



October 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

9-11-2001

David VE3STT - Editor

The World is a different place!

The images and stories about that Tuesday morning and about those involved is still absolutely surreal!

From first learning of the first plane hitting the World Trade Centre as I sat at my desk at work, to the rest of that unbelievable day, to getting caught up nightly with CNN, life has certainly changed.

And, because events related to that day and the days since are quite fluid, one can only sit back and monitor history as it unfolds before us.

I have put together a few stories related to 9-11-2001 from an Amateur Radio perspective, within days of the terrorist attacks, as taken from the ARRL e-newsletter. Those stories follow.

Out of the material I poured over for this edition of our newsletter the one item about "missing" Amateurs in the collapse of the WTC is particularly memorable. If confined to just the Amateur community, one can only imagine the lives that have been changed since that day and will be changed based on what happens in the very near future. I think I can safely say that our hearts go out to everyone touched by 9-11-2001.

AMATEUR RADIO RESPONDS IN WAKE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

Amateur Radio volunteers answered the call to assist in ongoing relief and recovery operations in New York City, Washington, DC, and western

Pennsylvania in the wake of terrorist attacks September 11. The need continues for operators to assist over the long haul, however. Current estimates suggest hams may be needed for a month or longer in the New York City area.

Along with most other federal agencies, the FCC closed its offices and sent its employees home following the attacks. The FCC did not issue an emergency declaration or other special instructions to the Amateur Radio community.

The ARRL advised amateurs to stay alert to instructions from local authorities.

New York City-Long Island Section

Next meeting's Speaker

October 17

Paul Cassel VE3SY

Paul will be speaking on the IRLP "Internet Radio Linking Project"

Hamfest 2001

We will go through the final preparations for the annual fealmarket/Hamfest. If you haven't done so yet, please step up and volunteer!

Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba KA2D, reported that hams have been supporting emergency officials and the American Red Cross relief and recovery effort. Amateurs have been staffing several Red Cross shelters in addition to a staging/National Disaster Medical System center, various Red Cross units, and the Greater New York City American Red Cross Headquarters as well as the New York City Office of

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!

Emergency Management.

Carrubba said the telephone system in lower Manhattan continues to be problematic because of the high call volume. "American Red Cross communications are overloaded, and traffic from the shelters is coming into the New York City net at a rapid pace," he said. "The Amateur Radio ops are doing a great job under very difficult and strange conditions, but this is what they have trained for; they are getting it done well."

Red Cross Communications Officer Jay Ferron N4GAA, agreed. "The Amateur Radio community has come out very big and very strong," he said, adding that local clubs and repeater groups have volunteered gear, frequencies and operators.

New York City District Emergency Coordinator Charles Hargrove N2NOV, has expressed his appreciation to the Amateur community. "Thank you for all the support and well wishes," he said. "This is a difficult time for all of us. We appreciate all the Amateurs who have volunteered their time and equipment."

Carrubba also cited the ongoing efforts of Guy Richman KC2AYG, who has been coordinating net controls for the ARES nets, and Manhattan ARRL EC John Kiernan KE2UN.

Amateurs have been working two 12-hour shifts per day, 8am to 8pm and 8pm to 8am, "plus or minus three or four hours, mostly plus," Carrubba said.

At the scene of the Pentagon attack near Washington, DC, Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Gregory N4NW, reported an "upbeat" crew of about two dozen Amateurs staffing six Amateur Radio stations in the immediate vicinity of the Pentagon. "What shocked me the most was the devastation you can see right there, 100 feet from the building," Gregory said. "The destruction is total."

The ARES operation is providing logistical support between the Salvation Army's relief and recovery effort on site and the agency's Arlington headquarters. The Salvation Army has deployed several mobile canteens and a

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

feeding unit to serve military and civilian emergency personnel assigned to the recovery operation.

"What we're finding is that communication is very difficult because of the tremendous amount of noise from the construction-type equipment and the generators providing power for the lights and support staff," Gregory said. Because of the noise level, operators are being rotated frequently in and out of the immediate vicinity of the attack. "There's the emotion of it, and there's the tremendous amount of noise, and it's very grating on you because you can hardly hear the radio to communicate," Gregory explained.

Gregory described the entire area as "very crowded with people" inside and outside the Pentagon. "People and equipment cleaning up, finding bodies, finding plane parts, firefighters still checking for hot spots, hoses, equipment," he said. "The damage to the building looks worse when you are right next to it than it does on TV."

"I found that it took me a few minutes to realize the gravity of what was going on and the importance of what we hams are doing in our own small way to help out," Gregory said. "The devastation of that building is awesome, and it puts things in perspective and it certainly made me proud to be an Amateur Radio operator and serve the people of the United States by offering the support we could."

Gregory emphasized that Pentagon site security is extremely tight. All ham volunteers must have a photo ID issued by a government entity to the secured area. "The FBI is handling issuance of IDs for access to the secured area and is doing a complete NCIC check before a photo ID is issued," Gregory said.

At the so-called "fourth" plane crash site in rural Somerset County western Pennsylvania, Kevin Custer W3KKC, reported a busy scene as the investigation continues. Custer arranged preliminary repeater communication into and out of the crash site on Tuesday to help the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Pennsylvania

State Police, the FBI and other state and federal agencies on the scene.

Custer said the investigation could continue for several weeks. "At this time we are preparing for the possibility of family members coming to the crash site--or close by," he said.

Montgomery County, Maryland, Deputy RACES Officer John Creel WB3GXW, observed that while the enormity of the attacks is bound to touch the Amateur community directly or indirectly, he has seen nothing but professionalism among the responding operators in his area. Creel advised Amateurs to "just be prepared," and he echoed the sentiment of many that the events of September 11 "will be with us for the rest of our lives."

More detailed and updated information on Amateur Radio's involvement in the disaster relief and recovery efforts is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org>.

ARRL PRESIDENT PRAISES AMATEURS' RESPONSE

ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP, has expressed his deep appreciation to Amateurs throughout the world that have sent messages of condolence and support. Haynie also praised the actions of Amateur Radio volunteers.

"The shock and horror of yesterday morning's events are still fresh in our minds," Haynie said the day after the September 11 terrorist attacks. "Radio Amateurs in New York City and elsewhere around the country are doing everything they can to support the authorities in locating and assisting victims. We know that there are many among us who have been touched personally by these tragedies, but there is comfort in knowing that we are not alone in our grief."

"Never have I felt more strongly about what a great privilege it is to be a part of the extraordinary global community of Amateur Radio," Haynie concluded.

Messages of support arrived throughout the week at ARRL Headquarters from International Amateur Radio Union member societies and from individual Amateurs around the world. Japan

HARC 2000-2001 Executive

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To be Announced

Treasurer

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Director

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Director

To be Announced

Amateur Radio League President Shozo Hara JA1AN, expressed "great shock and dismay" at the attacks in New York and Washington and offered "heartfelt condolences to the victims and families of the victims" as well as any assistance JARL could offer. Deutscher Amateur-Radio Club Managing Director Bernd Haefner DB4DL, relayed similar sentiments. "At this horrible time, we all are Americans," he wrote.

ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie WT3P, noted that, on a day when many Americans were rushing home to be with their families, many Amateurs were assisting in the emergency response. "Compared to the sacrifices by emergency responders in New York City and at the Pentagon, it was a small thing, yet a thing that should not go without notice."

AMATEURS AMONG THE MISSING IN WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACK

At least four Amateur Radio operators are among the many still missing in the aftermath of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Centre in New York City. The attack also destroyed the major TV and radio-transmitting site atop one of the twin towers.

The hams reported missing so far include:



Nutech Electronics

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Steven A. "Steve" Jacobson N2SJ, 53, of New York City, a transmitter engineer for WPIX TV, and an ARRL member.

William V. "Bill" Steckman WA2ACW, of W Hempstead, New York, a transmitter engineer for WNBC TV. He was well know in the NYC area and ran a number of repeaters from the World Trade Centre, most notably the 434 MHz ATV repeater.

Robert D. "Bob" Cirri Sr. KA2OTD, 39, an ARRL member from Nutley, New Jersey and the ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for Hudson County. A Port Authority police officer, Cirri was on the job helping to evacuate workers from the building when it collapsed.

Michael G. Jacobs AA1GO, 54, an ARRL member from Danbury, Connecticut. Jacobs worked at Fiduciary Trust Company International, which had offices in the World Trade Centre.

The collapse of the World Trade Centre brought down the master TV transmitting antenna that served all but one television station in New York City, as well as several radio stations and amateur repeaters. "The broadcast community is in absolute shock," said Hudson Division Vice Director Steve Mendelsohn W2ML, who works for ABC News. "We all knew transmitter engineers, we all knew people who worked up in those towers near those big television transmitters, and they're gone."

Mendelsohn said many viewers in the Greater New York City Area who are not on cable could only see WCBS, channel 2, which maintains its transmitter site on the Empire State Building. WCBS has offered assistance and space to help the other stations get back on the air from its site, he said.

"None of the other transmitters exist anymore. They're in the rubble along with the master antenna system, hundreds and hundreds of two-way radio system antennas, and boxes and, of course, untold thousands of people who perished."

There was cause for rejoicing in the case of another amateur who worked in the World Trade Centre. Rob Nall WV0S, reports that his friend, Herman Belderok, Jr. KB0EEB, managed to get out of the building just minutes before the structure collapsed.

ARES/RACES NYC EFFORT STANDS DOWN; REACT STILL SEEKING AMATEURS

After nearly two weeks of intense effort, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Civil Emergency Service volunteer effort in New York City has wound down.

REACT International is still seeking Amateur Radio and licensed GMRS users, primarily to support the Salvation Army's relief efforts in New York City.

HARC 2001-2002 Chairs

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

Contesting - Rick Danby
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Education - Mardy Eedson
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Flea Market - Bob Milburn
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Health/Welfare - Mary Urbanski
VE3OGQ 388-8383

Hospitality - Monthly Volunteers

Membership - Mardy Eedson
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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

REACT International Secretary Lee Besing N5NTG, said REACT needs up to two dozen volunteers a day.

ARRL New York City-Long Island ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba KA2D, says the American Red Cross closed all shelters that remained open in New York City on September 23, while the New York City Office of Emergency Management terminated Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service support Monday, September 24. An American Red Cross net supporting two respite stations from Red Cross Headquarters in Brooklyn was expected to shut down by September 25. "Any remaining Amateur Radio Emergency Service activity would be handled by volunteers from the Greater New York City area," Carrubba said.

ARRL New York City-Long Island Section Manager George Tranos N2GA, expressed his gratitude to all Amateur Radio operators who came forward to assist the ARES/RACES effort. "The system works and our 'hobby' has performed well as a 'service' to the public," Tranos said. He estimated that some 500 Amateur Radio volunteers helped out with communications support for the disaster.

ARRL President Haynie visited September 21 with some of the New York-area ARES volunteers. Haynie thanked all volunteers for their work.

The Art Ferguson Trophy

David VE3STT - Editor

The "Art Ferguson Trophy" is awarded annually by HARC in recognition of meritorious service to the public through Amateur radio communication.

To be eligible for this award the person should be a member in good standing, or past member of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. Nominations for this award are traditionally submitted in writing to the HARC Executive not later than November 1st. The HARC

Executive makes a final decision on this award based on information received.

If you have any questions, or know of a member that fits the criteria, please make a submission of their behalf. Lorraine VA3NZ, our Awards Chair, can answer any questions you may have.

September minutes

Ilona VE3UGM – Secretary

Wednesday, September 19, the Meeting came to order at 8:08 pm.

Emsley VE3JAI, the Club's new President, welcomed everyone including visiting guests to the meeting and asked for a moment of silence out of respect for those that died in New York. Mardy VE3QEE provided information about how hams could volunteer to help out in New York.

Notice

Emsley VE3JAI, gave notice that the Club's Fleamarket was being held on Saturday, October 13, 2001 at Marritt Hall, Ancaster and more volunteers were required.

October General Meeting Speaker

Emsley also said that the speaker for the October 17, 2001 meeting would be Paul Cassel VE3SY, speaking on "INTERNET RADIO LINKING PROJECT".

Evening's Speaker

Emsley introduced the evening's topic, which was the Club's Repeater & Autopatch, it's history and a description of its set up at the present time with instructions on its use. He gave an interesting and entertaining history of how the Club's Repeater was first set up and its ups and downs since then until the present. Mardy VE3QEE, showed slides of the Repeater and related equipment, as set up at its present location with detailed explanations provided by David VE3DNN. David then proceeded to provide information on Autopatch usage, the technical aspects and also the protocol, acceptable behaviour and how to avoid being obnoxious on the air.

Field Day 2001 Results

David VE3DWW, announced Field Day results. The Club score was 4,684pts plus 600 bonus points. The number of contacts made were as follows: 40m CW – 520q, 40m SSB – 580q; 80m SSB - 242; 20m SSB – 389q; 15m SSB – 64q; 10m SSB - 6 contacts; 2m phone – 21q.

Coffee Break at 9:20pm featuring Tim Horton timbits!

The Meeting reconvened for business at 9:45pm.

Gavel Transfer

Immediate Past President, Linda VA3LJU, presented Emsley VE3JAI, President with the President's Gavel to applause from the members present. Emsley thanked Linda for a job well done as last year's President, to more applause from the membership.

Public Service

Linda VA3LJU, said that a volunteer regular net controller, and a volunteer part-time net controller were needed for one hour per month in the Hamilton/Burlington area. To apply get in touch with Vic Forde VE3HPD at vicforde@globalserve.net. For additional information see last month's HARC Newsletter, (Sept 2001) under "Net controllers needed".

Secretary's Minutes

MOVED by Walter VA3WWB, seconded by Joe VE3JWE, and passed without objection that the Secretary's Minutes for the June General Meeting as printed in the September issue of the Club's Newsletter, The Hamilton Amateur, be approved.

Treasurer's Report

Walter VA3WWB said that in the absence of Doug VE3ZDG at today's meeting, there was no Treasurer's report at this time.

Membership

Mardy VE3QEE, Membership Chair, said that the Club had 105 members at present. Mardy welcomed new member Don Roop, to much applause. MOVED by David VE3DNN, seconded by Mardy VE3QEE and unanimously

approved that the Membership Report be accepted.

Education

Mardy VE3QEE, said that no one had signed up for the Basic Course as yet, but that he would be starting a Class after the Fleamarket, (ie: after October 13) if anyone showed interest. Mardy mentioned that Brad was still available to teach the Advanced Class, but that the CW Class was not staffed at present. MOVED by Bernie VA3XJ, seconded by Pat VE3EIK, and unanimously approved that the Education Report be accepted.

Health and Welfare

Mary VE3OGQ, Health and Welfare Chair, said that there was nothing to report, it having been a quiet summer.

Fleamarket

Bob VE3MFM, reminded everyone that the HARC Fleamarket was coming up on Saturday, October 13 at Marritt Hall in Ancaster and that volunteers were needed especially to set up tables at 6am. Bob also asked members to bring door prizes and provided an introductory letter to be used by members when soliciting door prizes from businesses. Those members who have door prizes can arrange to call Bob to have these picked up.

Warplane Heritage Museum Station Chris VE3PKY, said that the vintage radio equipment at the Warplane Museum had been inspected and was being set up as it would have been set up in an old Lancaster. Frank VA3FWL, said that members volunteering to work the Warplane Station any time during the last three days of the week when it would be open to being operated, should sign up with Frank.

Executive Vacancies

Emsley VE3JAI, said that two directorship positions needed to be filled as Doug VE3ZDG and Ilona VE3UGM had indicated they would no longer be able to serve as directors. Emsley read a poem about commitment and said he would be

phoning everyone on the membership list asking them to try to help out with the work of running the Club.

Adjournment

MOVED by Mardy VE3QEE, seconded by Walter VA3WWB and approved that the Meeting be adjourned.

The Meeting ended at 10:20pm.

President's message

Emsley VE3JAI - President

It was indeed very encouraging to see so many club members out to our first meeting in spite of inclement weather conditions. If this is any indication of things to come, then I think we are off on the right foot.

The Ham radio hobby, we are told, has taken a back seat to such activities as surfing on the internet, big screen TV and sports to name a few. What is needed to engender and rekindle enthusiasms is something new and exciting about the hobby. My guess is that "The Internet Radio Linking Project" (IRLP) may just be that ticket.

This system allows hams to link their local repeater with other repeaters all over the world via the Internet. Just imagine a QSO with your Australian counterpart on 2 meters. With this comes a new set of operating procedures and protocols as is customary with any new technology.

Come on out to our October meeting and learn how this is being done. The guest speaker will be Paul Cassel VE3SY. Be sure to read his article in the current issue of "The Canadian Amateur" and come prepared with your questions.

Looking ahead, the Hamfest will be on the 13th Oct. and club members are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can. The Hamfest is very important to the club not only as its main source of income but also as a social event so let us have some fun at this one. See you all at the Hamfest.

RAC Ontario-South Director resigns

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

Dana Shtun VE3DSS, has tendered his resignation, effective immediately, due to health reasons.

The RAC Board of Directors and Executive extend their sincere thanks to Mr. Shtun for his participation on the RAC Board in recent years.

The RAC Board of Directors is also pleased to announce the appointment of Robert (Bob) Cooke VE3BDB as Interim Ontario-South Regional Director. Mr. Cooke will complete the remainder of Mr. Shtun's term ending December 31 2001.

On January 01 2002, Robert Cooke VE3BDB will assume the position of Ontario-South Regional Director for a two-year term.

Shortwave frequencies

Gord VE3AAH

(After showing us his new toy, its only fitting Gord would pass along some of the bands and "choice" listening holes on shortwave...ed)

Band - MHz

120m	2.30 - 2.50Mhz
90m	3.20 - 3.40Mhz
75m	3.90 - 4.00Mhz
49m	5.95 - 6.20Mhz
31m	9.50 - 9.90Mhz
25m	11.60 - 12.10Mhz
19m	15.10 - 15.80Mhz
16m	17.48 - 17.90Mhz
13m	21.45 - 21.80Mhz
11m	25.60 - 26.10Mhz

Aeronautical USB	Maritime USB
2850-3155	4063 - 4438
3400-3500	5200 - 6525
4650-4750	8195 - 8815
5480-5730	12230 - 13200

6525-6765	13630-17410
8815-9040	18780-18900
10005-10100	19680-19800
11175-11400	22000-22720
13200-13360	25070-25110
15010-15100	
21870-22000	
23200-23350	

You will notice some of the frequencies cover some of the Amateur ones.

Origin of 73

Rick VE3BK

(Rick passed this along to me, but it actually was compiled by Glen K9STH...ed)

Many Amateurs already know that "73" is from what is known as the "Phillips Code", a series of numeric messages conceived for the purpose of cutting down transmission time on the old land telegraph systems when sending text that is basically the same.

In the April 1935 issue of QST on page 60 there is a short article on the origin of 73. This article was a summation of another article that appeared in the "December Bulletin from the US Navy Department Office of the Chief of Naval Operations". That would be December of 1934.

The quotation is as follows: "It appears from a research of telegraph histories that in 1859 the telegraph people held a convention, and one of its features was a discussion as to the saving of 'line time'. A committee was appointed to devise a code to reduce standard expressions to symbols or figures. This committee worked out a figure code, from figure 1 to 92. Most of these figure symbols became obsolescent, but a few remain to this date, such as 4, which means 'Where shall I go ahead?'; Figure 9 means 'wire', the wire chief being on the wire and that everyone should close their keys; Symbol 13 means 'I don't understand'; 22 is 'love and a kiss'; 30 means 'good night' or 'the end'. The symbol most often used now is 73, which means 'my compliments'. The other figures in between seem to have fallen into almost complete disuse."