

The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter - 68 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2000

December 2000

[Http://www.hwcn.org/link/harc/](http://www.hwcn.org/link/harc/)

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The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 91215, Effort Square PO
Hamilton, ON L8N 4G4
Est. 1932 Inc. 1956

New Holiday "potluck" location and date!

Fred Robinson VE3GCP

Please Note:

The HARC Christmas Party will be held at the St. John's Ambulance Association building located at 500 Upper Wellington St. on Hamilton Mountain the second Wednesday of December (that's Dec 13th) at

7:00pm.

This large building is about 2 blocks south of the top of the Jolly Cut access (Concession St.) on the west side. It is between the Police Station and the U-Haul Rental company. Almost across the street is a Tim Horton donut shop at the intersection of Queensdale Ave.

PARKING IS AT THE REAR OF THE ST. JOHN'S BUILDING

DO NOT PARK BEHIND THE POLICE STATION

Enter from behind the Police station or from the driveway at the south end of the building next to U-Haul.

Access to the building is from the back parking lot or from Wellington St.

There are several bus routes that have a stop at this location. Most obviously the UPPER WELLINGTON ROUTE

7:00pm

FOR THIS SPECIAL MEETING

7:00pm

Hamfest 2001 date announced

Linda VA3LJU - President



Marritt Hall is once again booked for Hamfest 2001! The date next year will be Oct 13th. This is the weekend after Thanksgiving, so it should be two weeks before the Newmarket fleamarket.

Even though it's only weeks after our last Hamfest, we will have to get busy with plans for our next one as soon as possible after the new year.

And I'd also like to thank Mardy for all the work he put into this year's fleamarket. Thanks Mardy!

Fessenden

David VE3STT - Editor(excerpts from CAB website)

One day several weeks ago at my "real" job, a piece of paper crossed my desk alerting everyone in my profession to a coming anniversary in radio. I followed a set of links to the CAB website

Club meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at The Spectator auditorium, 44 Frid Street (free parking). The meetings begin at 8:00pm and we have complimentary refreshments.

(Canadian Association of Broadcasters) and found some information that I thought I would share, because while most of us are not professional radio people, we all share an interest as Amateurs!

December 23rd, 1900, on Cobb Island in the middle of the Potomac River near Washington, Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, deemed the "Father of Radio Broadcasting," spoke these words,

"one - two - three - four, is it snowing where you are Mr. Thiesen? If it is, would you telegraph back to me?"

Mr. Thiesen, one kilometre distant, confirmed. Radio broadcasting was born.

His voice was the first-ever to be broadcast by radio waves and heard by another person. To accomplish this feat, he had to prove to his detractors by his own invention that his was the correct theory for wireless transmission.

However, it was not until another six years, after much fine-tuning, that radio's potential was demonstrated. Fessenden presented radio's first program on Christmas Eve 1906, from Boston with the assistance of his wife Helen, her friend and his helper. Wireless operators on ships in the harbour heard the inventor play O Holy Night on his violin and Helen and her friend sing Christmas carols. Further experimentation followed, but it was not until after World War One that the governments of Canada and the USA would issue broadcasting licences that would permit development of the new medium.

In her book, Fessenden, Builder of Tomorrow, Helen Fessenden, in referring to her husband's accomplishments, wrote of his fertile mind that it had "failed to defend itself against commercial assault, whether financial or scientific".

Reginald Fessenden was a Canadian, eldest son born to the Reverend Elisha Joseph Fessenden and his wife Clementina (nee Trenholme) in East Bolton, Québec, on October 6, 1866. His boyhood years were spent in Ontario - in Fergus (north of Guelph)

Important points

Executive Meetings

The HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August, at Mohawk College in room E031A. All members are invited to attend and participate. The meetings are scheduled monthly to fit the schedules of the Executive members.

VE3NCF [146.760- & 444.075+ MHz]

The HARC operates VE3NCF repeater, located atop the Niagara escarpment. It's open for use by all Amateurs. Special features are a privilege of membership. VE3NCF is part of the VE3RPT link system.

Check-In and Swap nets

The HARC "check-in net" is held every Tuesday evening, except July and August, at 7:30pm. The HARC "swap net" follows at 8:00pm.

Examinations

Amateur radio licence examinations are conducted the second Wednesday each month, except July and August. Contact the voluntary examiners to make an appointment. Each test costs \$3.00.

HARC Fleamarket

The HARC Fleamarket is held annually at Marritt Hall, Ancaster. Contact the Fleamarket chairperson for information. **Hamfest 2001 has been announced for Saturday, October 13th, 2001.** And thanks to everyone that attended and helped with Hamfest 2000!

Membership Information

Club membership, including all privileges, is \$25.00 per person, per year, September 1 to August 31. Additional memberships, for immediate family members living in the same home, are \$1.00 per person. One newsletter is sent to each address.

The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur is published ten times each year. It is not published in July or August. The deadline for article submission is the *last Saturday* of the month for the next month's issue. The preferred format is ASCII code (.txt files). Articles will be checked for spelling and grammar, but the author is responsible for the factual content. E-mail submissions to David VE3STT at ve3stt@rac.ca

and later, in Niagara Falls. His father's final parish was Ancaster (now part of Hamilton). His parents are buried in the church cemetery, and there is a school there that bears the family name.

As a child, Fessenden showed an interest in mathematics far beyond his years and delighted in experiments that often both astounded and angered his parents and other adults.

Meeting Speakers

December 20

Annual Christmas Party

Just before the Holiday season kicks in we get together and look back on the past year and look ahead to the coming year over a "pot-luck" supper. **Our NEW location is the St. John's Ambulance building, 500 Upper Wellington.**

PLEASE NOTE the time: 7:00pm!

January 17

Meteor Scatter Presentation

Phil Gebhardt VE3ACK/VA3ACK will join us to present a session on communication via meteor scatter. If you're up for a new propagation path, be there!

February 21

The Friendly Jungle Telegraph

Andris Neimers VA3SMM (formerly VE7FJT), who writes the FJT column in TCA, will join us.

On reaching adulthood, his dream was to transmit the sound of the human voice without wires. First, he perfected a new means of sending Morse code more effectively than Marconi.

Obtaining financial backing for further experiments was a struggle, and jeopardized his rights to many of his inventions. The wireless transmission of the human voice - whether on radio or television - remains his greatest legacy.

Reginald Aubrey Fessenden died in his house by the sea in Bermuda on July 22, 1932.

The New York Herald Tribune editorialized:

"It sometimes happens, even in science, that one man can be right against the world. Professor Fessenden was that man. He fought bitterly, and alone, to prove his theories. It was he who insisted, against the stormy protests of every recognized authority, that what we now call radio was worked by continuous waves sent through the ether by the transmitting station as light waves are sent out by a flame. Marconi and others insisted that what was happening was a whiplash effect. The progress of radio was retarded a decade by this error. The whiplash theory passed gradually from the minds of men and was replaced by the continuous wave -- one with all too little credit to the man who had been right."

In the stone of a snow-white memorial erected, in time, above his vault in St. Mark's Church Cemetery, Bermuda, are inscribed these words:

*His mind illuminated the past
And the future
And wrought greatly
For the present*

And beneath, in the picture writings of the ancient Egyptians:

I am yesterday and I know tomorrow.

President's message

Linda VA3LJU - President

Hard to believe the year 2000 is almost over. Remember all the anticipation a year ago at this time? And now, here we are standing at the threshold of Two Thousand and One! It seems incredible to me, but maybe that's my age showing.

I hope this has been a good year for you and those who are dear to you. It certainly has been an interesting time for the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. You've probably already noticed the change for our December meeting to the

second Wednesday of the month and a new location for our annual potluck supper. I do hope that everyone will prepare their favourite potluck dish and join us for this time of fun and fellowship before the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The new year will see us meeting at a different location. As I write this we still haven't finalized arrangements for the room, so I won't say too much about that. Just watch the bulletins and listen to the weekly net (Tuesdays at 7:30pm on VE3NCF) to find out where we will be meeting. Change is difficult for some of us, but these challenges never happen without something good coming along with it. I'm looking forward to this as an opportunity to meet new people and hopefully interest more people in the amateur radio hobby.

May this holiday season bring you peace and joy!!!!!!

73/88 Linda

RAC bulletins

David VE3STT - Editor

Because Linda VA3LJU is our official RAC bulletin station, and does such a fine job relaying all of this information on Tuesday's net, I will pass on putting the bulletins in this month's newsletter.

VE3BOY - sk

Bernie VA3XJ/VE3EKY

A MEMORY OF JOHN DYKSTRA
VE3BOY

It was probably about 1977 as I joined the club in 1976. We were meeting in the old Continuing Care Centre on the mountain brow behind the Cross of Lorraine very visible from the west end at night.

John was the guest speaker at the club meeting. There were about one hundred of us stuffed into that "not very big" cafeteria. John was recounting his boyhood during the war in Occupied Holland. Among other things he told us how he and some other kids built a crystal set to get the BBC newscasts to

Occupied Europe and then they passed the word of the outside world to their neighbourhood, a dangerous thing to do in those days as the authorities took a



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dim view of such activities.

As I remember it, he said they scoffed an earpiece from a telephone for a headphone. He said he scrounged around a coal pile, or such, to find a piece of some kind of ore to use for a crystal detector. That's all I remember from that talk. I guess I was impressed.

I'm sure others can tell us more about John, as he was very active in the club for a lot of years.

73 John, de Bernie (BEN)
VA3XJ/VE3EKY

VE3IL - sk

David VE3STT - Editor

Just days after receiving the information above, we also received news of another "sk". Through Stanley VE3GFE, and Linda VA3LJU, we learned of the passing of Harvey Stone VE3IL.

Harvey served on the executive of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club in 1985. He passed away November 18th.

Harvey held the call VE3IL for 57 years and had served in the Merchant Navy during WW11. His wife Jean is also an Amateur, VE3BCP.

Contesting at a "Super Station"

Ted VE3SS

A lot of people in this area have probably driven the stretch of Mud street on Stoney Creek Mountain, heading east out past Tapleystown, and have been witness to the site of huge towers with lots of beams protruding from a farm near Grassie. This is the home of John Sluymmer VE3EJ, and it is here that I was asked to participate as part of a multi-operator, multi-radio group in the CQWWDX SSB contest at the end of October.

John is well known in ham radio circles as a world-class contester, having racked up many awards over the years for his excellent showings in contests worldwide. The chance to work this contest from this fine station, as well as to meet some of Canada's best contest operators, was a real treat. We had 7 operators from the local area, and 3 who flew in from British Columbia, who made up the group.

Let me briefly describe the operating conditions we were "forced" to endure.

John has four towers, the highest being 150 feet, the lowest 60 feet. One tower has 5 beams on it (5/5/5 elements for 15m at 160/120/80 feet and 5/5 elements for 20m at 150/70 feet). The same tower also supports a 160m delta loop near the top and a 40m inv-v at 70 feet.

The next tower supports a 3 element 40m beam at 150 feet plus a 5 element 10m beam at 160 feet. Near the bottom at 50 feet is a Mosely 6 element tribander fixed SSE. Also supported is an 80m inv-v at 70 feet and a 160m inv-v at 150 feet. The third tower has a 2 element 40m beam at 110 feet and below it a 5 element 20m beam at 100 feet. Below that are 5/5 element beams for 10m fixed south.

The last tower has a 5 element beam for 10m at 70 feet and 5 elements for 15m at 60 feet.

A combination of tailtwister and prop pitch rotors were used by John in this installation, due to the size and weight of some of these beams.

Apart from all that aluminium is an 80m 4-square (phased verticals) out in the field, plus a number of beverage receiving antennas for 160m.

The set-up inside was just as impressive as the outside. We had 6 stations (1 per band), all with amplifiers. The high bands had radios with dual receivers (FT1000D, FT1000MP, IC775 and as such utilized 2 computers to log with each), while the low bands had one radio and one computer.

Therefore, we had 9 computers networked via Ethernet using coax. With all of the RF around, we didn't take any chances!

The dual receivers on the high bands allowed a second operator to look for multipliers while the first operator worked steady contacts. All the radios had rig control so we were able to "gab" to each other when passing mults from band to band, as well as to see what frequencies our other stations were on.

The contest started out fast and furious. The first million points were achieved in 2 hours with 1250 Qs in the log. Friday night activity was excellent and by noon Saturday, we had a whopping 4900 Qs in the logs for 9-million points. We still had a day and a half to go!!

By 8:30pm Saturday, we had almost doubled the Qso count to around 8100 Qs for 17-million points. Then the bottom fell out of the bands. A solar flare wreaked havoc everywhere and it was a slugfest trying to make contacts at a decent rate. By Sunday morning we were up to 10,000 Qs and a total of 905 combined zones/countries for a score of about 23-million points. We had just surpassed the Canadian record for this class, set last year by VY2SS.

The contest ended Sunday evening and when the dust settled, our claimed score was 12248 Qsos, 190 Zones, 742 Countries for a claimed score of 28,114,712 points and a new Canadian record. It was simply amazing! Had the band conditions stayed good, we

probably could have worked another 2000 Qs and surpassed 30-million points. But hey, that's radio!

We missed only 1 zone on each of the high bands (ie. 39 of the 40 CQ zones were worked) and actually 71% of the total Qs were worked on the high bands (10,15,20m).

Working the contest from John's place with a great group of guys was a lot of fun and a real learning experience. Contesting is a great way to improve your operating skills as well as a chance to work some of those "exotic" places you have never contacted before.

Try it, you might like it!!

73 Ted Boerkamp VE3SS

An added note: CQWW CW will have passed (end of November) by the time you receive this newsletter, but in December you have a chance to work the HARC operators at VE3DC as part of the RAC Winter Contest. It's open to all Ontario Amateurs and is a great way to make a few contacts with friends near and far on ALL the bands 160m through 2m!...ed

Wanted - needles

Fred VE3GCP

WANTED - antique phonograph needles of the ASTATIC type please. These would be the old heavy type that look like little nails.

Please contact Fred, VE3GCP
fredrobinson@mountaincable.net or
phone in Hamilton at (905) 575-5197

November minutes

Iona VE3UGM - Secretary

Call to Order

The Meeting came to order at 8:08pm.

Club Projects

Linda VA3LJU, President, gave the floor to Chris VE3PKY, who is organizing homebrew projects being undertaken by interested Club members under the title "Curing the Winter Blues with Some Homebrew Projects".

Chris, a licensed Amateur since age 11, described his involvement with Amateur radio since then, and proceeded to outline the 3 Club Projects that he has selected, namely:

1) a simple regenerative receiver (multi-mode ie. AM, SSB, and CW) that can access the 40m band, the 80m band and a number of international shortwave bands and can be built for around \$10 in parts.

2) the same receiver using tubes (which can be obtained at the Tube Store or from Chris) and

3) a simple transceiver that can transmit and receive CW with 200-400mW output, on the 80m band at 3.5795MHz or at 3.686 MHz, give or take 1KHz and (with minor changes) on the 40m band. This transceiver has made contacts beyond 800mi, fits into a standard size electrical outlet box, operates on one 9v battery, and can be built for about \$10 for the parts.

Chris distributed descriptive schematics and said that he would provide those participants that did not want to shop with all the parts, which he would buy in bulk, and also provide assistance with soldering techniques and schematic reading if needed. He offered to set up meetings to exchange help and ideas, if a number of people wanted this.

A substantial number of people signed up for the homebrew projects. Chris ended his presentation at 9:15pm.

Linda thanked him to applause from the membership.

Coffee break - Business resumed
9:40pm.

Health and Welfare Report

Mary VE3OGQ, Health and Welfare Chair, advised of the untimely death of John Dykstra VE3BOY, Past President in 1977, of heart failure in Cayuga, New York. Mary said a card expressing the Club membership's condolences would be sent to the deceased's family.

Contests Report

Bernie VA3XJ, pointed out the success that the HARC contest participants operating under VE3DC and Dave VE3STT were having and that this could be determined from the contest results published in the latest issue

(November/December, 2000) of The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine. Bernie suggested that a column about contesting be published in the HARC newsletter. Linda VA3LJU offered to speak to Rick VE3BK, Contesting Chair, about this

Vic VE3VMO, who also does much contesting, said that all members were welcome to join the contesting group and that anyone who wanted to do so should speak to Rick.

Location of Future Meetings Report

Due to difficulties being experienced with holding future meetings at the Hamilton Spectator Auditorium, (the Spec having set up new policies disallowing food on the premises, requiring a minimum attendance of 50 people per meeting etc.), Fred VE3GCP, has volunteered to find new premises for holding Club Meetings. Fred said that the St. John's Ambulance premises at 500 Upper Wellington, next to the Police Station, were available for the Club to hold its Christmas pot-luck (bring any food item you wish) on December 13, 2000 at 7:00pm. Parking is available and HSR buses served this area, (the Upper Wellington No. 26 Bus runs along Upper Wellington). It was MOVED by Mardy VE3QEE, seconded by Ilona VE3UGM, and approved by the members that Fred book the St. John's Ambulance premises for the dinner.

Fred said that times had changed and that it has become extremely difficult to find free premises anymore. Fred has been in touch with a considerable number of places and determined that Municipal Facilities such as Libraries, Community Centres, and such will be closing at 9:00pm. in future and the ones he was in contact with are asking for a fee.

Consideration is also being given to Churches. A meeting room on the 2nd floor of the United Church on Concession St. is available for \$40 per month. Doug VE3ZDG, said that he would also do some investigating of sites he was familiar with such as the Church of True Value which had replaced a hardware store on Dundurn St. and other possibilities.

Fred said he had been in touch with the

Chedoke Hospital, but the hospital is mothballing its Nash Auditorium in January, and wants \$50 per hour for the use of the Nurses' Auditorium. Fred and the Club Executive would continue to work on this problem, and keep the membership advised.

Previous General Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED by Ilona VE3UGM, seconded by Fred VE3GCP, and passed without dissent, that the Minutes of the previous General Meeting of October 18, 2000 be approved.

Treasurer's Report

Doug VE3ZDG, distributed copies of the Treasurer's Financial Status Report as at November 15, 2000.

Fleamarket Report

Doug VE3ZDG, distributed copies of the preliminary Financial Results of the Fleamarket held on October 21, 2000 at Marritt Hall in Ancaster. In brief, funds raised amounted to some \$1,600. Less money compared to last year by roughly \$850. This was largely due to fewer paid admissions.

Mardy VE3QEE, Fleamarket Chair, (who is also doing Membership and Education) said that he would be unable to take on the Chair's job for next year's Fleamarket in October, 2001. He would be prepared to do the Vendor bookings. A new Fleamarket Chair is being sought.

It was MOVED by Fred VE3GCP, seconded by Gerald VA3GMJ, and approved without objections that a Fleamarket Committee be established by January, 2001 to help the a Chair organize next year's Fleamarket.

Monetary Solicitations

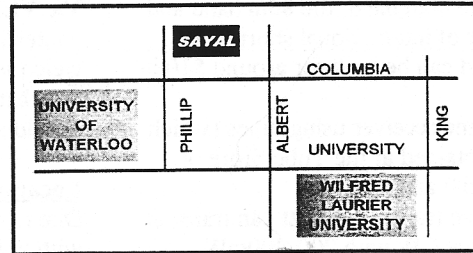
Ilona VE3UGM, Secretary, said that a request for financial support had been received from the CNIB Amateur Radio Program, VE3NIB/VE3AW, 1929 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, M4G 3E8. Doug VE3ZDG, suggested that this information be published in the HARC newsletter, so that any members who wished to, could donate money to this program.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25pm.

SAYAL ELECTRONICS

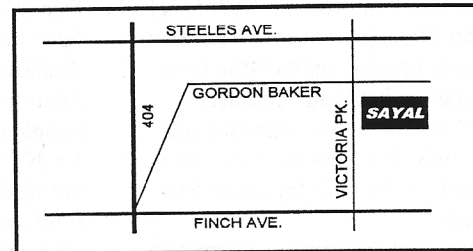
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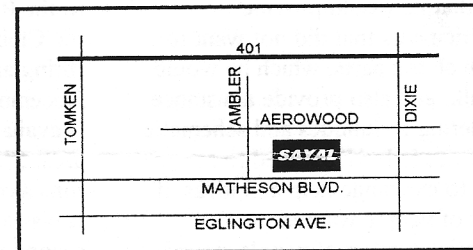
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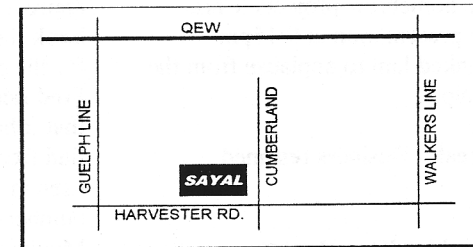
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