



May 2001

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

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The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter - 69 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2001

Homebrew night

David VE3STT - Editor

It's time again for our annual HARC Homebrew Night! The May meeting gives you a chance to show us some of what you've been doing the last 12 months with your hobby. A special panel of HARC judges, and the members in attendance that evening, will grade your work and see if you pass "ham muster" with your special project.

As you recall, Chris VE3PKY gave us a great demonstration a short time ago and distributed some projects with the intention of seeing them return to the May meeting. Hopefully yours will be among those entries!

Anything is eligible, as long as it has been constructed in the last 12 months. Not to blow my own horn, but I just finished banging together a quick "plumber's delight" for 6 metres to use in the annual Ontario QSO Party this past weekend and it seemed to work OK! It was the simplest of projects, involving one 10ft piece of half-inch copper pipe and two pressure treated fence rungs from a decking project of last summer. I bolted them in a "T" and split the copper pipe and attached it to the upper surface of the "T" with a couple of deck screws. Split some coax with the connector on one end and bolt it to either piece of pipe, trim for resonance and voila, a 6-metre dipole. Place it on your tower and at least you have something for that 6-metre rig in your shack.

Now I just have to climb up there, unbolt it and truck it to the meeting?!? Either that, or the 30m dipole I also cut and placed on the tower this past

weekend too, just to explore another band. Being wire, that should be a snap to transport, but it won't win any blue ribbons!

WRTC 2002

The following note was submitted as e-mail to ve3dc@rac.ca

(A couple of HARC members, Ted VE3SS and yours truly, had the pleasure of a coffee with some of the local contest community and were pleased to learn that in view of the coming slide in sunspot numbers, another World Radiosport Team Championship will be happening in 2002. In case you missed

Next meeting's Speaker

May 16

VB2R - DXpedition

Bob Chandier VE3SRE will speak about his role in the DXpedition to activate "zone 2" in 2000. And give us an idea of what being the DX feels like?

AND - Homebrew Night

If Chris VE3PKY didn't inspire you at a recent meeting, hopefully you've built something else to show off at Homebrew Night!

the last one, originating in Slovenia during this past IARU World Championships 2000 contest and one of the best ever, here's your chance to again follow and compete with some of the Amateur communities most talented. The following is a press release about the event, courtesy of Timo OHINOA...ed)

The next World Radiosport Team

Club meetings - 3rd Wednesday each month (except July and August) 8pm. Our new home is the St. John's Ambulance Association building, 550 Upper Wellington Street (on the Mountain). Park behind the St. John's building, NOT the Police station. Complimentary refreshments!

Championship, the Olympics of Amateur Radio, will be taking place in Finland in the year 2002.

What is the WRTC? A competition among two-person teams of some of the top Amateur Radio contest operators in the world. By bringing these competitors together in one geographic area and providing equal operating conditions (antennas, power, etc), the variables normally associated with radio contesting are minimized, and the individual team's operating skills are emphasized.

Discussions as to which country would host WRTC 2002 began during the highly successful WRTC 2000 in Slovenia. Well known for its long history and high level of participation in contesting, Finland was one of the obvious choices. A common comment heard during the planning discussions in Slovenia was "The Finns must do it!" We are now pleased to announce that WRTC 2002 will be jointly organized by Contest Club Finland (CCF) and the Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL).

The team selection process is about to begin. Participants from all continents will be selected based primarily on their track records from past contests. Some 45 to 50 teams will be chosen through a variety of methods. These include open applications as well as "Encouragement Letters" sent out directly by the committee. Leading contest clubs and the IARU societies are encouraged to assist in identifying prospective participants. We will be keeping the contest community informed on the progress of this selection process on a regular basis.

The on-the-air portion of the competition will be held within the 2002 IARU HF Championship. In keeping with the original WRTC concept, every effort will be made to provide the teams with operating conditions that are as equal as possible. Our plan is to set up 45 to 50 station sites in locations around the Helsinki area; each equipped with identical

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

antenna systems. The Finns are considered forerunners in information and telecommunications technology. We are proud to say that during the WRTC 2002, some of these exciting new technologies will be creatively utilized!

Upcoming Meeting Speakers

June 20

HARC Annual Election Night

It's never too early to start your "campaign" for a place at the Executive table! No "dangling chads" allowed.

While the competition itself is certainly the focal point of WRTC 2002, the social aspects of this event will also receive special attention. Once they've arrived in Finland, the competitors and the other guests will eventually be transported to the SRAL Summer Camp. Summer Camp is one of Finnish Amateur Radio's oldest traditions. It's essentially a combination of a hamfest and Field Day, and just about every ham-related activity is demonstrated. There's something exciting in the air during these camps, something that one has to experience first hand to fully appreciate! A variety of other activities, such as excursions, parties and more, are also planned.

One of the best places to follow the progress of WRTC 2002 is the WRTC 2002 Web site: www.wrtc2002.org.

It's true!

The following note was submitted as e-mail to ve3dc@rac.ca

(The following has very little to do with our day to day hobby. The only connection is that radio was used and mentioned in this story. I thought it was cute. And with Milton's Chris Hadfield aboard the ISS installing Canadarm II

as I compile this newsletter, I couldn't resist a space story with a tiny radio connection...ed)

On July 20, 1969, as Commander of the Apollo 11 lunar module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the Moon. His first words after stepping out, "That's one small step for Man, one giant leap for mankind," were beamed to Earth by radio and television and heard by millions.

But just before he re-entered the lunar module, he made the enigmatic remark, "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet cosmonaut, however, upon checking, there was no "Gorsky" in either the Russian or American space programs.

Over the years many people questioned Armstrong as to what the "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky" statement meant, but Armstrong, always just smiled.

On July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the then-26-year-old question to Armstrong.

This time he finally responded. Mr. Gorsky had recently passed away, so Neil Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

In 1938, when he was a kid in a small midwestern town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit their ball, which landed in his neighbour's yard by the bedroom window. His neighbour's were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky.

"SEX! You want SEX?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"

Field Day 2001

David VE3STT - Editor

Because the this years calendar, by the time the next edition of the newsletter reaches your hands we will be right on top of "Field Day 2001", so I thought it

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might be an excellent idea to give you the "heads up" in this edition (and help David VE3DWJ round up some troops for this year).

The annual ARRL Field Day is a fantastic way to get out and meet other members of your club, try some new bands, antennas and even some CW (if you are normally allergic to a key).

There are many ways to help out or participate. David is always in need of "band captains" to assemble a team for a certain band and/or mode, you can come out to simply aid in the set-up and tear-down, log, even spring for some food or be "outdoor kitchen help"!

If you would like to find out more, by all means contact our Field Day Chair David VE3DWJ 905-383-9808.

And, if you simply would like to know more about the up-coming Field Day, browse the ARRL website, which is linked to our own (the URL is on the front page). At their site you will find not only general information, but the full Field Day rules, interesting background and also a schedule of some of the activities planned that day, including satellite work and the ARRL message, which can be copied that day for bonus points!

President's message

Linda VA3LJU - President

Spring has sprung!!! Flowers are starting to bloom. No doubt we will see lots of new antennas springing up too with these mild sunny days. Contrary to popular belief, I'm convinced that an antenna system installed in the nice weather will perform every bit as well as one installed at the height of a raging blizzard during the winter months.

The nice weather seems to signal the start of the fund raising season too. Of course many of the organizers of these events count on amateur radio operators to provide communications. This is a terrific opportunity for us to promote our hobby as we are performing a valuable service to the community. The rewards are many as I'm sure you know if you've taken the time to help with any of these events. I hope that you will agree to help when you are asked.

It's a bit early yet to determine whether our mass mailing of the club newsletter will bring us many new members but it certainly was good to see so many new faces at the last meeting. And it was great to meet some people that I had never had the privilege of meeting before but were involved with the club in years past. I'm sure the mailing will continue to reap benefits in the months to come. Thank you for making these new people feel welcome when they join us for meetings.

I'm looking forward to seeing all the home brew projects at the May 16th meeting. I'm sure we will see some interesting variations of Chris Cuthbert's

club project. Should prove to be an interesting evening!

See you at the next meeting!

Linda VA3LJU

April minutes

Iлона VE3UGM – Secretary

Held at St. John Ambulance, 500 Upper Wellington St. Hamilton, ON. on Wednesday, April 18, 2001 at 8pm.

The Meeting came to order at 8:07pm.

Linda VA3LJU, President welcomed everyone at the Meeting including all visitors, past Club members and the evening's speakers, The Honourable Chevalier Reverend Sir James Thomas KGOSJ, Knight of St. Andrew of Scotland, Knight of Malta, and His Excellency, Chevalier Baron Raymond Borg, from Malta, past General Secretary for the world for the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knight of Poland, among many other accolades, and chairman/director of "THE JOURNEY OF HOPE". Rev. Jim Thomas, VA3JT, said that he had been a member of HARC off and on for many years and reminisced about the many good times he and other HARC hams, many good friends, had over the years, including the good work done in helping out during the Jamaican hurricane and other disasters. (Among the hams Jim mentioned, some now silent keys, were Chuck VE3ACY, Ray VE3ZN, Ed VE3HPK, John VE3FDK, John VE3DC, Bill Crawford of the Radio Store, Noel Eaton, Les Wetham, Fred VE3GCP, Bob VE3RS, Glen VE3GSP, Jeff VE3NKF). He said he had then been inspired to a higher calling, which led to the founding of "The Journey of Hope", an organization dedicated to helping altruistic third world groups during natural disasters and arranging medical help in Canada for severely disabled young people if they cannot afford medical help or the required medical help is not available in their countries. Any members wishing to help out can make a monetary donation to The Journey of Hope's bank account



Figure 1 - Linda VA3LJU, flanked by our meeting guests!

No. 8500614-Transit 09532 with the CIBC.

Rev. Jim VA3JT, said he was considering re-joining HARC. Linda thanked Rev. Thomas VA3JT, and the Chev. Baron Raymond Borg to much applause from those present.

The Meeting broke at 9:10pm for coffee and , thanks to Bud Barber, Gord's VE3AAH wife, a most delicious assortment of tiny muffins. The Meeting was called to order around 9:30pm for business.

Secretary's Report

It was MOVED by Iлона VE3UGM, seconded by Jim VE3OWL, and passed without objections, that the Minutes of the previous General Meeting held on March 21, 2001, as printed in The Hamilton Amateur newsletter, be approved.

Treasurer's Report

Doug VE3ZDG, distributed copies of the Club's Financial Standing Statement as at April 18, 2001. Doug mentioned that the Club was probably going to break even rather than have a surplus this year because the Club had lost Sayal Electronics as a newsletter advertiser, the Club was giving \$50 per Meeting to St. John Ambulance, the Club had spent some \$400 to send

approximately 400 extra copies of the newsletter to hams in the Hamilton area who were not at present members of HARC to encourage them to join, and money had been spent to fix the Repeater.

Education Report

Joe VE3OCD, who is teaching the Morse code class, said that congratulations were in order to Casey VE3CVP, Murray VE3ZPV and Gary VE3TTO who had just recently obtained 5wpm code certification. Joe said that a new Morse class would be organized based on demand. Mardy VE3QEE, said that David VA3DMK had passed the Advanced Exam and was qualified to do HF, high power and build transceivers.

Health and Welfare Report

Mary VE3OGQ, Health and Welfare Chair, said that a sympathy card had been sent on behalf of the Club membership, to family and Pat VE3EIK whose brother had lost his life in a car accident in Scotland.

Fleamarket Report

Doug VE3ZDG asked any members who were attending the upcoming fleamarkets in Pickering on April 28 and in Etobicoke on May 12, to get in touch with him and he would provide

them with flyers to distribute to promote the upcoming HARC fleamarket scheduled for October 13, 2001 at Marritt Hall in Ancaster.

Public Service Report

Linda VA3LJU asked any members able to help with ham radio demonstrations for the Hamilton Girl Guides to get in touch with her for further details. One ham radio demonstration was requested by the Guides for Saturday, June 2, 2001 in Dunnville.

David VE3DWJ, in charge of Public Service events, asked for more volunteers for the Paris to Ancaster Bicycle Race this Sunday, April 22. Volunteers are also needed on May 6 for the CNIB Walkathon from the CNIB building to the Dundas Conservation Area historical train station. A minimum of 8 drivers are needed on May 7 to pick up and deliver packages for the Salvation Army Red Shield Campaign and more participation is needed from members, including young people to help with the logging for Field Day, June 23 and 24, 2001. David's phone number is 905-383-9808.

Mardy VE3QEE said that some 11 hams with cars were needed for the Cancer Linc Walk on Sunday, May 27 from 9am to approximately 12:30pm along the Linc. To volunteer, contact Mardy.

WYNSORC Report

Linda VA3LJU said that a representative would be needed to attend the Western New York Southern Ontario Repeater Council (WYNSORC) meeting in St. Catharines in October. Any members who can help out with this should get in touch with Linda.

Homebrew Project Report

Chris VE3PKY, who is in charge of the homebrew receiver/transceiver projects, said that members should bring their projects, completed or not, to the May 16 General Meeting where those that required it would be given assistance. Chris said that some of the kits that had been signed up for had not been claimed to date and were available for \$12.00 to anyone who wanted to complete a project. Chris said that examples of 2

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Awards - Lorraine MacPherson
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Contesting - Rick Danby
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Education - Mardy Eedson
VE3QEE 648-0187
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Emergency - Gary Notto
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Examiner - Lorraine MacPherson
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Examiner - Bernie Granby
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Field Day - David Bruton
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Flea Market - Mardy Eedson
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Health/Welfare - Mary Urbanski
VE3OGQ 388-8383

Hospitality - Monthly Volunteers

Newsletter/Web - David Jones
VE3STT 549-1919
ve3stt@rac.ca

Repeater/Tech - * open chair *

Swap Net Control - Frank Love
VA3FWL 679-4524

Property Mgr - Rick Danby
VE3BK 544-3253
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versions of the completed regenerative receiver and one completed transceiver were available for inspection at the end of the Meeting.

Contesting Report VE3DC

Linda VA3LJU accepted, on behalf of HARC, two plaques presented by Rick VE3BK, Contesting Chair, which VE3DC had received from GDT Communications and the Ontario DX Association for placing 1st in Ontario in the Ontario QSO Party contest held April 29-30, 2000 and for placing 1st in Ontario, 1st in Ontario multi-operator, 1st in Haldimand-Norfolk Region.

Rick also asked all members who could help with the Ontario QSO Party the weekend of April 21-22, 2001 to contact him. Rick demonstrated a digital voice keyer acquired by the contesting group, which is used to synthesize the repetitive CQ in a contest.

Warplane Ham Station Report

Frank VE3FWL said that work on the Warplane Ham Station was progressing. It has been determined that the Warplane Station will be locked at all times except when there is a licensed Ham present. Howard Muchnick, President of the Warplane Heritage Museum Association, said that the preferred days for operating the Warplane Ham Station were Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday but any other time would be good too. To make volunteer work at the Warplane Station attractive to HARC hams, the Association are providing the following inducements: free admission with a HARC membership card, Museum staff discounts for HARC hams at the shop and the canteen, one free guest accompanied by a HARC ham for the Museum, tax receipts for expenses such as gasoline, etc. incurred by HARC hams operating the Warplane Station, but no tax receipts for ham services. HARC members can join the Museum Association for additional benefits such as one annual flight in a vintage airplane. Volunteers were asked to sign up at the Meeting or to get in touch with Frank. Frank said that he had talked to Navigation Canada, in Mississauga, about operating details such as frequencies and approval of full operating plans once everything was in place to start operating the Ham Station. The Warplane Station call sign is still being worked on. Walter VA3WWB suggested that meetings for HARC members be organized, some 12-15

people at a time, to inspect the Station. Chris VE3PKY offered to help identify some of the vintage equipment at the station.

Social Report

Stan VE3GFE mentioned that the Quarter Century Dinner for hams licensed for 25 or more years was taking place on May 5.

Repeater Report

David VE3DNN, who has been working on the Repeater with David VE3DWJ, said that all paid up members who wanted a speed dial number should see David VE3DNN after the meeting.

It was MOVED by Linda VA3LJU, seconded by Julian VA3JDD and passed unanimously that the meeting be adjourned at 10:10pm.

It's baaaack

The following note was submitted as e-mail to ve3dc@rac.ca

NASA Science News reports that Sunspot 9393, the largest sunspot of the current cycle and responsible for the biggest solar flare ever recorded, is making a rare second appearance on the Earth-facing side of the sun. The sunspot, 13-14 times the size of Earth, was responsible in early April for a huge geomagnetic storm and auroras visible as far south as the southern US. Normally, sunspots do not last long enough to still be there when the sun finishes its 27-day rotation, but this one is still going strong and scientists have been able to track its progress with the SOHO satellite even as it passed over the far side of the sun. Full details are available on NASA's Space News at: http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2001/ast27apr_1.htm?list133325.

OQP follow-up

David VE3STT - Editor

As a follow-up to my inclusion of the rules to the annual Ontario QSO Party last month, I thought I would highlight some of the activity over the weekend of April 21st.

First, you'll be happy to know that as of my putting this issue of our newsletter to bed, VE3DC was well ahead of the competition reporting early results. In an e-mail from Rick I noticed that although the group had a couple of visits from "Murphy", they did manage to put in the best showing yet in the OQP. If their score holds up it will mark a brand new overall record in the contest, the traditional Haldimand-Norfolk region victory and likely some hardware to display! Congratulations!

I participated in the Single Op/Low Power/Mixed category and had a great time, the first 12 hours. Saturday was a decent day, producing a score that equalled my effort last year basically over those first 12 hours. Don VE3VZ and I went back and forth on 6m/2m/70cm, Ted VE3SS also handed out some contacts on 40m, and I'm sure other HARC members made their presence felt. Then when I woke up Sunday and got back to the radio I found out that the bands had been essentially "turned off"! Still, I hope my score holds up within the City of Hamilton as both a victory and new OQP record.

If you didn't have a chance to get on a hand out a few contacts, make sure you gear up for the annual RAC Canada Day contest that comes up the 24 hours of July 1st UTC. Talk to Rick VE3BK to see if he has any spots on the "DC Team"? Canada Day features action on all the bands. And, if you enjoy CW, by all means make your interest know.

I'll include some RAC Canada Day contest material in the next newsletter.

Band plans

David VE3STT - Editor

As a conclusion to this series on "band plans", in this issue of The Hamilton Amateur I thought I would focus on the "tribander" bands. If you have code and the most common configuration of triband beam in the air, these are the major bands of interest. You'll find plenty of DX, plenty of contesting and plenty of activity on all modes of Amateur operation!

Here are the suggested RAC band plans for you to study:

20 Metre Band - Maximum bandwidth 6 kHz

14.000 to 14.070 MHz - CW only
14.070 to 14.095 MHz - Digital Mode
14.095 to 14.099 MHz - Packet
14.100 MHz - Beacons
14.101 to 14.112 MHz - CW, SSB, packet shared
14.112 to 14.350 MHz - SSB
14.225 to 14.235 MHz - SSTV

15 Metre Band - maximum bandwidth 6 kHz

21.000 to 21.070 MHz - CW
21.070 to 21.090 MHz - Digital Modes
21.090 to 21.125 MHz - Packet
21.100 to 21.150 MHz - CW and SSB
21.150 to 21.335 MHz - SSB and other wide band modes
21.335 to 21.345 MHz - SSTV
21.345 to 21.450 MHz - SSB and other wide band modes

10 Metre Band - Maximum band width 20 kHz

28.000 to 28.200 MHz - CW
28.070 to 28.120 MHz - Digital Modes
28.120 to 28.190 MHz - Packet
28.190 to 28.200 MHz - Beacons
28.200 to 29.300 MHz - SSB and other wide band modes
29.300 to 29.510 MHz - Satellite
29.510 to 29.700 MHz - SSB, FM and repeaters

Of special note are a couple of major differences between the bandplans of the ARRL in the U.S and RAC in Canada.

For example, did you know that Canadian Amateurs may utilize ssb down to 14.101 in the 20m band, while the U.S. Amateurs cannot drop below 14.150? On the 15m band we are also allowed ssb privileges down to 21.100 (although the most common cut-off is around 21,150), while U.S. Amateurs cannot venture below 21.200. And even on 10m we have some different privileges. Canadian Amateurs can utilize ssb down to 28.200, while in the U.S. an Amateur must not travel below 28.300 on ssb.

Please let me know if you find this kind of material interesting, if it has prompted you to seek out even more through the RAC website or if you would rather see some other kind of information related to the hobby in these pages. I'm open to feedback via my e-mail address ve3stt@rac.ca.

Get on the air!