



Current Club Executive

President	Murray Thompson	VE3ZPV
1 st Vice President	Christian Angelakis	VE3QYV
2 nd Vice President	John David	VA3JHD
Secretary	Mike Krebs	VA3WXS
Treasurer	Rick Danby	VE3BK
Admin Director	Barry Lisoweski	VE3ISX
Membership	Barry Lisoweski	VE3ISX



President's Message

Happy New Year!

2023 promises to be the best ever for our club due to our new executive members who have joined and our regular members who have renewed membership taking our numbers up to 49.

We will endeavor to keep the momentum going that made 2022 probably one of the best years for the club in terms of activities, hamfests and social get togethers. Thank you to our members that helped organize and make these event a success.

Your executive will work hard to complete much required changes to the way the club operates in a gradual time frame. The club is healthy financially and we will explore expenditures to bolster our various technical services.

Lastly, I wish each and everyone a very Happy New Year for 2023.

73 and 88

Murray VE3ZPV President



Murray VE3ZPV



Rick VE3BK



Mike VA3WXS



Christian VE3QYV





Barry VE3ISX



John VA3JHD





 Looking to join the club?
Renew your membership 
On line with Pay Pal or E Transfer

Easily renew or join ONLINE:
Our online membership application is updated with the 2023 dues schedule. You can renew with E-Trans Cheque or cash.
Our 2023 membership card will be mailed to you upon receiving your payment.

Membership C/O Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
117-350 King St. East
P.O. Box 75073 Hamilton, ON,
L8N 4G6

 **Club Dues Summary**

- 2023 membership
 - \$35.00/yr if you are a RAC member
 - \$48.000/yr for non RAC members.
 - Family membership \$10.00/yr RAC
 - Family membership \$23.00/yr non RAC
 - Distance membership\$20 with RAC
 - Distance membership.....\$35 non RAC
- Current Members: **49**

 **NEW!** **Membership form !**
* Fill it in "online"
* Save it
* Email it back 

Complete the membership form and you can pay with E-Transfer to: treasurer@hamiltonarc.com

Club HF net summary



MONDAY HF:

TIME: 8:00 PM till 9:00PM

3.693 MHz and go to 10 m 28.485 around 9pm. This is an informal net, going to 10 PM . All are welcome.

MONDAY VHF & UHF:

TIME: 7:PM till 8PM

Club Repeaters:

146.760MHz (-600) tone 131.8

444.075MHz (+5Mhz) tone 131.8

Our VHF/UHF Club repeaters are fully functional with various extra functions such as phone patch and IRLP.

Club repeater update:

All repeaters, IRLP and phone patch working as normal. Check with Rick VE3BK for details.

New Club meeting place:



The Club is pleased to announce our January 2023

IN PERSON meeting .

Date: Thursday 26th Jan 2023,
7:00 pm sharp

Location: St. Paul's United
Church, 42 Tragina Ave,
Hamilton.



Dues Dues Dues

Time to renew your club membership for 2023! Do it by mail, online, or in person.

If you appreciate the services and events that the club provides, consider renewing your HARC membership.

Our club is growing slowly back to one of the best in ONTARIO. Be a part of it!!

CONTEST NEWS

RAC Winter 2022 Results

[Click for VE3BK's detailed report](#)

Watch our newsletter for events and contest opportunities with the VE3DC contest group.

Happy New Year to all!

Rick VE3BK

Executive Meeting

Our club will meet on line with a ZOOM meeting 12th January 2023 starting at 7pm.



If you know of anyone else kindly contact Barry VE3ISX.

Welcome new member

Rev Sir James Thomas VA3JT



[Click for QRZ bio](#)



Tech Topics by Rick VE3BK

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Default Settings for that Used HF Radio

So you bought a used HF radio and can't seem to get it to work. You are new to the hobby and don't really understand all the knobs yet.

OK, here is a quick and easy way to get some action out of that radio. You have to set the controls in the right places to hear something. Most radios have the same setup (the new ones have a lot in menus, so we are dealing mostly with that bargain you went for at the fleamarket) so here is a quick and easy way to see if that radio even receives.

Over a period of time, I have checked a few radios for newer hams to see if they worked. One such radio had even been looked at by someone else that should have known where to set the knobs, but I found them all in the wrong locations, so there was no receive at all and the radio was locked up in the transmit mode. Not sure what the other ham that looked at it was doing but after I moved all the knobs to the correct setting to start out, we had receive and proceeded to work a fellow in England. That Yaesu FT-757 worked great. Another bargain I looked at was completely dead and it turned out that the fuse holder on the inside, had gone brittle and fell apart, thus no power. We replace the fuse holder, check the controls for proper setting, and the radio worked on most bands.

I know that it is pretty easy for an inexperienced HF operator to get the controls in the wrong place; it even happens once in a while at one of our Contests when one of the operators is using someone elses radio that they are unfamiliar with. So here goes, I will try to remember all the controls, some of which are named differently, depending on the brand of radio you have .



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One of the easiest ones to screw up is the RF gain. It needs to go all the way clockwise for full receive. Next is the Squelch. It needs to go all the way counter clockwise for full receive. Now for the obvious, AF Gain or Volume has to be turned up (clockwise) for you to hear anything. The Preamp/Attenuator could be in the attenuator positions so that signal that you should hear loudly is very low or not heard. Better to turn all to the off positions. These controls can be used later to receive better or cut noise later on when you get used to that particular radio. Next there are filters of different kinds that can actually kill all distinguishable sound if they are in the wrong position. At one of our contests, someone had put one of my filters on all the way and then complained to me that the band was dead. Careful use of these filters will give excellent results to get rid of noise and adjacent signals. There are many types of filters you could run into. PB or Pass Band filter should be in the centre. Also another type is IF Shift, which is almost the same thing, again it should be in the centre. Beware, there may be a switch to actually turn these on or off, depending on the radio and all the bells and whistles.

Next is the Notch Filter. It can be very useful to get rid of that guy next to you in frequency, too close and sometimes you can use it to tune out someone who is tuning up, but if not in the centre, could really hamper that receive. Another Filter is an actually marked Filter, could be for Voice or CW and it could cut your receive significantly too. A great tool to get rid of noise and listen to only the guy you are working. Another filter of sorts is the NB or Noise Blanker. You may have a range through a switch or even a variable knob to turn, to get different effect to get rid of ignition noise or many other types of noise. Trouble is, if you have this on all the way, chances are you audio is going to be garbled.



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Best to turn this off until you find out if you have any noise to tune out in your area. TX/RX Rit, could be on and will make you receive something on the wrong frequency. Not really much of a problem unless you are transmitting, but best to have this control off too. AGC or Automatic Gain Control, but could be set to Slow, which could cause a weak signal to be intermittent. This should be set to AGC only. If it is off, you could receive a very strong signal full tilt and blow the front end of your receive.

OK, your Vox should be mentioned here. It should be off because of you had it on, every little noise in the shack (your coughing, laughing, the dog) could put you radio into the transmit mode. Of course you will hear nothing then. I think we have most of them now except for this really important one.

The Transmit or Mox switch.

Before you turn the power to the radio on, make sure this switch is in the off position. If you had this on when you power up your radio, you could destroy the PA or power out transistors, if you had no antenna connected or were on the wrong band for the antenna you did have connected. This brings up another control, RF Power. It should really be turned all the way counter clockwise of to minimum, until you have your radio on and setup for the band you want.

I hope this was useful to many of you who are new to ham radio and are purchasing that older HF rig that is a bargain at the fleamarket. The newer radios have the same controls and more (like roofing filters) but there functions may be hidden in a menu somewhere, so may be a little harder to figure out, especially if you buy it at a fleamarket. The new ones should be defaulted in a good place for just plugging it in and playing radio almost right away. The best thing is to read your manuals first, no matter what radio you purchase. What, no manual with that used bargain.



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Get on the internet and download at least the User's Manual. You should be able to find one free. Read it first and familiarize yourself with all the controls. Some may be called somewhat differently to what I called them in this article, but do the same job. Good luck with your new purchase and I hope you get it working normally right away.

Hope this helps..... Rick VE3BK





Tech Topics by John VE3CXB

For some time I've owned two LCR meters, an HP 4260A Universal Bridge and an Agilent U1731A LCR meter. Both of these devices have a maximum test frequency of 1kHz. Some time ago I bought some inductors made by Bourns. These are the small molded inductors that look like resistors. I had two values, 2.2uH and 3.3uH that I wanted to use to make some filters. When I measured them with my two LCR meters the values were way off, by as much as two or three times. The 4260A is old, dating from the 1960's, so I suspected it might be off, but the U1731A was much newer so it sort of surprised me that I was getting off-the-mark measurements. I thought maybe these coils were faulty so I just put them away and didn't use them. Recently I bought a new LCR meter, an Extech LCR200. This new meter has a maximum test frequency of 100kHz., much higher than my other two meters. With this new meter, and using the 100kHz. setting, the errant inductors now read correctly to within their stated tolerance. When I switched the test frequency back down to a lower value I got the same bad readings.

I'm aware that the measured inductance of a coil will vary somewhat depending on the test frequency used, but I never expected it would be this different. Prior to getting the Extech meter I've never owned an LCR meter that had available a test frequency higher than 1kHz. so I probably would have been oblivious of any errors in past measurements that I made, and how big they could be. Big eye opener for me.



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As hams we operate in the HF and up frequency ranges. If we use an LCR meter that only applies a very low test frequency (1kHz. or less) then I would be suspect of any readings I was making of parts that were to be used in RF circuits.

I'm going to do more testing to see how far this error goes with various types of inductors or capacitors. I would love to have an LCR meter that had test frequencies in the MHz. or tens of MHz. range, but from what I can gather these are currently out of my price range. I don't own a nanoVNA, at least not yet, so perhaps this would be one way around this problem. Any nanoVNA owners out there, I would appreciate your comments.

Anyway I just thought I'd put this out there in case the LCR meter you own uses a low test frequency.

73



John VE3CXB