

Border City Radio Club

November 2025

NEWSLETTER

Published 2025

by Ken Garber, Newsletter Editor

Sean called the meeting to order at 7 pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Sean –	VA3SGM	Adam –	VE3TJQ
Kim –	VE3KKA	Jerry –	VE3EXT
Al –	VE3CWP	Ken –	VA3ETR
Tim –	VE3TCS	Remko –	ALMOST LICENSED
Dave –	VE3WEJ	John –	VA3FN
Dwight –	VA3NXE	Bill L –	VE3ES
Bill –	VE3BOK	John S –	VE3JUS

FINANCES

As of October 31:

\$3305.42 – General Chequing Account

\$85.00 – Share Fund

\$25.00 – Patronage Fund

Motion: to accept the financial statement presented by Al VE3CWP

M/S/C: Al VE3CWP/Adam VE3TJQ/all in favour – carried

Invoice for club insurance from RAC for \$504.89

Motion: to continue to purchase RAC insurance and pay the invoice

M/S/C: Dwight VA3NXE/Bill VE3BOK/all in favour – carried

There is a rent increase for meeting room. It was \$684.84 for 2025 and it will now be \$736.57 in 2026. \$241.46 was paid in October and \$495.11 is due. Included in this increase is \$1.70 for liability insurance in place from the City of Windsor. They are also asking for \$100 security/damage deposit which is expected to be refunded. For the time that BCRC rents the space, Al doesn't think that the club should be paying this amount. He will discuss with management prior to the next meeting in January 2026.

Discussion: to stay at the Optimist Club as there isn't anywhere else willing to rent space at such a reasonable amount, have main floor (no stairs) meeting rooms, provided WIFI, and is overall quite a convenient location.

Motion: to pay the increase and stay at the Optimist Club

M/S/C: Dwight VA3NXE/Bill VE3BOK/all in favour - carried

Thanks to Al Masse, VE3CWP, for his many years of service to BCRC. Al is retiring from his role as Treasurer.

Motion: to appoint Bill Hunter, VE3BOK, as the new treasurer, as of January 1, 2026.

M/S/C: Jerry VE3EXT/Adam VE3TJQ/all in favour - carried

Motion: to accept the September and October meeting minutes, no changes or additions

M/S/C: Jerry VE3EXT/Dwight VA3NXE/all in favour - carried

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION BY SEAN VA3SGM



Sean brought 2 pieces of different antennas. One a Mosley and the other a Cushcraft.

The Mosley tribander has been up for nearly 45 years while the Cushcraft has been installed for approx. 15 years. The Mosley is not rusted, the nuts spin freely and the trap covers are in good condition. The Cushcraft however, is pitted, and you can see definite wear and tear. Every clamp has been rusted out and in order to loosen them, penetrating oil had to be used. Even the compression clamps are rusted out. The Mosley is in better shape than the 15 year old Cushcraft. If you are considering this type of antenna, choose a Mosley!

PRESENTATION BY DWIGHT VA3NXX

Dwight VA3NXX gave a presentation featuring his home built hotspot connecting to C4FM

His setup is Simplex

Connects to C4FM

It all ties together to a hotspot on a phone or tablet

Dashboard is large and easy to see

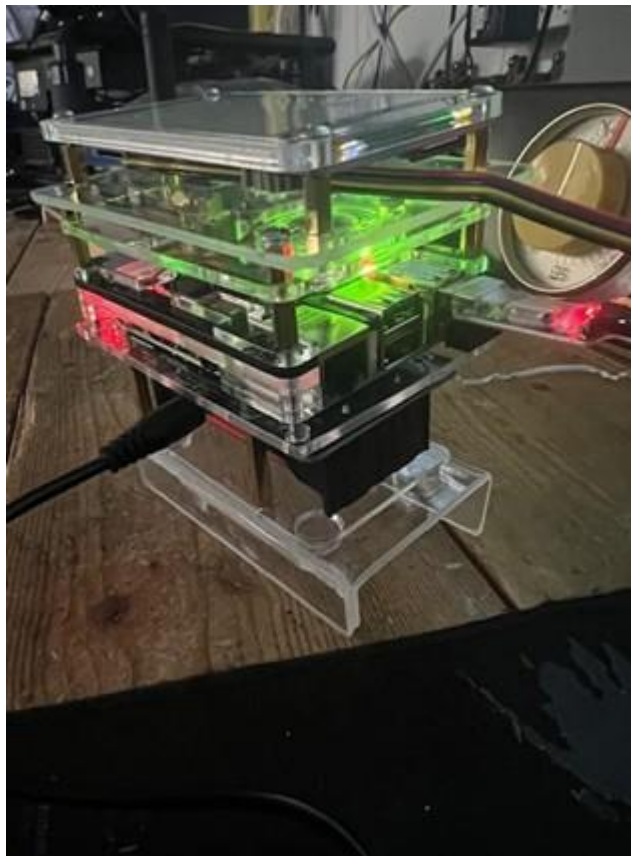
Can talk anywhere in the world as long as you have an internet connection

Very portable

He took it to Dryden and using his son's Starlink with a Gen2 plugin, he was able to make QSO's in Japan, Hungary, USA

To change the TG or Room – you can change it directly on the radio





Software needed:

SD card formatter (free)
Nextion Editor (free)
BalenaEtcher (free)

WPSD software (free)
Pi-Star software (free)

Parts List:

- Raspberry Pi 3b plus \$73.49
- 32 gig micro SD card \$32.99 for 3 only one needed for the project (\$11.00 ea.)
- mmdvm board simplex type \$29.47
- 3.5" Nextion enhanced display \$65.90
- 16 gig sd card to program the display.(Had this already) (about \$18.00)
(any card under 32 gig will do its only to load display software and drivers. It does not have to stay inserted)
- clear acrylic case for the raspberry pi with a cooling fan and 1 for the display. \$37.00 for both.
I made the transition piece to join the two together.
- rs232 to serial adapter to be used to connect the display to the raspberry pi. \$2.70 for 2 (only 1 needed \$1.35)
- Milwaukee inverter. \$ 100.00 on sale. But I can use it for other things. It makes portability a lot easier.

So approximately \$240.00 in all. As you are working for yourself time does not count here , and its a good thing it took a little while to figure some things out. But once it came together it was all good.

DISCUSSION: MINUTES

It was asked whether everyone wanted to continue receiving the minutes in the form of a Newsletter or would you rather have the minutes read at each meeting. It was decided to keep the Newsletter format.

DISCUSSION: CLUB ROSTER

Only 17 people have paid their dues for 2025/2026.

Why? The roster needs to be built up. More discussion to be had at future meetings.

DISCUSSION: HF MOBILE

Jerry wants to know why more amateurs don't operate HF mobile. Especially with the availability of more sophisticated radio and antenna options. Many high powered HF rigs can be mounted in vehicles.

Jerry has been interested in and using HF mobile for over 50+ years.

Jerry has worked Greece, Poland, and more than 40 other countries using mobile HF.

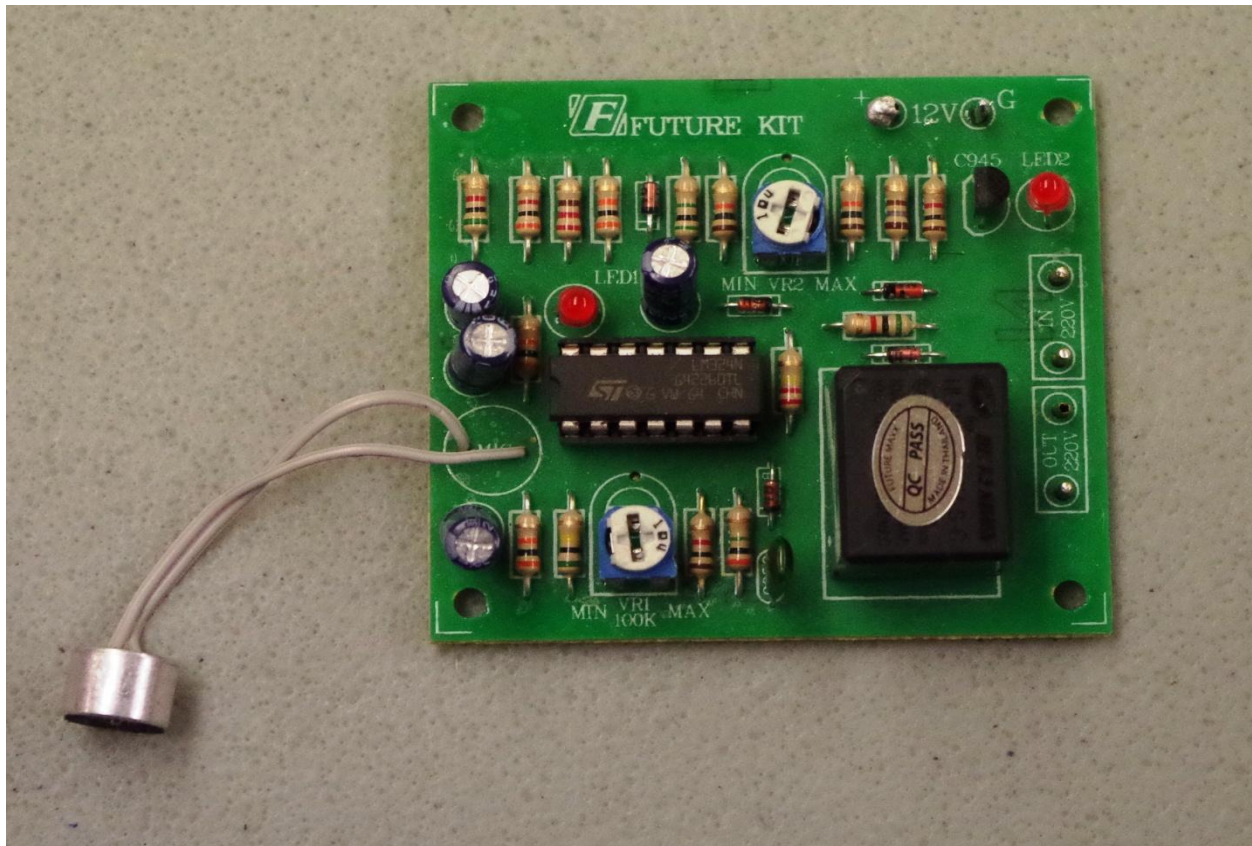
It appears that although many amateurs are interested in HF mobile, there are some valid reasons that they don't use it:

- Newer vehicle manuals advise not to install radio transmitters
- Injector noise is unbearable
- Bonding is an issue – see <http://k0bg.com/>
- Theft and/or damage to equipment left in or attached to the vehicle
- Distraction

Although HF mobile doesn't appear to be very popular, there are many BCRC members who use portable operations.

Jerry continues to monitor use/kerchunks on local repeaters. More discussion will take place in January.

Here is his 'kerchunk' detector. It's tied to a mechanical counter.



DISCUSSION: GROUNDING

Sean will present this topic in the new year. For now, he says that while researching the topic, he was amazed at the information available, such as the ARRL Handbook, US National Electric Code, ARRL Antenna Handbook, and how little any of us have taken advantage of this information.



Figure 1 Top: Rotator arrestor (4 pole); Bottom: Various coax arrestors

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Jerry, VE3EXT – 160m is disappointing though could be due to his antenna system. Others seem to be getting quite strong signals.

John S – VE3JUS – is experimenting with Meshtastic [An open source, off-grid, decentralized, mesh network built to run on affordable, low-power devices see <https://meshtastic.org/>.]

John B – VE3FN – is working on some antennas at his shack

