

Kilowatter

The voice of the KW Amateur Radio Club

October 2005

Since 1922

Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Club

133 Weber St. N. Suite #3-138

Waterloo, Ontario

N2J 3G9

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MONDAY'S MEETING

Date: Monday October 3rd 2005
Time: 7:30pm
Place: RCAF Wing 404 Club. End of Dutton Dr. Waterloo. Off Weber St. N
Topic: DXing

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|---|--|
| Burlington Amateur Radio Club Saturday, February 25, 2006, Burlington ON | Advanced Qualification Course Peel Amateur Radio Club March 4, 2006, Mississauga ON |
| U | Basic Qualification Course Peel Amateur Radio Club Saturday, October 15, 2005 Mississauga O |
| York Region Hamfest York Region Amateur Radio Club Saturday, October 29, 2005, Markham ON | Hamilton Amateur Radio Club "HAMFEST 2005" Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Saturday, October 15, 2005., Ancaster |
| Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket Guelph ARC & Kitchener Waterloo ARC Saturday, June 10, 2006, Fergus ON | Annual K.W.A.R.C. Field Day Doon Pioneer Village June 24th – 25th |

KWARC Directors 2005-2006

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------|----------|
| President | Gord Hayward | VE3EOS | 744-7205 |
| Vice President | Bob Pelling | VE3XNB | 885-9995 |
| Past President | Ben Sasiela | VE3ST | 748-0445 |
| Treasurer | Al Macdonald | VA3TET | 741-0281 |
| Secretary | Charles Cosby | VE3CHJ | 650-1209 |
| Director | Tedd Doda | VE3TJD | 634-5949 |
| Director | Bill Riddell | VE3WFR | 571-9875 |

The Executive Committee Chairs

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--------|----------|
| Program | vacant | | |
| 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 | VE3ST | 748-0445 |
| ARES Manager | Larry Gorman | VE3LGN | 884-6782 |
| CANWARN Mgr. | Bob Pelling | VE3XNB | 885-9995 |
| QSL Manager | Gord Gibson | VE3NQG | 893-5148 |
| Inventory | Ben Sasiela | VE3ST | 748-0445 |
| Field Day | Bob Pelling | VE3XNB | 885-9995 |
| Webmaster | Dennis Tabbert | VA3DLT | 463-9641 |
| Bereavement | Marg Cassel | VE3RE | 634-5139 |
| Flea Market | Bob Pelling | VE3XNB | 885-9995 |
| 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 | | Mannheim |
| Packet | VE3KSR-0 | 145.010 | | | Baden Hill |
| Packet | VE3KWQ | 145.090 | | | Waterloo |
| Voice | VE3IXY | 224.340 | 131.8 | | Mannheim |
| IRLP | VE3RBM | 444.875 | 131.8 | | Mannheim |
| 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 | VE3ERC | 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 Hill |
| 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 |

Hello All.



This month we've had a lot of solar activity to make HF interesting. The flares from sunspot complex 808 were huge (X17 intensity) so there were blackouts and other propagation effects.

This may not mean too much to those who haven't got into HF yet which led me to think of how I learned about some of the more subtle aspects of amateur radio. I did a lot of reading, but more importantly I asked a lot of questions and there were quite a few who patiently answered these. These 'Elmers', as they are referred to in Ham radio, were quite important to me. A while ago, the club listed a couple of Elmers in the bulletin (I was one of them) but I didn't get too many questions so the idea sort of died out. So, rather than doing a formal call for Elmers I'd like to tell the new Hams that most of us with more experience are very willing to answer your questions and that the club provides a great opportunity for you to find a suitable expert in a particular area or a mentor in general.

Don't be afraid to ask, we don't bite!

At the next meeting, there will be a presentation on DXing (long distance contacts) which is one of the fun parts of HF. I've spent most of my time on 80 meters AM so some aspects of DX are relatively new to me too. It will be interesting. Ham radio has a lot of niches and we each don't address them all - some, for example, are Canwarn, DX, contesting, 10 GHz, equipment building, nets, digital, but the list is much longer than I have space for. You don't have to do them all, but you never know, you might like one that you haven't tried yet. See you at the next meeting and remember if you have any ideas about meeting programs that you'd like or anything else, I'll be glad to talk. Radio questions are good too!

Cheers, 73 es CUL de
Gord, VE3EOS,
Pres., KWARC

For those of you who use Palm Pilots, there is a very useful, FREE, piece of software called Ham Radio Reference that will load onto your Palm Pilot.



It provides that basic values for [antenna design](#); the ARRL Contest dates; CW abbreviation; Phonetics; Q signals; Band Plans; AC calculations; Capacitor calculations, Coil Calculations; db calculations; Ohm's Law; and Reactance calculations.

This has been created by KB7AVT with all rights reserved, but Freeware for Amateur Radio operators. You can download it from: <http://www.qsl.net/va3pkh/palm-ham.html>, then do the usual install from your computer to your Palm Pilot.

73 Bill VE3ETK

Tech Chairman for the KWARC Inc. Tech Report for October 2005



Greetings:

Now, everyone go and mark down this month on your calendar! This is the first month in a very long time that nothing has broke!

Thanks for all the emails about the LED conversion article. I really appreciate the positive feedback when an article does what it's suppose to do.....get the attention of the reader!

The most common question I get is whether it would be economical for a Ham to get a technician to do the work. Well, at the current bench rate of \$50 an hour, and allowing \$15 for parts, the entire bill would be between \$75 and \$100. Is it worth it, only you can answer that.

The REASON I wrote the article was not to get any business, but to entice YOU to do it yourself. Taking your time is the only advice I can offer. I'll help (as will the entire tech committee) you if you get into a jam BUT all we ask is that you try and figure out any problems yourself FIRST.

Most of the power connections to the bulbs are very simple. If it doesn't make any sense to you, draw it out on a piece of paper showing the grounds and what ever voltages you can measure. Try disconnecting one of the bulbs and see if any others go out. If they do, then chances are that those two bulbs are connected in series.

Electronics is so much fun to play with. The rewards are immediate, you don't need a bench full of equipment, and it's not expensive unless you do something stupid. Two paragraphs up summed it up: TAKE YOUR TIME.

You know, I've been doing repairs of electronic equipment for almost 25 years, and although you won't believe me, but I still have FUN! The satisfaction of getting something that doesn't work, working again, is an incredible feeling. How many of you actually love going to the same job every day??

I do :)

Now go out and fix something.....

Tedd, VE3TJD

VE3YKF Condition Red Terry Green VE3NSV

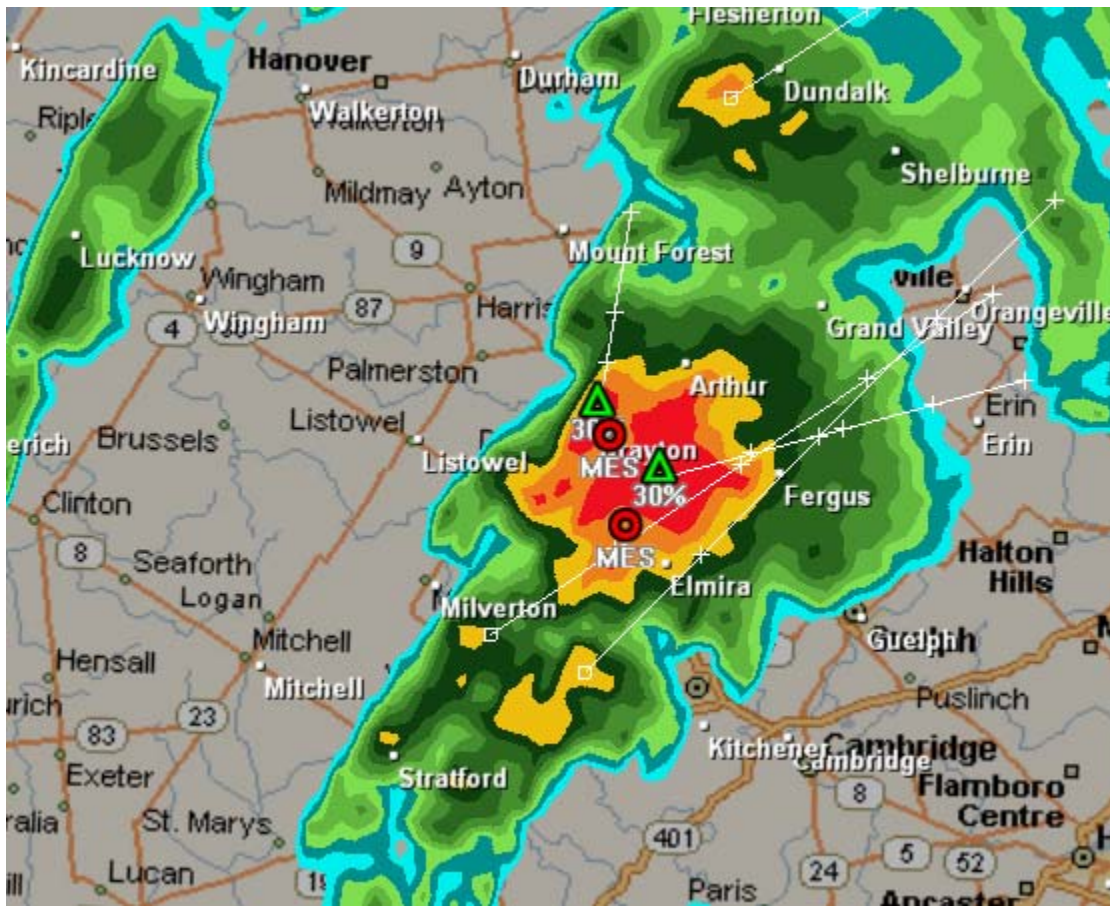


As you all have probably seen, heard or read in the past few weeks, the Conestoga Lakes and Fergus areas were hit with an F-2 Tornado causing extensive damage on Aug 19/05. The day started off quiet with me waking up late to prepare to work the night shift. As I drank my cup of tea and read a few e-mails I noticed Environment Canada had issued a tornado warning around 12:50pm for most areas of Southern Ontario including the VE3KSR listening area. I checked into VE3KSR to see if there was a net running, with no reply I decided to read the latest warnings off to inform club members of the possible severe weather. Within minutes of reading the EC bulletin I heard reports of a tractor-trailer being blown on its side due to high winds in the Dorking area.

I quickly opened GRLevel3 radar to see a severe rotating thunder storm in the Listowel area heading towards the Drayton area. I kept the KSR listening area updated via the latest EC bulletins and latest radar updates while monitoring local emergency services. At 1:20pm I heard Wellington County OPP reporting a tornado had touched down in the Conestoga Lake area with possibly people trapped in their homes. With this latest info as well as the latest radar image showing this storm as a dangerous Supercell with Correlated windshear I knew this was no false report. I quickly turned this informal session on VE3KSR to Canwarn Condition Red and advised the net of the latest development and advised anybody in the path of this dangerous storm with tornadic activity to head to their basement or interior room.

The nice part of the GRLevel3 radar software is it shows the projected path of the storm with a possible time line, armed with this information I warned people in the Fergus / Elora area to take immediate precautions to protect life and property as these storms approached their area. Around the same time Charles VE3CHJ checked in and advised he was heading to the Waterloo Fire Hall to take over the net as his EC pager had been going off. I then heard reports from the Wellington County OPP of 2 cars flipped over north of Fergus as well as extensive damage to homes in the same area. Radar was still showing these storms as dangerous rotating Supercells heading towards the Bellwood Lake area, I advised the Canwarn Net of the same along with reading the latest EC bulletins.

I then received a phone call from Paul Robertson of Environment Canada asking of the possible touch down locations and any other information I could pass relating to these dangerous storms. Paul had already received word that a damage assessment team was heading to the area given the extent of the damage already passed to their centre via the OPP. With Charles ready at the Waterloo Fire Hall I passed net control to him and had updated him behind the scenes via MSN of event up to that point.



The image above is of the storm as it passes the Conestoga Lake area, the red circle (Meso) is the Doppler radar showing this storm as a supercell and the orange circle (3DC) is correlated wind shear.

I can't stress enough how important these reports to Environment Canada are, with all the technology they have at their finger tips they still need reports from spotters to confirm the actual conditions on the ground. Although the cells that dropped the tornados in Fergus and Conestoga lake were showing as Supercells with Correlated shear, they didn't once show TVS or Tornadic Vortex Signature on doppler radar. Given the quick development of these cells I am happy to report that no injuries or loss of life were reported even with the extensive damage they caused to those communities. Special thanks goes out to VE3CHJ, VE3SY, VE3ST and VE3TJD for helping out during the net as things were very very busy to say the least. Although I am not a Canwarn net controller due to my work schedule, I have always been a weather enthusiast "Whacker" and was happy to take the bull by the horns.

Terry Green
VE3NSV

Cabot Head 2005

Jane and Gordon Gibson (VE3RGG)

This year's Dxpeditation started July 31st, out under a rain storm. More than one storm converged at the site of Big Tub, lighthouse. For 6 hours thunder and lightening, kept up inside.

Monday morning got underway, by purchasing, our supplies for the week. Forty five minutes later we were at Cabot Head Lighthouse. After meeting the new managers, we got our car unloaded and ourselves organized. It had been very hot up there and that translated into a very warm building.

After we got things sorted out, work called. VE3NXB Greg Hollinger came up from Red Bay and helped put the new 20m/40m antenna up. Priorities were in evidence. Basically, the antenna was set up as it was last year. With the exception of another band. The only problem was the spacers allowed the antenna to twist. But with the help of a antenna analyzer, we were able to use the tuner to off set the problems with the weird impedances. The conditions changed. But I was able to work Kaliningrad, Hungary and the UK. In fact, I worked a chap from the same town, as my wife Jane came from in Scotland

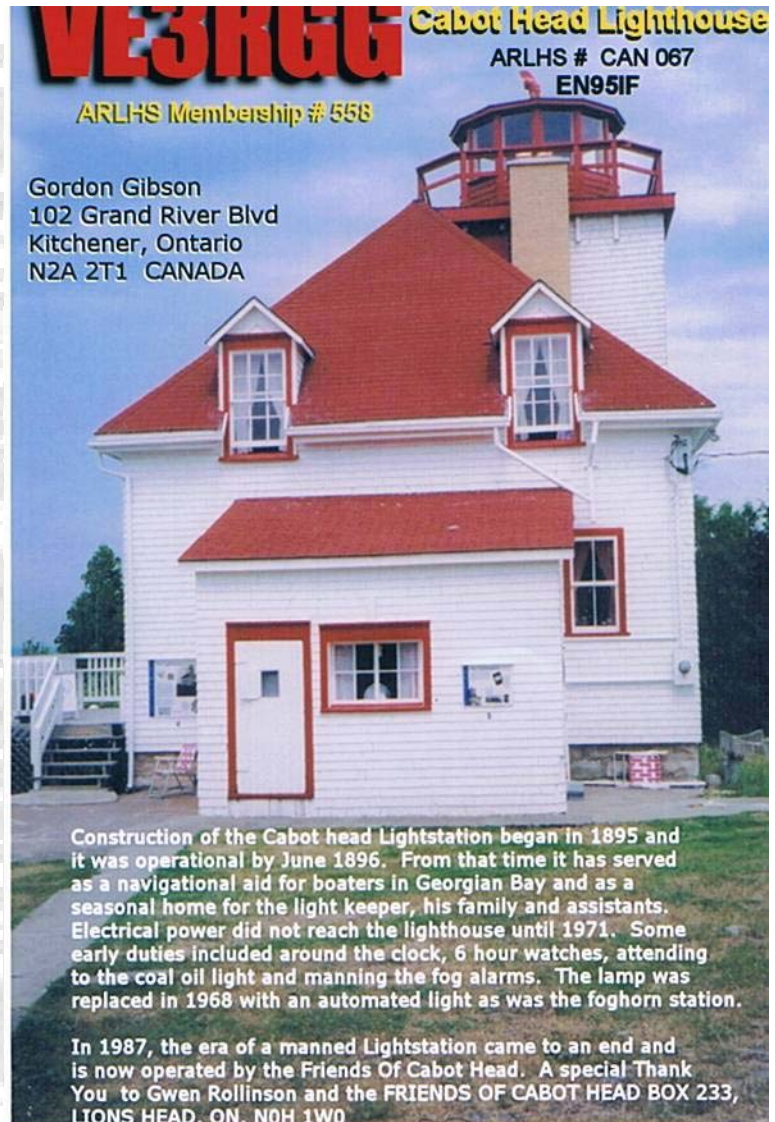
The weather was very hot and the flies were a constant problem. From ankle bitters to horse flies. And they just clung to you. It was not uncommon to see swarms fo them on a person.

The first night brought us a surprise. We inherited a bat in the kitchen. As Jane said it would make a segment for America's funniest videos.. Me, trying to get this flying projectile out of the living area. Monday saw us working and getting eaten That night saw us chasing another one in the sitting room. He didn't hold still either. But with a blanket, he was released into the wild.

The rest of the week went. Conditions left much to be desired.

I managed to work some lighthouses and some DX. It was not as good as last year, with the totals down.

But as things go. It was a success. Next year is under way. It was a good holiday. While was on the air, I met a chap from Toronto. Also met some people, that where involved with Perquid Lighthouse. One thing that is constant, yo met a lot of interesting people. So until next year, 73 Gord VE3RGG and Jane Gibson





Kitchener – Waterloo Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

General Club Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2005

Gord Hayward VE3EOS called to order the regular meeting of the Kitchen – Waterloo Amateur Radio Club, Inc. at 7:35 PM on September 12, 2005 in the 404 Wing Club, Dutton Drive, Waterloo, Ontario. There were 43 Members and guests in attendance. After some technical difficulties with the portable microphone, it was passed around for introductions.

Ben VE3ST along with Bill VE3ETK gave a presentation regarding HF Etiquette for the newly grandfathered operators after the rules change by Industry Canada this previous spring. It gives HF privileges to operators with basic qualifications if they met certain criteria. Approximately half of the members in attendance are affected by this new ruling. Ben and Bill worked with a Power Point Presentation using photos, text and audio clips of actual HF band transmissions to show the do's and dont's of HF. They went through the regulations and pointed out exactly who obtained what privileges based on the new regulations. He also went over the more popular "Q" codes to get members a taste of what they may encounter while on the air.

The 50/50 draw was held after the coffee break and Peter VA3PTB won the draw. Larry VE3LGN announced that he is looking for people to sign up for ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) memberships but because the meeting was running late, announced that he would go into more details at the following meeting in October. Vern VE3RVS announced the figures for the club examinations held during the last season. They were listed as follows:

KWARC Amateur Radio Exams
Administered during the 2004 - 2005 season

| | <u>Passed</u> | <u>Failed</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Basic | 9 | | 9 |
| Advanced | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 WPM Morse | 4 | | 4 |
| Totals | 15 | 1 | 16 |

Since the meeting was running late, Gord announced that the business portion of the meeting would be postponed until the October meeting

Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned by Mary VE3MWE and seconded by Drew VE3AOR and was adjourned at 9:35 by Gord VE3EOS.

Minutes submitted by: Charles Cosby VE3CHJ

