

Kilowatter

The voice of the KW Amateur Radio Club

November 2004

Since 1922

Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Club

133 Weber St. N. Suite #3-138;
Waterloo, Ontario
N2J 3G9

EDITOR: Dennis Tabbert VA3DLT

PHONE: 463-9641

email: va3dlt@rac.ca

Web site: <http://www.kwarc.org>

MONDAY'S MEETING

Date: Monday November 1st 2004
Time: 7:30pm
Place: RCAF Wing 404 Club. End of Dutton Dr. Waterloo. Off Weber St. N
Topic: Tom Domonkos VA3LT will be giving a presentation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Annual Christmas Party Kitchener Waterloo ARC Dec 13th 2004, Waterloo ON	York Region Hamfest York Region Amateur Radio Club Saturday, October 30, 2004, Markham ON
Big Event 27 The Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Saturday, February 5, 2005, St Catharines ON	Burlington Spring Flea Market Burlington Amateur Radio Club February 26, 2005, Burlington ON
Whitby Amateur Radio Clubs #3 Annual Hamfest Whitby Amateur Radio Club Saturday, April 16, 2005, Oshawa ON	Durham Region Amateur Radio Hamfest North Shore ARC and South Pickering ARC Saturday, April 23, 2005, Whitby ON
McCrae House Museum Special event station VA3IF is operating this year from Thursday November 4, 2004 to Thursday November 11	Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket Guelph ARC & Kitchener Waterloo ARC Saturday, June 11, 2005, Fergus ON

KWARC Directors 2003-2004

President	Ben Sasiela	VA3ST	748-0445
Vice President	Gord Hayward	VE3EOS	744-7205
Past President	Bill Graham	VE3ETK	576-3578
Treasurer	Dave Schwartz	VA3DGS	884-3594
Secretary	Larry Gorman	VE3LGN	884-6782
Director	Tedd Doda	VE3TJD	634-5949
Director	Bob Pelling(T)	VE3XNB	893-4712

The Executive Committee Chairs

Program	Bill Riddell	VE3WFR	571-9875
Technical	Tedd Doda	VE3TJD	634-5949
Packet	Tedd Doda	VE3TJD	634-5949
Database Mgr	Dave Schwartz	VA3DGS	884-3594
Bulletin Editor	Dennis Tabbert	VA3DLT	463-9641
Edu. Co-Ord	Ron Gimbel	VE3DBD	584-2009
Chief Examiner	Vern Stroud	VE3RVS	743-9342
Auto Patch	Ben Sasiela	VA3ST	748-0445
ARES Manager	Larry Gorman	VE3LGN	884-6782
CANWARN Mgr.	Ron Gravelle	VA3TVS	569-8746
QSL Manager	Gord Gibson	VE3NQB	893-5148
Inventory	Ben Sasiela	VA3ST	748-0445
Field Day	Bob Pelling	VE3XNB	893-4712
Webmaster	Paul Cassel	VE3SY	634-5139
Bereavement	Marg Cassel	VE3RE	634-5139
Flea Market	Bob Pelling	VE3XNB	893-4712
QCWA Rep	Harold Braun	VE3DWH	884-2388

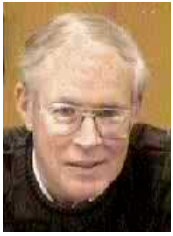
KWARC Owned Repeaters/Nodes

Mode	Call	Freq.	PL patch	Location
Voice	VE3KSR	146.970	131.8 Yes	Baden Hill
Voice	VE3RCK	146.865	131.8 Yes	Manheim
Packet	VE3KSR-0	145.010		Baden Hill
Packet	VE3KWQ	145.090		Waterloo
Voice	VE3IXY	224.340	131.8	Manheim
IRLP	VE3RBM	444.875	131.8	Manheim
Echolink	VE3SED	53.370	131.8	Baden Hill
Voice	VE3SED	442.200	131.8	Baden Hill
Special Events		147.510		Kitchener

Other Area Repeaters/Nodes

Mode	Call	Freq.	PL patch	Location
Voice	VE3EUC	444.700	N	Elmira
Voice	VE3KFM	442.000	Y open	Kitchener
Voice	VE3RND	145.330	Y	Plattsville
Voice	VE3SWR	146.790	N	Cambridge
IRLP	VE3WFM	147.090	N	Waterloo
Voice	VE3WWW	146.835	N	U of W
Voice	VE3RSS	147.030	N members	Acton
ULR Link	VE3BHR	447.075	Y	Baden
Voice	VE3RKL	443.850	N	Guelph
Voice	VE3ZMG	145.210	N Open	Guelph
Packet	VE3VIQ	145.570		Guelph
TCP/IP	VE3MKY	145.570		Guelph
TCP/IP	VE3UOW	145.570		U of W B
Voice	VE3BAY	442.350	Y	Kitchener

[KWARC Club Meeting Monday Oct 4th, 2004 by Larry Gorman](#)



President Ben VE3ST opened the meeting at 7:33 pm with a welcome to the 47 members and guests in attendance.

Director and KWARC Flea Market chairman Hugh Baird VE3IYG is currently in the Freeport branch of Grand River (K-W) Hospital. (The club President was informed as of writing these minutes that Hugh passed away, today 9th October.) Our sincere condolences go out to his wife and family.

For members with HF capabilities an interesting emergency services net will be found on 80 metres. It operates daily at 3.742 Mhz. Check it out. All are welcome. ARES membership is not required. This net has an excellent web site at www.emsn.hfradio.net

Past President Bill Graham took a moment to explain to the audience that we are a participatory organization and that we need member participation to be successful. Few of the tasks are onerous and there is always backup support available from past executive and others who make things happen in our club. Job shadowing will provide the opportunity to help out and to discover how your club operates. Please consider sharing some of your time and energy with the club. Bill is always interested in hearing from members. Or contact any of the persons listed in the Kilowatt if you would be willing to help out.

President Ben awarded Larry VE3LGN a President's Award "For revitalizing Our ARES Operation"

Revitalizing HF DXing

Interested in getting back to DXing on HF with a reasonable chance of making a contact? Our presenter this evening was Bill VE3ETK describing new software programs created by Alex VE3NEA of Markham who was unable to attend. Bill has used the program for some time and was able to make a very credible presentation, complete with graphics, using the new club projector. The software includes 3 programs that can enhance the success of your HF experiences.

HAMCAP 1.01 - provides propagation predictions, recommended dipole antenna selection, a world map giving s/n predictions, a maximum useable frequency (MUF) table, to indicate your best frequency selection choice. BAND MASTER is an independent program in which ham "spotters" can log on to report on

recent band access from their shack. Nearby hams can then check in to see which bands might be their best choice.

More information can be obtained at www.dxatlas.com

Alex has most generously offered the club 3 copies of HAMCAP which will be won by 3 lucky signed up members of KWARC who attend the Christmas Potluck meeting on December 13. The half time draw was won by Linda VA3LWH Reports as presented.

Program - Bill VE3WFR: The President of the Western New York/Southern Ontario Repeater Council will speak to us about how repeater frequencies and range are allocated and coordinated in the WNYSORC Jurisdiction. This should prove to be a most informative evening. Plan to attend with a friend.

GOTA (Guides On The Air) - Linda VA3LWH: As reported in the last issue, members are asked to assist by bringing their 2 metre rigs to a local Guide Den to demonstrate IRLP etc. A fun day for sure with these young ladies working toward another skills badge.

QCWA (1/4 Century Club). Harold VE3DWH - If you have 25 years of hamming it up you are encouraged to join this august body of radio veterans.

The National meeting is being held in Ottawa in December. Contact Harold for more information.

Treasury - Dave VA3DGS: Flea market income was down considerably, in spite of above average attendance. Vendors numbers were down and expenses up.

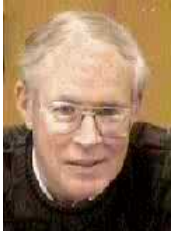
The club must rely more heavily on membership renewals to cover our insurance, hall rental, and repeater operating expenses. Yes - the repeaters are NOT really free, even if the airwaves are!

Dxing Committee - Gord VE3NOK: Gord is encouraging anyone interested in DXing to use the club call sign VE3IC. But be sure to let Gord know so that you can get official credit.

The meeting concluded with President Ben reminding everyone to be careful out there Halloween night and to offer radio assist to anyone in need out that evening.

Minutes by Larry VE3LGN
With thanks for the assistance of Bob V3XNB in handling last months minutes.

KWARC Executive Meeting - Minutes for October 2004



Tuesday 5 October @ Ratz-Bechtel Hospitality Centre
Present: Ben VE3ST, Gord VE3EOS; Dave VA3DGS; Bill VE3ETK, Bill VE3WFR; Gord VE3NOK; Bob VE3XNB; Larry VE3LGN; Regrets Ted VE3TJD

Meeting began at 7:35 with an update on Hugh Baird VE3 IXY. Ben visited Hugh who is still in hospital. His family is quite concerned for his health. (It is with regret that at this writing we were informed that Hugh became a Silent Key on 9 October) Motion was put by Ben, Seconded by Dave that we approve Bob VE3XNB to cover Hugh's responsibilities re the flea market etc until the end of this years term of office. Approved.

Bill VE3WFR - Program Director - discussed the Christmas potluck party of Monday 13 December.. Various possibilities are currently being explored. Members and guests are asked again to bring non-perishables for the Food Bank.

REMINDER: the December Monthly meeting is moved to the SECOND Monday of the month for December.
The Annual Christmas Luncheon held at the Transylvania club will again be hosted by Ted VE3TJD, with assistance from Bill VE3WFR. Anyone who has contacts for possible door prizes is asked to help out with this most exciting part of the program. January 3rd, will see the ever popular annual Show and Tell at our monthly meeting. Members will be asked to contact Bill if they can participate.

ARES Update: The Columbia Fire station facility has been completed except for some minor details. However it is still not officially available to us. Furniture will be needed. Ben may be able to supply a desk

and filing cabinet

Concerns were expressed about various problems associated with our installing a tower. Larry VE3LGN pointed out that this general area of the Fire station was dedicated to various Emergency Services, and that we will likely be a long term residents here.. Ben also felt that other agencies might wish to make use of the tower and this would also cement our position in the building.

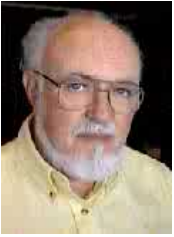
Bill VE3ETK ,past president, received a letter from Clean Water Ontario wanting to piggy back on our Baden Hill antenna site. Ben in conversation with CKCO officials clarified that w are guests at the site and anyone wanting to do anything at the site must approach our benefactors.

Dave stated that The Flea Market revenue was down although attendance was very healthy.
Club Membership numbers: President Ben spend some time exploring the issue of declining membership. We currently have 150 paid up members. Treasurer Dave suggested that there are 61 recent lapses, and that many of these may have forgotten and are likely to renew.

Ben has been including hasty notes in various of the monthly mailings as he inserts them in envelopes.
Much discussion followed. Do we need to send separate letters as reminders of expirations?
Should we include envelopes with the last printed issue before expiration?
VP Gord VE3EOS and Treasurer Dave VA3DGS have offered to investigate membership renewal patterns.
Adjournment at 9:05PM

Minutes by Club Secretary Larry VE3LGN

[JOIN THE FUN ON HF By Bill Graham VE3ETK](#)



At our last club meeting, while doing the presentation on DX Atlas software, I made mention of the latest proposal from Radio

Amateurs of Canada to Industry Canada on Morse Code testing. The full text of the proposal (and the key points in an 'executive summary') can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.kwarc.org/RacToIC-recomendations.html> or, more simply at our club website www.kwarc.org, and look for the headline on the RAC proposal. What is really significant about the proposal is that if you want to have Morse accreditation it will still be available, and use of Morse on the air will not change, BUT, the availability of the High Frequency bands to those presently with Basic licenses will be much greater. Read it and see for yourself.

As your Past President I'm encouraging everyone who can get on the HF bands to make the effort and do so. There are some wonderful tools, like IRLP and Echo Link, available which permits the present Basic holders to make contacts with other amateurs around the world, and I use them from time to time. However I can attest that there is no other thrill in the world of Ham Radio like making direct station to station contacts using only your own equipment – using only personal equipment at each end.

There are many factors that go into making such contacts; your own equipment and tuning it up, using an antenna that you rigged and put up, making use of the propagation conditions, and

working through the pile-ups. When you do that you know you've beaten the odds and mastered the skills. At that point you can feel that you are a real amateur operator. All the other ways are very much like using modern telephone systems to talk to another ham – pick a system and dial them up.

I also recognize that IRLP and Echo Link are a big advantage to those who live in apartments or condos where the usual ham radio antenna is forbidden. That's wonderful because these folks can still be 'on the air' indirectly and continue to be involved in the hobby. At the same time, some significant advancements have been made in antenna size, and it is now possible to get on 20M (and even 80M) with an antenna that is only a foot or a bit more. An antenna perfectly suited for mounting on a balcony. Check out the EH Antenna website at: <http://www.eh-antenna.com/> Browse around the site, particularly the Library section. There are a number of hams in the area already using them with great results. One big thing you will notice immediately is that the noise level is greatly reduced, making it possible to hear (and contact) stations that you can't hear on a standard dipole.

Keep your eyes on our club website. It's just possible that we might get a presentation on this latest development in Amateur Radio. There is a lot of fun and excitement on the HF Bands – You want to be there and join in.

[Tech Report for November, 2004](#)



The Tech Committee replaced the fuses for the KSR phone patch again! We are looking at other options that will allow the line to autoreset when a surge takes out the patch.

Somewhere else in this issue, you will see a construction article about the building of an RC210 repeater controller kit. Since then, mine arrived in the mail (the first one belongs to Dave, VA3EZT) and is completed.

This controller will replace the tired old RC100 which is currently controlling the VE3SED system (UHF and 6 meters) on Baden Hill. The tech committee hopes to have this on-line by the time the snow flies!

The controller has 3 discrete ports. The first will control the UHF machine, the second, the 6 meter machine and the third will control a couple of GE Phoenixes (one on VHF and one on UHF). This will allow the system to link to many other repeaters within a very large area. This will also bring the ability to the Kitchener area Hams to participate in the Friday Night Tech Net hosted by Reg, VE3BQQ.

Other features include voice for ID'ing, a real time clock, and remote control. Once it has been installed, another article will walk you through all the features. Till next time.....

Tedd, VE3TJD

Tech Chairman for the KWARC Inc.



[Building a repeater controller.....TED VE3TJD](#)

Greetings! A couple weeks ago, Dave (VA3EZT) received a new repeater controller in the mail. The unit is an RC210 and is manufactured by Arcom. The owner Ken (AH6LE) is very responsive, and an overall nice guy.

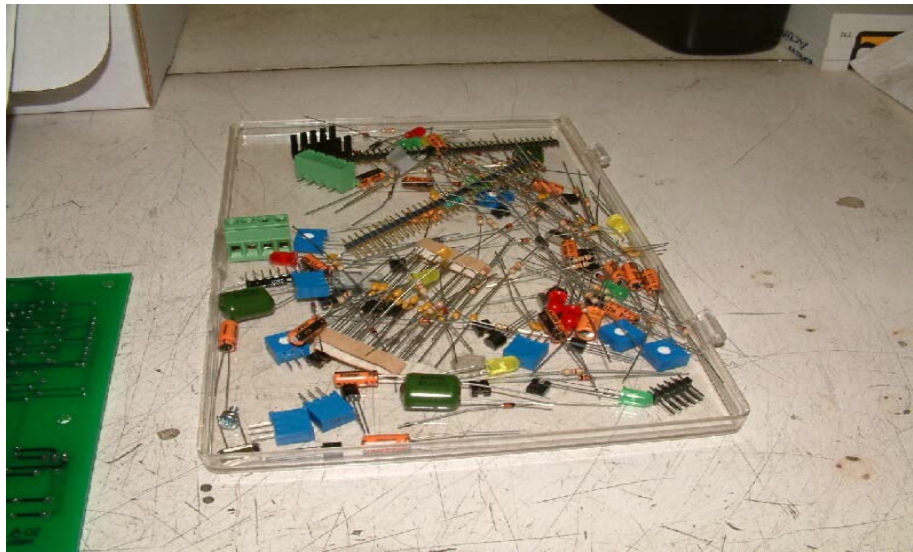
Dave elected to get the kit form (why? cause he's cheap!). After unpacking all the parts, this is what you get:



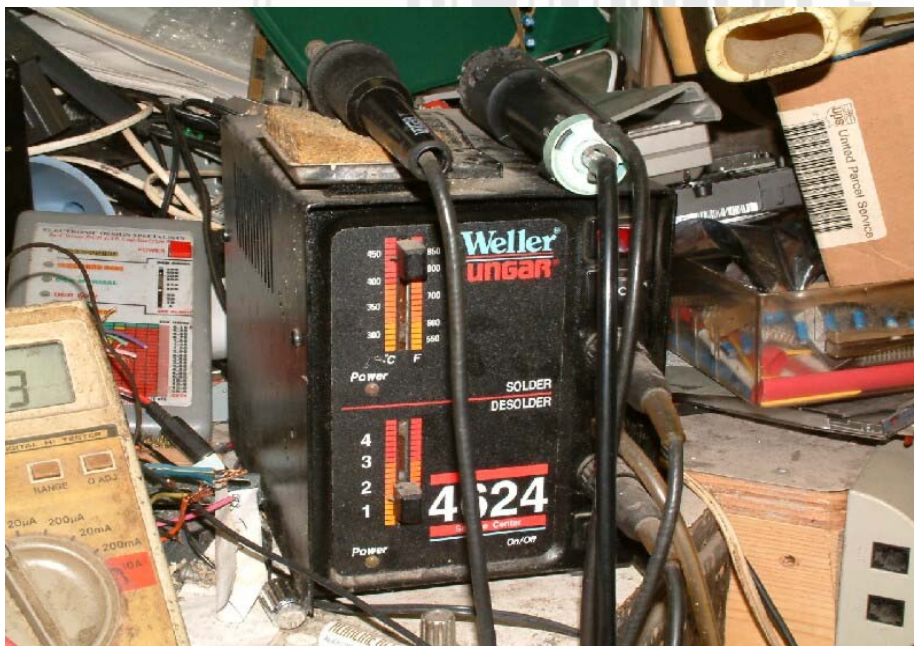
Above, you will see the main board, a container with the parts laid out and the excellent instructions. Reminds me of all the Heathkits I've built!



The board is beautifully made, with very nice masking (the lettering on the board) and all plated through holes were nice and clean.



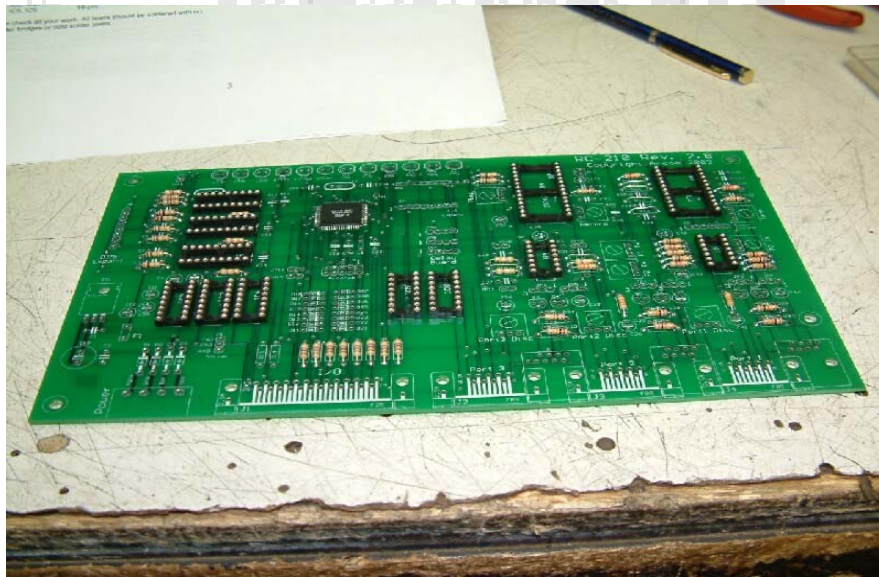
Here you see all the parts except for the IC's. The IC's are kept in a static proof bag until they are required, which is AFTER all other parts are assembled, and some preliminary tests are done.



This is the most important item needed for a professional job..... a good soldering iron. The one shown is a soldering/desoldering station and the temperature can be varied to whatever the job requires. I know most of you can't afford a \$2000 station, but the stand- alone Weller irons are only about \$40, and well worth the cost. They make kit building much more enjoyable!

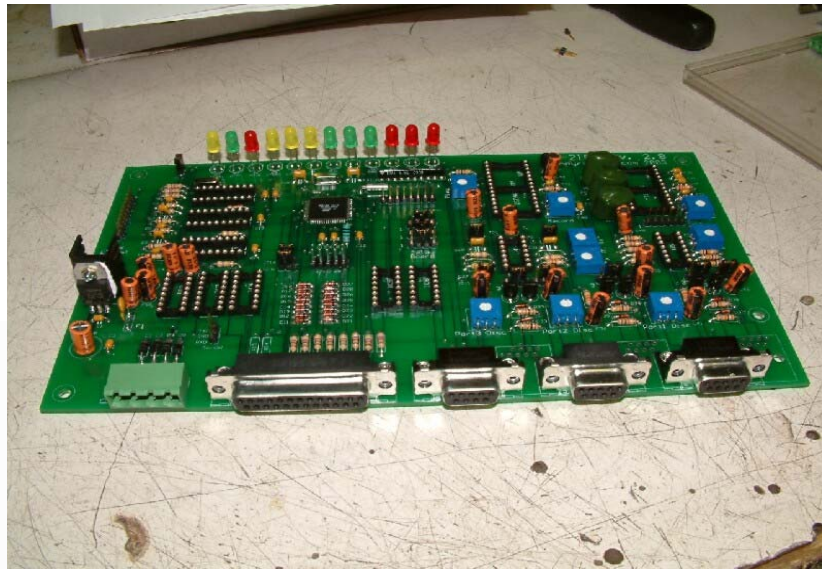


Here is the first step..... installing the machined IC sockets. The pins line right up and the fit is tight. Having a tight fit allows you to install ALL the sockets first, then flip the board over and do all the soldering without having the sockets fall out.

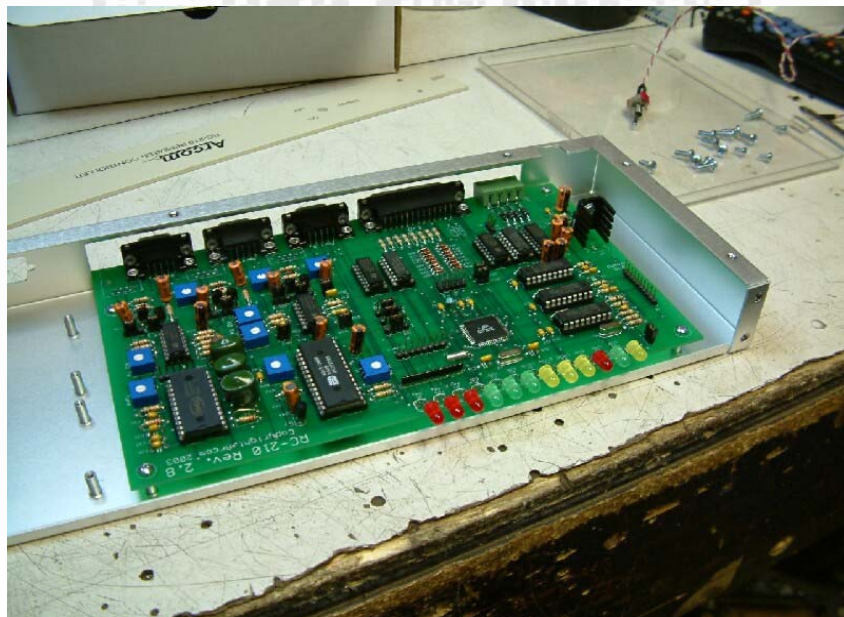


Next come the resistors. Ken arranges the components in groups so matching the part to the location on the board is straightforward.

There were a couple components that didn't quite line up with the holes in the boards (namely the 3 polyester capacitors), but a couple bends in the leads did the job. You have to remember that this controller isn't going mobile and hopefully won't be subjected to any type of vibration (unless you live in Florida, with all their hurricanes!).



Here you have the completed board! Ken says that it should take about 2 hours to build. I think that's only if you do this as a living :) Set aside a WHOLE day if you decide to build one of these. As a technician, I do a lot of soldering, and have my fair share of kit building. Total time spent was about 3½ hours. The only drawback that I can remember when building this kit, was near the end when you had to solder in the jumpers. The darn things were so loose in the board that you had to hold them with one finger while tacking one lead on the other side. Of course my finger was touching the lead that I was tacking. Enough said that copper pins transfer heat really well! After a couple burns, I managed to hold them in place without causing bodily harm (nothing like learning from experience).



Dave opted to get the rack mount case which holds the board and up to 3 optional delay boards. Putting all this together was a breeze. The worst thing was getting all the LEDs to fit the front face plate. They have to be bent at right angles.



here's a view of the completed board in its case, less the top cover. It's ready to be put into service and hopefully will last many many years!

To get more info about this kit (it's available assembled as well), visit Kens website at:

<http://www.ah6le.net/arcom/>

BTW... I ordered one of these units to replace the controller on the VE3SED system. Maybe this time I can get the build-time down to the 2 hour mark!

Tedd, VE3TJD

Tech Chairman of the KWARC Inc (<http://www.kwarc.org>)

[K.W.A.R.C. Meeting line up to Christmas 2004](#)



Sept 13 VE3 XNB and the band captains will put on a presentation on field day. On how well we did.

Oct. 4 VE3ETK will be giving a presentation on VE3NEA Alex Shovkoplyas's software that tracks real-time propagation of radio waves.

Nov. 1 Tom Domonkos VA3LT will be giving a presentation on the WNYSORC repeater council and reasons behind coordination of all repeaters.

DEC 13 Christmas party.



McCrae House Museum Special event station VA3IF is operating this year from Thursday November 4, 2004 to Thursday November 11, 2004. During this week, we will be operating two HF stations, IRLP, and 2 mtrs on VE3ZMG in the background. We work with all the groups, school children and visitors to the Museum promoting Amateur Radio and World Peace both on and off the air. It is a great opportunity for anyone interested in Amateur radio to come out and see what we are all about, may even get a chance to operate. No license is required, because we have a licensed operator present. It is also a great Museum for all family members, young and old, to find out about Col John McCrae's life. Our hours of operation are 10am to 5pm weekdays, and 1pm to 5pm on Saturday/Sunday. There might also be some times we will be operating outside these hours for groups some evenings, none confirmed as of yet.

Come out and check out our operation and the Museum at the same time. Just say you are there to see Linda and Mike with the Amateur Radios.

McCrae House Museum is located at 108 Water St. Guelph (between Gordon and Edinburgh just south of the river (and Wellington))

Hope to see you there

73's

Linda Willis VE3ILJ ve3ilj@rac.ca

Mike Willis VE3MKY

[The McCrae House Museum](#)



[EUGENE, Oregon \(Reuters\) -- TV hardly gets much better than this.](#)

An Oregon man discovered earlier this month that his year-old Toshiba Corporation flat-screen TV was emitting an international distress signal picked up by a satellite, leading a search and rescue operation to his apartment in Corvallis, Oregon, 70 miles south of Portland.

The signal from Chris van Rossmann's TV was routed by satellite to the Air Force Rescue Center at Langley Air Base in Virginia.

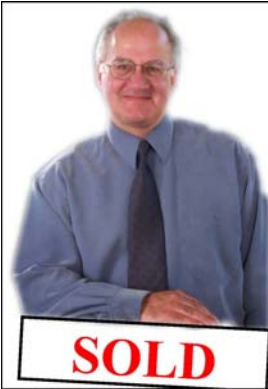
On October 2, the 20 year-old college student was visited at his apartment in the small university town by a contingent of local police, civil air patrol and search and rescue personnel.

"They'd never seen signal come that strong from a home appliance," said van Rossmann. "They were quite surprised. I think we all were."

Authorities had expected to find a boat or small plane with a malfunctioning transponder, the usual culprit in such incidents, emitting the 121.5 MHz frequency of the distress signal used internationally.

Van Rossmann said he was told to keep his TV off to avoid paying a \$10,000 fine for "willingly broadcasting a false distress signal."

Toshiba contacted Rossmann and offered to provide him with a replacement set for free, he said.



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[KWARC Membership Renewal](#)

Please cut out the following renewal form and enclose it with your payment as your renewal date comes due. When you enter the birthday information, just your month and day are needed.

PLEASE MAIL TO: Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Club 133 Weber Street North, Suite #3-138 Waterloo Ontario N2J 3G9		
First Name	Call:	Last Name:
Address1:		Address2:
City:	Postal Code:	Email Address:
Phone Number: () -		Birthday: Month Day
This is a [] RENEWAL or [] NEW APPLICATION		Kilowatter Preference [] MAIL [] From WEB
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership @ \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership adder @ \$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors Membership @ \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Student or Challenged individuals @ \$10.00		<input type="checkbox"/> Associate (non voting) @ \$10.00. I am a member of the _____ Club. <input type="checkbox"/> Printed Kilowatter Newsletter "Mailed" @ \$5.00
		Speed Dial number request: _____
Comments:		
Total Amount Enclosed: \$		Your Cheque Number :



INFORMATION GATEWAY SERVICES

Kitchener-Waterloo Cambridge and Guelph

Information Gateway Services
(Kitchener-Waterloo) Inc.
151 Frobisher Dr., Suite E-118,
Waterloo, Ontario, N2V 2C9

Owner Operator : Don Sinclair VE3ICD

Information Gateway Services (IGS) provides a complete range of Internet services ranging from entry level personal accounts for beginners, right up to the requirements of large commercial organizations.

SPECIAL OFFER TO KWARC MEMBERS

1. No activation fee on standard personal accounts for KWARC members. A \$25.00 saving
2. \$50 per six months or \$75 per year paid in advance for 5 hours/month --- (extra hours at \$2.00 per hour).
OR \$15month \$150 year for 30 hours/month (this popular package has just been increased from 20 hrs)
3. N E W Now get **UNLIMITED FREE** time from midnight until 7am
4. One free KWARC e-mail address *urcall@kwarc.org* for KWARC members
No coupons or other discounts can be used in conjunction with these special offers to KWARC members ONLY.

For complete details, call Don Sinclair VE3ICD at 884-7200