



December 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

Hamfest 2001 donors list

David VE3STT - Editor

It didn't reach me in time for the last edition of the newsletter, so I thought we would start this month with a list of those that donated door prizes to our annual Hamfest. Without support from people like this, vendors that purchased tables, commercial vendors that attended and of course the many HARC volunteers, we would not have our annual Hamfest (a vital part of our fundraising for the fiscal year)! Thanks to:

Ernie Estrabillio - Ernie's Datacomm Inc., 19 Chipman Ave - Mobile antenna

Walt Bayliss - Schindler Elevator Corp., 28 Harriet St. - Golf balls

Shoppers Home Health Care/Doncaster, 753 Main St. E. - Mini food chopper

Barry Lisoweski - Glentel Wireless Centre, 979 Main St. E. - Mobile window mount antenna

Sheila Natha - Nutech Electronics, 166 Parkdale Ave. N. - \$15.00 gift certificate and multimeter

Rondaalyn Brown - Westfield Heritage Village - Family pass for Christmas or Maple Syrup programme

Tony Pizacalla - Grand & Toy, 2 King St. West - Computer carrying case

Rick Danby - Bell Canada, 6 Clinton St. - First aid kits

Eporium Jewellers - 2 James St. N. - Lighter, knife sheath, business card holder

Tina Pellegrini - Coin & Stamp Hut, 897 King St. E. - Coin set

Vince Lehman - Provincial Coin Co. Ltd., 449 King St. E. - Coin set

Black Forest Inn, 255 King St. E. - \$20 gift certificate

Rookies Café, 1429 Main St. E. - \$10.00 gift certificate

Hi & Buy Dollar Discount, 81 King St. E. - 3 plastic containers

Next meeting's Speaker

December 12

Annual Christmas Party

The club's Christmas Party will be held:

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

Tickets for the party must have been purchased in advance. Happy Holidays!

Hamilton Motor Products, 132 Main St. W. - GM cap

Warplane Heritage Museum, 9280 Airport Rd. - Family pass

Mary's Flower Shop, 139 Ottawa St. N. - Potted 'mum

Angelo Meffe - Radioworld Inc., 43335 Steeles Ave. W. - \$100 gift certificate

Brenda Bailey - Tim Horton's, 65 Ottawa Street North - Tin of coffee & mug

G.T. French Paper, 275 Nebo Rd. - Cling wrap

Curly's Hat & Cap Shop, 171 King St. E. - Antique braces

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!

Kevin Roy - Shoppers Drug Mart, 1900 King St. E. - First aid kit

Don Johnson - Radio Shack, 48 Plaza Drive - Scanner carrying case

TT Liquid Hauling Equipment, 790 King St. W. - First aid kit

Douglas Frame - Radio Amateurs of Canada, 895 Lakeshore Rd. E., R.R. #1 - Two annual RAC memberships

Douglas Gibson - Nedco, 515 Wilson St. - Clock radio

Brian Smith - Ontario DX Association - Annual membership

Morse code meets "The X-Files"

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

Rob Ginkowski WA6CW, of Hollywood, California, served as a technical adviser to The X-Files star Robert Patrick for an upcoming episode. Patrick's character, John Doggett, ends up in a hospital bed, paralyzed, and is required to send a Morse code message by tapping his index finger. WA6CW (who also works as an actor) taught Patrick how to tap out the message at about 5wpm. "He was a fast learner," Ginkowski commented. No word on what the message was (*although we ALL should be able to copy it, right..ed*), but it might be, "The truth is out there." The episode, entitled "4-D," is scheduled to air Sunday, December 9, on the Fox TV Network.

November minutes

Fred VE3GCP - Secretary

Minutes of the General Meeting of The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club held Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2001.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Emsley VE3JAI at 8:05pm. Emsley then made some general announcements, which included:

The exec is working on plans to hold a multi club meeting that will hopefully

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 Marriott 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

include the Burlington, Guelph, Oakville and maybe more clubs. Our plans are to have a special show and tell speaker but first we need determine a date that will be the best for all those involved

Contact has been made with a man who was at ground zero in New York and he will share some of his experiences and personal feelings.

A reminder was made that we should get to work on our home brew projects since we will have the club HB contest early in the New Year.

An invitation for our Christmas Social to be held at Panama Jacks on the 2nd Wednesday of December (Dec. 12). This will be in lieu of a general club meeting in December. Panama Jacks is located at 1000 Upper Gage Ave. on Hamilton Mountain. This is not very far from our clubroom at St. John Ambulance.

Emsley introduced Guest speaker Linda VerHoven. Linda spoke on the basic first aid techniques in the home. Her talk began with an over view of the work done by the various departments of St. John and how they serve the community. Most of us are only familiar with the Volunteer Brigade members that we see at public events but there is also an extensive staff that teaches first aid. Classes are available to people as young as 6 years and from all walks of life. Some of our members have taken these courses as part of their employment training. Linda conducted a demonstration of the popular Hymlik method for dealing with choking problems and even managed to get a few volunteers to try it. We also learned that the first 3 things to be concerned with in a medical emergency are known as the ABC, airway, breathing and circulation. This informative talk caused us to realize how important and helpful this kind of training can be. During the break the members where able to see some common first aid kits that are available at the St. John offices at 500 Upper Wellington St. next to the Police Station near the top of the Jolley Cut. Coffee break at 9:15pm.

After the break the president lead further discussion about first aid, public service and how the club might be able to augment its community service with some basic first aid skills.

Other business that was raised from the floor was with regard to our public demonstration station, which was recently started at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. Frank Love VA3FWL, announced that the station is now up and running and invited club members to come out and visit or participate. The Station call sign is VA3CWM. He also mentioned that a DC power supply in the 10 amp 12V category is needed for the station in case anyone has a spare one they would care to make available at a "nice price".

Another reminder that the next meeting is cancelled and we hope to see a large group at the Christmas Party as per above.

Merry Christmas everyone! The meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

New DX!

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

Ducie Island in the South Pacific is the latest DXCC entity, the 335th. As of 0000 UTC on November 16, 2001, Ducie Island became eligible for DXCC credit as a result of a favourable vote to accept the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association (PIARA) as an International Amateur Radio Union member-society.

PIARA filed its application for IARU membership last March, and the matter went to a worldwide vote of IARU member-societies in June. Votes were counted this week, and PIARA's application was approved. Under DXCC rules, an entity that hosts an IARU society is considered a "political entity."

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills N7NG, emphasized that only contacts dated November 16, 2001, and later will count for DXCC. The island has been activated previously for the Islands On The Air program (it's

HARC 2000-2001 Executive

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IOTA OC-182), but Mills says those earlier contacts will not count for DXCC.

Ducie is located east of Pitcairn Island, perhaps best known among hams as the home of Tom Christian VP6TC, who's PIARA president.

More DX!

North Korea (P5), the DXCC entity that tops everyone's most-wanted list, was activated in November by Ed Giorgadze 4L4FN, of the Republic of Georgia. The operation has not yet been approved for DXCC credit, however. On the basis of oral permission from North Korean authorities, Giorgadze has been

operating as P5/4L4FN since early November.

Bruce Paige KK5DO, reports that 4L4FN now is awaiting written permission from the North Korean government--something that's required for ARRL DXCC credit. As a result, it's possible the recent contacts will not count for DXCC. Paige is posting P5/4L4FN operating news on his Web site:

<<http://www.amsatnet.com/p5.html>> and to other DX news sites.



Nutech Electronics

<p>166 Parkdale Av N Hamilton, ON Tel: (905) 547-8420 Fax: (905) 547-8422 Toll Free: 1-800-263-8620</p>	<p>11E Neilson Street St. Catharines, ON Tel: (905) 682-9200 Fax: (905) 682-8922 Toll Free: 1-866-6NU-TECH</p>
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CQWW 2001

David VE3STT - Editor

Over the weekend of October 27-28, VE3DC was activated in the SSB portion of the annual CQWW contest, as mentioned in last month's newsletter.

We had a great time, and as mentioned we reaped the rewards of some hard work on the antenna and operating stations over the summer months.

The results were as follows:

Bnd	Q	Q Pts	Pts/Q	Zones	Ctys
160	175	326	1.86	6	8
80	444	848	1.91	12	30
40	379	818	2.16	24	77
20	781	1913	2.45	36	129
15	886	2489	2.81	36	138

10 1035 2901 2.80 36 143
 Totals:
 3700 9295 2.51 150 525
 6,274,125 Points

As you can see, we came very close to working all 40 CQ zones on the top three bands during the contest and over the weekend worked 525 Countries (obviously duplicated on different bands) for a very impressive final score. This proved to be one of the most successful contest outings, in a DX-oriented contest, ever for the VE3DC contest group! Thanks to the operators during CQWW SSB, Mike VE3ATX, Rick VE3BK, Dan VA3DJ, Fred VE3GCP, Steve VE3OZO, Mark VE3RYI, Ted VE3SS, David VE3STT, Vic VE3VMO and Don VE3VZ.

What a difference a month makes!

We also got together and operated M/M in the just completed CQWW CW contest and with one less station (3) we unfortunately experienced the "wrath of Sol"!

A very large solar event hit less than 12 hours into the contest and basically blanked out most of the bands for quite some time. Although things picked up a bit on day two, the overall contest proved to be tough sledding for the group.

Still, everyone did have a great time and together with the help of all the operators that weekend and a few weeks of advanced CW training utilizing a great program called PED, we all sharpened our CW skills by the end of the contest.

Although the score proved to be about half of what we achieved in the CQWW SSB, it still will likely stand as one of the better ones in North America, and we're hoping one of the overall best in Canada!

By the way, the next contest for the group is the annual RAC Winter Contest coming up at the end of December. Get on the air and work VE3DC - 2m simplex contacts are especially valuable! All the rules can be found at the RAC website, or simply ask Rick VE3BK, or any member of the

HARC 2001-2002 Chairs

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 VE3OGQ 388-8383

Hospitality

Monthly Volunteers

Newsletter/Web

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 VE3STT 549-1919
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Public Liaison

Stanley Bolibruch
 VE3GFE 538-4002

Repeater/Technical Co-Chair

David Near
 VE3DNN 385-6656

Swap Net Control

Frank Love
 VA3FWL 679-4524

VE3DC contest group for more information!

eQSL.cc

David VE3STT - Editor

(Because Rick VE3BK has been receiving more and more (several hundred actually) of the new "eQsl's" after each and every contest operated using VE3DC, I thought it might be interesting to learn more about the process of sending your "card" via cyberspace, instead of the traditional "bureau"? Here's an article, reprinted with permission, from the eQsl.cc website!...ed)

The world's first and only eQSL exchange centre, www.eQSL.cc, started the year 2001 with a bang. Only a few weeks earlier, on the first of December, it had blown through the 1-million card mark, and now 2-million cards were in the central database. But instead of slowing down, the rate increased as thousands of eQSL cards were uploaded every hour.

The eQSL.cc site was launched in April of 2000, and included about 1500 hams that had been part of an earlier experiment in an electronic QSL card exchange. The "big" idea was that eQSLs should not be sent around from person to person via e-mail, but should be available at any time through a web-based exchange system and a central database.

Other concepts using e-mail or by posting one stock QSL card on a web page and calling it an eQSL were not satisfactory, because security could not be guaranteed, e-mail addresses had to be looked up, and the sender had to laboriously design his QSL card using graphic design software.

So, we used our 25 years of software development and database design experience to develop a site where each user could guarantee his identity with a scanned image of his ham license, could lay out an eQSL card design using simple point-and-click forms, and could upload logbooks either one-at-a-time, or by uploading an entire ADIF format log

file at once. The concept is such a breakthrough; we have patents pending on its technology.

To retrieve one of these eQSL cards, the recipient only need enter the callsign, date, and band of the QSO he wants to retrieve, and if the other ham has entered that QSO into the system, up pops the complete eQSL card, ready for printing on a local printer. Furthermore, if the recipient registers his callsign with us, he can get a listing of all incoming eQSLs, and can just point and click to print each card received. Sending a reciprocal card back is a matter of clicking a button!

Apparently, most everyone else thinks this is the right way to do it, too. Another six weeks after hitting the 2 million card mark, it appears the number of cards will double again to 4 million.

Many of the members of the eQSL.cc site are using stock images for their eQSL card designs. But since it is possible to upload a graphic image to use on one's card, there are many custom cards online as well. Users are signing up from over 180 countries all over the world. In many places, a stack of 500 traditional QSL cards might well cost the average ham operator and entire year's salary. On eQSL.cc, 500 beautiful full-colour cards can be sent for free!

In an era when "dot coms" are failing left and right, it is noteworthy that the eQSL.cc site, which is supported almost entirely through voluntary donations, has been operating in the black since Day One. Since the site runs virtually without any human intervention, the only ongoing expenses are for development of new features, and for continually increasing disk space, processor power, and bandwidth. A small amount goes to answering the questions and suggestions that come into the Webmaster's office by e-mail. In most cases, replies are returned within the same day.

Not everyone agrees that eQSLing is the way to go. Some people like to get their hands on that stiff cardboard with the exotic stamps that spent months in transit from the jungles of some island

that is only above water for 3 weeks out of the year. Others are bothered that some amateur organizations still have "no electronic transmission" clauses in the rulebooks for their awards. Others still are spooked by the privacy issues that this interconnected new world brings up.

But it's very difficult to argue - as the saying goes - with success. And 4 million cards is success by anyone's measure. At the present growth rate (with the number of eQSLs doubling every month), eQSL.cc could be home to virtually all of the world's amateur radio operators within a couple of years. Contest "big guns" will be able to "QSL 100%" within a matter of minutes, saving hundreds of hours of time and thousands of dollars in the process. DXpeditions will be able to "QSL 100%" on the spot, whether it is from that desert island with a dial-up Internet connection, or when the crew gets back to "civilization". It's just a quick log file upload, and they are done!

And eQSLs, unlike their traditional cardboard counterparts, can be verified through automated computer interfaces by amateur organizations wanting to validate award and contest submissions. The presence of a scanned license image on file for each user goes way beyond the simplistic checking that is possible using the older traditional QSL cards.

And now eQSL.cc is also a favourite site for SWLs, because users can identify themselves as either licensed amateur operator, or SWL. The eQSL cards between SWLs and hams are automatically configured to contain proper SWL phrasing, making their lives easier and saving them tons of money.

Complex systems shouldn't be designed in a vacuum, so we have assembled a capable group of hams and SWLs into an Advisory Board. Among these advisors are users with satellite and DX experience, contesting backgrounds, and international origins, as well as technology gurus and people with long-term operating histories. This group discusses current issues and future development plans for the site on a daily

basis. Just another feature of the interconnected world we have entered as the 21st Century dawns.

There were naysayers when SSB first began to push CW aside. There were those who thought packet radio was just a short-lived fad. Others thought we shouldn't be wasting money on amateur satellites. And some people think eQSLs are "not natural". But for tens of thousands of hams and SWLs who upload their entire logbooks nightly in an effort to live up to the "100% QSL" promise of amateur radio, the final courtesy of a QSO is an eQSL.

By Dave Morris, N5UP, Founder and Webmaster, eQSL.cc February 5, 2001

Stuck elements?

David VE3STT - Editor

Tis the season. If you don't get a brand new antenna over the Holidays, then maybe you'll treat yourself to something "used" for the backyard tower project.

Have you, like I, ever wondered just how to refurbish an antenna that has been in the air (or on the ground for that matter) for years. Even with a good dose of Noalox or equivalent on the joints when it first went up, getting elements apart again is quite the chore. Luckily the "Towertalk" reflector always has a wealth of information on this and many other subjects.

If you have a "used" antenna project on your hands, here is a collection of suggestions from the "Towertalkians" on how to free stuck elements:

1) I recently disassembled an old Hygain DB1015 that had elements thoroughly stuck together by pouring some hydrogen peroxide over the joints in question. It will loosen or break up the oxidation holding the joints together. Repeat as needed!
Bob W5AH

2) I use a strong rope on each of the element ends and tied with a "timber hitch" knot. One rope goes to a fixed support, the other to a come-a-long anchored to another fixed support. If

you need more friction for the knot on the slick aluminium tubing, first wrap some cloth tape around the tube where the knots are to be tied.

BTW, avoid nylon or any "stretchy" rope because if it breaks or suddenly comes loose in the process, it may sling itself and anything attached to it, causing bodily injury.

If that effort fails, you might try some penetrating oil on the stuck joints, let it soak in overnight, then use the come-along again. Some heat from a hair dryer may help too.

Charlie, N0TT

3) One thing I've done that works good it to use a pair of vice grips and a screwdriver. Put the tip of the screwdriver on top of the end of the element with the handle pointing back towards the boom. Clamp the screwdriver to the top part of the element with a pair of vice grips, and hit the screwdriver with a hammer. Works good to drive the elements apart.
Tom W7WHY

4) Have you tried using a propane or better yet MAPP gas torch to heat the outer element? Then using rags and Vice Grips try to put the elements apart. This may take a second person to help orchestrate this manoeuvre!
THEN: Brute strength and ignorance after that!

You can also use Liquid Wrench, by GUNK to soak it overnight.

Next time when you telescope two aluminium elements together, coat the inner element with PENTROX-A by Burndy. Any electrical distributor carries it. Use an ample dose on the element!

I would not recommend ALNOX, as I find it is not as effective as PENTROX-A. When you use PENTROX-A on an installation, use 3-M #33 or #33-plus or #88 electrical tape around the joint. This keeps the PENTROX-A moist and you won't have this same trouble the next time! We all learn!
Lee

5) Another material that helps separate stuck and rusted parts is Kroil

(means Kreeeping Oil), made by Kano Corp. The stuff is supposed to have almost no surface tension, so can creep in between those microscopic spaces to lubricate.

Barry W2UP

6) Coke ought to do the trick, it contains carbonic acid, acidic acid and phosphoric acid. The latter is great for removing calcium from teeth and bones. Just ask your dentist. Coke is also good for removing paint from cars if applied tooo liberally in trying to remove tar.

Chris VE7HCB

New RAC Executive

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

On Sunday, November 25, 2001, the RAC Nomination Committee met by teleconference under the direction of Chair Robert Kirkpatrick VE9VAR, to elect the Executive officers for the 2002-2003 term. The results of the elections follow:

President: William Gillis VE1WG
1st Vice President: Joe MacPherson VE1CH
Vice President Regulatory Affairs: James Dean VE3IQ
Vice President Government and International Affairs: Kenneth Pulfer VE3PU
Vice President Industrial Liaison: Don Rowed VE3KII
Vice President Field Services: Pierre Mainville VA3PM
Treasurer: Bill Rothwell VE3FGW
Secretary: Dawn MacKay VE1MAK

The RAC Board of Directors extends sincere thanks to the outgoing Executive members for their dedication to and participation in the organization during their time in office.

The newly elected Executive will assume their positions on January 1, 2002.

Dawn S. MacKay VE1MAK
Corporate Secretary
Radio Amateurs of Canada

Mohawk College club station

Neil VE3VNG

We have lift off! At long last, through the efforts of several club members, a 2m/70cm antenna is installed on the roof of Mohawk College.

Completed November 24, it is now operational from our room in the basement of the technology wing. It took several years and sustained effort by several people to accomplish this sometimes hopeless feat. First contact with the college was made by Pat VE3EIK, and Paul VE3PFT, about five years ago.

The original plan was to install a 40foot tower with a multi-frequency beam antenna. Because of interference with other antennas, and costs, this plan was scaled down to a dual band J-pole. However, there is still the possibility of installing a long wire dipole, or some other antenna for HF use.

Thanks must be given to all those who helped to install this antenna. Jim VE3OWL donated the J-pole and the stainless steel post. Others who helped are Brian VA3BMB, Wayne VE3WLD, Emsley VE3JAI, Dave VE3DWJ and Mardy VE3QEE. We should also thank several people from the college who helped to make this project possible.

Thanks a lot gang!

President's Message

Emsley VE3JAI - President

The expectation is that we will have a very good turnout for the Christmas Party. Hope to see you there!

We are off to a fine start for our club year and I would like to thank all those who work so hard to ensure the smooth running of the club. Thank you for your dedication and service. I also take the opportunity to wish everyone a very peaceful, joyous and safe festive season and for the coming year happiness and health.