



September 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

President's message

Emsley VE3JAI – President

I hope that your summer was pleasant, fun filled and you worked those rare dx stations that have previously eluded you. First let me say a hearty thank you to the coordinators of all the departments. To the previous executive, some of whom are currently members of the new executive: who have so ably steered the club over the previous year. Thank you for your commitment, dedication and for a job well done.

Welcome to the new club year. As in the past, the executive will endeavour to present programs that are interesting, informative and with an aim at restoring attendance to its full compliment at our meetings. Courses for the Basic and Advanced Level as well as Morse code will again be offered. These courses are open to all members and non-members alike and I encourage everyone to sign up for the Basic requirements or an upgrade of their ticket.

Summer is almost over and soon the geese will be heading south. This means that it is time to give serious thought to volunteering at our annual Hamfest. The Flea-market coordinator and committee have worked hard at the planning stages and now its time for us to offer our full support. Let us make Hamfest 2001 the best one yet, the one that will set the standard for all Hamfests in the area.

Our first club meeting for the new season will be held on **Wednesday September 19th at the St. John's Ambulance Association building** located at 500 Upper Wellington Street (on the Mountain). The meeting will begin at 8pm and I look forward to

seeing you all there. Our presenters will give an in-depth look and history of our repeater VE3NCF. So bring your portables and all your questions, it promises to be an interesting evening. All are welcome!

Hamfest 2001

Bob VA3MFM – Flea Market Co-Chair

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club annual fleamarket will be held Saturday, October 13th at Marritt Hall in the Ancaster Fair Grounds, as usual!

We again ask for your help in setting up.

Next meeting's Speaker

September 19

Your VE3NCF Repeater System

We will have an in-depth look at our repeater system, including some history of the system. And any questions you have will be answered. As you may or may not be aware, we have a new controller board (after the previous one succumbed to "lightning-strike-it is")! Bring your handheld and we'll set you up with everything you need to know to get on and work VE3NCF!

This year we are asking Club members to again help us in soliciting door prizes. Each of us do business with a number of companies on a regular basis, and we are sure that they would be glad to help you and your Club in this endeavour.

We have developed a letter of introduction that you can use. Please

Club meetings – 3rd Wednesday each month (except July and August) - 8pm in the St. John's Ambulance Association building, 500 Upper Wellington Street (on the Mountain). Park behind the St. John's building, NOT the Police station. Complimentary refreshments!

contact me, or any member of your Executive for a copy of the letter. The letter of introduction will also be available at our first Club meeting.

Please let me know by the end of September what you have collected and we will arrange pick-up of these prizes.

Thanks for your help!

June minutes

Ilona VE3UGM – Secretary

The Meeting came to order at 8:05pm.

Linda VA3LJU, President welcomed everyone including visiting ham, Ina Holland VE3YIC, who is requesting assistance with the operation of an ICOM 745 HF transceiver.

Election of Directors Report

Bob VA3MFM, Nominations and Elections Chair took over the floor and provided a slate of members standing for office for the upcoming year September 1, 2001 to August 31, 2002. Emsley VE3JAI, nominated Neil, VE3VNG from the floor. Neil declined. There being no further nominations from the floor, it was MOVED by Bob VA3MFM, seconded by Gord VE3AAH, and approved unanimously that the slate be elected. The six Directors elected to office are David VE3DNN, Chris VE3PKY, Doug VE3ZDG, Emsley VE3JAI, Walter VA3WWB, and Ilona VE3UGM. Linda VA3LJU will also serve on the Executive in the office of Past President. Linda VA3LJU, introduced the new executive to enthusiastic applause.

Grundig Satellit800 Millennium Receiver Demonstration

Gord VE3AAH, provided a demo of a recently acquired Grundig Satellit800 receiver. It weighs 14.5 lbs, covers 100 to 30,000 KHz, in longwave, AM and shortwave, plus 87 to 108 MHz in FM and also 118 to 137 MHz in the VHF Aircraft band. The receiver has many other features which Gord demonstrated.

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 will be 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

Coffee Break

The Meeting broke for coffee at 8:25pm. with the most extraordinarily delicious raisin butter tarts thanks to Bud Barber. (Unfortunately Bud Barber will be unable to provide the refreshments next year, so some volunteers are needed to bring something for coffee break this upcoming year, - Sec'y).

Awards and Appreciation Report

Bob VA3MFM, on behalf of the membership thanked the Executive, Linda VA3LJU, President, Mardy VE3QEE, Director and Membership Secretary, David VE3DNN 1st Vice President, Doug Monk VE3ZDG, Treasurer, Chris VE3PKY, Director, Gary VE3TTO, Past President and Ilona VE3UGM Recording Secretary for a job well done in the year September 1, 2000 to August 31, 2001.

Lorraine VA3NZ, Awards Chair, presented Don VE3DDQ, with a Certificate for winning the Crawford Trophy in the Homebrew Contest with his HF Amplifier.

Lorraine presented Bernie VA3XJ, with a Certificate for winning the CW Order of the Gavel Award (trophy to come after being engraved). Gary VE3TTO, was awarded an Order of the Gavel Certificate for having been Past President and his name will be engraved on the Past Presidents plaque. Mardy VE3QEE is arranging to have this plaque extended to allow additional names to be engraved, the plaque having run out of room.

Linda said that Bud Barber and Gord VE3AAH had been sent a thank you note from the Club membership in appreciation of the two years of refreshments provided for the General Meetings.

Contesting Report

Rick VE3BK, invited everyone to call him if they wanted to participate in the 24 hour RAC Canada Day Contest, July 1, 2001, all bands, all modes. Rick said that David VE3STT had provided information on the RAC Canada Day Contest in his article in the June Newsletter.

Health and Welfare Report

Mary VE3OGQ, said she had sent a get well note to Frank Love VE3FWL who is at present hospitalized.

Field Day Report

David VE3DWJ, reminded everybody that Field Day was the upcoming weekend of June 23 and 24, 2001 at the Rock Chapel area of the Royal Botanical Gardens, as previously. Discussion of arrangements followed.

Fleamarket Co-Chair

Bob VA3MFM, Fleamarket Co-Chair, asked members to try to get any businesses they deal with to contribute door prizes for the Fleamarket being held on Saturday, October 13, 2001 at Marritt Hall in the Ancaster area of Greater Hamilton. Bob said that family passes to the Warplane Heritage Museum, to Westfield Pioneer Village and to the Royal Botanical Gardens could be door prizes.

Fred VE3GCP, suggested that only the front room of Marritt Hall be used for the Fleamarket thus saving some \$300. by cancelling the back room booking and that the Fleamarket Committee look into getting a Major Doorprize for the Fleamarket. After some discussion, Bob VA3MFM, said that the suggestions will be taken under advisement.

Education and Membership Report

In the absence of Mardy VE3QEE, Education and Membership Chair, Linda VA3LJU said that Basic Course classes would be starting the second week in September, 2001 and that anyone wishing to sign up should get in touch with Mardy. Club membership dues for the upcoming year are due by October 17, 2001. A draw will be held at the October 17, 2001 General Meeting from the stubs of paid renewals and the winner will get a rebate of their membership dues.

Public Service Report

Emergency Preparedness Week - Lorraine VA3NZ, said that a number of Club members had arranged a display table for Emergency Preparedness Week, given a time span of only six days to do this. The display went off

HARC 2000-2001 Executive

President

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI

627-0333

eamitch@mcmail.cis.mcmaster.ca

Past President

Linda Hardwick VA3LJU

389-4091

va3lju@rac.ca

Vice President

David Near VE3DNN

385-6656

dnear@ibm.net

Secretary

To be Announced

Treasurer

Walt Bayliss VA3WWB

??-???

Director

Chris Cuthbert VE3PKY

547-3169

aj630@hwcni.org

Director

To be Announced

very well and was a good exposure for Amateur Radio. A write-up of this with pictures will be prepared for a future newsletter. In addition, the write-up will be submitted to the RAC Magazine in the event they have space to print it.

Airshow

Lorraine also said that HARC had been thanked by the Hamilton International Airshow people in appreciation of the work done by the members who participated in the Airshow up at the airport in June.

Amateur Radio International Space Station Communications Program Report

Chris VE3PKY said that he had investigated the program under which school children can communicate with the ISS if arrangements are made

through a Committee sponsoring this. Chris said that a mobile FM transceiver with a minimum of 25 watts, an antenna with some gain such as a 3 element Yagi, continuous tuning on 2 meters or equivalent tuning, were the essentials of what was required by the Committee. Chris said there was a waiting period of one year, assuming a particular application was approved. Fred VE3GCP suggested that the possibility of HARC organizing such



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communications with ARISS for Scouts/Guides/Cubs/Brownies possibly on the St. John Ambulance premises be investigated also.

It was MOVED by Fred VE3GCP, seconded by Emsley VA3JAI and approved unanimously that Chris, be placed in charge of investigating the possibilities, the cost and parameters of pursuing communications with the ARISS Communications Committee and report back to the Club as information becomes available.

Homebrew Projects Report

Chris VE3PKY, said that as far as he knew at least four Pixie Transceivers had been successfully built by a number of members and he would be demonstrating his Pixie at Field Day. Chris will also help others who want help with their projects. Chris said

that next year's project would be the modification of an audio filter.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

VE3DC contest group history

Ted VE3SS

(Ted has forwarded an article on the history of the VE3DC contest group for publication in a future issue of TCA, complete with pictures. I won't steal all his thunder. Instead, what follows are some excerpts from that article. Watch for the full one in TCA!..ed)

The legacy in Amateur radio contesting known as VE3DC, got its start in the late 80's by a group of guys who wanted somewhere to go and play with various antenna designs. The call sign VE3DC belongs to the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club and it is members of this club that make up the mainstay of this contesting group...

... We realized the need for a place to go that was much larger for the antennas we envisioned, and it so happened that the land, or "site" as we affectionately call it, was found to use for both antenna testing and contest purposes. The family of one of the contest group member's owned this 11-acre property. Little did they know what would transpire here!...

... The first antenna that was installed in the early years, and still is used to this day, is our 160m delta loop up about 30-35ft in the air...

... The first tower that sprouted on site held up a 3-element tribander and was perhaps only 30-40ft high. This was followed by a 160 meter inv-L which was a tilt-over Delhi tower with a piece of mast added to the top to get the height up to about 60-70ft...

... The mid to late 90's brought on the computer integration for logging purposes...

... We have made sure that every station has a CW-keying cable plus a set of bench paddles. Rig control cables have made their way into the group now

HARC 2001-2002 Chairs

Awards - Lorraine MacPherson
VA3NZ 389-7653
ab510@hwcen.org

Contesting - Rick Danby
VE3BK 544-3253
rdanby@hwcen.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
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Examiner - Bernie Granby
VE3EKY 527-7175
berngran@hwcen.org

Field Day - David Bruton
VE3DWJ 383-9808
am983@hwcen.org

Flea Market - Mardy Eedson
VE3QEE 648-0187
meedson@home.com

Flea Market - Bob Milburn
VA3MFM 383-8262
robdm@bigfoot.com

Health/Welfare - Mary Urbanski
VE3OGQ 388-8383

Hospitality - Monthly Volunteers

Membership - Mardy Eedson
VE3QEE 648-0187
meedson@home.com

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@hwcen.org

and have made the M/M contesting even more fun. We usually use CT by K1EA and this allows us the option of using Ethernet to link all of the computers. This way we can now see what frequency any given station in the trailer is on, which aids in passing multipliers from band to band that much easier...

... At present we have about 5 towers standing (not including the inv-1), with the highest being only around 56 ft. One tower is dedicated to 2m and 6m antennas/beams for the RAC contests and the others hold various monoband and triband hf beams. For 40m and 80m we have a number of dipoles strung up between the towers and we also have one multi-band vertical down at the back of the site for multiplier hunting etc...

... Canada has grown big time over the past 5 years with the likes of VE6JY, VA3SK, VE6SV and VE5RI in the fray, a really good representation by Canadian Amateurs...

... I am hoping that everyone who reads this will see that it does not take a major super station set-up to have fun and be competitive. We have been getting together for years and our drive to do well in a contest still exists today. Today we are still trying to find ways to improve things on site, but to me that's half the fun!...

For further info and pictures about VE3DC, please check out our website at:

<http://www.hwcen.org/link/harc/ve3dc.html>

Field Day on 40m

Bernie VA3XJ

Wow! Field Day 2001 was GRRReat...one for the books.

Captain of 40m - Bernie
VE3EKY/VA3XJ

Ops on 40m - VE3EKY/VA3XJ Bernie,
VE3OZO Steve, VE3ITC John,
VE3PKY Chris, VE3DNN David.

Helpers on 40m included - VE3OCD
Joe and VE3EKX Scott.

Thanks to all, hope I haven't left anyone
out. 40m CW turned in a claimed 520
QSO's, almost our best ever! Several
years ago we managed 650 for our best
ever.

This year we moved over beside 20m
SSB Capt'd by Emsley VE3JAI, and we
both shared the club's Honda genny. It
worked out good...no problems...and I
think if anything, we used less gas on
the Honda than other years when it only
ran one station. Support from the club
was good. Linda VA3LJU and Jim
VE3OWL provided the food which
fueled the hungry ops. The food was
great Linda and Jim.

The WX co-operated....no rain. Steve
didn't mention it, but he worked DJ9IE
at about 2045 GMT Saturday.

Net controllers needed

Vic Forde VE3HPD

*(Vic is manager of the Trans Canada
Net, which meets every Saturday at
1800Z on 14.140Mhz, and a former
member of HARC. He asked that we
include this following announcement in
the newsletter. It may be a chance to
show off your operating skills in a
traffic-handling environment with other
Amateurs across our country...ed)*

The Trans Canada Net is looking for a
regular controller, and also a part-time
controller, to join three other controllers
in the Hamilton-Burlington area.

The purpose of the net is to assist Ham
operators to make contact with a
station or location anywhere in Canada.
The net operates for one hour every
Saturday beginning at 1800Z. There are
three net control station areas in
Canada; Hamilton/Burlington,
Winnipeg area and Vancouver Island
area; each with four net controllers.

Each controller is on duty once per
month for one hour. It is desirable for a
control station to have a beam antenna

and be able to produce a 59 signal
across Canada.

Please contact:

Vic Forde VE3HPD which a description
of your station at:
vicforde@globalserve.net

or:
614 Mountain Brow Blvd
Hamilton, Ontario
L8T 1B1

RAC Convention 2002

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

This email is to inform everyone of the
upcoming Radio Amateurs of Canada
2002 National Convention. This even
will be held July 26, 27, 28th of 2002 in
Vernon, BC.

This event is the second ever put on,
with the first happening 5 years ago in
Calgary, Alberta. It was a major
success, one of the largest Amateur
radio events EVER in Canada.

Amateurs who might be interested in
attending can obtain further information
at the new website, set up specially for
the event:

<http://www.rac2002.org/>

See you there,

Mike Roberts,
VE7KED/VA7EEE

60 meters?

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

A petition has been filed by the ARRL
that could result in a new high-
frequency band for US Amateurs. The
ARRL has asked the FCC to allocate
5.250 to 5.400 MHz to the Amateur
Service on a domestic (US-only),
secondary basis.

The League told the FCC that the new
band would aid emergency

communication activities by filling a
"propagation gap" between 80 and 40
meters. "There are times on certain
paths when a frequency in the 80-meter
band is too low, and a frequency in the
40-meter band is too high for reliable
ionospheric propagation," the ARRL
said in its petition. The ARRL said the
propagation gap can hamper
communications between the US and
the Caribbean during a hurricane or
severe weather emergency.

The ARRL Board of Directors approved
the proposal at its July 20-21 meeting.
The FCC has not yet invited public
comments on the petition. Even if the
petition finds favour with the FCC, it's
likely to be several years before the new
band actually becomes available.

As proposed by the ARRL, Amateurs
General class and higher would be
permitted to operate phone, data, image
and RTTY on the new band running
maximum authorized power. No mode-
specific sub-bands were proposed.

The ARRL said a new 150-kHz
allocation at 5 MHz also could relieve
substantial overcrowding that
periodically occurs on 80 and 40. If the
new band is approved, hams would have
to avoid interfering with, and accept
interference from, current occupants of
the spectrum, as they already do on 30
meters. The band 5.250 to 5.450MHz
now is allocated to Fixed and Mobile
services on a co-primary basis in all
three ITU regions.

The ARRL's petition cites the success of
the League's WA2XSY experimental
operation in the 60-meter band, carried
out since 1999, which confirmed the
communication reliability of 60 meters.

"An Amateur allocation in this band
would improve the Amateur Service's
already exemplary record of providing
emergency communications during
natural disasters when even modern
communications systems typically fail,"
the ARRL concluded.

A copy of the ARRL petition is
available on the ARRL Web site,
<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/5MHz>

Code certification

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

To encourage Morse code proficiency, Radio Amateurs of Canada now offers a "Certificate of Proficiency in Morse code", to be issued by the RAC Awards Manager, in recognition of candidate Morse code proficiency at speeds of 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40wpm.

A new dated certificate will be issued with each new 'qualification' earned. The examination and certificate are also available in the French language. A charge of \$5 is assessed to cover printing, handling and postage costs.

Any Accredited Examiner holding a current Industry Canada Letter of Authority, who voluntarily chooses to participate in this program, may perform testing. Certificate testing is for proficiency in Morse code reception using the Industry Canada RIC-1 standards. The examination may be generated by any of several software programs or audio tapes prepared using such a program, using suitable text selected by the Accredited Examiner. Accredited Examiners may also authorize the certificate application form for candidates who produce an original Advanced Amateur, First Class or Second Class Commercial, or military Morse code qualification certificate issued by the Canadian government to that candidate, for the receiving speed shown on that certificate.

Details, software and form downloads are available on the RAC website:
<http://www.rac.ca/morseprog.htm>

An eBay shopping guide

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

(I actually spotted this on one of the reflectors and must credit Kevin Hemsley KB7TYA. I thought it would get the year off to a great start and think

it applies not only to eBay, but ANY of the swap lists. Oh, and you might want to have this handy during your fleamarket excursion. Caveat emptor! ...ed)

For any of you who are looking to buy gear on eBay, here's a guide to phrases you will find on eBay describing Amateur radio equipment...and their real translation.

eBay: This rig puts out a BIG signal.
Translation: It's 50 kHz wide.

eBay: This is a really good CW rig.
Translation: It doesn't work on SSB.

eBay: This is a really good SSB rig.
Translation: It doesn't work on CW.

eBay: This is a really good rig.
Translation: It doesn't work on CW or SSB.

eBay: The transmitter is outstanding.
Translation: It doesn't receive.

eBay: The receiver is really hot.
Translation: It doesn't transmit.

eBay: This rig is really hot.
Translation: It's stolen.

eBay: It seems to be a vintage regenerative type.
Translation: It oscillates.

eBay: I just aligned it.
Translation: The slugs on the transformers are jammed.

eBay: I just had it serviced.
Translation: I sprayed WD-40 over all the wiring.

eBay: It works at full power.
Translation: It sucks all it can from the wall.

eBay: This rig has wide frequency coverage.
Translation: It drifts up and down and out of band.

eBay: Real popular rig in its day.
Translation: There were whole HF nets on the repair and maintenance problems.

eBay: It might need a bit of tweaking.
Translation: Marconi himself couldn't fix it, much less align it.

eBay: It was used in government service.
Translation: It was stored outdoors on a wooden pallet.

eBay: The dial drive may need lubricating.
Translation: The gears are stripped and the setscrews frozen.

eBay: I'm selling it because I have two of them.
Translation: I'm getting rid of my parts radio.

eBay: This is a collector's item.
Translation: The manufacturer just went belly up and won't honour the warranty.

eBay: It came from an estate sale.
Translation: If you have any problem, take it up with the deceased owner.

eBay: I'll pay for the shipping.
Translation: I'll do anything to unload this boat anchor.

eBay: It works ok on 80 meters.
Translation: It had some parasitics but I got in and really messed it up and now I want to unload it.

eBay: The tubes used by this rig are worth the asking price.
Translation: The rig uses a rare 7360 beam deflection tube for a balanced modulator, but it's blown and you'll spend \$80 to get a new one.

eBay: This is the rig of my dreams.
Translation: I really wanted one of these as a kid, but now I've got to let it go. As I've gotten older, I've learned what a hunk-a-junk it is.

eBay: The signal quality of this rig was easily recognizable in its day.
Translation: The high distortion and bad audio quickly identified this rig.

eBay: This rig will bring back the feelings and atmosphere of vintage ham gear.

Translation: The bypass capacitors to the AC line put enough voltage on the chassis to give you a shock in the lips through the microphone, and it smokes so bad when you turn it on that you'll probably start coughing and wheezing.

eBay: Better "buy it now", cause it won't last.
Translation: No translation needed!