



June 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

Field Day 2002

David VE3STT – Editor

The annual ARRL Field Day is quickly approaching. In the past couple of newsletters (and elsewhere in this one), you will find all you need to know about Field Day. It's widely recognized as an excellent test on several levels. It tests some of the much-needed skills that could be used in time of emergency.

Setting up an Amateur radio station in the middle of a field with only the most rudimentary equipment powered by generator, then make a ton of contacts with other hams across North America, is amazing to say the least.

Field Day is also widely recognized as one of the primary ways of introducing some of the newer and/or younger members in any club to the hobby we know and love. Over the years I have read countless stories, and now posts on the internet, from contesters all over the world that saw their first "action" in the respective Field Day of their IARU region.

And if you haven't been to our website, check it out between now and Field Day weekend. You'll have a chance to see some of the "local pioneers" of the Field Day spirit in action threw some vintage photos on the site in the VE3DC section. In fact, if you're lucky enough, you just might sit next to a slightly older and wiser version this year!

If you want to get involved, it's never too late. Talk to David VE3DWJ and he'll gladly point you in the right direction, no matter what your skill level or how you desire to participate!

Special Amateur prefixes

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

On 6 May 2002, Industry Canada's Amateur Radio Service Centre authorized all Canadian Radio Amateurs to use special prefixes to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada.

Next meeting's Speaker

June 19

"The Computer in the Shack"

John Vandenberg VE3DVV will demo SSTV. Rick Danby VE3BK will demo the latest Field Day logging programs. Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI will have CW training software and also hopefully a Packet Station.

"Election Night!"

If you would like to step up and have more of a say in the way your club runs in the coming year, this is your chance. Volunteering just a tiny amount of time can pay off in huge rewards for you and the club!

From 18 May 2002 through 18 July 2002, the following special prefixes are authorized on a voluntary basis.

XM1 for VE1s
 XL1 for VA1s
 XM2 for VE2s
 XL2 for VA2s
 XM3 for VE3s
 XL3 for VA3s
 XM4 for VE4s
 XL4 for VA4s

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!

XM5 for VE5s
XL5 for VA5s
XM6 for VE6s
XL6 for VA6s
XM7 for VE7s
XL7 for VA7s
XM8 for VE8s
XM9 for VE9s
XN1 for VO1s
XN2 for VO2s
XO0 for VY0s
XO1 for VY1s
XO2 for VY2s

Please note that this period includes the following contests:

Radio Society of Great Britain's (RSGB) Jubilee Contest on 8 and 9 June 2002 (*more elsewhere in this newsletter..ed*)

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Canada Day Contest on 1 July 2002 (*also more in the new Contesting column elsewhere in this newsletter..ed*)

International Amateur Radio Union's (IARU) HF Championship on 13/14 July 2002

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2002/rules-iaru.html>

CW contest operating follow-up

David VE3STT - Editor

I was overjoyed this past month when an actual question arrived in my e-mail about an article in the previous edition of **The Hamilton Amateur!** They are few and far between, but I'm happy to provide the question and answer.

In reference to the article on CW Contest Operating, I was asked about the subject of "cut numbers"?

A "cut number" is sometimes used in a contest situation where the exchange is a serial number. A great example was the weekend of May 25/26 during the CQ WPX Contest. Instead of an exchange of (and you'll have to visualize all of the following in CW)

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

599 1009 for RST and serial number, which would be very long and slow, even at 32wpm, operators (especially Europeans) will use "cut numbers". The exchange then becomes 5NN ATTN, which is a lot faster, and because it's an established exchange, very easy to copy!

Cut numbers are not for the squeamish however. I would recommend the "old-fashioned way" with real numbers, until you're a grizzled vet!

Thanks for the question. Any others, article submissions, or ideas are accepted!

Dayton Hamvention

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

Exuberance and enthusiasm at Dayton Hamvention 2002 by and large overcame the rainy, then unseasonably chilly, weather during the three-day event.

Pre-Hamvention speculation about a considerably smaller turnout in this post-September 11th era also seemed to have been off the mark, although the official head count won't be available for another week or so. Hamvention typically draws between 25,000 and 30,000 visitors.

Although Hamvention typically provides a suitable occasion to debut the latest equipment, many attendees agreed that there were fewer new major items on display than in some past years.

There was no shortage of ham radio accessories, however.

Yaesu showed its new "portable base station" FT-897 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver, a pumped-up version of the highly popular and diminutive FT-817, as well as its FT-8900R four-band FM transceiver and VX-7R hand-held.

Ten-Tec displayed a prototype of its new top-of-the-line Orion transceiver, which is replacing the OMNI. Ten-Tec says the Orion will be available later this year. The Tennessee company also showed its new Argonaut V IF-DSP 20w transceiver for HF.

ICOM debuted its new IC-2720 dual-band mobile and had its D-Star digital "concept radio" system on display.

Kenwood broadcast the Hamvention proceedings via the Internet.

This year's event marked Hamvention's 50th anniversary, and the 51st show. And, in a Hamvention first, Mark Elliot N8WZW, and Cyndi Krieger were married at Hamvention Saturday, May 18.

New US Amateur bands?

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

(While the following relates strictly to the US, I'm quite certain that every effort would be made around the world to follow suit, should the following come to be..ed)

Great news for ham radio in the US this week! The FCC has proposed going along with ARRL's request for a new domestic (US-only), secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz. The FCC also is ready to permit operation on a 136-kHz "sliver band" in the low-frequency (LF) region. And, in response to a third ARRL request, the FCC has proposed elevating Amateur Radio to primary status at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

"I'm just as tickled as I can be," ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP, said upon hearing the news. "This is a classic example of our ARRL at work."

The FCC voted unanimously May 2 to adopt the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in ET Docket 02-98. The Commission released a Public Notice May 9, and the NPRM is expected to be released soon. A comment deadline will be announced as soon as it's available.

The FCC said the new 5-MHz band would help Amateurs "better match their choice of frequency to existing propagation conditions." The band, if approved, would be the first new Amateur HF allocation since World Administrative Radio Conference 1979 gave Amateurs 30, 17 and 12m, the so-called "WARC Bands." Assuming the 5MHz band eventually is authorized, it could be a few years before it actually becomes available.

The League said its successful WA2XSY experiments demonstrated

HARC 2001-2002 Executive

President

Emcloy Mitchell VE3JAI

627-0333

eamitch@mcmil.cis.mcmaster.ca

Past President

Linda Hardwick VA3LJU

389-4091

va3lju@rac.ca

Vice President

(open)

Vice President

Chris Cuthbert VE3PKY

547-3169

aj630@hwcw.org

Secretary

Fred Robinson VE3GCP

575-5197

fredrobinson@mountaincable.net

Treasurer

Walt Bayliss VA3WWB

bayliss@nas.net

Director

Stanley Bollbruch VE3GFE

528-4002

that Amateurs can coexist with current users and that the band is very suitable for US-to-Caribbean paths. In comparisons with 80 and 40m, the WA2XSY operation also showed the 60m band to be the most reliable of the three. The ARRL also argued that a new 150kHz allocation at 5MHz could relieve periodic overcrowding on 80 and 40m.

If allocated to Amateurs on a secondary basis, hams would have to avoid interfering with, and accept interference from, current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30m. The band 5.250 to 5.450MHz now is allocated to Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions.

The ARRL asked the FCC for two LF allocations in October 1998, 135.7 to 137.8kHz and 160 to 190kHz. The FCC said its action on one part of that LF request "proposes changes that would enhance the ability of Amateur radio operators to conduct technical experiments, including propagation and antenna design experiments, in the 'low frequency' (LF) range of the radio spectrum."

Several countries in Europe and elsewhere already have 136-kHz Amateur allocations. The first Amateur transatlantic contact on the band was recorded in February 2001.



Nutech Electronics

166 Parkdale Av N

Hamilton, ON

Tel: (905) 547-8420

Fax: (905) 547-8422

Toll Free:

1-800-263-8620

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St. Catharines, ON

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Hams would be secondary to the Fixed and Maritime Mobile services in the 136kHz allocation. The League said its engineering surveys suggest that hams could operate without causing problems to power line carrier (PLC) systems already active in that vicinity or to government assignments. Unallocated Part 15 PLC systems are used by electric utilities to send control signals, data and voice.

The FCC said its proposal to upgrade the Amateur Service allocation at 2400 to 2402MHz to primary "seeks to protect current Amateur use of this band." Hams have shared their other

2.4GHz spectrum on a secondary basis with government users.

Amateurs already are primary at 2390 to 2400 and from 2402 to 2417MHz. The ARRL has said primary status in the intervening spectrum slice was needed "to provide some assurances of future occupancy of the band segments for the next generation of amateur satellites."

The ARRL has expressed its belief that hams can continue to accommodate Part 15 and Part 18 devices at 2.4GHz.

ARRL's Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart K1MMH, was among those welcoming the good news from the FCC. "This a wonderful example of the work ARRL conducts in Washington on matters important to the Amateur Radio community," Hobart said.

"Thanks to the 10,000 hams who contributed so generously to the 2002 Defense of Frequencies Fund. The success of that campaign helps to make decisions like this possible."

IRLP hosts net for kids

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

The Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) is hosting a worldwide net for young hams, called the IRLP4KIDS Net. The net is said to meet every Saturday at 0100 UTC (Friday night in the US and Canada) on IRLP Reflector #2.

You must first join the group by going to:
<http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/irlp4kids>
on the internet.

Young hams interested in serving as net control stations are urged to contact Jason Noehlin by e-mail at K0IIN@arrl.net.

It's also reported that IRLP has now signed up more than 400 repeaters around the world as nodes on its network. Users of these repeaters may

Hamfests

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
Hamfest 2002
Marriott Hall, Ancaster
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26th!
Admission: \$5
Contact Hamfest Chair for table info.

Central Ontario Hamfest
Guelph & Kitchener/Waterloo ARC's
Fergus & District Community Centre,
Fergus (10km N. of Guelph)
SATURDAY, JUNE 8th!
Admission: \$5
Talk in: 145.210 MHz

Ontario Hamfest
Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Milton Fairgrounds, Milton
SATURDAY, JULY 6th!
Admission: \$5
Talk in: 146.520 MHz Simplex

Barrie Fleamarket
Barrie ARC
Shanty Bay Community Centre, Hwy
400, North of Barrie
SATURDAY, SEPT 7th!
Admission: \$3
Talk in: 147.000 MHz

London Fleamarket
London Amateur Radio Club
Western Fairgrounds, Special
Events Building, London
SUNDAY, SEPT 22nd!
Admission: \$6
Talk in: 147.060 MHz

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

use IRLP to connect to any of the other repeaters.

Detailed information on IRLP may be found in the Spring 2002 issue of CQ VHF or on the internet at <http://www.irlp.net>.

Contesting

David VE3STT – Editor

In my second such column, I have a couple of contest reminders. The annual

ARRL Field Day (which to some is qualified a contest, others an emergency preparedness exercise) is dealt with elsewhere in the newsletter this month, so I won't repeat it here. However, a couple of other major contests, geared for Canadian Amateurs follow:

The first will be right on top of as you read this column. It's the **RSGB Jubilee Contest**.

To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in June 2002, the Radio Society of Great Britain is organizing a special contest to promote contact with stations in the British Commonwealth. There will be commemorative plaques for the overall winners, certificates for the leading score from each country and for all stations contacting fifty or more Commonwealth call areas. There will also be a range of special certificates for UK Intermediate and Foundation licensees. The General Rules for RSGB HF Contests do not apply to this event.

Date: 8 / 9 June 2002.

Time: 1000-1000UTC.

Bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28MHz.

Modes: CW and SSB.

Exchange: RS(T) and serial number starting from 001.

IARU band plans should be observed. Contest-preferred segments should be observed, no operation to take place on 3560-3600, 3650-3700, 14060-14125 and 14300-14350kHz.

You can find more information about this contest at:
<http://www.rsgbhfcc.org>.

The second contest is the annual **RAC Canada Day Contest**.

As always VE3DC will be well represented on all bands. Talk to Rick VE3BK if you would like to be part of the group in this, or any other, contest. And, by all means, make sure you get on the air July 1st 0000-2400z and make a few contacts with other Canadian Amateurs.

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.) Suggested frequencies: CW - 25 kHz up from the band edge; SSB - 1850, 3775, 7075,

7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS(T) and province or territory. VEØs and stations outside Canada send RS(T) and a serial number.

QSOs: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØs are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are worth 20 points.

Multipliers: Canada's 10 provinces and three territories, and may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands. The multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are: Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, CY9, CYØ); Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2); Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3); Manitoba [MB] (VE4); Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5); Alberta [AB] (VE6); British Columbia [BC] (VE7); Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8); New Brunswick [NB] (VE9); Newfoundland and Labrador [NF] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NT] (VY0); Yukon [YT] (VY1); and Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2).

Final Score: Total your QSO points from all bands, and multiply by the total multiplier points from all bands.

Categories:

- Single Operator All Bands;
- Single Operator Low Power (max. 100 W output);
- Single Operator QRP (max. 5 W output);
- Single Operator Single Band;
- Multi-operator.

Single ops using DX spotting system or PacketCluster during the contest are classified M/M. There are no single-mode categories!

And for even more information about RAC Canada Day Contest, visit: <http://www.rac.ca/CANDAY.htm>.

May minutes

Fred VE3GCP – Secretary

Minutes of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club meeting, Wednesday, May 15, 2002:

HARC 2001-2002 Chairs

Awards
& Volunteer Examiner

Lorraine MacPherson
VA3NZ 389-7653
ab510@hwcen.org

Contesting
& Property Manager

Rick Danby
VE3BK 544-3253
rdanby@hwcen.org

Education & Membership

Mardy Eedson
VE3QEE 648-0187
meedson@home.com

Emergency

Gary Notto
VE3TTO 387-1103
ve3tto@rac.ca

Volunteer Examiner

Bernie Granby
VA3XJ 527-7175
berngran@hwcen.org

Field Day

David Bruton
VE3DWJ 383-9808
am983@hwcen.org

Flea Market

John Kirstein
VA3AWK 648-6456
OBSKDS@netcom.ca

Health/Welfare

Mary Urbanski
VE3OGQ 388-8383

Hospitality

Monthly Volunteers

Newsletter/Web

David Jones
VE3STT 549-1919
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

In the interest of brevity, the following has been put in "point by point format.

Prior to the usual meeting, a special meeting of the Field Day group was convened by the coordinator, David Bruton at 7pm. Most of the FD band captains were present and several people were assigned to help with special aspects of the event. It was agreed that there would be a hospitality tent for the participants and the public. Efforts are being made to locate the club's large banner, which we use in such cases. David advised that the site has again been confirmed by the Royal Botanical Gardens management and that the portable washroom has been scheduled.

NOTE: a specific request for "2 ply" was tabled.

Some preliminary preparation will begin on Friday evening and the site will be mowed by our host. A discussion was conducted as to antenna/tent layout. The bands to be operated are 80m phone, 40m phone, 40m CW, 20m phone and 2m. Each band captain will be responsible to hook up to the appropriate power generator or supply his own power. If you wish to get involved please contact David Bruton VE3DWJ, the coordinator. This event takes place at Balls Falls which overlooks the valley town of Dundas and Cootes Paradise Park and the west end of Lake Ontario. It starts at 1800Z on Saturday June 22 and runs continuously for 24 hours.

There is a lot that can be learned and great fun so we'll see you there. FD Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

THE HARC GENERAL MEETING was convened at 8pm by our President, Emsley Mitchell. A simple welcome was followed by the introduction of our homebrew contest.

There were only two entrants this year. First, Mardy Eedson did his show and tell on his "bread board crystal type receiver" and then he explained his QRP transceiver. This is a tiny kit PC board project that fits in a sardine sized can was the basis of a QST article a couple of years ago. The output is estimated at somewhere around 500mw.

Second, Boris August with his Equivalency Series Resistance type Capacitor checker. This also had been a project from a previous QST article. The projects were judged by John Vandenberg VE3DVV our resident superintendent.

Zrinko announced that he has just passed his basic exam and the 5wpm code last week. He has recently arrived here from YU land. Mardy informed the club that our member Bill Whitelock VE3CBW will be moving to Toronto in June. David Bruton thanked the members who helped out again this year with the Red Shield Appeal. The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum chairman Frank Love announced that plans are underway for a Special Club Event on August 4 & 5 (Sun. & Mon.) in celebration of the HARC club's 70th anniversary. This will be a major public event with total club involvement.

David Bruton was asked to do a Field Day report (some of which is contained in the special FD Meeting minutes at the beginning of this article):

80m phone captain is Dan VE3DJ, Fred VE3GCP will also operate. Dipole antenna.

40m phone captain Rick VE3BK, operating from the communication van, 2 dipoles.

40m CW captain Bernie VA3ZJ, will try a new FD antenna support and will use computer logging for the first time. Will need help with new tower.

20m phone captain is Emsley VE3JAI, 2 dipoles at 45 degrees with a switch.

2m multi mode captain Gerald Johnston VE3GMJ

The President introduced Gary Notto VE3TTO who gave a short narration about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the public display of Emergency Services that took place on May 9, 2002 at Hamilton's Gore Park. This event shows the public about the cooperation that exists among the many agencies who cooperate in emergency situations. Last month I (secretary) was in error saying that Gary had been appointed as the local ARES coordinator by the Red Cross. The fact

is that ARES has been a service of the ARRL and recently was made a function of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) who made the appointment. Gary announced that he is planning classes in formal message handling and other emergency preparedness aspects and that all club members are encouraged to get involved. This would be a good way to update and improve your operating skills.

Coffee break at 8:55pm

Business meeting: previous minutes approved as circulated.

Treasures report was not tabled, as the treasurer was unable to attend.

Membership chairman Mardy announced that the exec has again approved the Free Membership Draw for persons who pay next years dues by the end of September.

Education chairman Mardy, announced that courses for both Advanced and Basic licenses will be in September.

Rick Danby our contest chairman invited members to get involved in the Canada Day Contest on July 1st (the week after FD). He also announced that the official results of the OQP contest have VE3DC as the winner again this year with even more points than last year.

A Repeater update was requested and David Bruton advised that the 440MHz transmitter has not yet been repaired and that this matter is on hold until the results of a special exec discussion about repeater hardware. All members with input on this question are invited to the next exec meeting.

The secretary reminded the members about the upcoming election and asked for nominations.

John Vandenberg announced the winner of the building contest was Mardy Eedson and presented him with a prize of a HAPN-2 (Hamilton Area Packet Net) Digital Multi-code controller for IBM PCs and of course the Crawford Trophy.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

President's message

Emsley VE3JAI – President

Spring this year had its ups and downs but I think we are well on our way to summer. The club year has gone by so fast, it's hard for me to accept that we are already at our last bulletin and meeting. All things considered I think we had a reasonably good year. In September we started off with a presentation about the club's repeater VE3NCF followed by other interesting talks, Internet Radio Linking Program, Ground Zero, and Fessenden to name a few. The Flea Market (Hamfest 2001) was a great success and we hope to do even better this year.

All of this of course is only possible with the participation and cooperation of the club members. I wish to extend my gratitude to all the coordinators of all the departments and to especially to the current executive. I thank you all for the support and for your commitment to the club. You have made my year as president quite memorable.

The theme of our June meeting is "The Computer in the Shack". John Vandenberg VE3DVV will give a demonstration of SSTV, Rick Danby VE3BK will show us some of the latest Field Day logging programs and I will have CW training software and also hopefully a Packet Station. Elections for the 2002-2003 executive will also be held at that meeting. Nominations are still open. Please contact the secretary giving the name and acceptance of the person you wish to nominate.

Finally, the 70th Anniversary Committee has applied to Industry Canada for a special event call sign to be used over the August 4-5 long weekend when we operate from the Canadian War Plane Heritage Museum. We are inviting club members to commit to an hour or two operating time at this special event station. We will have a sign up sheet for this at the June meeting. See you all at our next meeting, and please remember to come out for Field Day on June 22-23 at the Rock Chapel Sanctuary.

Have a Great Summer!!!