



November 2001

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

The Hamilton Amateur

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

Swap net on net

David VE3STT - Editor

Judging by the numbers we've been racking up on our HARC website "hit counter", our page is a hot spot. And, thanks to Don VE3DDQ, it just got a little hotter!

Don has kindly offered to host a page for our weekly HARC Swap Net. He will be in close contact with Frank VE3FWL, who hosts the weekly Swap Net after our usual HARC "Check-In Net" on Tuesday nights. Together they'll provide yet another avenue to buy, sell and trade Amateur equipment.

Already many members have visited the link, accessible off the main page of the club website. If you happen to be in the market for almost anything Amateur, I suggest you have a listen Tuesday evenings and then check it out in black and white (actually yellow on black) on the web page for a bit more detail and to hopefully let you make an informed decision about a new piece of Amateur gear!

Thanks to Don for taking up the effort of putting the page up! Next time you see him at a club meeting make sure you say hi and thank him as well. Or, better yet, visit the site and take a look at some of his work.

The IARU on CW

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

Saying that it was "setting aside any previous relevant decisions," the International Amateur Radio Union

(IARU) Administrative Council, the first week of October, resolved that IARU policy supports "the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an Amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz." The Council further resolved to urge member societies, as an interim measure, to seek Morse code testing speeds "not exceeding five words per minute."

Next meeting's Speaker

November 21

St. John's Ambulance

SJA will give a talk about safety and first aid in the home. This will be a Basic Level demo and we encourage you to bring a spouse and the kids (if that applies)!

The resolution was adopted during the IARU Administrative Council meeting October 6-8 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, which followed the 14th General Assembly of IARU Region 2.

The Council's Morse resolution took into consideration the approval, without opposition, of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544. That document sets out the minimum qualifications of radio Amateurs. The Council also said it recognizes that Morse code "continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs" but that Morse code proficiency as requirement for an HF amateur license "is no longer relevant to the healthy future of Amateur Radio."

The principal business at the Administrative Council session was to

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!

review the status of IARU preparations for WRC-2003. Agenda items of concern to amateurs include, among others, the harmonization of Amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz, and possible revisions to Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations.

Among other things, Article S25 spells out Amateur Radio operator qualifications. It now provides that Amateur Radio license applicants demonstrate the ability "to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals" for operation below 30 MHz. The IARU Administrative Council supports the revision of Article S25 and the incorporation by reference of Recommendation M.1544.

The IARU Council selected the theme of the next World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2002, as "Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."

The "day after"

David VE3STT - Editor

In the last edition of the newsletter "September 11th" was the front-page story. In the weeks after that tragic event the Amateur Radio connection has subsided, but even in the Amateur world the influence and repercussions of that fateful day are being felt.

One topic that has generated some serious action on the internet reflectors related to the hobby is the following announcement made by CQ Magazine with respect to the filing of logs after major contests. This, of course, is connected to the more recent "scares" via the mail.

To all Amateurs active in CQ Magazine sponsored contests:

Due to security concerns, CQ Communications Inc. is asking all participants in CQ-sponsored amateur radio contests to submit their logs electronically.

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 chair for information.

Hamfest 2002 date will be announced shortly for October 2002! Thanks to everyone that attended and helped with Hamfest 2001!

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

All logs for the CQ World Wide DX Contest, the CQ WPX Contest, the CQ WW 160-Meter Contest, the CQ WW VHF Contest and the CQ/RTTY Journal RTTY contests should be submitted via e-mail per instructions in the rules for each contest. In light of recent events regarding hazardous items sent through the mail, logs received through the mail at the CQ offices will be held unopened until all potential health risks have been evaluated. CQ says it cannot guarantee that logs submitted by postal mail will be opened. Contesters who want to be sure their scores will be counted must submit by e-mail.

"We regret the need to inconvenience those contesters who do not have access to internet-connected computers, or who choose to log by hand and submit those hand-written logs," explained CQ Communications President Dick Ross K2MGA. "But our logs come from all over the world. While the risk that Amateurs might be involved in any sort of terrorist activity is extremely small, mail en route may be subject to tampering. We cannot ask our staff members or contest committee volunteers to possibly expose themselves to dangerous packages sent through the mail."

CQ requests that this information be disseminated widely so as many contesters as possible will be aware of this rules change before the SSB weekend of the CQ World Wide DX Contest on October 27-28.

Alternatives for contesters without computer logging programs or e-mail access:

1) Get a computer logging program. There are many excellent and reasonably priced programs available. Many may be downloaded on the Internet so there is no shipping delay. Some basic logging programs are even available as "freeware."

2) Transcribe your log into an ASCII text (.txt) file on a word processing program. Using the format on the log sheet, enter each item for each contact, separated by a tab. Separate each contact with a carriage return (enter

key). Save onto a floppy disk and e-mail (many public libraries have computers with e-mail capabilities) to the address listed in the contest rules. Be sure to include the required information about your station in a covering e-mail message.

(I suspect a great majority of the contesters in most of the "developed" World are already submitting material in some kind of electronic form, but those that still may not have computer access, or just choose to do things "the old-fashioned way" may see this as a substantial hurdle. And in an most unfortunate way, those are the people that are most appreciated by getting on the air and participating from their "rare" Countries and zones!

And the "serious action on the net reflectors" I noted earlier has basically taken the form of either supporting the decision because of the obvious problem with tampering letters or has pointed the finger to "giving in to the perpetrators on these terrorist actions".

Either way, like I said last month, "the World is a different place"..ed)

President's Message

EmsleyVE3JAI - President

It's beginning to feel a lot like winter and any day now it will start looking like winter. Although the countdown to Christmas has not yet begun, people are beginning to make preparations for the event. HARC is no exception and this year Linda VA3LJU, who is coordinating our annual Christmas party, has made arrangements to hold the event at Panama Jacks restaurant. This is going to be a grand affair, one you won't want to miss. We are expecting a good turnout so plan to be there. The details of the event can be found elsewhere in this bulletin.

The speaker for our November meeting will be a representative from St. Johns Ambulance. Her talk will be about safety and first aide in the home. This will be a basic level demonstration with information that impacts our daily lives.

HARC 2000-2001 Executive

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Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI

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Director

Stanley Bolibruch VE3GFE

538-4002

We encourage you to bring your spouse and children to this meeting.

HARC executive meetings are currently set for the Tuesday following the general meetings and are held at the clubroom at Mohawk College. They are open to all members of the club and are you invited to attend. It is with great pleasure that we welcome the new appointees to the executive, Stanley Bolibruch VE3GFE, member at large and Fred Robinson VE3GCP, secretary. Stanley will also take on additional duties as Public Liaison chairperson. The next general club meeting is on November 21st and I hope to see you there.

New IARU Region II Executive

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

After serving for 18 years on the IARU-Region II Executive Committee as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and Area A Director, Tom Atkins VE3CDM, retired from the office of IARU-Region II. Many



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presentations were made to Tom for his long and outstanding service. Radio Amateurs of Canada presented Tom with a plaque recognizing him for his outstanding achievements and long service.

Area C Director Guillermo Nunez XE1NJ also retires from the IARU-Region II Executive. The following were elected for a three-year term:

President: Pedro Seidemann YV5BPG
Vice-President: Dario Jurado HP1DJ
Secretary: Rod Stafford W6ROD
Treasurer: Noel Donawa 9Y4NED

Area Directors:

A - Tim Ellam VE6SH

B - Rod Stafford W6ROD

C - Pedro Rodriguez CO2RP

D - Marco T Gudiel TG9AGD
E - Noel Donawa 9Y4NED
F - Gustavo de Faria Franco PT2ADM
G - Reinaldo Szama LU2AH

Canadian Amateurs participating in IARU-Region II affairs has a long and outstanding history. With the retirement of Tom Atkins VE3CDM, from the IARU-Region II Executive, the recent election of Tim Ellam VE6SH as Area A Director represents the continuing involvement of Canadian Amateurs since the founding of Region II in Mexico City in 1964.

At that time, under the leadership of Noel Eaton VE3CJ and others, having the foresight to know and understand that Region II needed to organize themselves for the future of the Amateur radio service.

With the election of Tim VE6SH, as Area A Director, the Canadian tradition continues!

October minutes

Emsley VE3JAI – President

The meeting was called to order at 8:05pm by president Emsley VE3JAI. He extended a hearty welcome to all members of the club and especially to first time visitors and new members at the meeting.

Emsley spoke briefly about Hamfest 2001 that was held on Saturday Oct. 13 thanking the organizers of the event, Bob VA3MFM, Mardy VE3QEE and all the volunteers and supporters for a splendid effort.

Looking ahead to the Nov. Dec. meetings, Emsley advised that information about these meetings will be published in the November issue of the bulletin as plans are currently in the making. He also took the opportunity to announce the appointees to the executive. Fred VE3GCP one of the appointees was introduced, Stanley VE3GFE the other executive appointee was absent. They fill the vacancies left by Treasurer Doug VE3ZDG and Secretary Ilona VE3UGM.

HARC 2001-2002 Chairs

Awards & Volunteer Examiner

Lorraine MacPherson
VA3NZ 389-7653
ab510@hwcen.org

Contesting & Property Manager

Rick Danby
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Education Fleamarket Co-Chair Membership

Mardy Eedson
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Emergency

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Volunteer Examiner

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Field Day & Repeater/Technical Co-Chair

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Flea Market Co-Chair

Bob Milburn
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Health/Welfare

Mary Urbanski
VE3OGQ 388-8383

Hospitality

Monthly Volunteers

Newsletter/Web

David Jones
VE3STT 549-1919
ve3stt@rac.ca

Public Liaison

Stanley Bolibruch
VE3GFE 538-4002

Repeater/Technical Co-Chair

David Near
VE3DNN 385-6656

Swap Net Control

Frank Love
VA3FWL 679-4524

Linda VA3LJU, past president, introduced the guest speaker Paul Cassel VE3SY. Paul who is a member of the KWARC (Kitchener Waterloo Amateur Radio club) spoke about "The Internet Radio Linking Program. The talk was very interesting and informative. Questions and answers interspersed throughout the presentation brought out the nitty-gritty of the IRLP system. Some of the stated benefits are: a) increased activity on local repeater b) a great way to spark life back into local activity c) less chance of Government take back of frequency d) a great attraction for kids and low cost.

IRLP usage guidelines are available at www.kwarc.org/irlp/. Streaming audio can be heard at www.irlp.net and www.kwarc.org/listen.

The talk ended at 9pm followed by a coffee break. The meeting reconvened at 9:20pm for business. Motion to accept the minutes of the September 19th meeting as published in the October issue of "The Hamilton Amateur" moved by Walter VA3WWB seconded by Michael VA3WXS - CARRIED.

Doug VE3ZDG gave the financial report. He reported that the Hamfest made \$1,768.65 compared to \$1,608.54 from the previous year. Also 402 admission tickets were sold this year, 29 more than last year. Motion to accept the treasurer's report moved by Mardy VE3QEE and seconded by Casey VE3CVP - CARRIED.

Membership Chair Mardy VE3QEE stated that the club now has 105 members. A new member was signed up. He is Dean VE3KIN. The new member was applauded. Motion to accept the membership report moved Mardy VE3QEE and seconded by Fred VE3GCP - CARRIED.

Mardy VE3QEE also gave the education report, saying Joe VE3OCD has agreed to teach the CW class and anyone wishing to learn CW should contact either Joe or himself. Motion to accept the education report by Jim

VE3OWL seconded by Walter
VA3WWB - CARRIED.

Gordon VE3AAH attended Quarter Century Wireless Association meeting and was awarded a plaque for 65 years activity in Amateur Radio. Gordon received a thunderous round of applause.

Contesting Chair Rick VE3BK spoke about the up coming CQ SSB worldwide DX contest at the end of October. He said that six stations will be in operation for this contest and invited anyone interested in operating to come out to the site.

In the absence of Awards Chair Lorraine VA3NZ, Mardy VE3QEE made the presentation of the CW Award to Bernie VA3XJ. Bernie spoke briefly about the history of the previous name of the award *CW Order of the Gavel*. Mardy also read a letter of appreciation from the Canadian Cancer Society for the club's participation in the Great Ride and Stride for Cancer on the Linc.

Mary in her report on Health and Welfare stated that Jeff Leg VE3GLL an early treasurer of the club in now a silent key. Mary sent a card to the Mr. Leg's family conveying the club's condolences.

David VA3DMK addressed a question from the audience pertaining to the accessibility of area repeater linking codes. Area repeater linking codes, David said, may be found on the club's website.

The Christmas party coordinator this year is Linda VA3JLU. Linda reported that she has approached Panama Jacks as a possible venue and will report on cost at the November meeting.

The *Early Registration Draw* was conducted by Mardy. Terry Smith VA3NDB was the winner of the draw

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Fred VE3GCP and seconded by Walter VA3WWB - CARRIED. The meeting ended at 10:05pm.

Happy Holidays

Linda VA3LJU - Past-President

The club's Christmas Party will be held:

**December 12th - 7:00pm
at Panama Jak's
on Upper Gage Avenue**

Tickets for the party will be available at the November general meeting or by calling Linda VA3LJU at 905 389-4091. Tickets must be purchased before December 1st and are \$15 per person. You may choose between prime rib, balsamic chicken or fish dinners. This is a dress-up occasion, so please, no jeans or t-shirts.

Tower painting?

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

("Tis the season!" "Do it before the snow flies"... I spotted this in my travels and it sounds like a pretty good idea! I've credited the originator at the end of the brief article...ed)

You don't have to go through the tedium of brush painting a tower with a new coat of paint. Paint stores sell pairs of woolly-surfaced gloves for just this type of job. You just dip your gloved hands in the paint wipe off the surplus and stroke or caress your tower elements. Probably feels good too?

I did not use this method and did it the hard way, which took several Saturdays on a 70 ft crank-up, but a friend W6MVV/4 did and breezed through it in an afternoon on a comparable tower.

The Rohn tower catalogue has them as "Paint Mitt with thumb" Part Nr.ETPM.

John AB4ET teamw@quixnet.net

(And having helped paint a couple of the towers standing at the VE3DC contest site, I'm ALL FOR trying this method next time.

Oh, and buy the way, I do NOT subscribe to that age-old wisdom that the Winter months are the best time to do tower and antenna work!...ed)

Our Sun flips

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

(Mardy VE3QEE sent me an e-mail with a "heads up" on a great article on something about which we likely know very little, but can affect us so much on the Amateur bands, the Sun. Things like flares, storms and aurora all play havoc on the bands from time to time. You can learn more about our Sun and see the full article below and the great accompanying graphics and charts by following:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2001/ast15feb_1.htm

In the meantime, here's the text, dated February 15, 2001...ed)

You can't tell by looking, but scientists say the Sun has just undergone an important change. Our star's magnetic field has flipped.

The Sun's magnetic north pole, which was in the northern hemisphere just a few months ago, now points south. It's a topsy-turvy situation, but not an unexpected one.

"This always happens around the time of solar maximum," says David Hathaway, a solar physicist at the Marshall Space Flight Center. "The magnetic poles exchange places at the peak of the sunspot cycle. In fact, it's a good indication that Solar Max is really here."

The Sun's magnetic poles will remain as they are now, with the north magnetic pole pointing through the Sun's southern hemisphere, until the year 2012 when they will reverse again. This transition happens, as far as we know, at the peak of every 11-year sunspot cycle -- like clockwork.

Earth's magnetic field also flips, but with less regularity. Consecutive reversals are spaced 5 thousand years to 50 million years apart. The last reversal happened 740,000 years ago. Some researchers think our planet is overdue for another one, but nobody knows

exactly when the next reversal might occur.

Although solar and terrestrial magnetic fields behave differently, they do have something in common: their shape. During solar minimum the Sun's field, like Earth's, resembles that of an iron bar magnet, with great closed loops near the equator and open field lines near the poles. Scientists call such a field a "dipole." The Sun's dipolar field is about as strong as a refrigerator magnet, or 50 gauss (a unit of magnetic intensity). Earth's magnetic field is 100 times weaker.

When solar maximum arrives and sunspots pepper the face of the Sun, our star's magnetic field begins to change. Sunspots are places where intense magnetic loops -- hundreds of times stronger than the ambient dipole field -- poke through the photosphere.

"Meridional flows on the Sun's surface carry magnetic fields from mid-latitude sunspots to the Sun's poles," explains Hathaway. "The poles end up flipping because these flows transport south-pointing magnetic flux to the north magnetic pole, and north-pointing flux to the south magnetic pole." The dipole field steadily weakens as oppositely-directed flux accumulates at the Sun's poles until, at the height of solar maximum, the magnetic poles change polarity and begin to grow in a new direction.

Hathaway noticed the latest polar reversal in a "magnetic butterfly diagram." Using data collected by astronomers at the U.S. National Solar Observatory on Kitt Peak, he plotted the Sun's average magnetic field, day by day, as a function of solar latitude and time from 1975 through the present. The result is a sort of strip chart recording that reveals evolving magnetic patterns on the Sun's surface. "We call it a butterfly diagram," he says, "because sunspots make a pattern in this plot that looks like the wings of a butterfly."

In the butterfly diagram, pictured below, the Sun's polar fields appear as strips of uniform color near 90 degrees latitude. When the colors change (in this case from blue to yellow or vice versa) it

means the polar fields have switched signs.

The ongoing changes are not confined to the space immediately around our star, Hathaway added. The Sun's magnetic field envelops the entire solar system in a bubble that scientists call the "heliosphere." The heliosphere extends 50 to 100 astronomical units (AU) beyond the orbit of Pluto. Inside it is the solar system -- outside is interstellar space.

"Changes in the Sun's magnetic field are carried outward through the heliosphere by the solar wind," explains Steve Suess, another solar physicist at the Marshall Space Flight Center. "It takes about a year for disturbances to propagate all the way from the Sun to the outer bounds of the heliosphere."

Because the Sun rotates (once every 27 days) solar magnetic fields corkscrew outwards in the shape of an Archimedian spiral. Far above the poles the magnetic fields twist around like a child's Slinky toy.

Because of all the twists and turns, "the impact of the field reversal on the heliosphere is complicated," says Hathaway. Sunspots are sources of intense magnetic knots that spiral outwards even as the dipole field vanishes. The heliosphere doesn't simply wink out of existence when the poles flip -- there are plenty of complex magnetic structures to fill the void.

Or so the theory goes.... Researchers have never seen the magnetic flip happen from the best possible point of view -- that is, from the top down.

But now, the unique Ulysses spacecraft may give scientists a reality check. Ulysses, an international joint venture of the European Space Agency and NASA, was launched in 1990 to observe the solar system from very high solar latitudes. Every six years the spacecraft flies 2.2 AU over the Sun's poles. No other probe travels so far above the orbital plane of the planets.

"Ulysses just passed under the Sun's south pole," says Suess, a mission co-investigator. "Now it will loop back and fly over the north pole in the fall."

"This is the most important part of our mission," he says. Ulysses last flew over the Sun's poles in 1994 and 1996, during solar minimum, and the craft made several important discoveries about cosmic rays, the solar wind, and more. "Now we get to see the Sun's poles during the other extreme: Solar Max. Our data will cover a complete solar cycle."

To learn more about the Sun's changing magnetic field and how it is generated, please visit "The Solar Dynamo," a web page prepared by the NASA/Marshall solar research group. Updates from the Ulysses spacecraft may be found on the Internet from JPL at <http://ulysses.jpl.nasa.gov>.

CQWW SSB 2001

David VE3STT – Editor

This past weekend (October 27-28) the SSB portion of the annual CQWW contest took place and, as always, VE3DC was well represented! We again operated from the contest site and after doing extensive antenna, tower and site work through the summer months we were anxious to see if that effort paid off?

On behalf of the group, I think I can safely say that we exceeded expectations in both the areas of contest performance and pure fun, achieving numbers that were the BEST yet, certainly in the CQWW!

We decided to operate Multi-Multi again this year, which to the uninitiated, means operating an unlimited number of stations and operators. In our case, thanks to some good preparatory work by several members of the contest group, we settled on four stations. This provided a good combination of maximizing the number of stations on at any given time and not having too many stations inactive when the bands completely died out, or the bodies of the actual contesters (which tends to happen around sunrise after the first overnight run)!

By the next newsletter I hope to pass along more stats and stories.