

The Dummy Load

Official Bulletin of The Cambridge Amateur Radio Club (SWARC Inc)

Serving the community since 1964

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VE3SWA

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VE3SWR

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Steve Nyul VE3USP

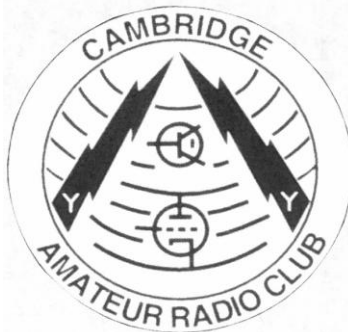
<http://www.cambridgeham.ca>

Club Net

Every Wednesday on VE3SWR at
9 pm. Local time.

All comers are welcome.

VE3SWR is an open repeater
146.790 MHz -600 KHz offset



VE3SWA
DXCC HONOR ROLL
(335/335)
WAZ, WAC, WAS.

Next Meetings

Second Monday* of the month
Preston Arena Boardroom at

7:30pm

November 14, 2016

December 12, 2016

January 9, 2017

February 13, 2017

March 13, 2017

April 10, 2017 AGM

May 8, 2017

June 12, 2017

Visitors are always welcome

Editor's Column

As a reminder, club meetings for the remainder of 2016 will begin at **07:30** local time. Backing up by 30 minutes is intended to give us more time for some social time after the actual business portion of the meeting. As well, coffee is back. Since we did not discuss the cost per cup, coffee for the November meeting will be paid for by your editor.

This edition of the Dummy Load will be short. Your editor has just returned from an extended stay in our country's most eastern province. On returning home it appears as though I missed both the end of summer and most of fall. Our trip home, a little over a week ago, included driving through the aftermath of 2 hurricanes/tropical storms, 12 foot swells in the Cabot Strait, sun, wind, blowing snow and anything else mother nature could throw at us. Good to be back.

Special thanks to Hugh VE3IHM who stepped in during my absence and kept the club accounts up to date. Also thanks to Bob VE3MF and Gerry VE3NXV for keeping our repeater call on the air.

We welcome new members to our humble group; Ibi Pap VA3IBI and Kyle Krulicki VE3BKK
Returning member;
Tony Figueiredo VE3HDA
Associate member;
Catherine Fuhr VE3VEY

Peter VA3PDG V.P. of the Norfolk Amateur Radio Club has invited members and spouses to attend their annual Christmas Dinner. This is a semi-formal event being held on November 26th at the Erie Beach Hotel in Port Dover. Cocktails will be at 5:30 followed by all you can eat salads and perch appetizers followed by a turkey dinner and desert. Cost is about \$30 each. Please let Peter know so a spot is reserved for you.

I received an invite for club members from Gerry VE3DYY to the KWARC club meeting on December 5th - Gerry will be the evening's entertainment.

Tom ve3mah@bell.net

Cambridge Amateur Radio Club Meeting 17th October 2016

Meeting opened on a motion by VE3PSV 2nd VE3NXV

Present: VE3ESW, VE3NQM, VE3MF, VE3IHM, VE3GGT, VA3OAV, VE3PSV, VE3JGO, VA3ANT, VE3PDG, VE3HYE, VE3USP, VE3BKK, VE3NXV, VE3OU, VE3VEY, VE3JOI

Minutes were accepted as read on a motion by VE3PSV 2nd VE3GGT

Accounts:

Bank account
Petty cash
Total

Moved accounts be accepted on a motion by VE3NXV 2nd VE3NQM carried

Reports:

The report of the education committee was read and is attached.

Unfinished Business:

VE3MF (President) spoke to the members about the Education Committee and which club members were members of that committee.

The President sent information and photographs to the Information exchange which will be going into the I.E. (*Idea Exchange ...ed.*) magazine. The Taco Stand Project was discussed and it is an "Open House" spawned from an initiative in Mexico

VE3ESW and VE3MF will be having a meeting with the I.E. representative Karen Murray-Hopf and the Education committee will meet after that.

Taco Stand Project: VE3HYE asked what we were going to present. President replied we have to look at it for next meeting as there is a lot to look at. VE3HYE is looking at young people for membership and it was stated that St Benedict's High School had a radio station at one time. This is to be checked with Karen.

Question:

RAC Affiliation, Was it paid for? Answer yes as of 11th June 2016 and was registered under Local Amateur Radio .

VA3PDG gave a talk on the NARC (Norfolk Amateur Radio Club) field day in Simcoe and informed us how it went. It was a very good day (VE3IHM attended) and lots of fish were eaten. There was a discussion about CARC getting together with NARC next year.

It was mentioned that the Museum in Kitchener has a Quantum Physics Exhibition.

Meeting closed at 9pm moved VA3PDG 2nd VE3OAV

As received from the secretary with call corrections

Education Committee Meeting 25th September 2016

A meeting of the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club Education Committee was held at the Coffee Culture, Cambridge at 2pm on the above date.

Present: VE3ESW, (Brian), VE3USP (Steve), VA3GGT (ScottM).

It was agreed we appear to have two projects one education the other an open house.

A long discussion ensued as to the type of education (Basic Course as opposed to Advanced Course). Steve wanted a Basic Course followed by the Advanced Course, Brian the opposite. As the introduction at the club meeting was for an Advanced Course for members it was decided to hold an Advanced Course with the following proviso: Steve is for having a Basic Course followed by an Advanced course. He also does not agree with the order of events for fear of “dropping the ball” for the third time regarding new membership. He also believes it does not look logical (having Advanced then Basic)

Steve is to find out if a pre requisite for the Advanced Qualification is a Basic License

The Advanced course is open to everyone and other clubs in the area are to be informed that we are holding the course

1. Learning Material:

The course will be based on the “ Canadian Amateur Radio Advanced Qualification Study Guide”

Cost to student \$45

One Instructor Guide plus one Study Guide for the instructors Cost to Club \$65

Instructor to develop his part of the course from the exam questions and guide

2. The course will start on Saturday January 7th 2017 and run for 15 weeks There are no statutory holidays on Saturdays during this time but the Idea Exchange may be closed on April 15th 2017 for Easter

3. The Instructor pool would be :

1. Steve (VE3USP)

2. Dan Murphy

3. Tom (VE3MAH)

With possibly Bob (VE3MF) and Jeff (VE3WIF)

The topics for each instructor are T.B.D.

Meeting closed at 4pm

Many of you probably know that I am a CW-guy. This little article however, is NOT about CW at all. On account of the recent down turn in propagation I thought I would look into different modes of operation. The drive behind venturing into the digital modes is that I still like making contacts, gather DXCC countries and generally do whatever is needed to make that QSO... When the CONDX is poor for a CW contact, there are still different digital modes that make it possible to make a contact. These modes require less bandwidth and power and might well be interesting for operators who run QRP or have limited space for a 160m dipole... ☺ I visited a friend VE3NRG in London, Ontario who relentlessly explained to me the joy of making a digital contact (yes, it is the CW-guy talking now...). I already had all the hardware requirements and it took just a few minutes to download a free software and soon after that I made my first JT65 contact with him. That was a much different experience than the sweet sound of a 30WPM Morse-code. The JT65 signal sounds as if one were just randomly run a finger on a flute, without any rhythm or resemblance of any tune. I was intrigued...

JT65 was developed originally to allow Moon bounce (EME or Earth-Moon-Earth) communication. Also works very well for meteor scatter and has been optimized for weak signal communication. It was developed by K1JT, hence the name of the program: WSJT-x (Weak Signal communication by K1JT) Please check out his web page for [further details](#). Here is how a JT65 QSO is made:

- Transmission and reception is done in one minute time slots.
- All the stations in the world(!) must be synchronized together within less than 0.5 seconds (do not worry, it is easy...)
- You can select whether you want to transmit in even or odd minutes The WSJT-x software will do the work; you will not be very busy during a JT65 QSO...
- In your selected 1-minute transmit slot (even or odd), your RIG will transmit for 48 seconds and allow the receiving station in the remaining 12 seconds to decode your signal.
- Decoding is pretty fast so the other station will see your CQ call on his computer screen and will have enough time to select or create a reply message that will be sent when the next 1-minute slot starts at 00 second.
- You continue to wait during his 48 second transmission, get your coffee or tea, or finish that email... ☺. Basically, you have 1 minute and 48 seconds of free time before you can check if anyone answered your CQ call.

The hardware setup is very simple, most likely you already have them all. Please refer to Figure 1 below.

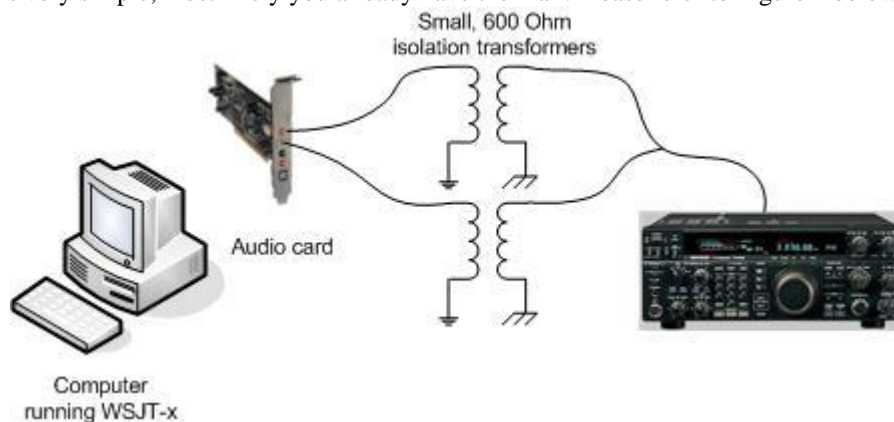


Figure 1. Typical setup for digital modes

After making the setup you need to download the [WSJT-x software](#) and a small application that will set your computer's time to a very accurate time standard; this is how all the stations will be synchronized together. This program is called [D4time531.msi](#). Once installed, your computer will always be accurate down to a millisecond...

The following pictures will show a contact I made with XQ1TUV in Chile.

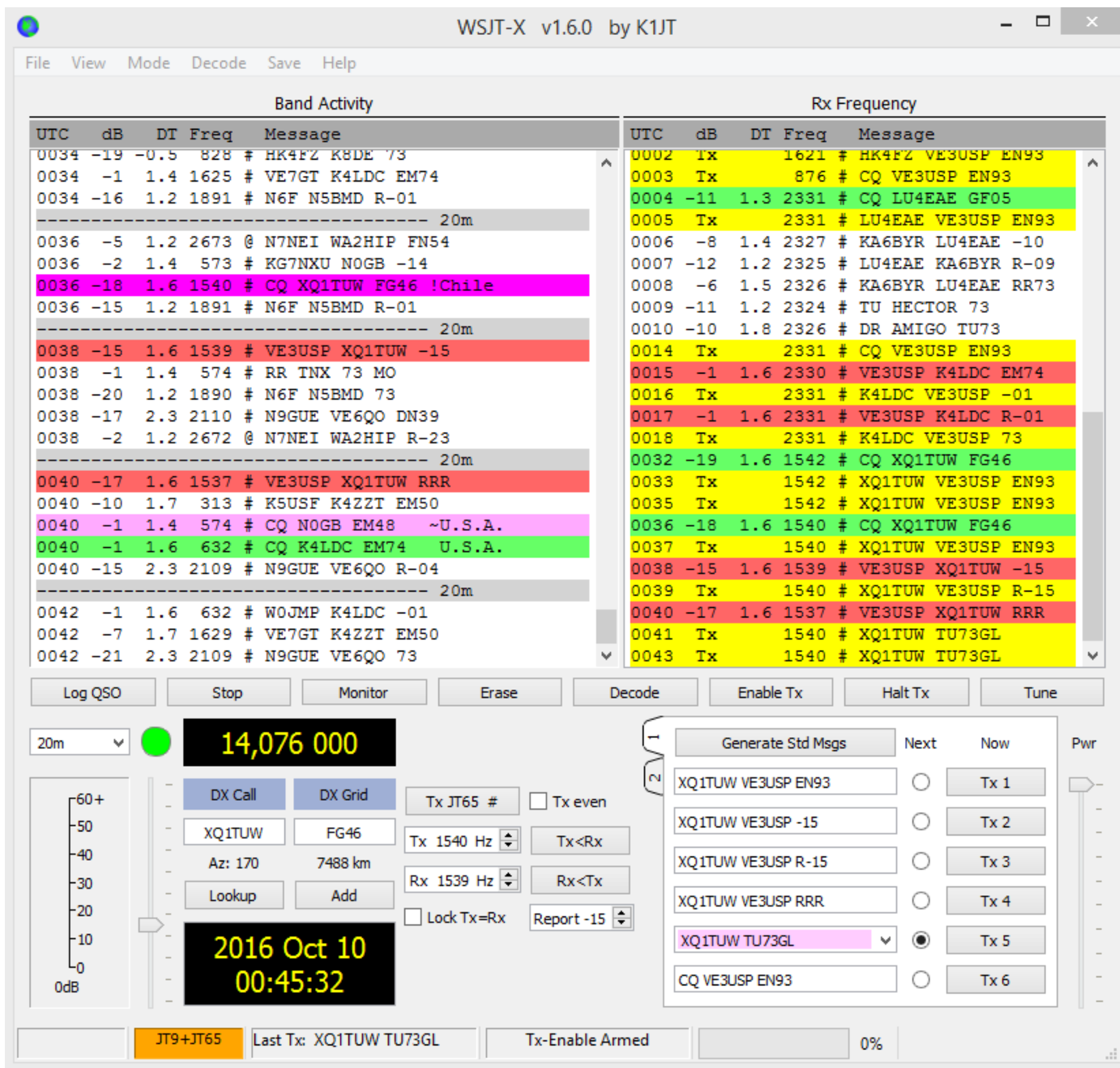
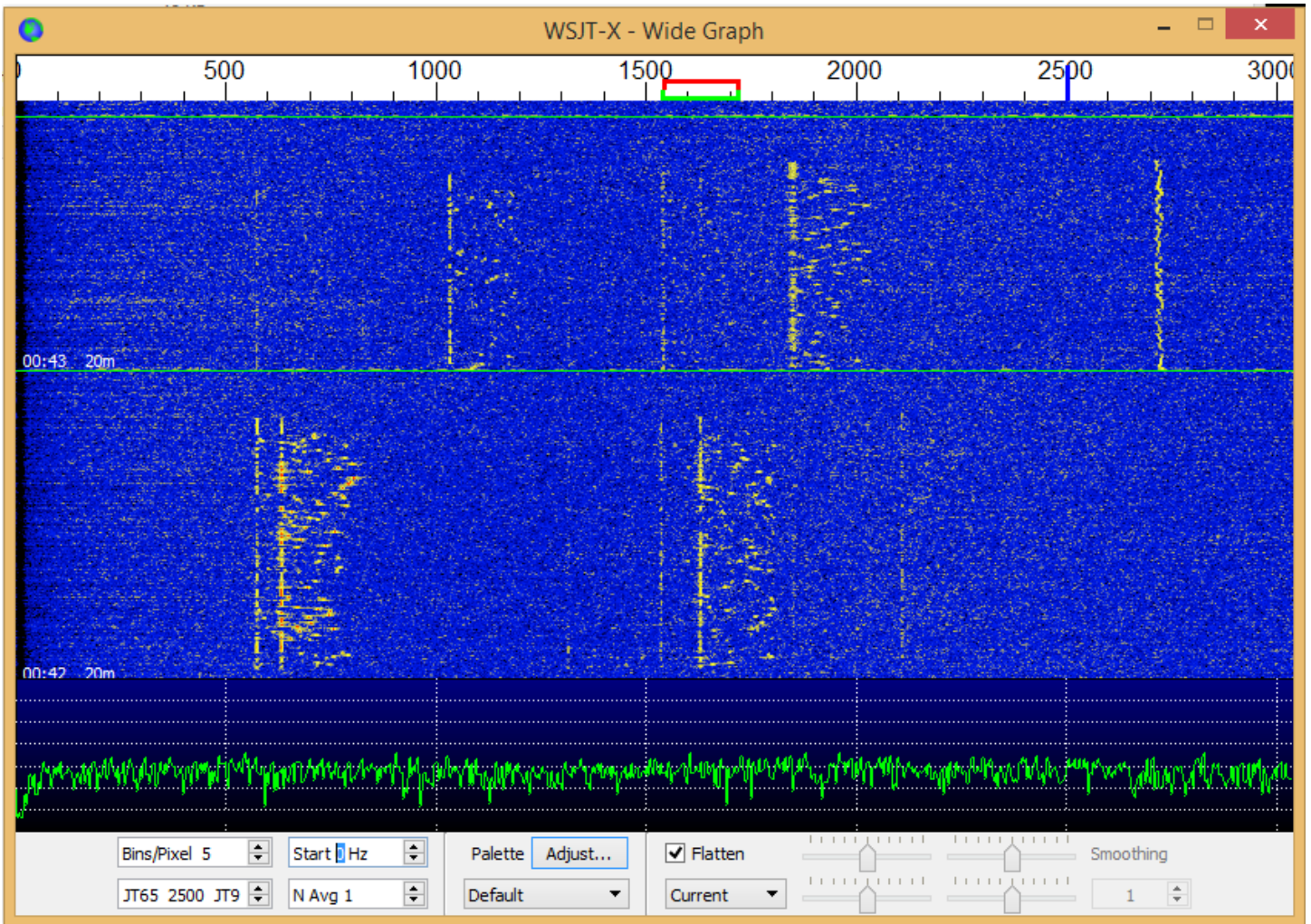


Figure 2 TX / RX screen

Various actions and activities are colour coded on both panels. On the left side under 'Band Activity' you will see XQ1TUW calling CQ in the purple band. (Purple indicates a new DXCC) Two lines below in the red band you see me calling him. The right side shows the messages in the QSO going back and forth.

There is also a waterfall-display showing the where the stations are on the frequency; it is like a band scope. The waterfall display is widely used in digital modes, see the screenshot below. XQ1TUW was calling on '1540' and his signal shows up on the waterfall at that frequency. The transmit and receive frequencies are also marked with horizontal red and green square brackets. As you see the series of vertical pixels just below the brackets indicate a weak, about -15dB signal.



I am still learning this new weird and interesting, but very entertaining mode... 😊 Currently I have about 100 grid squares worked. If you would like to get into this mode, I would be more than happy to help you, should you have any question. If you are ready to go, we can have a sked at any time.

Thanks for reading this short article; all the best!

73!

Steve
VE3USP

From the minutes:

President Bob talked about the Taco Stand Project and how our club could be involved. Here, from the Idea Exchange web site, is a description of the initiative.

“With a vision to create an environment of curiosity and discovery, Idea Exchange is embracing a centuries-old method of exchange and welcoming this fall, the Taco Stand Project.

The Taco Stand Project is an experiment, a venue, an activator for community sharing. It aims to bring us together to find new ways of navigating the challenges of today. The Taco Stand Project wants to become a different kind of norm, where trading skills and sharing ideas are not tied up in commerce and power, but rather a community minded collaboration, with cost-free resources and social empowerment.

In Mexico, a taco stand is a temporary venue and a gathering hub, serving low-cost food to any given neighbourhood and offering social interaction. The majority of taco stands in Mexico remain unregulated, meaning they pop up as necessary and remain outside the framework of regulated restaurant culture. They arrive from necessity of making a buck in impoverished places. They show up temporarily at festivals and community hot spots. They care for the locals and offer a quick bite for cheap.

Borrowing from this culture of unregulated economy, the Taco Stand Project explores what opportunities reside in our community for empowering people to share their skills, trade tasks or things, or teach an original solution to a common problem.

The Taco Stand Project is our first attempt and needs you because a community is built by all of us.

Taco Stand Project is developed in conjunction with the exhibition [With Mexico, From Love.](#)”

A Filler:

Tom VE3MAH

A recent article in QST reminded me of a computer threat that appears to be on the rise. Sometime last spring I read about this new threat and recently while using a Rogers wireless connection am getting more of these fraudulent emails on all of my accounts.

So – how does your email address get into the hands of scammers/spammers? The easiest way for spammers to collect large lists of good, active email addresses is via leaked account databases. These password leaks happen with frightening regularity. Some of the more prolific spammers rely on bots that crawl millions of Web sites and “scrape” addresses from pages. Others turn to sellers on underground cybercrime forums. Additionally, there are a handful of open-air markets where lists of emails are sold by the millions. If you buy in bulk, you can expect to pay about a penny per 1,000 addresses.

The threat I am referring to is called ransomware.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software that encrypts files on your computer and asks for money in exchange for unlocking the data. The ransomware will look for images, documents and programs on your computer and encrypt them so that you can't access them. The software will likely threaten to permanently erase all of your data if payment is not handed over. The most common source of this threat is when you receive an email telling you that you have a package from Federal Express or some other carrier that you need to claim. **DO NOT OPEN THE LINK** given. When you open the reply link, the ransomware program is silently loaded onto your machine and you get a window explaining how to pay the fee and get the key to unlock your data. Apparently there is no other way to access these files.

Remember to keep your antivirus software up to date. (Windows 10 has its own antivirus program)

Upcoming Events:

Mark your calendar in advance:

DX News:

Rather than list some of the events coming, here are some sources that I find quite complete.

For DXpedition news: <http://www.dx-world.net/>

For special events: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Islands on the air: <https://www.rsqbiota.org/index.php>

For Sale / Swap / Free

The intention of this section of the bulletin is to provide a space where **members** can advertise items of a ham related nature to other members of the club. It is not intended as competition to the many on air and internet based swap shops.

Free: I have several recent years of QST and RAC magazines for any one that wants them.
Ernie VE3OU 653-9743

Free: (to club members) 440 ohm Ladder line. About 66 feet available – enough for 2 G5RV's. Tom VE3MAH

Free: (to club members) Cushcraft A3S TriBand beam. Needs new hardware. Tom VE3MAH

Free: (to club members) CDE AR-44 rotor unit only. Working when removed from VE3FC's tower.
Tom VE3MAH

Real Swap Sites:

KWARC Swap Shop -- one of the best around. <http://www.kwarc.org/swapshop/index.htm>

Maritime Swap Shop -- <http://www.ve1pjs.com/swap.html>

ONTARS Marketplace -- http://www.ontars.com/cgi-bin/classifieds/classifieds.cgi?session_key=&search_and_display_db_button=on&results_format=headlines&query=browse

Membership / Information update form: Membership in the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club is \$20 per calendar year. Please help the Treasurer by printing this page, filling in your information and giving it to him. If mailing, please use the address listed.

**Cambridge Amateur Radio Club
% Tom Franks Treasurer
264 Fearnwood Street
Cambridge, Ontario
N3C 3W9**

***First Name:** _____ ***Last Name:** _____ *** Call Sign:** _____

***Address:**

***Email Address:** _____ **Telephone Number:** _____

Full membership \$20 Renewal New Member
Associate member \$5 Renewal New

*required – your information will not be shared with third parties.