



FEBRUARY 2025

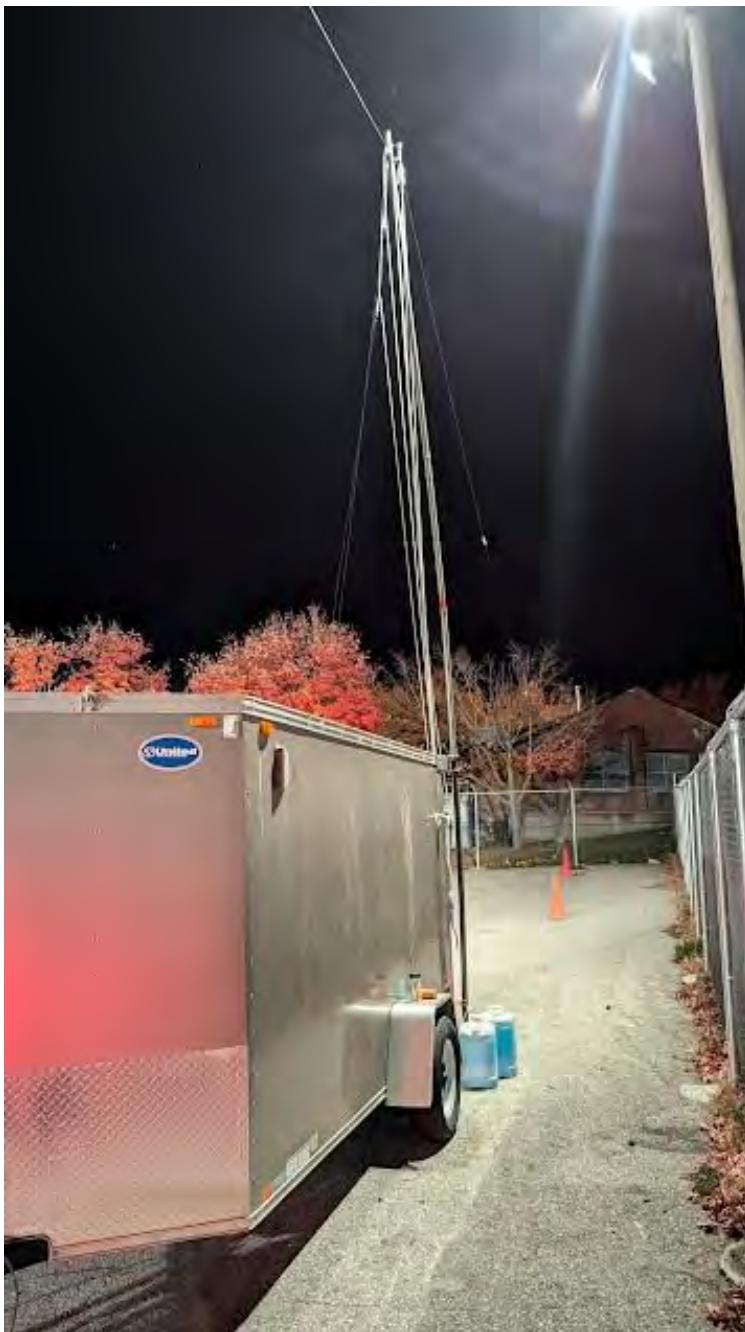
Volume 14 Issue 2

VE3ERC-LUB

- President:** Frank VA3FJM
- Vice-President:** Tom VE3DXQ
- Secretary:** Rod VA3MZD
- 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**



Rob's (VE3PCP) set-up for Noble Skywave. See his story on page 9.

**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.**



THE PREZ SEZ!

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

President's Update for February 2025

Recently the question of the location of the next Ham Fest came up. So here is a list of some Ham Fests in Ontario from the RAC website:

Kemptville Amateur Radio Ham Fest -- VE3NGR

Starts on Saturday, March 15, 2025
Kemptville

Hamfest and Flea Market ---

The Iroquois Amateur Radio Club
Starts on Saturday, April 5, 2025
Cardinal, ON

Durham Hamfest ---

North Shore ARC
Starts on Saturday, April 12, 2025
Pickering, ON

Smiths Falls Ham Fest ---

Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club / Lanark
North Leeds ARES
Starts on Saturday, May 17, 2025
Smiths Falls, Ontario

Central Ontario Hamfest ---

GARC & KWARC
Starts on Sunday, June 1, 2025
Cambridge, ON

Steeltown Tailgate Treasures ---

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
Starts on Saturday, June 14, 2025
Grimsby, Ontario

51st Annual Ontario Hamfest ---

Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Starts on Saturday, July 12, 2025
Milton Ontario

Hanover Ham Haul ---

Local Amateurs
Starts on Saturday, August 9, 2025
Hanover Ontario



Parry Sound Hamfest ---

Parry Sound ARC
Starts on Saturday, August 16, 2025
Parry Sound

Ottawa (Carp) 2025 Hamfest! ---

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Starts on Saturday, September 6, 2025
Ottawa (Carp), ON

Ancaster 2025 Hamfest ---

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
Starts on Saturday, September 27, 2025
Ancaster, Ontario

Kingston Amateur Radio Club Hamfest ---

Kingston Amateur Radio Club
Starts on Saturday, October 18, 2025
Kingston, Ontario

Dissected Nagoya 771 vhf/uhf antenna

Graham Bauman
VE3BYP

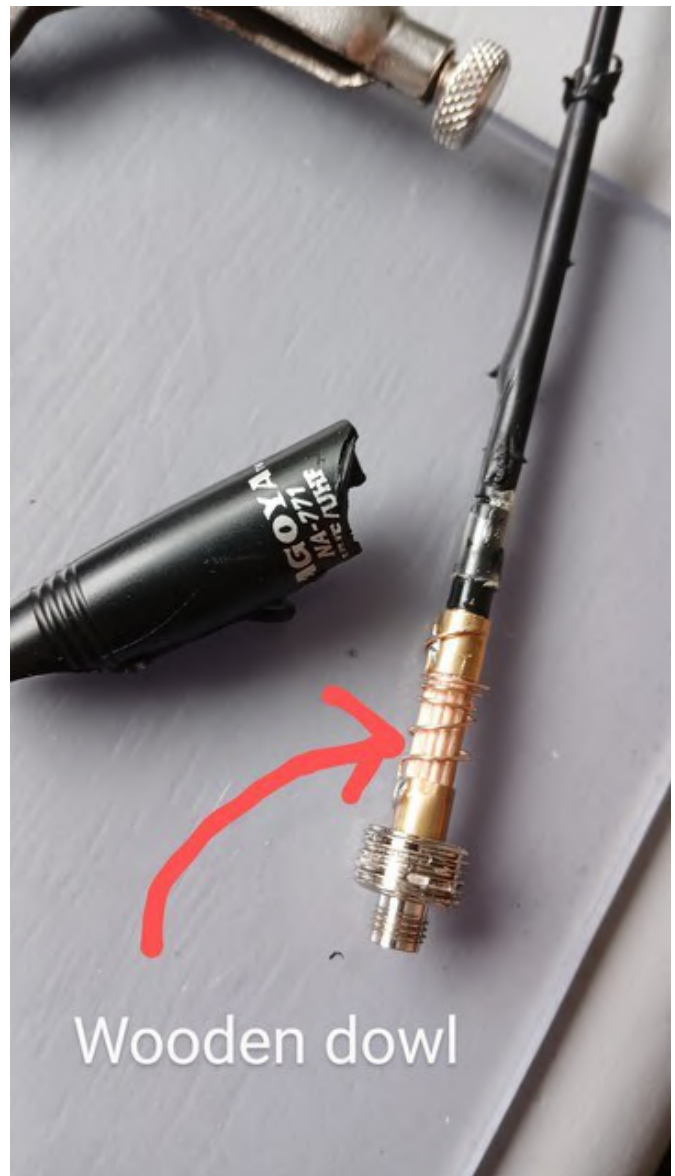
Ever wondered what a Nagoya whip antenna for a Baofeng uv5r looks like inside? I dissected/destroyed mine so you don't have to.

It is very simple design . The whip is separated from the base with a wooden dowel for an isolator. Then there is a coil of wire wrapped around the wood piece (about 4.5 inches long) that connects the whip to the base. Hence if you ever try to cut it down to a 1/4 wave on 70cm or GMRS, it will probably have the lowest swr at a length of 1 -2 inches of whip that is left. So if you try to trim the antenna down to a uhf only antenna it is only 1-2 inches long .

This was interesting for me to see, as it made sense to how it tuned up.

I should add ,the brass piece at the bottom is attached to the center conductor of the base and was isolated from the outer conductor of the base (poor camera angle). The upper piece of brass is connected to the actual whip (As is visible).

The Nagoya NA-771 whip antenna has worked well for me. It was purchased from a reliable source and was a genuine authentic one, not a knock off. The packaging states that it is a 1/4 wavelength on 2m and 3/4 on 70 cm. I was always curious what was inside , so I decided to sacrifice it and cut it apart for my info (and yours). After all amateur radio is about experimenting, is it not? .



Did you hear about the ham operator who brought a ruler to his shack so he could measure his wavelength?

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

- DECEMBER 11 - TOM VE3DXQ**
- JANUARY 8 - BRIAN VA3DXX**
- JANUARY 15 - BOB VE3IXX**
- JANUARY 29 - HAGEN VE3QVY**
- FEBRUARY 5 - FRANK VA3FJM**
- FEBRUARY 12 - BOB VE3IXX**
- FEBRUARY 19 - TED VE3TRQ**
- FEBRUARY 26 - M E E T I N G**
- MARCH 5 - TONY VE3DWI**
- MARCH 12 - HAGEN VE3QVY**
- MARCH 19 - ROD VA3MZD**
- MARCH 26 - M E E T I N G**
- APRIL 2 - TED VE3TRQ**
- APRIL 9 - TONY VE3DWI**

Joe Taylor— Ham Radio Innovator

Joe Taylor (K1JT) is a name that every radio amateur should know. Not only is he an accomplished physicist who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1993, but he is also one of the most influential figures in modern ham radio. His groundbreaking work in digital communication has transformed how radio operators make contacts, especially over long distances and in weak signal conditions.



✓ Revolutionizing Ham Radio with Digital Modes Taylor developed a series of digital communication modes, including WSJT, JT65, and FT8. These modes use advanced signal processing techniques to extract weak signals buried in noise, allowing hams to make contacts that would have been impossible using traditional voice or Morse code transmissions.

✓ WSJT (Weak Signal Joe Taylor) – A suite of digital modes designed for weak-signal communications.

✓ JT65 – Originally developed for Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communication, but later widely adopted for HF bands due to its ability to decode extremely weak signals.

✓ FT8 – The most popular mode today, offering fast and reliable contacts even with low power and simple antennas.

✓ Making Ham Radio More Accessible Before the rise of digital modes, long-distance contacts often required high power and large antennas. Taylor's innovations changed that. Today, even operators with minimal setups—like low-power transceivers and small antennas—can make DX contacts worldwide. This has brought new life to ham radio, attracting more people to the hobby and keeping it relevant in the digital age.

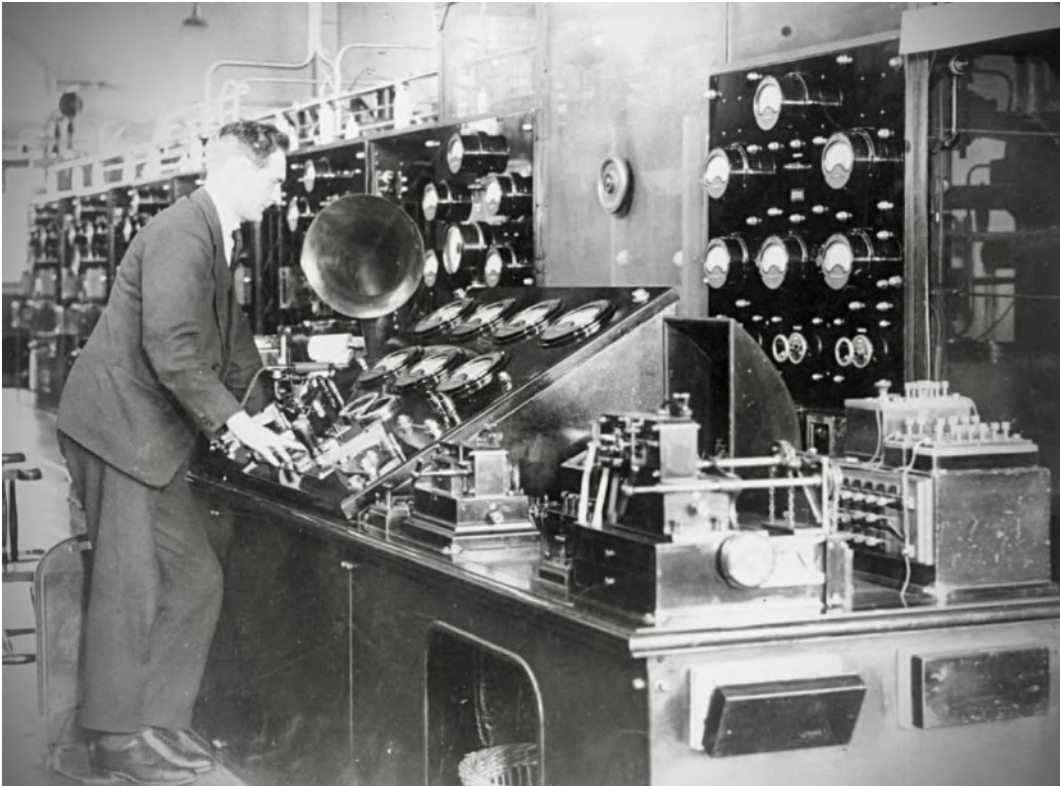
✓ A Lasting Legacy Joe Taylor's contributions have not only modernized amateur radio but have also expanded the limits of what's possible. Whether bouncing signals off the moon or making low-power contacts across continents, his work continues to inspire and empower radio amateurs around the world. For anyone looking to explore the cutting edge of ham radio, FT8 and other WSJT modes are must-try innovations—**thanks to K1JT**.

Thanks to Tony VE3DWI for sending this article.





From the PAST



World Wide Telegraph Transmitter in Rugby, Warwickshire, 17 November 1930. 'The world's largest and most powerful wireless station. Originally constructed for wireless telegraphy and erected for strategic reasons, it could at a moment's notice broadcast a message so powerful that it would be picked up by almost every ship at sea. It has separate aerial systems pointing at the USA, Canada, South Africa, India and Australia. Photograph shows the main control table containing all the main control instruments'.

Remembering "HEATHKIT"

This month we are marking the birthday of Howard Anthony, better known as **"Mister Heathkit"**.

Born on February 9, 1912, Howard Anthony was a businessman who purchased the then-bankrupt Heath Company in 1935. Initially, the company focused on selling accessories for small aircraft, but after World War II, Anthony decided to change focus from aircraft equipment to electronics. He bought a large stock of surplus wartime electronic parts with the intention of building kits with them. The new Heath company was very successful, and developed a line of electronic kits that were purchased by mail order and then assembled at home. The company sold electronic test equipment, amateur radios, and Hi-Fi equipment.

Tragically, Howard Anthony perished in a plane crash in 1954, just as the new Heath company was beginning to enjoy great success. The Heath company was sold to Daystrom, then subsequently purchased by Schlumberger, a leader in the development of electronic techniques for oil exploration. The Heath company continued to prosper and produced a remarkable range of electronic kits for many years. We celebrate the life and legacy of "Mister Heathkit" Howard Anthony. His contributions to Hi-Fi have been invaluable and continue to inspire many. The Heathkit company was inducted into the Hi-Fi Hall of Fame in the "Business" category. Please visit our website to see our profile:

hifihalloffame.com/businesses/heathkit/ #HiFiHallofFame #HowardAnthony #Heathkit #VintageAudio #DIYAudio #AudioEnthusiast #HiFiCommunity #VintageHifi

Howard Anthony Founder Heathkit



[HiFiHallofFame.com](https://hifihalloffame.com)

Thanks again to Tony VE3DWI for this story.

Tech Tips

Tech Tips

The wheel over the mouse has given us an easy option to scroll over the web pages and longer documents. But here are some other ways to use the mouse wheel which really made my works easier.

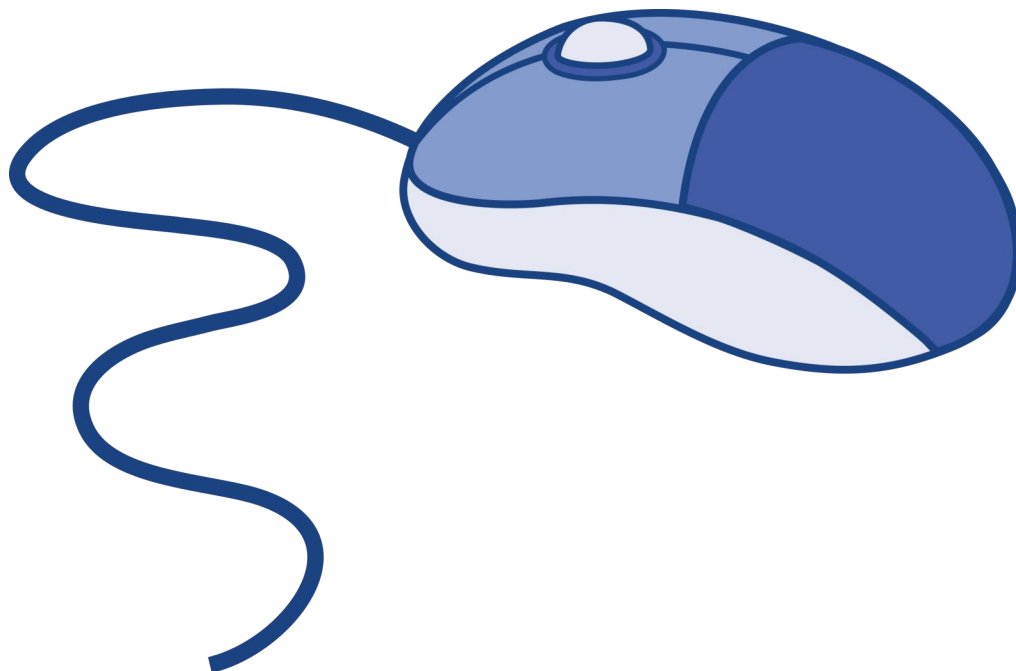
The mouse wheel is not just a wheel. It can also be used as a button. Pressing down on the wheel will acts like a third mouse button. The wheel button can be used to open a web page in a tab by clicking the wheel on any link and can also be used to close a tab by clicking the wheel on any open tab.

Zoom in and Out on a web page, word document, excel spreadsheet, etc. by holding down the Ctrl key and scrolling up to zoom in and down to zoom out.

Hold down the Shift key and scroll down in most Internet browsers to go back to the previous web page.

Some mouse wheels can be pushed left or right to also move back and forward between web pages.

By Ryan Thomas on "Quora Digest"



NOBLE SKYWAVE



By Rob Noakes VE3PCP

Noble Skywave – An International High Frequency (HF) communication competition

What is Noble Skywave?

Noble Skywave is An International High Frequency (HF) communication competition entailing participation from international partners. The exercise will see the establishment of voice and data links between domestic and international teams via HF Skywave propagation.

Noble Skywave is an annual exercise that is organized by the Canadian Military Communications and Electronic Network. **Wednesday - Friday, October 23 - 25, 2024**

Earlier last year in May 2024, I participated in another CAF training Exercise, Trillium Venture.

During that operation I was set up on Goderich and was one of several teams that participated in Grey, Bruce and Huron Counties in Mid Western Ontario.

The lead on the exercise was then Lt Griffin Baird, now Captain Baird. During that exercise, we all got to know and interface with Lt Baird which was a great experience for our team and all the others participating.



Captain Baird reached out to me before Noble Skywave to invite me to attend as a mentor for CF Signal Ops. I was happy to do so and bring my travelling amateur radio shack with me. I also felt it was necessary to obtain my CFARS, Canadian Forces Affiliate Radio Service, qualifications to be the best asset possible and be able to operate on air. The exercise was done entirely on military frequencies which also required that I had my radio "opened up" to be able to transmit on those frequencies.

Successes and lessons learned:

As a group, we were set up at the Guelph Armory which is downtown in Guelph Ontario. The beautiful historic building has lots of history. We had 7 teams set up on site with an 8th station at the Guelph EOC.



There were multiple phases to the operation over the 40 hour operating window with each offering its own challenges and rewards.

There were names like **"Establish the Net"**, **"Free Play"**, **"Team Challenge"** and **"Back to the future"**

With each we had specific tasks and details and a frequency list to work within every phase.

Overall there were over 300 entries around the world and our 7 teams did well. We were all operating with a maximum output of 150 watts.

We placed 75th overall and 21st in SSB only teams! A great achievement for the team!

During the "Back to the Future" phase, I managed to make a contact with US 38 on Kyrgyzstan (see map on page 12) at a distance of 10,135 km. Out of the noise, we heard GR (Good Readable) "Any Station any station US38 Radio Check, over." So I gave him a call and after a couple of re-sends, we were logged at both ends. This would be the furthest contact for our team.

Radio and antennas used.

My radio is a Kenwood TS850. For those that are not familiar with the radio, it has some age but is still a very solid performing competition class radio. Mine has been refreshed and recapped and tuned and has an output of 130 Watts on most bands.

Most found out quickly that antennas tuned for amateur bands were a challenge for non amateur usage, especially antennas like end fad antennas that depend on harmonics to work.

I did have my 80/40/20 linked dipole that did work well near the band edges with some help from both an internal ATU and external Kenwood AT-200 Tuner.

For other bands I took a different route. I had with me several rolls of insulated wire and cut ¼ wave vertical elements for those circumstances.

I have several feed points at the roof line of my enclosed trailer that I can attach a vertical element too and use my 25' high fiberglass pole to pull the end to a vertical position. It effectively gives me an elevated vertical using the trailer body as a counterpoise. It works very well and I can use elements for different bands with a spreader at the base to make a fan vertical of sorts. This proved to be quite effective.



The other edge I had in dealing with some high local noise was my remote station back at home in Inverhuron. I have a low local noise floor which was a great help in hearing the weak stations. So we used my remote for RX and the TS850 locally for TX.

Signal Ops and mentoring

We had three different Signal Ops that worked with us on a rotating basis and they were great! They taught us some aspects of military operations as well as learning HF operations from us. We were happy to sit back and let them carry on making as many contacts as they could.

Logging of contacts

The exercise had a web based logging portal set up that all participants logged their contacts. Each contact had to be confirmed within a short time slot to count. This portal allowed for that to happen and be very effective for a running tally for all stations.

Different operating language



Amateurs are all used to operating in a contest environment calling CQ Contest and the exchange of 5/9 5/9 both ways.

In this and all other CFARS exercises, we say instead "Any Stations, Any Stations, This is CA254, CA254 Radio Check Radio Check, Over." CA254 was our team call for the exercise.

Replies would be "CA254 this is CA334, we have you LC 'Loud and Clear', Over". And we

would do the same back to them. Upon the 2 way exchange, we would wait to hear "Logging Now or You are Logged" before repeating the same back. It was actually an efficient way of finishing the contact once you got used to it.

It was a 40 hour long exercise but we did not operate for all of it. We had many great opportunities to interact over meals which were all supplied for us; great food by the way! There were a number of site visitors from area clubs and individuals.

From ERC we had Frank VA3FJM, Rene VA3RRP and Rich VE3DCC. Mike VE3FE and Linda VE3CZ were there as participants.

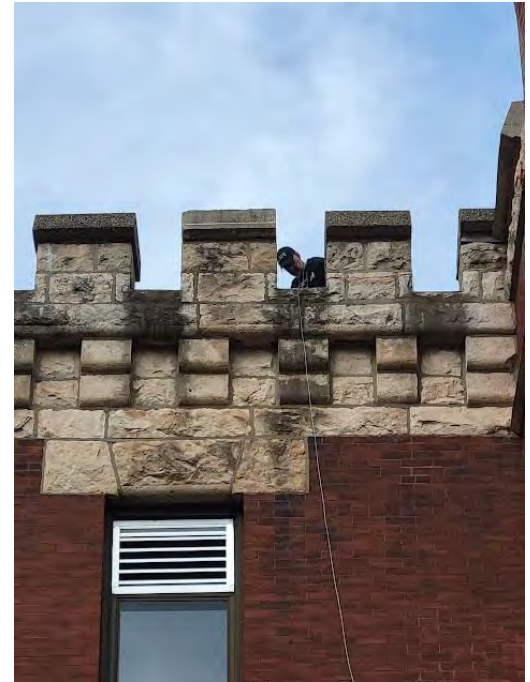
I put together an online album with pictures that you can find here at the link.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/RyJ5JzYFebScPBRWA>

I was also a special guest with Tracy VE3TWM Outdoors on the Air December livestream where we talked about Noble Skywave along with other things we are doing.

You can watch that part of the livestream here at the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/AfXJ9cROhAk?si=Nko8HeZIcbEHpTof&t=3046>



Scoring Data

[Refresh Data](#)

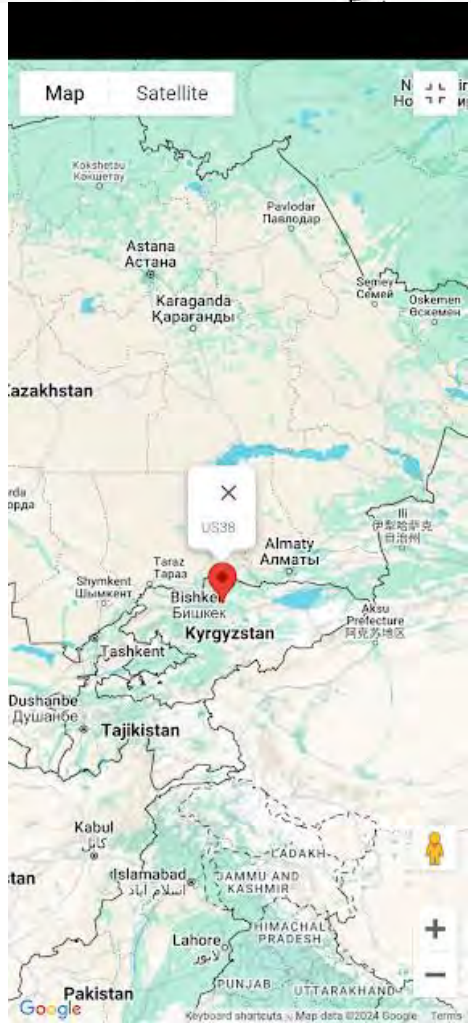
From	To	Mode	Transmission	Time	Distance	Points	Event
CA254	US38	null	VOICE	2024-10-25 02:12:59	10135.263413283	4.5	Back to tl Future
CA254	US85	null	VOICE	2024-10-25 02:39:56	4407.2852116929	3	Back to tl Future
CA254	US20	null	VOICE	2024-10-25 02:42:53	2944.0114385259	2	Back to tl Future

In summary, it was a great experience and one that I hope to do each year to come.

73 and enjoy your radios!

Rob, VE3PCP

Inverhuron Ham Radio Club.





About Noble Skywave

Since 2013, the Canadian Communications and Electronics branch has brought hundreds of teams from dozens of Nations together to test, strengthen expertise and compete in a friendly atmosphere to what is now known as the most Prestigious military led HF competition in the world: Noble Skywave.

Noble Skywave acquired its “letters of nobility” through highly skilled and proud participating teams which are either HAM/CFARS/MARS or Military Radio Operators around the globe. As the Leading Nation for this event, the Canadian Armed Forces are committed to provide the best possible training experience to all participants and is looking forward again this year to crown the best HF Radio Operators in the world.

Elmira Radio Club VE3ERC

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

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

Minutes

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

7:30pm

1. Meeting Call to Order, Welcome - President Frank VA3FJM
Frank called the meeting to order at 7:33pm

2. Roll Call & Quorum – Rod VA3MZD - Secretary
Ken KCY, Paul PDC, Reg RVH, Hagen QVY, Bob IXX, Tony DWI, James JLC, John PT (via Meet), Frank FJM, Rod MZD, Steve BVS, Roger RKS, Dave DAS, Andy CDF, John IXX, Curtis VE3EFI, Graham BYP (via Meet), new to the Club brothers Justin VE3JNP and Josh VE3VBU Pond. Total 19 . **Quorum attained.**

3. Adopt Agenda - Rod VA3MZD • Motion to adopt Agenda of February meeting
Moved by Paul PDC 2nd Steve VBS

4. Presentations/Speakers/Workshop
• **Duplexers - Tony VE3DWI: Duplexers and Cavities**

Tony presented via PowerPoint on the types, designs, functions and use of Duplexers for Repeaters. Tony's thorough knowledge of this topic and expertise is a significant resource for our club and greatly appreciated as well as the equipment examples to pass around the room.

• "Signal Reports" - interesting/unusual/rare QSOs, contests, WFD, VHF contest etc -

Rod MZD mentioned getting into ONTARS for perhaps the first time when Ken was NC last week, and stumbled on the Argentina DX SSB Contest and made 3 contacts.

• Winlink Training Online Seminar Report - slide decks/some recordings are available and were sent out via email this week from Rod MZD. A number of ERC participants in the sessions were able to get Winlink running on their radios.

5. Secretary's Report Rod VA3MZD • Motion to accept Minutes of November 2024 Meeting
Rod Moved, Tony 2nd, Carried

6. Treasurer's Report Rod VA3MZD

• Rod read Ted's VE3TRQ January Monthly Financial Report as submitted - Motion to accept Treasurer's Report
Paul Moved, Hagen 2nd, Carried

7. President's Report - Frank VA3FJM

Spring Military Exercise- 8 Divisions, 8000 personnel with Amateur operators, MARS conversions to be available to civilians to operate with them, a 5 year operation with 2-3 events per year.



8. Committee Reports

- Repeater Technical Committee - Tony VE3DWI - nothing to report
- Emergency Preparedness, Local Government relations, Remote Operations - John VE3JXX - update report - Scenarios to be created and sent out and members will be asked to be involved, equipment required, a sign up list will be circulated.

9. Unfinished Business

- Linking the VA3TET and GARC VE3RKL Wires-X repeaters - contact with Barry VE3SLD - discussion postponed
- Wednesday Night Net Controller Schedule - Hagen VE3QVY/Bob VE3IXX - Hagen and Bob have coordinated the Wednesday night schedule which is published in Bob's monthly Club newsletter. Let Hagen know if you can't make your assigned night as published in Bob's newsletter so that a switch can be arranged.

10. New Business

- Tony VE3DWI - Morning Net Control Tuesday/Sunday - Steve will take Tuesday morning Net. Intro script to be shared with Steve by FrankFJM and Tony FJM
- Bill VA3QB - Field Day 2025 Organizer - Bil VA3QBI is unable to coordinate Field Day this June and is looking for someone to volunteer - Steve indicated an interest. Rod will connect Steve and Bill to share info.

11. Announcements

- Next Meeting- Wednesday, March 26, 2025 @ 7pm
- Wires-X Net- Thursday, February 27, 2025 8pm on VA3TET Repeater/Room 90561 - Net Control needed (Rod is unavailable) - Frank volunteered to be Net Control
- Future GH AuxComService Training Workshops- Feb-May- NVIS, D-Star. Fusion, APRS, Batteries/Solar Power - Registration Required - email Rosemarie Upfield for info- reupva3rie@gmail.com VA3RIE, Education and Training Coordinator, Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS), Golden Horseshoe (GH) Section

12. Adjournment - Frank VA3FJM - Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm

Notes- thanks to Paul PDC for setting up the Audio/visual for Google Meet and for Curtis EFI for navigating the screens so that Meet participants could see and hear the shared screens and Tony's superb presentation.