vane that rotates and the air friction keeps the vane at a steady speed. Very ingenious. It's working great again. It will run nine days on one wind up of the clock spring. The chime mechanism will run for two weeks before winding it up again.

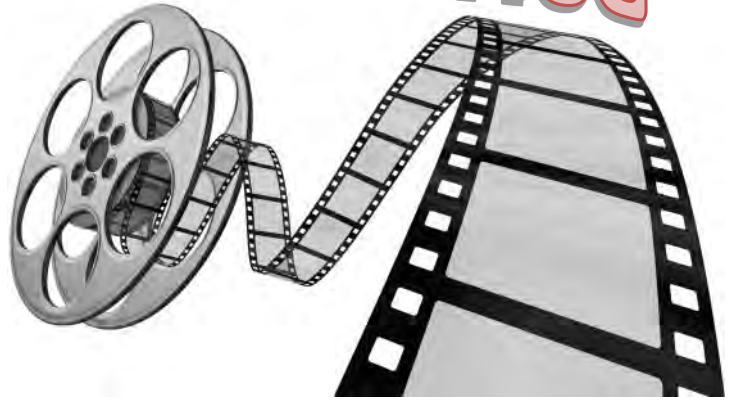
We also have this mantle clock which is 47 years old. (below)



# Ham Radio in the Movies

**By Bob VE3IXX**

Besides radio, my wife, Bonnie and I enjoy watching old movies if and when we have a free evening. Often we'll choose lesser known films and every once in a while we "luck into" a Hollywood production that includes amateur radio.



One such movie is "Everybody's Hobby" (1939). It is a genre of movies termed "screwball comedies", a genre which began with the depression in the 1930's, through WWII ending about 1950. They were generally farcical, escapist comedies during troubled times.

Famous actors such as Clark Gable, Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn or Carole Lombard starred in these flix with names like "My Man Godfrey"(1936), "It Happened One Night"(1934), "Bringing Up Baby"(1938), or "His Girl Friday"(1940) to name just a few.

"Everybody's Hobby" has no super stars, but is a fun film where ham radio plays a very significant part. It's the story of the Leslie family in which each of the characters has a hobby whereby they are continually "putting the touch" on the father, who initially says he has no time for hobbies. The mother does stamp collecting, the daughter Evelyn loves collecting the latest records and is continually after her father to buy her a record player.

But it is the son, Robert who has a keen interest in radio and is studying to get his ham license and early on in the film passes the test to become WA6MUG. Then he also is after the father to buy a \$50 state of the art rig.



Later, Robert brings along his radio, to run portable at a father-son camping trip. While in the park, they detect smoke in the air and by contacting Robert's ham buddy, amateur radio saves the day and avoids a full blown forest fire.



It's a fun movie and is available to watch free on YouTube.

**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)**

# Types of Nut



Hex Nut



Lock Nut



Jam Nut



Push Nut



Coupling Nut



Square Nut



Speed Nut



Tee Nut



Wing Nut



U-Nut



Axle Nut



**RADIO NUT**

## **WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS**

**MAY 29 - BRIAN VA3DXX**

**JUNE 5 - BILL VA3QB**

**JUNE 12 - BOB VE3IXX**

**JUNE 19 - REG VE3RVH**

**JUNE 26 - MEETING**

**JULY 3 - HAGEN VE3QVY**

**JULY 10 - FRANK VA3FJM**

**JULY 17 - TOM VE3DXQ**

**JULY 24 - TED VE3TRQ**

**JULY 31 - TONY VE3DWI**

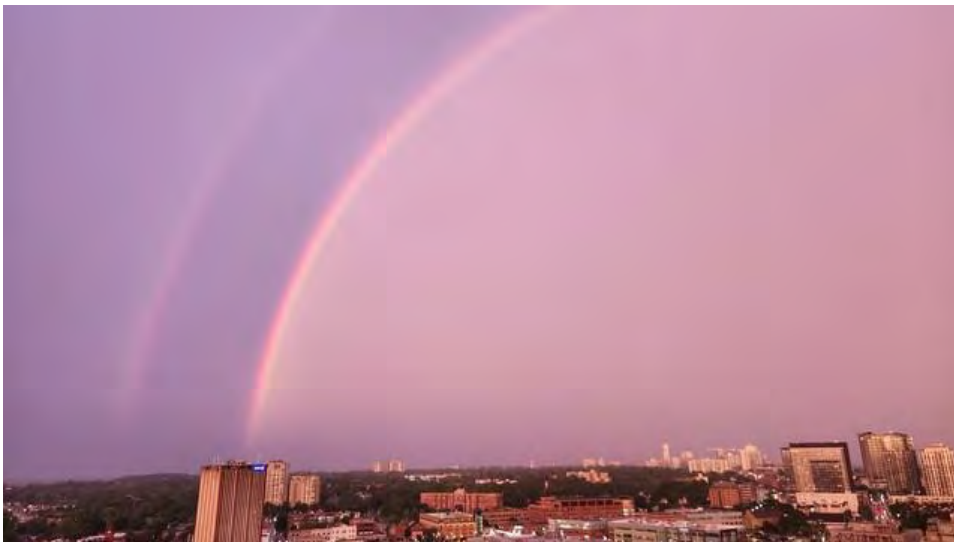
**AUGUST 7 - BRIAN VE3DXX**

# CORRESPONDENCE

John VE3OVO, after a big thunderstorm in the Kitchener area on June 5, sent the following:



No big story but the sky was awesome.



## CANADA DAY CONTEST

### July 1, 2024

Good day all

We would like to invite you all to participate with us in Canada's on the air celebration of the anniversary of Canadian Confederation. Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) celebrates this event with our annual Canada Day radiosport contest.

Mark your calendars for July 1, 2024 at 00:00 UTC and enjoy making contacts across Canada's 10 provinces and 3 territories. We hope to have a full slate of the RAC official stations from each area.

New for 2024 is the addition of a new 20 point bonus station - VE3RHQ - our new RAC Head Quarters station.

Please note that commencing this year we are no longer accepting paper logs. Our log submission system at <https://contest.rac.ca> is the preferred method to submit logs

The contest rules are published here on the RAC web site:  
<https://www.rac.ca/contesting-results>

Please feel free to share this announcement with anyone or group you think might be interested.

The RAC Contest Management team looks forward to your participation.

See you on the air!  
**73, Bart - VE5CPU**

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Thanks to Mike VE3MKX for sending the following from the website of Kurt ADOWE

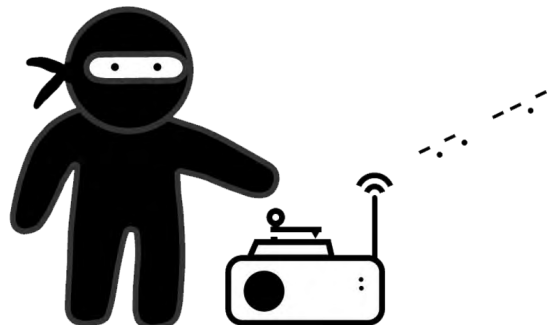
Please check out my [Morse Code Ninja Website!](#) It is an excellent resource. Among other things, it contains my very own Morse code course. The format of my Morse code course provides continuous and immediate feedback.

For each character(s), word, or callsign sent in Morse code, it is then spoken after a one-second pause. This format accelerates the learning process and reduces frustration. The course is structured so that it is incrementally more difficult and encourages head-copying from the start!

There are 250 lessons. I introduce the characters in the same order as the Level 1 Cw Academy class, so the course can be used as a supplement or stand on its own.

I also have more than 1000 practice videos that are available in speeds ranging from 15 to 50wpm.

I have created 1,000s of hours worth of content available for download and on YouTube! It is wide-ranging, so no matter your skill, you are likely to find something of value.





# No Antenna? No Problem!

By John Corby VA3KOT

From His Blog: [Ham Radio Outside the Box \(2022/07/30\)](#)

You would think I might have learned from experience. Never rush out to do a POTA activation without first checking that all the necessary parts of my portable kit are packed.

The last time I made this mistake it was the power cable that was missing. This time I arrived on site without an antenna!

My local library has Ontario Parks day passes that can be borrowed at no charge. I had just picked mine up and was excited to get out and use it.

It was about a 45-minute drive from home to Craigeleith Provincial Park on the south shore of Georgian Bay. Shortly after arriving I unpacked my radio, battery, CW paddle and earbud phones. I grabbed the modified aluminum ski pole that I use to support my portable vertical antenna and drove it into the hard ground with a rock that was lying nearby.

Then, suddenly, I had one of those "oh no!" moments when I reached for the antenna and realized I had left it at home!

"What the heck am I going to do now?" I thought. My first reaction was to shrug my shoulders and forget about the activation. But then I thought, "what would MacGyver do in this situation?"

My mind was processing all kinds of ideas for saving the day. None seemed practical until I remembered the 33ft counterpoise wire in my pack. "Hey, maybe I could make a dipole". But I had no means for connecting a dipole to my coax feedline.

I used to know a guy who claimed to be a purveyor of the hardest organ in your body – he was a dentist. I am sure he would not have approved of the way I stripped the insulation off my Macgyver-inspired dipole after I cut that 33ft wire in half.

## Improvised Dipole Centre Connector

Next problem: how to connect the two wires to the coax. One wire had a big alligator clip on one end that I clipped to the coax shield. The other wire was wrapped around the centre pin of the PL-259 plug on the coax.



### Pole supporting the dipole 4ft above ground

The centre of the dipole was only about 4ft above ground. I threw the ends of the wires into nearby trees but they were only 8 to 10 feet above ground. There was no way I was going to be heard with an antenna like this!

Well I was wrong! I keyed up and saw the SWR was less than 1.5:1 and felt a surge of hope. After self-spotting on the POTA website I started calling CQ. The responses came thick and fast. I logged stations from the US west and several in Texas and Florida.

Then, with mild astonishment I logged a station in Sweden, followed shortly afterwards by another station in Belgium!

So, the moral of the story is never give up and never underestimate a simple makeshift antenna. Use whatever you have and think positive!



# Tech Tips

**One of the hams at Dayton mentioned that they used Drumstick bags to carry their portable antennas !!!**

**What a great idea ! Cheap too !**

**Check out some examples on Ali-Express or your favourite online store.**

[https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005006357905743.html?spm=a2g0o.productlist.main.11.2e4a4f60s90NFL&algo\\_pvid=fdf602ed-3803-4ac2-8f46-cc02c1dc0865&algo\\_exp\\_id=fdf602ed-3803-4ac2-8f46-cc02c1dc0865-5&pdp\\_npi=4%40dis%21CAD%215.43%215.43%21%21%2128.04%2128.04%21%402101cff817167746768012857efada%2112000036878825406%21sea%21CA%210%21AB&curPageLogUid=JFyQ5AVYN5Ds&utparam-url=scene%3Asearch%7Cquery\\_from%3A](https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005006357905743.html?spm=a2g0o.productlist.main.11.2e4a4f60s90NFL&algo_pvid=fdf602ed-3803-4ac2-8f46-cc02c1dc0865&algo_exp_id=fdf602ed-3803-4ac2-8f46-cc02c1dc0865-5&pdp_npi=4%40dis%21CAD%215.43%215.43%21%21%2128.04%2128.04%21%402101cff817167746768012857efada%2112000036878825406%21sea%21CA%210%21AB&curPageLogUid=JFyQ5AVYN5Ds&utparam-url=scene%3Asearch%7Cquery_from%3A)

## 73 Mike VE3MKX



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Color: Ethnic Style drum



# Field Day 2024





Hagen VE3QVY, putting up his antenna for Field Day and is helped by John VE3DHI a visitor from Vanessa, Ontario. See front page picture.



Rod VE3MZD showing John VE3DHI his set-up using an end-fed with 9:1 balun.



At the ERC June Meeting, which was just days after Field Day, the club members did a round table commentary on their experiences of the event.

Initially three things were practically shared by all. First was the RAIN, followed closely by the HOT WEATHER, especially on the set-up on Friday. And third was the great food. Based on Hagen's (VE3QVY) culinary skills doing the smoked ribs and brisket along with innumerable pies Field Day was a success based on the food alone. And not to be forgotten, was Paul's (VA3PDC) Chili which complimented the heat (from the sun?) that accompanied the set-up day.

For the actual operating, comments suggested the bands were pretty decent. Steve, VE3BVS and Keith connected to Puerto Rico as their very first contact. Comments from Wes VE3ML and Ken VE3KCY stated that CW was booming. Rod VA3MZD however, found running QRP very challenging. This is not altogether surprising when you are surrounded by thousands of high power stations who are all competing.

However, as in any big event, there always has to be a fly in the ointment! Hagen (of the culinary skills) locked his keys and phone in his RV. With no other options, he sought assistance from Paul VA3PDC and Ken VE3KCY, hoping to use their phone to call for help. But who needs keys when you have the ingenuity of hams. In no time they found a way to climb into the RV. Hagen was able to get in and all ended well. Need help? Call a ham!



Paul VA3PDC operating his station shown above.



Wes VE3ML, Ken VE3KCY and Andy VE3CDF at the CW station.



Tom VE3DXQ, Steve VE3BVS and Keith VE3IFT operating.

Rod VE3MZD trying to stay cool while operating.





The two QB's, Bill VA3QB in the blue and Bruce VE3QB working in tandem.

Hagen VE3QVY had to split his time operating and cooking his gourmet meal.



## Elmira Radio Club VE3ERC June Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

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

### AGENDA

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

Meeting Call to Order, Welcome - Frank VA3FJM - Frank called the meeting to order at 7:24 pm EDT

Roll Call & Quorum – In attendance in person at the Firehall were: Graham VE3BYP, Ken VE3KCY, Paul VA3PDC, Bob VE3IXX, Tony VE3DWI, Tom VE3DXQ, Frank VA3FJM, Rod VA3MZD, Steve VE3BVS, Bill VA3QB, Roger VE3RKS, Andy VE3CDF. In attendance via Zoom - Mike VE3FE, Linda VE3CZ, Jim VE3JMU. Officially no Quorum was obtained with 15/50 members (□ or 17 required for Quorum)

Adopt Agenda - Rod VA3MZD • Motion to adopt Agenda for June meeting - Tom seconded. Carried.

### Presentations/Speakers/Workshop

Field Day Round Table : Paul described the set up Friday, the chili dinner, and the Saturday 2pm opening and mentioned that the bands were open. Then the rain came late afternoon. Ken described the CW operating with Wes which was busy. Sunday was quieter on the bands he noted. .Steve and Keith, new members and first timers at FD, set up with new G5RV and made their first contact to Puerto Rico and a total of 15 QSOs. Rod made zero contacts on FT8 QRP on various bands and SSB 20m. He "almost" got the KWARC station VE3IC into the log but they could not copy the call sign correctly each time making a different error. Bill made zero contacts but noted that the weather was the worst he could recall on any FD. He reminded everyone of the RAC Canada Day Contest this Monday. Tom visited all the stations and left as the rain started. Bob visited with 2 friends John and Al. he took lots of photos for the newsletter and then at home made an exceptional QSO with a pilot flying from NL to FL.

Frank demonstrated his Peltier chip cooling device

Tony brought in an audio documentary of a purported recording of the Titanic's CQD/SOS call with an interesting analysis of the young radio operator's last call for help.

Secretary's Report Rod VA3MZD • Motion to accept Minutes of May Meeting. Seconded by Tony VE3DWI. Carried.



Treasurer's Report Ted VE3TRQ • Monthly Financial Report as submitted by Ted  
-Moved by Paul VA3PDC and seconded by Tony that Ted's May financial report be accepted.  
Carried

President's Report - Frank VA3FJM - Frank - see above under Presentations

Committee Reports • Repeater Technical Committee -Tony VE3DWI - Nothing to report

Unfinished Business •Linking the VA3TET and GARC VE3RKL Wires-X repeaters - contact with Barry VE3SLD - discussion postponed - Frank will make contact with Barry  
The Data Centre visit is on hold

### New Business

Rod suggested the Club send a card of condolences to the family of Ron Webb (SK) on behalf of the Club and will get the home address and send a card on behalf of the Club

Paul called for a moment of silence in Ron's honour.

A discussion was held to offer solutions for Frank's email problems. Frank is dealing with Primus, his provider, to increase his email storage. Other possible solutions- the Club can set up official Gmail accounts for executive positions e.g Pres.ve3erc@gmail or if the Gmail Non-profit route is chosen, we could use our own domain e.g VP@ve3er.ca

### Announcements

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 @7pm Elmira Firehall

Wires-X Net - 4th Thursday of the month -Thursday, June 27, 2024 **TOMORROW!**  
Net Controller is Rod

Other Announcements?

Adjournment • Motion to adjourn the meeting- Frank adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm EDT

Thanks to Roger VE3RKS for setting up and running the audio and video for the Zoom me

# Spud at the Key

## By Bob VE3IXX

Some say Old Spud, he got his call  
When tubes lit up the rig.  
He'd pound the brass with old friend Hank  
And hardly care a fig.

Some say Old Spud did fifty words  
But Spud just said, "Not true!"  
"I could keep a pace, without a race  
When I did forty-two."

Now Sassy Bill and his friend Buck  
Became the kings of text.  
Their fingers flew till they turned blue  
And then they'd say "What's next?"

Now Bill one day, he said to Spud,  
"I think you'll need agree,  
That that Morse Code that you abode  
Is old technology."

"We're so much more advanced right now,  
And so much faster too,  
Why hold on to an old time mode,  
When it's no longer true?"

"In this era where high tech rules  
For any young teenager..."  
"It seem to me," Spud broke in,  
"You're looking for a wager."

"Them's fighting words," spoke Bill to Spud  
As he faced him nose to nose.  
The air grew tense, as eye to eye,  
The enmity arose.

"Well put up money, not your mouth,"  
Said Spud as he faced Bill.  
"Let's take the test to see who's best,"  
And now he felt the thrill.

"Make it a twenty!" Bill spewed out,  
"Don't try to be too thrifty,"  
"You're way too low," said Spud so slow,  
"Come on let's make it fifty."

With a big wide grin, Bill winked at Buck,  
"Then let the game begin."  
With a sassy laugh, he said with a gaff,  
"We surely know who'll win!"

But old Spud, with partner Hank,  
Hardly said a word.  
They rubbed their fingers and warmed the  
keys,  
And both felt re-assured.

The text was picked, a starter chosen  
He had the teams weigh-in  
When all were ready, he announced  
"Let the game begin!"

The air was thick, the sweat profuse  
The tension was intense'  
Bill and Buck ran feverish,  
Spud did not commence.

He looked at Hank and with a wink  
The key clicks started wild  
The pace was fast but could it last?  
As Hank calmly compiled

Minutes ticked by, the air was strained  
The competition hard  
Bill with Buck kept up the pace  
Yet Spud felt none regard.

And then the clock rang out its song  
To end activity  
The slates were checked to inspect  
The productivity.

The competition ended now  
The winner was announced  
Emotion ran high, but by and by  
The evidence pronounced.

The thirst to win had been so great  
They'd drained the water pitcher  
The dust had settled, but Spud and Hank  
Were fifty dollars richer.