



May 2002

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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 - 70 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2002

## Homebrew night

David VE3STT – Editor

If you remember last year, we had one of the largest, and more impressive, turnouts for a “Homebrew Night” I can recall. The winning entry was a beautifully crafted HF amplifier for 80m through 10m put together by Don VE3DDQ.

The May meeting is traditionally the night that the finely crafted home projects take centre stage. And this year we are hoping for even more entries, of all shapes and sizes and hopefully encompassing all aspects of our great hobby, for another HARC “Homebrew Night”!

The rules are rather simple, just make sure your project was started within this last year and bring it! You’ll have a chance to explain your project and how it relates to Amateur radio, any special parts and equipment used to bring it to life and its practical use in your ham shack. And, remember that it doesn’t have to be a huge, involved project to possibly sway the judges in your direction. Even the simplest dipole, creatively presented, with a hook that makes it unique in your ham shack environment, might just make you a winner. In fact, just entering a project that has been crafted by hand, showing the skills that we all have as Amateurs, makes the entire evening a “winning” evening, when we share the stories and expertise.

It’s also a great evening to bring along a friend and expose them to the “meat and potatoes” side of Amateur radio. If you have a friend that has shown some interest in the hobby, this would be a

great introduction to the hobby.

So, whether it’s a project (big or small) or a friend (big or small), bring it and take part in the annual “Homebrew Night”!

## Camp-X

The following note was submitted as e-mail to [ve3dc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3dc@rac.ca)

Camp-X will be back on the air in 2002, May 11-12<sup>th</sup>. Work VE3SCX (Secret Camp-X) 1300hrs to 0100hrs UTC May 11; 1300hrs to 1900hrs UTC May 12.

### Next meeting’s Speaker

May 15

#### “Homebrew Night”

If you have a special Amateur radio project that you have completed within the last year, no matter the shape, size or complexity, bring it and enter it in our annual “Homebrew Night” competition!

The location of this special event operation will be Camp-X Intrepid Park in Whitby, Sponsored by the North Shore Amateur Radio Club of Oshawa, South Pickering Amateur Radio Club, Whitby Amateur Radio Club, Camp-X Historical Society and 2 Intelligence Company (Canadian Forces Reserve).

They’ll be operating the 80/40/20 and 10m HF bands and on the VHF 2m club repeaters (VE3OSH 147.120, VE3WOM 147.150, VE3SPA 147.375) on both SSB and CW (as operators become available for CW). And they will also provide a colour commemorative QSL card for those interested, upon request. For a QSL

**Club meetings – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!**

send a letter size SASE please, to: Fred Bengel, VE3TIG (email: ve3tig@rac.ca), 679 Aruba Crescent Oshawa, ON. L1J 6B7.

So you know, Camp-X was where agents trained before being parachuted into Nazi occupied territory during WWII, to not only lead the resistance movement but to provide valuable information to invading Allied Armies. British Security Coordination administered Camp-X under the leadership of Sir William Stephenson, known as Intrepid. An integral part of Camp-X was Hydra, the top-secret radio transmitting building that received data from all around the world. The majority of the Hydra operators were Amateur Radio operators. The public is invited to join in the festivities and see static displays.

For more Camp-X information:  
<http://www.osha.igs.net/~lsolomon/nsarc/campx.htm>

## 50+ comedy

Rick VE3BK

*(As I was assembling this edition of the newsletter it was end of April, rainy with a chance of flurries and I felt I needed to include the following.*

*Although I am nowhere near 50 yet, I will certainly save this copy of The Hamilton Amateur until such time..ed)*

### The Perks of Being over 50

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run into a burning building.
4. People call at 9pm and ask, "Did I wake you?" (Especially this one!!!)
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat dinner at 4pm.
9. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
10. You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.

## Important points

### Executive Meetings

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]

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

HARC "net" is held every Tuesday evening, except July and August, at 7:30pm. HARC "swap net" follows at 8pm.

### 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 \$3.

### Membership Information

Club membership, including all privileges, is \$25 per person, per year, Sept 1 to Aug 31. Additional membership, for immediate family living in the same home, is \$1 per person. One newsletter sent to each address.

### The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur is published ten times each year (not in July or August). Deadline for article submission is the last Saturday of the month for the next month's issue. Preferred format is .txt file. 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](mailto:ve3stt@rac.ca)

11. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
12. You have a party and the neighbours don't even realize it.
13. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
14. You quit trying to hold your stomach in, not matter who walks in the room.

15. You sing along with elevator music.
16. Your eyes won't get much worse.
17. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
18. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than Environment Canada.
19. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
20. You can't remember who sent you this list.

## NOTICE of MOTION

Paid up members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club are here-in advised and requested to submit any names of members whom you may wish to nominate in the upcoming election. The election will be held at the regular General Meeting on Wednesday June 19, 2002. Persons nominated or who wish to put their own name on the ballot will require a seconder. Nominations may be made from the floor. This notice meets the requirements of the HARC constitution. Please contact the secretary with questions or nominations.

## Ideas for attracting new Amateurs

*The following note was submitted as e-mail to [ve3dc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3dc@rac.ca)*

*(I found this while "surfing" and thought I would share. It is credited to Henry Ruhwiedel AA9XW of Crown Point, IN. Some of what he suggests is already being done, by our club and others, and as he mentions at the end, this may just spark some brand new ideas of attracting more, and younger, people to the Amateur ranks..ed)*

It seems to me that we may not have noticed how we can attract, promote, Elmer new hams with little or no cost. There just seems to be so many ways

that the grass roots ham can apply a little effort to help things along. Are you doing any of these activities?

When you administer a ham license test, do you follow up? Isn't it rather simple to give each applicant the club newsletter and meeting information at the time of the exam? Maybe a list of club or group activities in the area, dates of the next local hamfests and a personal invite from the examiners?

Ask the applicant if they need help finding equipment, Elmering their first on-air experience, of a list of equipment dealers or locally known used equipment is all the person needs to feel they have JOINED ham radio, not just taken a test.

How about offering some antenna advice or help in doing it safely?

When the newly licensed get on the air, do you talk to them? Do you invite them to local club meetings? Do you ask them to drop by on Field Day or other FUN activities?

Its nice to take a rig to a Scout meeting or a classroom, but how about getting the Scout troop or class to a local ham store and let them just look around at all the stuff, watch as the demo rigs are used for contacts, and encourage them to ask questions? Make them sit there and read a book or magazine from the literature racks. Let the OM's tell them of fun happenings in each hams activity, that rare DX, the VHF contest, your first ATV or SSTV contact, why you like CW or SSB. Let them look at all the mobile stations in the parking lot. Get them to participate in the QSO, something besides asking the name, rank and QTH. What does the other person do for a living, is ham radio a part of their career or just a hobby and what other hobbies do they have? Get them to actually converse with another ham over the radio.

Here's an easy one. Buy your local high school a subscription to the ham magazines. QST, CQ, World Radio, ATVQ, and ask them find the scientific errors in the 73 editorials. Encourage them to become amateur scientists in their own homes.

## HARC 2001-2002 Executive

### President

*Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI*

627-0333

eamitch@mcmail.cis.mcmaster.ca

### Past President

*Linda Hardwick VA3LJU*

389-4091

va3lju@rac.ca

### Vice President

*(open)*

### Vice President

*Chris Cuthbert VE3PKY*

547-3169

aj630@hwcen.org

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*Fred Robinson VE3GCP*

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fredrobinson@mountaincable.net

### Treasurer

*Walt Bayliss VA3WWB*

bayliss@nas.net

### Director

*Stanley Bolibruch VE3GFE*

528-4002

If you have a radio store, how about a blurb in the local paper for a "learn about ham radio day?" Invite the public, have some extra demo gear out. "You are invited to explore the fascinating world of Ham Radio at the XYZ radio store. Come see how communications have changed over the years and the new fun and excitement to be found in being a ham. Free soft drinks and chips" or some other imaginative ploy to attract the unlicensed. Invite the media.

They don't have much else to do on a weekend anyway.

Is your club bogged down in politics, meetings as exciting as a barbed-wire collection? Then cut to the chase, eliminate the business meeting and get

to activities or have a segment for business and a fixed starting time for general stuff so those who want the details arrive early, those that want the activities arrive later. If each officer and board member can't cut their report to 50 words or less, vote them off. Learn how to be brief and not drag out every little nickel and dime detail.

There have been a couple of clubs that have had their own cable access TV show. Why not contact the local cable company and do one of your own.



## Nutech Electronics

166 Parkdale Av N

Hamilton, ON

Tel: (905) 547-8420

Fax: (905) 547-8422

Toll Free:

1-800-263-8620

11E Neilson Street

St. Catharines, ON

Tel: (905) 682-9200

Fax: (905) 682-8922

Toll Free:

1-866-6NU-TECH

### Hours:

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[nutech.electronics@sympatico.ca](mailto:nutech.electronics@sympatico.ca)

Interview various hams and others affected by ham radio. You might even get a local sponsor if you ask around town.

Did you ask the local Radio Shack store if they would put up a poster listing your local club meeting days and times? How about the local bookstore? Do you send notices to local schools for inclusion in their school papers, or activity boards? Do you even contact the local schools? How about inviting a school class or science club to your home shack for a demo?

Do you fox hunt? Did you ever invite non-hams along for the ride? "Hey lets go for a beer and pizza, oh by the way, I have to find a transmitter along the way. Here, hold this while I turn the antenna." Maybe give the fox hunt receiver and antenna to the Scouts or

school group, show them how to use it and let them find the fox!

Just about any fun ham activity can be a fun activity for a non-ham if you invite them to participate, show them how or what to do and let them in to the circle of ham radio. That's how we get new people to JOIN ham radio, not just throw license tests at them and challenge them to get the right answers.

Be friendly, pass on a smile and a bit of knowledge. They may want to buy your old rig when you want a new one! Now come up with some ideas of your own!

## Contesting

David VE3STT – Editor

I am taking the liberty of making my own reporting on contests and upcoming contest activities more prominent in our newsletter. With the success of VE3DC in every contest you find our call sign, and with more and more members joining to participate at the site (or from their own QTH), I thought it timely.

You'll also note that I've begun to include some of the local Hamfests that are approaching. Thanks to those that passed along the idea! This will only be a very general schedule. If you would like more information on any of the Hamfests in ANY area, you can search the RAC database for all of that information.

The Ontario QSO Party has just passed, with another incredible showing from the VE3DC team. Despite very bad conditions throughout the OQP 24 hours this year, including one of the biggest solar flares of the year happening smack-dab in the middle of the contest, the "score rumour" from the 2002 OQP was:

**966q - 1527q pts - 294m = 448,936**  
(including a Clean Sweep)

This compares to slightly fewer Qso's last year (with much better conditions) although the mult total and overall score was slightly higher. No record performance this year to threaten the record already held by VE3DC, but to manage even more contacts during that

## Hamfests

### Hamilton Amateur Radio Club

#### Hamfest 2002

Marritt Hall, Ancaster  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20th!**  
Admission: \$5  
Contact Hamfest Chair for table info.

### Skywide ARC Hamfest

Westway United Church, Etobicoke  
**SATURDAY, MAY 11th!**  
Admission: \$5  
Talk in: 146.985 MHz

### Central Ontario Hamfest

Fergus & District Community Centre,  
Fergus (10km N. of Guelph)  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 8th!**  
Admission: \$5  
Talk in: 145.210 MHz

### Ontario Hamfest

Milton Fairgrounds, Milton  
**SATURDAY, JULY 6th!**  
Admission: \$5  
Talk in: 146.520 MHz Simplex

**For the latest information, about these and other hamfests, visit the RAC website (linked off the HARC website (URL on the front page))**

24hr period was outstanding, to say the least!

A "clean sweep", by the way, means that VE3DC worked EACH of the Ontario counties during the contest. I would venture a guess that they were among the few, if not only, stations to do that. Another outstanding achievement for the VE3DC team.

A major contest to look forward to at the end of May is the CQ WPX CW contest. Your objective is basically to work everybody and concentrate on the highest number of "prefixes" as possible, as they provide the multiplier to your Qso total. More information can be found at the following URL:

<http://home.woh.rr.com/wpx/2002Rul.es.PDF>

And, while we're on the subject of CW and contesting, I found a great primer on just how to cleanly execute your contest CW. I "borrowed" this material

from the CQ-Contest reflector. It is credited to Scott Ellington K9MA, an Amateur working at the Space Science and Engineering Centre, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## CW contest operating

The following note was submitted as e-mail to [ve3dc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3dc@rac.ca)

I offer below some operating procedures I feel would improve the contest experience for a lot of us. These are my personal opinions, with which I don't expect all to agree, so take them for whatever they're worth.

1. Learn to zero-beat accurately. The station you are calling may have a clear window only a couple hundred Hz wide, and won't be able to hear you if you are even 100Hz off. Sometimes it is useful to deliberately call a little off zero-beat, but you still have to know exactly where your transmitter is.

2. Don't send your exchange until the other station acknowledges your call correctly. However, don't repeat your call unnecessarily.

Example:

Dx: TEST DX0DX

Me: K9MA

Dx: K0MA 599 KW (Dx busted my call)

Me: K9MA

Dx: K9MA (Acknowledgement of corrected call, without exchange)

Me: 599 WI

Note that DX can be sure he got my call right, because I won't send the exchange unless I actually hear him repeat my call. If I send my exchange the first time, his acknowledgement could be wiped out by QRM, my attempt to correct it again could be lost in the pile-up, or DX may just fail to acknowledge the correction. All it took to avoid all this was for DX to send my call back to me one time.

3. Always acknowledge a corrected call. Even if you got it right the first time, the calling station may not be sure you did.

Just send the corrected call, don't repeat the exchange if you already sent it.

4. Don't let your computer send faster than you can copy!

5. Try really, really hard not to call any dupes. Even harder if you are QRP.

6. When a dupe calls you anyway, don't argue, just work him. You may actually not be in his log.

7. For cut numbers, use only T and N. Don't use A or the letter O. If you are QRP (and sending a power level as in the ARRL test from the DX side), send "T5", as the leading T is distinctive. If individuality in your exchange is really important to you, go ahead and use A and O, but keep in mind you may be making copy more difficult for others.

8. When asked for a repeat, just send the requested information, not the whole exchange. Repeat the RST only if you sent something other than 599. (When signals are really weak, the 5NN may be useful as a "synch" pattern, though.)

9. Sign your call after every QSO, unless you got at least a piece of the call of another station and can specifically call that one.

## New ARRL online contest coverage

The following note was submitted as e-mail to [ve3dc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3dc@rac.ca)

*(I include the following because of some somewhat-related traffic on the Canada Contest reflector last month about the size of "The Sports Page" column in the bi-monthly TCA magazine sent to RAC members. Bob VE3KZ was soliciting some feedback about whether some of the material in the column could be economized. A suggestion put forward was to possibly move some of the column material to the RAC website for members?..ed)*

The ARRL is proud to announce the introduction of expanded online coverage of ARRL contests effective April 19, 2002. The URL for expanded ARRL Contest coverage is <http://www.arrl.org/contests/results/>

### HARC 2001-2002 Chairs

#### Awards & Volunteer Examiner

Lorraine MacPherson  
VA3NZ 389-7653  
[ab510@hwcen.org](mailto:ab510@hwcen.org)

#### Contesting & Property Manager

Rick Danby  
VE3BK 544-3253  
[rdanby@hwcen.org](mailto:rdanby@hwcen.org)

Education & Membership  
Mardy Eedson  
VE3QEE 648-0187  
[meedson@home.com](mailto:meedson@home.com)

#### Emergency

Gary Notto  
VE3TTO 387-1103  
[ve3tto@rac.ca](mailto:ve3tto@rac.ca)

#### Volunteer Examiner

Bernie Granby  
VA3XJ 527-7175  
[berngran@hwcen.org](mailto:berngran@hwcen.org)

#### Field Day

David Bruton  
VE3DWJ 383-9808  
[am983@hwcen.org](mailto:am983@hwcen.org)

#### Flea Market

John Kirstein  
VA3AWK 648-6456  
[OBSKDS@netcom.ca](mailto:OBSKDS@netcom.ca)

#### Health/Welfare

Mary Urbanski  
VE3OGQ 388-8383

#### Hospitality

Monthly Volunteers

#### Newsletter/Web

David Jones  
VE3STT 549-1919  
[ve3stt@rac.ca](mailto:ve3stt@rac.ca)

#### Public Liaison Co-Chair

Stanley Bolibruch  
VE3GFE 528-4002

#### Public Liaison Co-Chair

Neil Galloway  
VE3VNG 383-6986

#### Repeater/Technical

David Bruton  
VE3DWJ 383-9808

#### Swap Net Control

Frank Love  
VA3FWL 679-4524

ARRL staff members and volunteers have spent many months in planning and developing this expanded online resource to provide more detailed, in-depth coverage of ARRL events on the Web. Expanded ARRL Contest coverage online supplements coverage in QST.

The first contest results presented in the expanded online format are the 2001 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes. The online presentation features:

- An interactive, searchable database of the line scores. In addition to the information normally presented in QST, you can see band-by-band QSO breakdowns, hours operated, check and club affiliation for each entry. The database is searchable by call sign, entry class, ARRL Section or Division, and club. You can sort the results by many criteria, including call, score, QSOs, multipliers, or band QSOs.

- Expanded Soapbox comments. In the initial presentation, Soapbox comments from all of the electronic Cabrillo entries are included. For future contests, the Soapbox tools will be available for entrants to add their comments or photos immediately after the contest.

- An expanded version of the contest write-up that appears in QST. Written by noted competitor Randy Thompson K5ZD, the expanded write-up goes into much more detail than the typical QST presentation. Also included are station descriptions for the top 10 entrants in each single-op category, a sidebar story about the log checking process by K5ZD and a sidebar about the history of the November Sweepstakes by Doug Grant K1DG.

- Updated contest category records. Ken Adams K5KA, and Dave Clemons K1VUT, have teamed up to provide updated November Sweepstakes records for each entry class and ARRL Division and Section, as well as overall category records.

The new features add to existing online resources for contesters, including complete ARRL contest rules and forms, the ARRL Contest Calendar, and the Contest Corral listing of contests throughout the year. ARRL Members

may also subscribe to the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, a biweekly e-mail newsletter that debuted in March 2002.

Access to the extended coverage is available to ARRL members. To visit the site, you need to be logged on to the ARRL website with your user name and password. If you have not registered, you may do so online at [www.arrl.org/members](http://www.arrl.org/members). As has been our practice for several years, non-ARRL members will continue to be able to view a PDF file of the QST results article from the main ARRL Contest Branch Web page at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests) approximately 30 days after the issue of QST in which it appears has been published.

ARRL Contests Online is considered a "work in progress." The online presentation will be flexible, allowing us to improve the site as it develops. As new contest results become available, they will be added to the site. As you explore the site, we welcome your feedback. You may contact [contests@arrl.org](mailto:contests@arrl.org) with your comments or suggestions. You may also contact us by phone at 860-594-0232.

## April minutes

*Fred VE3GCP – Secretary*

Wednesday April 17, 2002

With about 36 people in attendance, the meeting was called to order at 8pm sharp by the president Emsley Mitchell.

With very brief formalities aside, Emsley promptly introduced our guest speaker for tonight. As published in the previous bulletin, our speaker was Mr. Tom Domonkos on the subject of a great Canadian inventor who has never received the recognition for his work and achievements that he deserves. As it turns out Aubrey Fessenden was responsible for many inventions, not all of which were directly connected to electronics or communications. Among his creations was the superhetrodyne receiver circuit, which is still the basis of radio receiver circuits to this day. Tom was very passionate in his presentation and the question and

answer period went on well beyond the one-hour mark. Tom informed us that he would continue to pursue his ambition that Mr. Fessenden will some day acquire his due recognition. At 9:20 the meeting was adjourned for donuts and coffee.

*(Secretaries note; that's why they call it VE3DC.)*

At 9:40pm the meeting was resumed for the business portion of the meeting. Gary Notto VE3TTO was asked to speak first and he announced that as the new Emergency Coordinator for this area of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) he is looking for Amateurs to sign up. The ARES is a function of the ARRL and Gary passed out membership application forms for any club member wishing to get involved in this type of public service. Gary is also the EC for our own club.

Rick Danby VE3BK was asked to speak about the up coming Ontario QSO Party. He invited members to call him if they wished to get involved in this annual contest, which takes place this coming weekend. Rick updated us on the antennae repair efforts and it seems we are in good shape to hopefully win this contest again.

Our president introduced as special guest, he is Zrinko (Zik) Zibert who has just arrived from YU land and is looking forward to being 4N1DX/VE3 and then to become a Canadian licensed Amateur.

The president asked for approval of the previous GM minutes and an error was pointed out as per the last club bulletin. At the top of the centre column on page 5, the 2<sup>nd</sup> line referred to the "Ontario QSO Party" and the 3<sup>rd</sup> line refers to the "Ontario DX Association". These are incorrect and were amended to read "CQ World Wide 160m DX SSB contest" and the "ARRL" respectively. The minutes were approved as amended.

Brad Pearman VE3EBP has recently been assigned to teach at the CNIB in Hamilton. The local CNIB asked the club exec to recommend one of our members for this task and Brad was one of two members who volunteered. Brad

also announced that it looks like we will have a small group of people taking the Advanced course that is planned for September.

Formal reports from the treasurer and Health & Welfare departments were not tabled. The treasurer advised the secretary that the usual full written report would be presented to the monthly exec meeting next week.

Our guest speaker took the opportunity to briefly speak again about his recent visit to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum – Amateur Radio Station. Tom expressed that he was very impressed and enjoyed himself a great deal and extended his congratulations to the group of club members who have facilitated this effort.

The president then made a point of thanking Bernie Granby VE3EKY (VA3XJ) for his diligent and on-going efforts each month in managing our donuts and coffee break table. But, as usual when we offered our applause Bernie was out of the room cleaning up the coffee pot, etc. Don't be afraid to offer a hand to Bernie with clean up if you are so moved.

The president called for and received a motion to adjourn at about 10:15pm.

## President's message

*Emsley VE3JAI – President*

Last meeting's talk by Tom Domonkos VE3FCK about Reginald Aubrey Fessenden was very well received. We all got a glimpse of that great pioneering spirit and genius of the man.

Hopefully this has set the stage for our home brew night as we bring our projects to be displayed at our next meeting.

In addition to our Home brew activities, the Field Day coordinator David VE3DWJ and the ARES coordinator Gary VE3TTO will present briefly on Field Day and Emergency services respectively. Please remember to complete your ARES registration form and bring it to the club meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Hope you all can make it!