



June 2001

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

The Hamilton Amateur

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

Election night

David VE3STT - Editor

If you've ever uttered the words, "I wonder why..." or "The club should really do..." or any number of phrases wondering about the inner workings of your club, then June's meeting is one you should attend!

The month of June means the last meeting of the season, before a two-month break specifically designed to allow some fair-weather antenna building, erecting and tuning. It's also the time we elect a brand new HARC Executive to guide the club beginning in September and for the next fiscal year into 2002!

One of the most daunting tasks is to let your name stand for election to a position on the club Executive. You'll certainly question how much work will be required of you, how much time and effort will go into each month's preparation for our meeting and to keep things running smoothly behind the scenes. You'll also no doubt wonder why "you"?

The answer to all those questions is quite simple. The more people and more different ideas we can bring to the Executive, the better!

The strength of any club is the willingness of its members to take part in the organization and running of that club and to bring forth new ideas and new ways of doing things. If, for example, you happen to be into a certain mode or facet of the hobby that you don't feel is well represented enough, here's your chance to infect the rest of us with your passion for that corner of

Amateur radio! If you have a certain skill or expertise in a certain area and feel that the club may benefit from that knowledge, please share! Even if you don't feel you're Executive material, trust me... the membership will be the judge of that. You will receive a lot of recognition from other members just by stepping up to the plate and helping the club.

Each year the best possible scenario is to see totally new blood join the Executive to replace any departing members. I hope we can all count on you to be that new blood!

Next meeting's Speaker

June 20

HARC Annual Election Night

Even from the floor the evening of, you'll have a chance to be part of the Executive that will guide the club into 2002. It's never too early to start your "campaign"!

AND - Gord's new rig!

Gord VE3AAH will give us an "up close and personal" look at his shiny new Grundig receiver!

Basic + 5wpm on HF now!

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

(The following was received as a news release from RAC Headquarters, dated May 18, 2001...ed)

In a notice from Industry Canada the

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!

technical requirements set out in the Radiocommunication Information Circular 2 (RIC-2), "Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service", has been amended.

Effective May 19, 2001, this notice grants full operating privileges in all amateur radio frequency bands below 30 MHz to amateur radio operators holding the basic and 5wpm Morse code qualification.

Copies of the revised RIC-2 are available from the Industry Canada web site at:
<http://strategis.gc.ca/SSG/sf01226e.html>

New calls & member

Mardy VE3QEE – Membership

Call signs have been issued to our recent basic class graduates. They include: Brian Bowie VA3BMB, James Zwolak VA3JJZ and Perry Guzar VA3CEE.

Brian already is a member of the club, Jim has become a new member and Perry will hopefully join us in the new season.

Field Day 2001

David VE3STT - Editor

As I mentioned in the last issue of this newsletter, by the time we assemble for our next meeting June 20th, we'll be only days away from "Field Day 2001"!

David VE3DWJ has once again graciously volunteered to coordinate our VE3DC effort.

ARRL Field Day is an annual event and great way to meet other members of your club, try some new bands and modes, antennas and even some CW. Literally thousands of Amateurs from all over North America will be on that weekend.

It's not too late to lend support in any number of ways. Please talk to David if you would like to participate on the air, assemble a team for a certain band

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/or mode, come out to simply help set-up and tear-down, log, or "cook"! Any participation will be appreciated.

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

Tito's \$20-million QSO

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

(Several weeks old now, remember that as you read the story, but well worth the read if you've ever dreamt of being there...ed)

Having the time of his life aboard the International Space Station, US businessman Dennis Tito KG6FZX, this week made his first Amateur Radio contacts from his perch in space. Tito arrived aboard the ISS on April 30.

Upcoming Meeting Speakers

September 19

A brand new season

We're always looking for interesting speakers and ideas for club meetings. Please contact any member of the Executive if you have any thoughts for the fall!

See you in September...

The first "space tourist," Tito spoke May 1 via Amateur radio with his family as the ISS was passing over Hawaii. The audio was telebridged to the mainland. On May 2, Farrell Winder W8ZCF, in Cincinnati, reported snagging two contacts with the ISS, the second time chatting with Tito for several minutes. Tito used the NA1SS call sign for the contact. He reportedly made a few other contacts this week as well.

Winder said Tito told him he loves space and was having a ball. "He said it is the greatest experience of his lifetime," Winder said. He also said Tito was eager to know what was being discussed about him on Earth.

During Tito's visit, the crew of Russian Commander Yury Usachev UA9AD, and US astronauts Susan Helms KC7NHZ, and Jim Voss, are undertaking a minimal work routine and maintenance schedule. Winder says he also spoke with Helms during another pass.

In a TV interview from space earlier this week, Tito said he was not nervous at all about the launch. He reports suffering some space sickness early on but has begun to get used to weightlessness. "I'll tell you, there is nothing like this as an experience," Tito said. He said the ISS crew welcomed him and gave him a tour of the spacecraft.

Tito reportedly will pay Russia a total of some \$20-million for the privilege of going into space. He and two Russian cosmonauts launched April 28 from Kazakhstan on a 10-day Soyuz vehicle taxi mission. NASA initially opposed Tito's visit, but Russia insisted. Last week, NASA relented and agreed to the arrangement under certain conditions.

Tito, 60, took and passed the Technician exam earlier this month after a volunteer examination session was set up for him in Russia.

President's message

Linda VA3LJU - President

It doesn't seem possible that this is the last President's Message I will be writing for the bulletin. The club year has flown by so quickly and yet it's been a very eventful time in the life of the club. I am extremely grateful for the wonderful people who served on the executive with me this year. We have worked hard to ensure that the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club would run efficiently and I think we accomplished that during our mandate.

HARC 2000-2001 Executive

President

Linda Hardwick VA3LJU

389-4091

va3lju@rac.ca

Past President

Gary Notto VE3TTO

387-1103

ve3tto@rac.ca

Vice President

David Near VE3DNN

385-6656

dnear@ibm.net

Secretary

Ilona Davidson VE3UGM

545-4663

daw@cujo2.icom.ca

Treasurer

Douglas Monk VE3ZDG

527-2269 Douglas.Monk@hwcn.org

Membership

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

648-0187

meedsonhome.com

Director At Large

Chris Cuthbert VE3PKY

547-3169

aj630@hwcn.org

The club faced many challenges this year. Getting the auto-patch up and running was a big one that we were able to see completed because of the hard work of some of our members. Not being technically minded I stayed out of that, but some talented people volunteered their time and skills to get the auto-patch working once again.

Two of those involved were David Bruton VE3DWJ and David Near VE3DNN, who gave many hours of labour to make things work. Thanks to all who helped with that project.

Finding a new meeting place was a challenge that none of us expected or wished for, but with the hard work of Fred Robinson VE3GCP we were able to find a meeting place at the St. John's Ambulance building. We have seen a

steady increase in attendance at the monthly club meetings and I'm sure this has been at least in part a result of our change of meeting location. Hopefully we will see an increase in paid memberships as well.

The June 20th meeting will be our elections night. This is your opportunity to help the club by giving your time and talent to keep things running smoothly



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for all the members. Bob Milburn VA3MFM has agreed to act as our Election Chairman this year.

Gord Barber VE3AAH will be bringing his new Grundig Satellite 800 Millennium world receiver to the June meeting to give us an opportunity to see his new radio. I've seen the printed information on this and it certainly looks like a fantastic piece of equipment.

Gord's wife, Bud, has provided delicious treats for our coffee break for the past two years. She has given this to the members of the club without thought of remuneration. I know from the many comments that it's been greatly enjoyed by all. This will be our last opportunity to sample some of her wonderful treats for a while as she is going to take a well deserved rest from this job. I'm sure you all share my sentiments when I say how much we

have appreciated Bud's hard work. Thank you Bud and Gord for your generosity!!!!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting. And don't forget to join us for field day activities on the 23rd and 24th of June. I would like to wish each of you a safe, enjoyable summer.

73, Linda VA3LJU

May minutes

Ilona VE3UGM – Secretary

The Meeting came to order at 8:05pm. Linda VA3LJU, President welcomed all members and visitors to the meeting, mentioning how encouraging it was to see seven homebrew project on display and that the Homebrew Trophy winner would be announced after the evening's speaker.

Rick VE3BK, Contesting Chair, introduced the evening's speaker, Bob Chandler VE3SRE accompanied by Rick VA3VFT. Bob described how he and the other hams in his group have been, since 1999, doing their annual CQWW SSB WW (all countries/all bands). Bob described the enormous global ham participation - the Olympics of all Ham Radio Contests as Bob describes it - contesting in a field-day setting in the exotic location of Contesting Zone 2, which is found in the northern Quebec wilderness 80km north of the last town, Matagami, Quebec, along the James Bay Highway 109 where for 150 miles one only meets logging trucks barrelling along at full speed and only Cree and French are spoken. The nearest gas station beyond Matagami is 350km away.

The group set up their special event call contesting station near Lake Ouescapis, north of 50 degrees latitude, in bear country. Only one or two other ham groups contest in the Zone 2 area. Bob mentioned that Lake Ouescapis is only a 14-hour drive from Toronto. Slides showed the DXpedition ham group going to the location, the various antennas, generators and other

HARC 2000-2001 Chairs

Awards - Lorraine MacPherson

VA3NZ 389-7653
ab510@hwcn.org

Contesting - Rick Danby

VE3BK 544-3253
rdanby@hwcn.org

Education - Mardy Eedson

VE3QEE 648-0187
meedson@home.com

Emergency - Gary Notto

VE3TTO 387-1103
ve3tto@rac.ca

Examiner - Lorraine MacPherson

VA3NZ 389-7653
ab510@hwcn.org

Examiner - Bernie Granby

VE3EKY 527-7175
berngran@hwcn.org

Field Day - David Bruton

VE3DWJ 383-9808
am983@hwcn.org

Flea Market - Mardy Eedson

VE3QEE 648-0187
meedson@home.com

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
rdanby@hwcn.org

equipment and living quarters with microwave and heated outhouse, surrounding wildlife and aurora borealis displays.

Linda thanked the speakers to much applause from those present and the meeting broke up at 9:50pm for coffee and some wonderfully excellent cookies and melt-in-the-mouth Italian pastry, thanks to Bud Barber and Mrs. Love. The Meeting reconvened around 10:05pm for business.

Homebrew Projects Report

Seven Homebrew projects were brought to the Meeting and explained by those who made them. Six were entered for the Homebrew Trophy and prize. The entries were a Regenerative Receiver and antenna made of 1/2 inch copper pipe (VE3QEE), a power supply and keypad switch (VE3VNG), an emergency lighting system (VE3VMO), an HF amplifier for 80 to 10m (VE3DDQ), a single vacuum tube regenerative receiver for 8.6 to 5.5 MHz (VE3PKY), an 80m transceiver (VE3DNN) and a sophisticated mini frequency counter demonstrated but not entered by Boris. Rick VE3BK, as a homebrew judge said he was happy to see so many projects and commented favourably on all.

The Trophy and first prize, a B&W SSTV and camera, were awarded by John VE3DVV, of the judging committee, to Don VE3DDQ. Second prize, a mobile 80m antenna, was won by David VE3DNN.

Christmas Party Photos

Bernie VA3XJ, said that he had the Christmas Party photos with him which could be viewed by the members.

Secretary's Report

It was MOVED by Ilona VE3UGM, Recording Secretary, seconded by Frank VE3FWL, and approved without dissent that the Minutes of the previous general meeting of April 18, 2001 be approved as printed in The Hamilton Amateur Newsletter.

Health & Welfare Report

Mary VE3OGQ, Health and Welfare Chair, said that get well cards had been sent on behalf of the Club membership to Al Barker VE3HMG and Bill Sawyer VA3ACK, who are in St. Joseph's Hospital.

Field Day Report

Linda VA3LJU, pointed out that David VE3DWJ, who is in charge of organizing Field Day on June 23 and 24, 2001, said he would be phoning everyone to enlist volunteers for Field Day, so everyone might as well sign up before then.

Education Report

Mardy VE3QEE, Membership and Education Chair, said that three people had passed the last Basic Course. The other three would be able to take the course again for free until they passed the exam. Mardy mentioned that inquiries about the Course had been received from a number of people at the HARC display table at the Region's Emergency Demonstration Exhibition. The next Basic course starts the second week in September, 2001.

Due to it being late the Meeting was cut short and was adjourned around 10:15pm.

World Radio-communication Conference 2003

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

The FCC's World Radio-communication Conference 2003 Advisory Committee has approved several "preliminary views", or "PV's", on expected WRC-03 agenda items. Among these is a US preliminary view supporting a realigned 40-meter amateur allocation at 6900-7200kHz on a worldwide primary basis. The FCC is soliciting public comment on all preliminary views by May 9.

The preliminary view was developed by Informal Working Group 6, which is dealing with most issues of concern to amateurs. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Walt Ireland WB7CSL, serves as vice chairman of IWG-6. The PV says that, alternatively, the US could support a 7000-7300 kHz worldwide primary amateur allocation.

Only amateurs in Region 2, which includes North and South America, have access to 7000-7300 kHz; the rest of the world has only 7000-7100 kHz, with the upper 200 kHz allocated for broadcasting.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo W4RI, says the ARRL would prefer going back to the pre-World War II worldwide 7000-7300kHz scheme. Some broadcasters, on the other hand, would like Amateurs worldwide at 6800-7100 kHz, he said, so they would not have to move. A Radio Conference Subcommittee backgrounder from the Inter-department Radio Advisory Committee, which reflects views of the US federal government, said the issue "is liable to be very controversial."

Further complicating matters, Rinaldo said, is the fact that international HF broadcasters want to fold the 7MHz realignment question into another WRC-03 agenda item examining the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations from approximately 4 MHz to 10 MHz.

Broadcasters are expected to seek additional HF elbow room to accommodate digital transmissions to complement their existing AM channels.

Another PV with implications for Amateurs would oppose the use of 420-470 MHz for use by the Earth Exploration-Satellite Service for so-called synthetic aperture radars, or SARs unless it can be shown that the satellites "do not cause harmful interference to Amateur systems and stations." SARs are used to map regions on Earth's surface and are expected to be deployed primarily over tropical rain forest areas.

Rinaldo emphasized that the preliminary views do not represent formal US positions and are subject to change as preparations for WRC-03 move forward.

WRC-03 is scheduled to begin June 9, 2003, and continue until July 4, 2003. The conference is expected to take place in Venezuela.

New RAC QSL manager

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

RAC President Kenneth Oelke VE6AFO today announced the appointment of Leonard Morgan VE9MY, as RAC National Incoming QSL Bureau Manager replacing Jim Irvine VE9WH, who recently retired from the position.

Leonard was first licensed in 1964 and has held call signs VO1GT, VO1CM, VO2AB, VE1MY and VE9MY since 1993. He is President of the Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club in Saint John, NB.

Leonard's interests are Contesting, chasing DX, activating and working IOTA and CISA islands.

Leonard holds a CET with over 35 years of Industrial Instrumentation and Controls experience in the mining, petrochemical and teaching industries. He is Field Service Representative for a major Process Controls Company responsible for customer training and technical support in the Maritimes.

Tech talk

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

A VHF/UHF/Microwave Meeting, sponsored by Humber College and The Toronto VHF Society ARC VE3ONT, is scheduled for June 16. It is being held at Humber College, 205 College Blvd. in Etobicoke. Speakers are Dana Shtun VE3DSS - '30 Years of 50MHz - a Retrospective Look', Bob Morton VE3BFM - 'Phasing techniques for stacked 6m yagis', Peter Shilton VE3AX - (*recent HARC meeting night speaker on Moonbounce...ed*), 'Power Amplifier Construction & SB220 mods for 6m', Russel Beach VE3OIL - 'Roving in the Great White North', Tom Richmond VE3IEY - 'Starting a Simple VHF Newsletter' and Steve Kavanagh,

VE3SMA - 'Microwave Activity in Ontario'.

(There was a cash bar and dinner offered, but registration was to take place prior to JUNE 1st, so by the time you read this, it will be too late to join them for dinner, but the actual Tech Talks follow...ed)

Tech Talks start at 8pm and hopefully end at 10pm, followed by open session. THERE IS NO COST FOR THOSE JUST WANTING TO LISTEN TO THE TECH TALK STARTING AT 8PM.

HOWEVER - It is necessary to register for the free tech talks BEFORE JUNE 13, 2001, seating being limited.

Contacts are: Bob Morton
VE3BFM@Rac.ca or 705-435-0689
Dana Shtun **VE3DSS@rac.ca** or 416-232-2484
Peter Shilton, **VE3AX@icom.ca** or 905-772-8938

Lightning!

David VE3STT – Editor

What do you do when severe weather approaches? I've heard it and read it all!

One school of thought says that you disconnect everything and throw the coax out on the lawn, just in case. Another says do it like the pros and protect yourself with a "bullet-proof" lightning installation that will stand up even in the direct line-of-fire while you sit and calmly run Europe in your favourite DX contest.

I happen across a "much better than average" site on the internet several weeks ago and just have to share.

The Amateurs name is Bill Hider N3RR, and his "shack" is anything but. He features proper ground techniques from top of the tower to the end of the coax that plugs into any one of his rigs. It's more than worth the effort to drop by his site and see what can be done to make you, and those you care about, safe and sound.

Personally, I disconnect everything when weather approaches, but stop

short of throwing things out in the yard. Although, project #1 (or maybe #2) this summer is to complete a bulkhead mount for the cabling coming down from my tower. And yes, I have been to Bill's site many times for inspiration!

If you would like to see what "Amateur protection" looks like, visit:
<http://www.erols.com/n3rr>

Kentucky Amateur killed

David VE3STT – Editor

Not to end the season on a downer, but I received this in my e-mail and, having mentioned it was great antenna weather over the summer months, thought that I just might include it for those who will be out and about dealing with antennas and the hazards that go with them.

Please keep an eye out for your hydro connections from the street and if you have a tower, are thinking about putting one up this summer or even adding a small antenna to your mast (as this Amateur was), BE VERY CAREFUL!

A Kentucky Amateur Radio Emergency Service member died May 20 while installing a 2-meter antenna he'd just bought at the Dayton Hamvention.

According to ARRL Kentucky Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Dodson KA4MAP, Ronald L. Oller KG4JVT, of Irvington, was killed when the groundplane antenna he was installing fell onto the overhead electrical service line to his house. He had been a ham for about eight months.

Full Story can be found at
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/05/22/3/?nc=1>

RAC Canada Day contest

David VE3STT – Editor

Whatever you do this summer, make sure you get on the air and participate in the annual RAC Canada Day contest, Canada's Birthday Party on the air, 24-

hours beginning 0000Z July 1st! And make sure you listen for VE3DC, on all bands and modes, operating M/M. If you would like to find out more about the contest, or even operating with the contest group, talk to Rick VE3BK.

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.) Suggested frequencies: CW - 25 kHz up from the band edge; SSB - 1850, 3775, 7075, 7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS(T) and province or territory. VEØs and stations outside Canada send RS(T) and a serial number.

QSOs: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØs are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are worth 20 points.

Multipliers: Canada's 10 provinces and three territories, and may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands. The multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are: Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, CY9, CYØ); Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2); Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3); Manitoba [MB] (VE4); Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5); Alberta [AB] (VE6); British Columbia [BC] (VE7); Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8); New Brunswick [NB] (VE9); Newfoundland and Labrador [NF] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NT] (VY0); Yukon [YT] (VY1); and Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2).

Final Score: Total your QSO points from all bands, and multiply by the total multiplier points from all bands.

Categories:

- Single Operator All Bands;
- Single Operator Low Power (max. 100 W output);
- Single Operator QRP (max. 5 W output);
- Single Operator Single Band;
- Multi-operator.

Single ops using DX spotting system or PacketCluster during the contest are classified M/M. There are no single-mode categories!

Have a Great Summer!!! 73