AUGUST 2025 Volume 14 Issue 8

VE3ERC-LUB

President: Frank VA3FJM
Vice-President: Tom VE3DXQ
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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.

Simon VA3KOE sent along this picture showing his VHF antenna (a Slim Jim made from 450 ohm ladder line) hanging from his chimney. Originally, the antenna was hung up about 50 feet in a tree, but then a sudden windstorm knocked it down. Simon reattached it to this location. Just above it is a dipole (cut to 126 feet and fed with 75 ohm feedline) which he uses to work the hf bands.

THE PREZ SEZ!

This club is Radio-ACTIVE

President's Update for August 2025

Hope everyone has had great summer of radio fun.

The Elmira club has had a flurry of activity starting with the Central Ontario Fleamarket, to Field Day and finally working on installing a new tower for the repeater in Alma. This will greatly increase our club's radio coverage. More on that when the project is complete.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for September 24 when the ERC club meetings resume. See you in September.

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

JULY 23 - JOHN VE3JXX (EmComm NET)

JULY 30 - TOM VE3DXQ

AUGUST 6 - ROD VA3MZD

AUGUST 13 - TED VE3TRQ

AUGUST 20 - TONY VE3DWI

AUGUST 27 - JAY VE3CMN

SEPTEMBER 3 - FRANK VA3FJM

SEPTEMBER 10 - BOB VE3IXX

SEPTEMBER 17 - TOM VE3DXQ

SEPTEMBER 24 - M E E T I N G

OCTOBER 1 - HAGEN VE3QVY

Ham Radio and the ERC

In the News

Report it: observerxtra.com/tips

identified as the future home for the facility.

Institute

Hamming it up at annual field day

Members of the Elmira Radio Club have been keeping resilient technology in the spotlight for 30 years

Julian Gavaghan
Observer Staff

HAM RADIO FAN STEVE RACEY wants to make one thing clear: the far-reaching communication method he and fellow Elmira club members use is nothing like CB, or Citizen's Band.

"It's called children's band for a reason, or the chicken band, although I won't say that out loud because I work for a hatchery, and that's an insult to chickens," he joked.

Racey, an affable and entertaining former telecommunications engineer who inherited his VE3BVS call sign from his Uncle George, was recently joined by a host of other equally good-natured characters at the 30-year-old Elmira Radio Club's annual field day.

Frank Monteith (VA3FJM), the club's president, said the trip to Elmira (East) Airport – incredibly the town has two runways on opposite sides of the small settlement – was just one of many he makes with his rig inside a converted horsebox.

Travelling around Canada, he has discovered a very like-minded – and helpful – community of amateur radio enthusiasts, or "hams" as they are sometimes called.

"For example, we went to Newfoundland, and I hadn't been there before, so I programmed in every single repeater in Newfoundland," explained the licensed operator, who has a bushy white beard and has served for many years as a certain jolly, red-suited gift giver at Christmastime.

"That meant that, if I was in range and they talked to somebody, I would hear it.

"So, I kept the radio on in the car, and when they came on, I called on my

With good vibes and signals, Elmira Radio Club members John Scheringa, Steve Racey and Frank Monteith have formed a strong bond through their shared love of the original wireless communication. Julian Gavaghan

call sign, and they all came over and told us where to go with the best cafes and all the best information."

Monteith's personal furthest transmission was Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia to Minnesota.

But he knows other operators who have gone a lot further.

"We do have members who work really hard and were able to contact the International Space Station," he said.

Amateur radio's potential for long-distance communication using analog signals also makes it a vital potential resource for emergency service use, noted John Scheringa (VE3JXX), who co-founded the club, along with fellow former volunteer firefighter Bob Brown and the late Ralph Brubacher, at the Elmira fire station in 1995.

"It's very important we can communicate when others can't," explained Scheringa.

"Most of the technology today is really computer-driven, in one form or another, even the very newest, most expensive radios that they're using for the police and fire are a new P25 system, and it's all computer-driven.

→ HAM RADIO 23

Thursday, July 24, 2025 | THE OBSERVER

HAM RADIO: Technology is ready to act as backup in the event of an emergency

→ FROM 20

"And if they have a computer malfunction, they're down and out.

"For example, about five years ago around here, there was some digging going on, and someone dug into a fibre-optic line, and it put the fire department out.

"But to do any sort of distance, they needed repeaters in the computers, and they couldn't contact the Floradales, the Maryhills, or the Elmiras.

"So, I was actually called by the chief to help out."

Most of the time, however, amateur radio is strictly amateur, even though operating the technology requires a user to pass an exam first, something the club can help budding hams achieve.

Scheringa, like other members, loves to travel with an antenna and receiver, as well as his wife Kathy, dog Risa and cat Birdie.

Ham radio has been keenly embraced in this country ever since Canadian Reginald Fessenden sent the first audio transmission using electromagnetic waves in 1900, five years after Italian Guglielmo Marconi invented wireless communication.

John Scheringa holds the radio microphone at a recent Elmira Radio Club field day while joined by fellow members Steve Racey and Frank Monteith. Julian Gavaghan

But it is also used across the globe with similar enthusiasm.

Racey, who wore a black cap bearing the club's VE3ERC call sign to the June 14 field day, also used the medium when he lived in Wales in the early 1980s, where he used the British identifier G0APR.

Working there was just one source of many wonderful anecdotes he has collected over the years.

"The infamous Rockfield Studios were just down the road from where I was working, and I actually had a service call there once and to change a handset cord," he recalled.

"And, normally, a handset cord takes about two minutes, but I spent a half hour because I was watching the drummer from Adam and the Ants trying to lay down a drum track."

Racey, 69, is known to friends as "Frogman" because of his "passion" for what he sees as both ribbiting and riveting creatures.

"Amphibians are, from a scientific point of view, what they call an indicator species, because they live a double life," he said, noting that was also a "nice metaphor" for his own life on land and on air.

Racey, who now works part-time in "the best gig I've ever had" at Bonnie's Chick Hatchery in Elmira, has had an interest in ham radio since childhood.

He has used the medium to communicate with people in a few European countries, but he's not always aiming for long-range transmissions.

"I'm just as happy to say that I talked to a guy in New Brunswick as I am talking to a guy in Italy, because we have our camaraderie," he said.

Racey admits that, while many club members are of a similar age to him, fresher faces show up as well.

"We're a very active group, and we get a lot of young members joining and that's really important," he explained.

"We have a young ham, VA3KOE Simon [Koechl], he's only 13 years old and just getting into the hobby.

"But he's got about 12 other friends who've also got licences for ham radio."

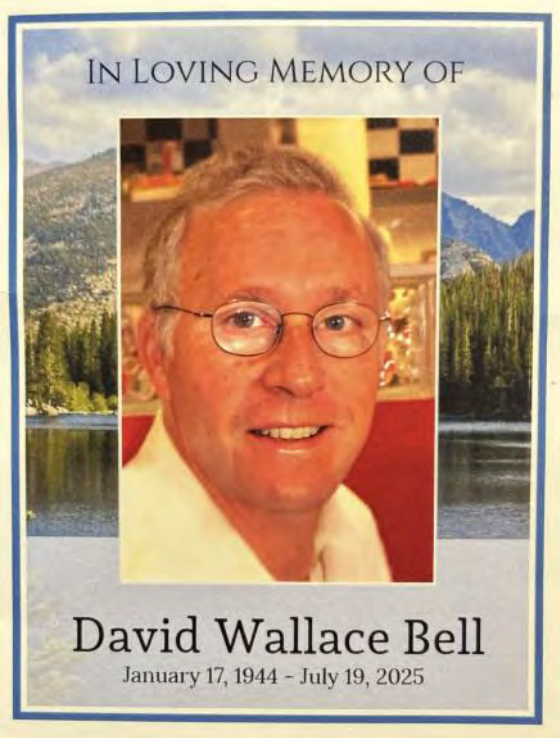
Anyone who is interested in learning more can contact the club via its website, www.ve3erc.ca.

The Elmira Radio Club made a big splash in "The Observer" in Elmira. It was a big boost for advertising Amateur Radio, Field Day and the ERC—club.

Special thanks to John VE3JXX and to Simon VA3KOE who sent a copy of the newspaper.

In Memoriam

Dave Bell VE3CSB-SK



David Wallace Bell -VE3CSB

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of David Wallace Bell on July 19, 2025 at Freeport Hospital in Kitchener, ON. David was the only child of Wallace and Pearl (Pat-Nee Paterson) Bell. He was born on Jan. 17, 1944 in Cambridge, ON.

David attended Galt Collegiate Institute and the University of Guelph where he graduated in 1966 with a Bachelors degree with Honours in Business Agriculture. He then attended the University of Western Ontario and graduated in 1969 with his Ontario Teaching certificate. He obtained a Master of Business administration in 1972 from McMaster University. In a 40 year teaching career, David taught Business and computer courses at Cameron Heights in Kitchener where he was assistant head of business. In addition to his full-time positions, he was an educational consultant/ teacher for Statistics Canada, and an associate with independent learning center, Ontario Ministry of Education as a course developer, teacher, and exam proctor.

David's hobby was Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) for over 50 years, call sign VE3CSB. He was affectionately known on the air as "Canada Savings Bonds" and talked all over the world primarily from his car. He was an early member of the South Waterloo Amateur Radio club and later the Kitchener Waterloo Amateur Radio club. He held various positions including treasurer and program chairman. David also travelled extensively and wrote travel articles sharing his travel experiences. He was a travel media association member for over 10 years. His articles and photographs were published in consumer travel magazines, newspapers, travel trade publications and online.

Left to mourn his passing are several cousins, including Jean and Ed Weiler and family of Ayr Ontario and several Ham Radio friends, Rich Clausie, Ralph Korchensky, Harold Braun, John Linnerth, John Enns, Gord and Linda Hayward, Dave Johnson, Fred and Ruth Hicks, John and Dianne Riddell as well as many others all over the world. A special thanks for the excellent care from Dr. Kim, nurses and staff at Freeport Hospital. David was always comfortable and for that we are very thankful.

There will be a celebration of life for David, at the Henry Walser Funeral Home, 507 Frederick St. Kitchener Ontario on Thursday, July 31 at 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. for greeting family, and the service will be at 10:30 a.m. Cremation has taken place and interment will be in the family plot in Mount View Cemetery in Cambridge. It will be a private family event.

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to The Canadian Cancer Society (cards available at the funeral home).

Henry Walser

Desoldering Iron Makes Desoldering Easy

By Hagen Kaye VE3QVY

Over the years, I've tried different desoldering tools from the little spring-loaded vacuum solder sucker to desoldering braid and even the very high-end rework stations at my workplace (these are close to $1000 or more). For simple work, I've settled on using desoldering braid, and for the tricky stuff, I drive 10 minutes away to work and use the nice rework stations.

However, I decided to give this a try, ordered it on Amazon for $45, with overnight delivery.

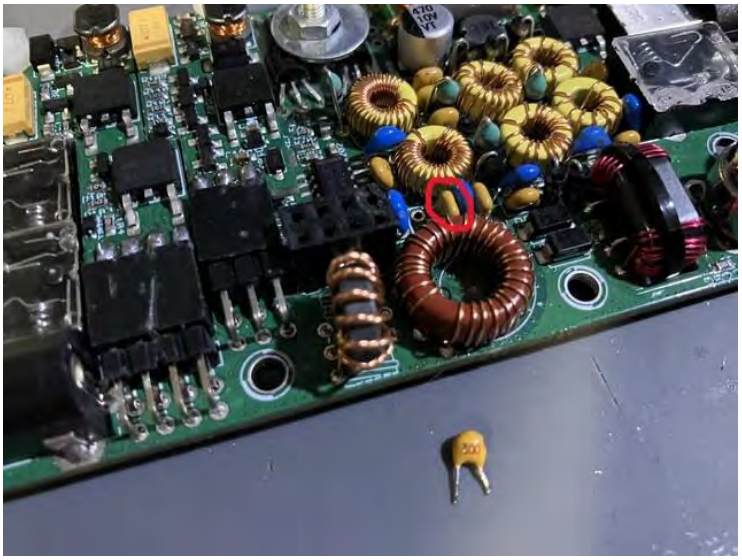
https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B0932TJX9X?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_fed_asin_title

This is probably the best desoldering tool I've come across - great value for the money. I'm working on tuning up a few QRP labs boards, which involves removing a toroid and adding or removing a turn, a 6-layer board. Tricky! I just tried this and managed to pop off the toroid and clean out the solder holes in about a minute. Nice!

It works excellently for through-hole components. The desolder tip has a hole. You heat the solder, press the red button, it sucks the solder. Then remove the iron, point the tip in a container, release the button, and it spits out the solder.

I'm having fun with this new tool. The bandpass filter on 20m was off, and it shared the inductor with 30m, which was spot on.

I thought maybe the 30pf capacitor was out of tolerance. So I removed it, measured it, and it was 30pf. I recalculated the value needed, which worked out to 18pf, and replaced the capacitor (circled in red). It did such a great job that I put the 30pf capacitor into my parts bin to be reused in another future project.



The 20m and 30m bandpass filters are not spot on!

From the PAST

RCAF Whitehorse, Yukon. Dual Hammarlund SP-600 positions. Atop the SP-600 receivers are slots which were used to hold Frequency Cards. These cards indicated what frequencies were to be monitored by the operator at that position.

RCAF Station Whitehorse was originally opened by the Canadian Department of Transport as "Whitehorse airfield". It is located at what is now the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport in Whitehorse, Yukon.

The airport was transferred to the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942 as part of the system called the **Northwest Staging Route**. Designated as RCAF Station Whitehorse, it had detachments at Teslin, Aishihik, and Snag, Yukon and in 1946, at Watson Lake, Yukon.

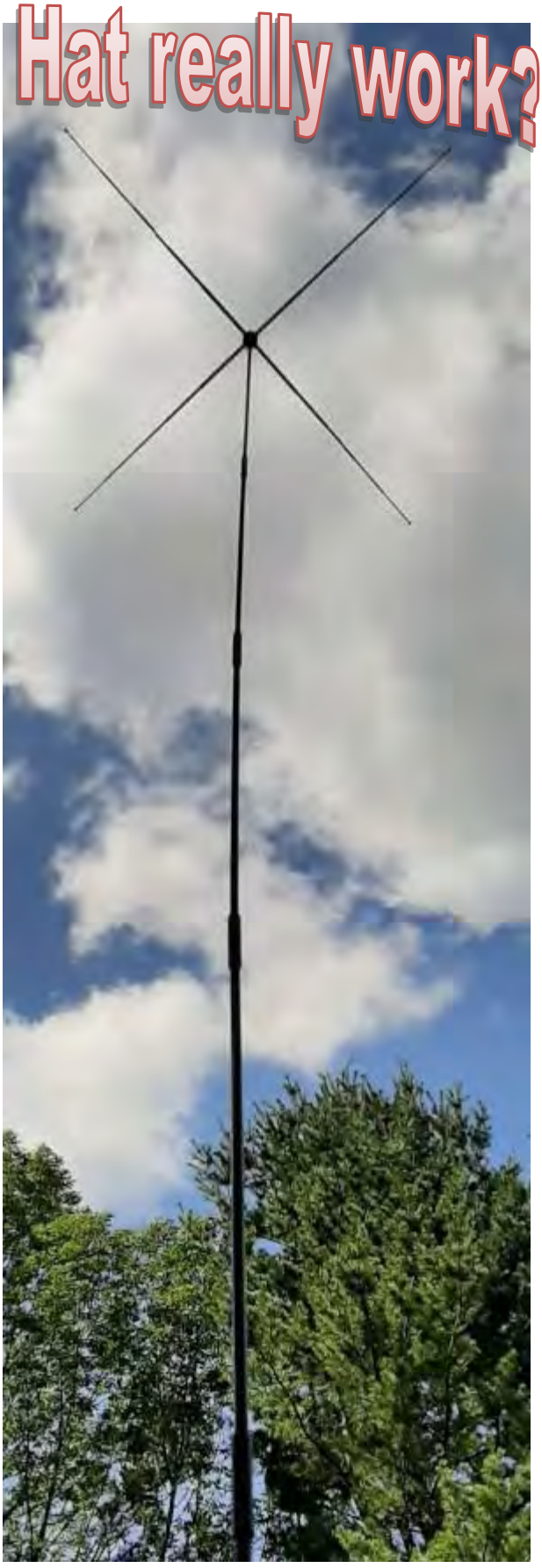
After World War II, RCAF Station Whitehorse continued to function primarily as a refueling point on the Alaska route. The Department of Transport took over the operation of the airport, but the RCAF remained. In 1948, the station at Prince Rupert, British Columbia closed and the intercept positions were moved to Whitehorse.

The station's function changed to primarily a Radio Unit, namely, No. 5 Radio Unit. It became part of the Canadian Forces Supplementary Radio System in 1966 and was renamed Canadian Forces Station Whitehorse with the transfer to the Supplementary Radio System (SUPRAD). RCAF operations were limited to radio intercept. It was a short lived operation as CFS Whitehorse closed in 1968.

Thanks to Tony VE3DWI

Does an Antenna Top Hat really work?

By John VA3KOT



There are several ways to shorten a vertical whip antenna, for example, a loading coil, linear loading (folding back all or part of the radiating element) and one that has intrigued me for quite a while - a capacitance hat, also known as a top hat.

A top hat (shown in this image) is a series of conductors erected horizontally, and connected to, the radiating element of a vertical whip antenna.

Top hats provide capacitance with respect to ground and are used for two main reasons:

To shorten the required physical length of a vertical antenna

To raise the maximum current point higher up the antenna

One significant disadvantage of using a top hat is that it adds weight to the top of the antenna. That may not be a problem for a fixed installation where a thick, rigid vertical element can be used. But for field expedient portable operations using, for example, a telescoping whip it can be a very bad idea indeed. Let me explain why.

I recently purchased a top hat designed for a PAC-12 antenna from AliExpress. I attached it to the top of my 18.5ft whip obtained from the same source. The top of the whip waved around in the air and clearly was not going to be a practical arrangement. These Chinese whips are made much lighter than similar products from other sources (e.g. MFJ-1979 which I also own) and consequently are not as strong. To be fair, the manufacturer would probably advise against abusing their lightweight whips in the manner of my little experiment. I guess I overstressed the thin top sections of the whip which subsequently parted company from the lower sections. I attempted a repair which wasn't successful, so I am now the owner of a shorter whip which may see service in a future antenna experiment.

I own another whip - a "tactical", military style whip that is 9.5ft long. It is made from several sections of fairly rigid tube held together by shock cord. Although the sections taper toward the top, the uppermost section is still quite strong. When the top hat was attached to this whip, the whip bowed very slightly but appeared to be quite able to support the weight.

"Tactical" 9.5ft military style whip

AliExpress top hat for a PAC-12 antenna. NB: I drilled a through hole in the hub to fit it on my tactical whip.

The AliExpress top hat arrived in a surprisingly small package. It comprises a central hub secured to the whip by a small hex screw and four tiny telescoping whips that expand to 12 inches long. When fully assembled the top hat has a diameter of about 24 inches.

How did it perform?

I was a little skeptical about this arrangement. Could a small capacitance hat compensate for the short (9.5 feet) length of my whip on the 20m band? It was a shot in the dark and the short answer is no it could not. But that isn't to say the top hat totally failed in its mission. In fact, it did make a difference as will be explained in a minute.

A small top hat alone cannot easily compensate for a very short antenna. There are ways to improve the top hat - such as adding a perimeter wire linking the tips of all the horizontal conductors, or even making the horizontal conductors longer. For rapid deployment in the field the perimeter wire is tricky to implement. The stock AliExpress top hat can be assembled and installed in about a minute; adding a perimeter wire makes the assembly more complicated - especially when backpacking the whole station into the bush.

Making the top hat's horizontal conductors longer introduces another complication. These conductors carry a very small current; if they are made much longer the current will increase (e.g. as in a Marconi T-Antenna) and they will radiate.

A much simpler, but less efficient, idea is to combine the top hat with a loading coil, and that is the route I took. I revived an old ham-made adjustable loading coil I had built for another project a few years ago. The loading coil had to be placed at the bottom of the whip for mechanical stability. Since this is also the maximum current point the coil will introduce i^2R loss, but compromises have to be made.

VA3KOT's trail-hardened FT-891 rig with ham-made adjustable loading coil and 9.5ft top-hat loaded whip

The end result was a base loaded 9.5ft whip with a 24-inch capacitance hat at the top of the whip. The adjustable coil enabled the antenna to work on 20m, 30m and 40m by simply adjusting the coil slider. Four 13ft radials were laid orthogonally on the ground at the base of the whip as a counterpoise.

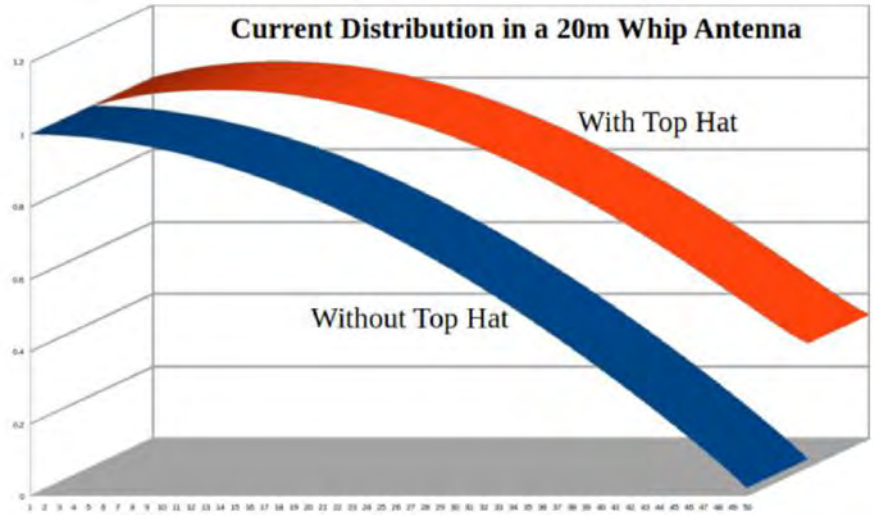
Step One

First, the top hat was left to one side and the coil slider was adjusted to find a match on each of the three bands of interest. I used my RigExpert antenna analyzer to measure the results, then when a match on each band was found, my trail-hardened Yaesu FT-891 was deployed and verified the results.

Step Two

The top hat was then installed and the tests repeated. Now the coil setting for each band was quite significantly different. The required inductance was reduced which means the i^2R loss was also reduced - that was encouraging. So the shortening effect of the top hat was verified, but what about the point of maximum current; was that raised too?

I attempted to model the antenna using EZNEC. I have to admit that I have only a very limited knowledge of antenna modeling, so I cheated a little. I modeled a full-size quarter-wave whip for 20m and looked at the antenna currents. Then I added the top hat to the model and looked at the antenna currents again. Would the top hat raise the maximum current sufficiently to get it above the loading coil and thereby reduce losses in the coil? The following chart shows the results.



Bingo! (but no big prize)

As we can see by looking at the chart, the top hat does indeed raise the maximum current point. The model divided the whip into 50 segments and the current maximum is raised from segment 1 with no top hat, to segment 10 with a top hat. That means the point of maximum radiated energy is raised to a point 20% up from the bottom of the whip. Hallelujah.

But just a cotton-pickin' minute, the actual maximum current changes very little between the first and tenth segment so did we actually achieve anything useful? Well yes we did actually. If we look at segment 50 on the chart we can see that without the top hat the current drops to zero at the top of the whip. On the other hand, with the top hat installed, there is still significant RF current all the way up the whip - so the entire whip is contributing to radiation!

Did the maximum current point clear the loading coil?

I won't win a Nobel prize for this bit of non-science, but here is my analysis. If the whip is 9.5ft long, the loading coil is compensating for most of the other 7.5ft of a nominal 17ft whip. 20% of 17ft is 3.4ft so that falls well within the loading coil. Hence no, the current maximum will still be in the loading coil. If any reader can convert the above into real science I would welcome your input.

This was interesting experiment and convinced me that top hats really do improve a vertical whip antenna. Will this arrangement actually be used in my field portable operations? Yes, for sure; the top hat has the effect of "decompromising" (to some extent) a compromise antenna. When the prime mission is to carry a rapid deployment, field expedient portable antenna into the bush, remote from roads and parking lots, this antenna has earned in its place in my backpack.

Anecdote

Morse marked money

Probably the only coin ever minted which embraces a telegraph code is the Canadian five—cent piece of 1943 issued during WW2. On the reverse side, instead of the usual continuous bead of small dots forming a frame, a message in International Morse code reads "WE WIN WHEN

WE WORK WILLINGLY".

The inscription is so minute that many people are unaware of it, and a magnifying glass is really required to read it. It also features in the centre a large "V" (for "victory") which in WW2 was a Morse code interpretation of the first bar of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony -

dit, dit, dit, dah. It was often called the "**Victory Symphony".**

Dan K de Neuf. (Monitoring Times)

Taken from Morsum Magnificat Magazine for morse telegraphy (summer 1987)

http://www.n7cfo.com/tgph/Dwnlds/mm/MMs/MM04.pd

The Greatest Space Prank In History?

The American astronaut Owen Garriott was the first Ham Operator in space to make contact with a Ham on Earth on the 2 meter band. According to the following story he also was a first class prankster. (With thanks to Tony VE3DWI)

🚀👩‍🚀 The greatest space prank in history? It belongs to astronaut Owen Garriott.

It happened back in 1973, aboard the American Skylab space station. Garriott wasn't just a brilliant astronaut — he was also a first-class prankster. And what he pulled off with a cassette recorder deserves a place in cosmic folklore.

Before the mission, Garriott had packed a little something extra: a cassette recorder. On it, his wife Helen had recorded a few lines — part of a top-secret prank planned just for Flight Controller Robert Crippen back at Mission Control.

One day, during a routine transmission, Garriott took his position by the transmitter... and hit play.

👩 : "Skylab, this is Houston. Do you read?"

👩 : "Good afternoon, Houston. This is Skylab."

A woman's voice. From orbit. 😳

There was silence on the line. Then a hesitant voice from Earth:

👩‍🦱 : "…Who is this speaking?"

👩 : "Hi Robert. It's Helen, Owen's wife."

A longer pause. Then Crippen — clearly panicked — responded:

👩‍🦱 : "…What are YOU doing up THERE?!"

👩 : "Oh, I just thought I'd bring the guys something to eat. It's all fresh and homemade."

🎧 And then — radio silence. Total confusion.
Mission Control froze. For a full minute.
Then... the line cut out. Likely because Robert Crippen's nerves couldn't take it anymore.

🏅 To this day, it remains one of the most legendary pranks in space history.
Proof that even in orbit, astronauts carry a good sense of humor.

Ham2k Polo mobile logging software

By Rod Murray VA3MZD

I got out to a park yesterday and the bands were way better than the last few weeks. I realized I'd forgotten my trusty Rite in the Rain notepad which I use regularly for a log book. I tried HAMRS on my phone for a POTA activation once and royally messed up so bad I've been reluctant to go digital. I've been paper logging, then transferring to HAMRS once I'm home for 3 years now and that works but is prone to error.

So yesterday I opened my phone up to my radio apps collection and went for it, tapping on Ham2K's PoLo logging app. I got a NB station immediately that answered my SSB CQ POTA, and without any tutorial, I was able, even with my fat fingers, to start a log, enter my park number, then tap in the the call sign and signal reports and Save. Easy peasy!!

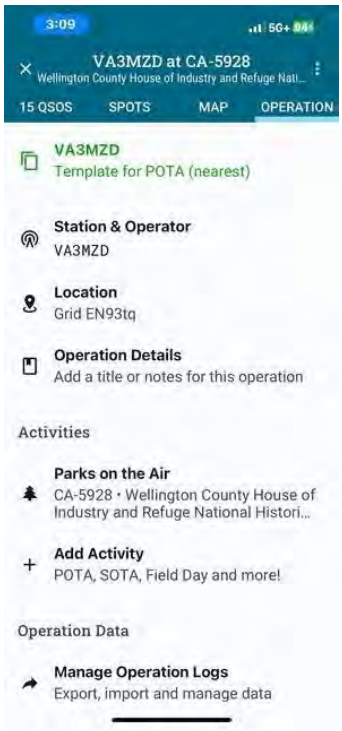
PoLo icon on the iPhone

I realized after a few QSOs that I needed to know how to enter park to park. There's a button for that. I was off to the races. I even got both Guelph and Conestoga Lakes P2P yesterday! Ground plane? I tapped on the next tab in the app and could see my now developing QSO Map. Wow! East coast to Manitoba to Midwest US to US south. My signal was getting out on 20m SSB.

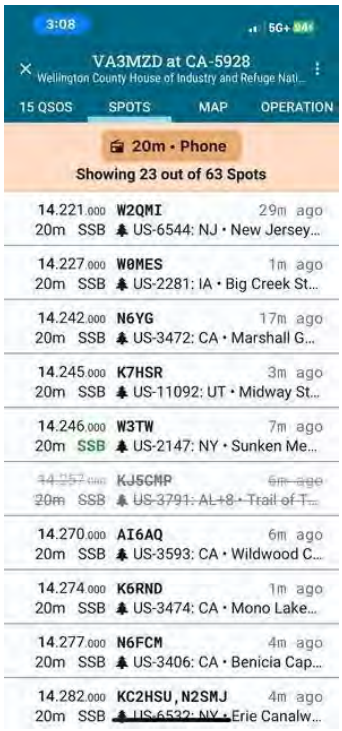
Then came the closer. I'd been flipping back and forth between POTA.app and Polo to see the spots and try to hunt them and saw a 3 operator spot. But could I type in all 3 call signs each time, add the signal reports and park number each time? Not likely. There's a tab in Polo that polls the Spots from POTA (and SOTA etc!) and shows them in a realtime list. Tap the Spots tab, tap the Call sign(s) you want to hunt, and all the data, minus the signal reports are transferred to a QSO. Add the report and Save! Voilà! The Operation tab is where you Export to adif, which was so simple. I saved it to iCloud and then uploaded it to POTA when I got home, from my Windows PC.

I won't be using paper or HAMRS again! There's more features I haven't even touched. It's a game changer for portable operating. Ham2K POLO it is from now on.
I promise to do a demo at an upcoming meeting if there's interest! Here's the screenshots to show you how easy it is to use!

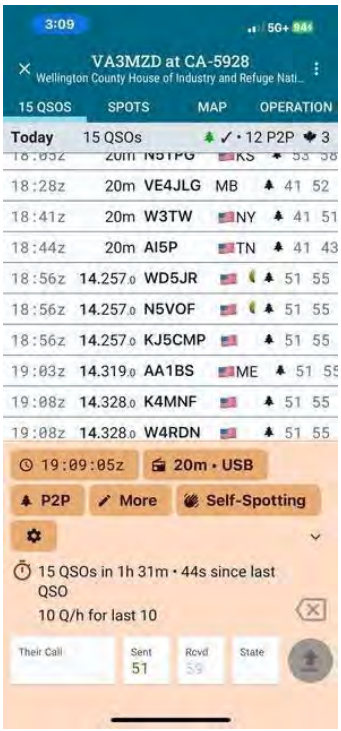
Type in a QSO freehand. My completed QSOs listed above. P2P have a tree icon.



Polo Operation tab and set up- POTA, park number, export, etc

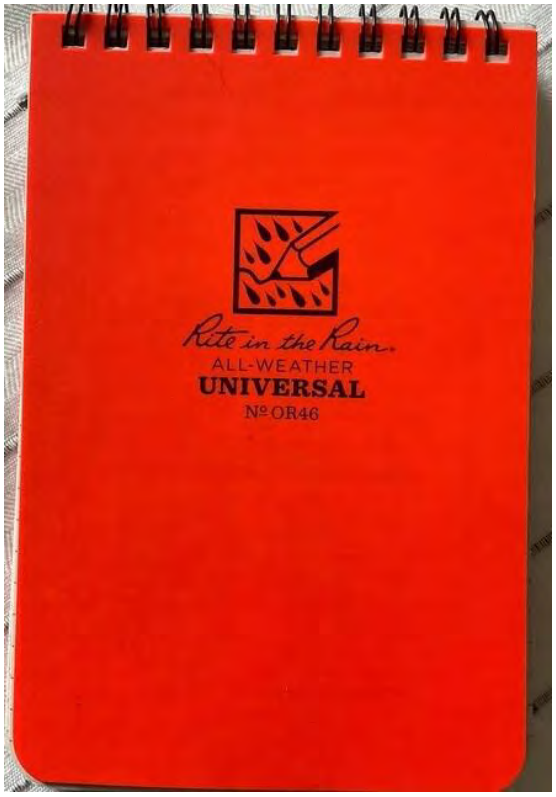


Spots page showing QSOs spots already made with strike through greyed out text or Green for ones I typed in manually



Multiple operator QSO entered automatically from the Spot page at 19:08, just type in the sent and received signal reports and Save!

QSO Map



No more paper log books?!

Next time you are out doing a POTA, give PoLo a try!

Rod VA3MZD

Tech Tips

UnUN Transformer

I understand that at the KWARC antenna build session there was some confusion about the winding ratio of the UnUn transformer. We have to keep in mind that EVERY TIME a wire crosses through the centre of a toroid it counts as one (1) winding. To find the winding ratio, divide the Secondary winding count by the Primary winding count.

In this case, it is 15 / 2 = 7.5. Out of this follows that the Impedance ratio is 7.5 X 7.5 = 56.25 Ω. So we call this one a 56:1 UnUn. It transforms the coax impedance of 50 Ω to 56 X 50 = 2,800 Ω. If we really want to be picky, it should be 56.25 X 50 = 2,812.5 Ω. Since the impedance at the end of a half wave length wire will vary with the influences of the height above terrain, surrounding objects, size of the wire diameter, insulated or bare and the condition of the soil, we don't know what it ultimately will be.

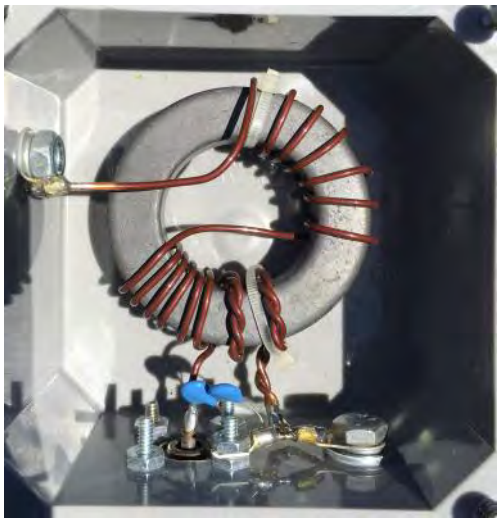
My Half Wave 80 mtr EFHW is installed as an inverted "V" with the first 35 feet going up at an angle of about 45° to a mast of about 35 feet tall and the horizontal part of about 100 feet going to a friendly neighbour's tree. I tuned the length to resonate in the lower part of the CW portion of 80 mtr. I can use it on 80, 40,20, and 10 meters with an SWR well below 2:1. I usually do use a manual antenna tuner (Matching Device) to get it down to less than 1.5:1.

I have attached a picture of the winding counts to show that the transition winding from the left to the right of the toroid also counts as one (1) winding. With this UnUn it is winding #7. I'm interested to hear from anyone who built this UnUn how it works for you. I always twist the Primary and Secondary winding together to get a good coupling between them.. Here is also a picture of the UnUn that I built.

BTW, to Type the Ω character, press and hold down the Alt key and type 234. For the degree character ° type Alt-248. To type the micro µ character type Alt-230

73, Toy VE3DWI.

P.S. This works for all toroids made as transformers like the UnUn. However one has to pick a toroid that is suitable for the frequency range you use it for. 9:1 toroids for non resonant long wire ununs are iron powder types where the 49:1 or other ratios of Half Wave ununs usually use type 43 ferrite cores.



Hanover Haul Hamfest

Mike VE3MKX

Rob VE3PCP once again provided communications for the event.

Paul VA3PDC and Ken VE3KCY trying to stay cool.

Mike VE3FE and Linda VE3CZ entertaining at their table.

Tony VE3DWI with Simon VA3KOE and Ryan VA3HCO on his left and Jack (Simon's brother) on his right.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thanks to **Mike VE3MKX** for sending this article from which is a Free Newsletter.

Hammond Museum of Radio reopens after two years

Santana Bellantoni
Aug 19, 2025

The Hammond Museum of Radio has been closed to the public for two years because Hammond Power Solultions was constructing an addition at the site and the assets needed to be protected.

After a two-year-long closure the Hammond Museum of Radio has reopened.
The museum at 595 Southgate Dr. attached to Hammond Power Solutions was closed because of a major renovation to the building which included an addition. In order to protect more than a thousand artifacts from construction, dirt, dust and vibrations the museum closed. Everything was covered with tarps and cloth.

Some of the more valuable radios were relocated to storage. Employees would regularly check there were no leaks coming from the ceiling and no cracks in the walls. The museum reopened last month by appointment only.

Fred Hammond was one of the co-founders of Hammond Manufacturing. He founded the museum in 1982. He started building radios when he was 11-years-old and collected radios throughout his life. The museum is filled with his personal collection of radios and donations from locals.

Noreen Irwin-Hann has been the curator of the museum since 1999. She is revising the self-guided tour in time for the museum to reopen fully to the public in the fall.

"I think the best thing is, when you come here, you can experience a century of the development of the radio and communication technology," said Irwin-Hann.

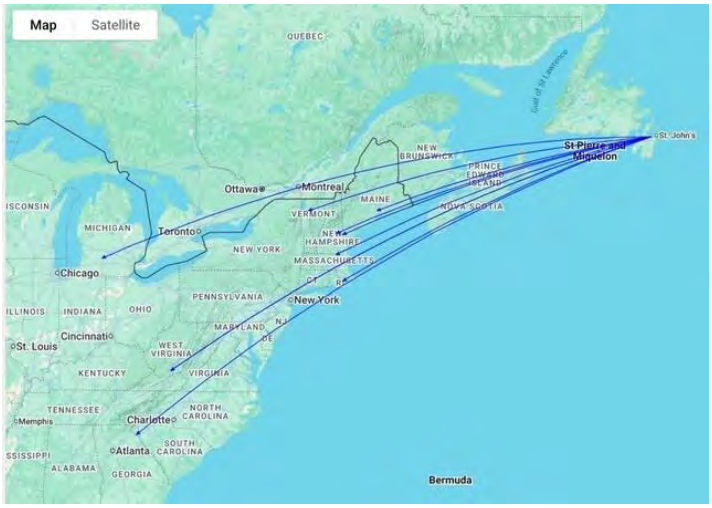
Since July, she said she's had visitors non-stop. Before the reopening she would get emails every couple of months asking if the museum was back up and running. She was happy to email everyone back to tell them it's open.

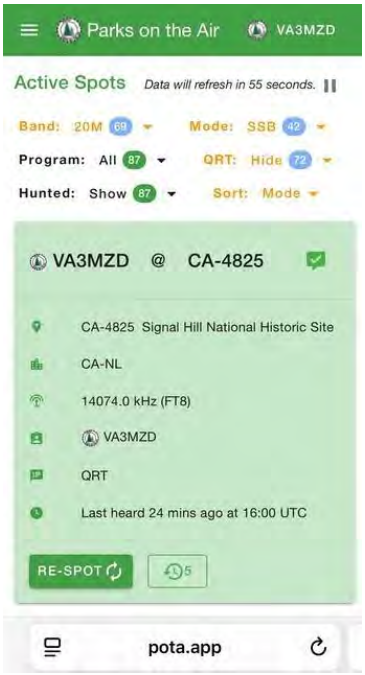
By Rod Murray VA3MZD

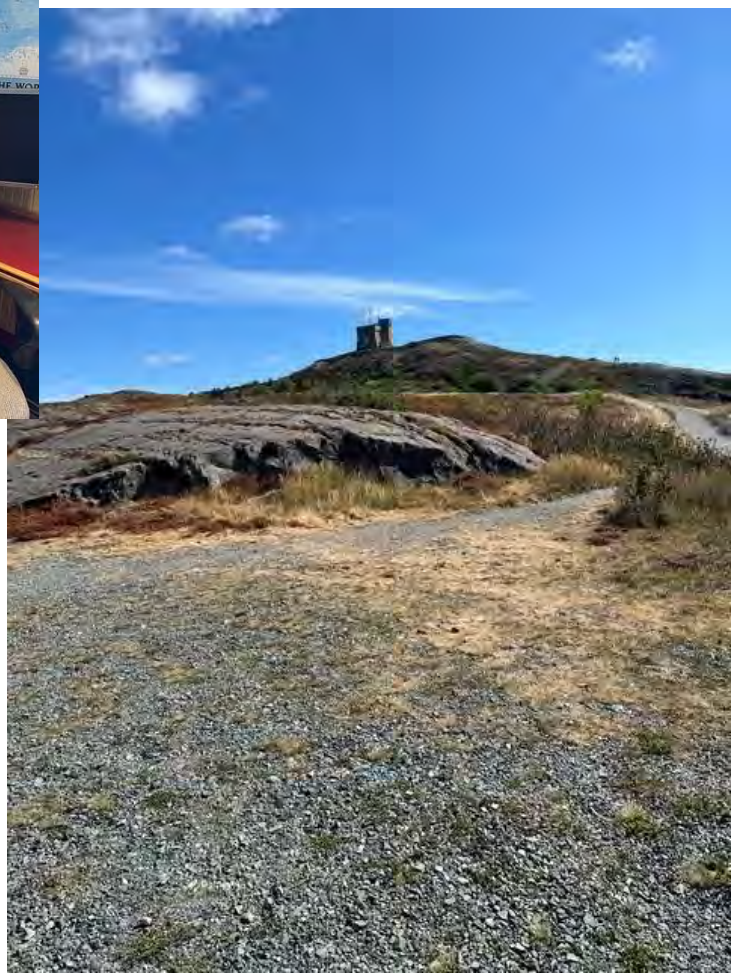
The Ultimate POTA at Signal Hill

Signal Hill, NL

POTA Park CA-4825 in the Log with 10 QSOs, all US stations in FT8. It was so windy up there I wouldn't have been able to hear Phone at all.







An Old Marconi

I was not operating the Icom 7610 (above left) on this day but I set up farther down the hill with the trusdx. They have a wire antenna, a big thick long wire antenna with 9:1 unun up on the observation deck running from the tower down to the ground. If you write ahead you can arrange to operate the station.