



October 2002

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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 - 70 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2002

Hamfest 2002

David VE3STT - Editor

Yet another incredible Hamilton Amateur Radio Club annual fleamarket – Hamfest 2002 – will be held Saturday, October 19th again at Marritt Hall in the Ancaster Fair Grounds!

Once again it's a great chance to show every other Amateur just how big a fleamarket the Hamilton club can put on. And, it's also a major source of operating funds for your club!

To that end, as is asked every year, you are encouraged to commit to being a volunteer, instead of a visitor, at this particular fleamarket. There are so many happening through the season, that to spend a little time working for the good of the club is not too tall an order. Mardy VE3QEE is the chair of this years fleamarket, so please contact him to help out. You may have noticed some of the different tasks involved in manning the annual fleamarket in the newsletter last month.

Certainly, that doesn't stop you from spreading the word and inviting a few friends down for a look. You will notice a substantial ad on the back page of this edition of the newsletter, placed there to encourage the odd photocopy to be passed on to a friend in the Amateur community. Or simply leave your copy of this newsletter someplace conspicuous and hopefully other Amateurs will take the hint and drop by on the 19th for a visit?

We'll see you at Hamfest 2002!

How to hook younger Hams

David VE3STT – Editor

(I was all set to write a front page item on the flight of pop sensation Lance Bass (of N-Sync) in a Russian rocket, but it seems that the best laid plans of your everyday, ordinary pop superstar have fizzled as of late. Lance, and this is hard to believe, can't seem to muster the cash to pay the bills involved in flying him to space. Having said that, I

Next meeting's Speaker

October 19

"Last Minute Hamfest Details"

Once again it's "all hand on deck" for another HARC Hamfest. Find out how you can help with this years event, a major fund-raising effort for the club!

still think it's encouraging news for the hobby when someone of his age and profile gets his Amateur license. That has happened, so I'll use my front page story anyway, hopefully speaking to a much younger than usual potential Amateur crowd!..ed)

Lance Bass of the pop singing group 'N Sync is still hoping to travel to the International Space Station in late October through Russia's "space tourist" program, although a few recent financial set-backs (like instalments not being paid) continues to put a crimp in his timeline.

The upside for the Amateur community is that Bass has an Amateur licence, which just might interest a much

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!

younger generation of potential Hams?

Bass passed his Technician license examination August 30 at an ARRL-VEC test session, and, if all arrangements can be worked out, Amateur radio could be a part of his still hopeful space visit. As I write this, he has not yet been issued a call sign.

In the US recently for training with NASA, Bass worked with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) volunteer team, which included Nick Lance, KC5KBO, ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, andCarolynn Conley, KD5JSO, the Amateur Radio integration manager at the Johnson Space Centre (JSC) in Houston.

Provided he does fly, Bass said, "I will be staying in contact the whole time I'm up there," during a NASA-hosted Web chat with students across the US August 29. "I'm getting my ham license this week, that's one of my goals so I can talk to different schools around the world via ham radio. That'll be a lot of fun." An audience of youngsters ranging in age from 9 to 12 from Pearl Hall Elementary School, Pasadena, Texas, also joined Bass in the Johnson Space Centre studio to ask questions face-to-face.

Bauer said Bass knows the rules and regulations and that the ARISS team also supplied training on the ARISS hardware and operations from space. "We gave him some sessions where he could listen to typical QSOs on orbit and school group contacts from the ground; he is now well versed on what to expect." Bass also received training with the ham radio hardware during his Russian training stay earlier in the year.

At this point, however, nothing is finalized to ensure that Bass will get on the air from the NA1SS/RS0ISS ham station on the ISS.

At 23, Bass would be the youngest person ever to travel into space. As mentioned, there are still a few financial roadblocks his team has to overcome before he flies. The round-trip ticket price has been generally estimated to be in the vicinity of \$20 million, but all sides are keeping mum about the exact

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

cost for the Bass celebrity flight. (And I'm quite sure there a at least a few endorsement deals tied to his flight too..ed)

For more information about the International Space Station, and flights of the shuttles, visit the NASA Human Spaceflight Web site <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov>.

September minutes

Fred VE3GCP - Secretary

The meeting was called to order by our new president Mr. Mike Krebs VA3WXS in a room across the hall from our usual meeting room. It seems that there was a slight confusion as to which room a first-aid class was to be conducted in, so we ended up in a smaller room. This was all fine since it made things more cozy and intimate.

We did have a slightly larger attendance and maybe that was due to our guest speaker. Roger Burrough of Camtech Photographic Services (on Concession St. in Hamilton) gave an extremely interesting and info packed presentation on the subject of digital photography. He had some samples including a camera from around 1900 and others up to the present day. One of the more advanced digital cameras is smaller than a pack of cigarettes, fully automated and even has 6 times optical zoom and 3 times digital zoom. It uses a media card about the size of a \$1.00 postage stamp and could easily take and store several hundred photos. Judging from the number and type of questions from the audience, it would be safe to say that Roger's talk was quite successful.

After the coffee break we reconvened for our business session. The usual formality of the adoption of previous was dealt with which included an Error on my part. I mistakenly used the name of John Dykstra when I should have said John Van Der Rijd VE3CYC/VA3RK. My apologies.

As part of his membership report Mardy reminded us about the early registration draw. Someone will win their next years membership for free because they registered early and had their name put into the annual draw. Mardy also noted that the new Amateur Course starts (Sept. 19) and that there is room for more students.

Mardy then stayed standing (it seemed he was never going to sit down again) to introduce some new members. We welcomed Marcel Mongeon Sr. who holds the U.S. call KA3DDD and now VA3DDD. His son Marcel Jr. was also present and he is KC2KBX and VA3HHH. We also welcomed Doug Last VE3NBL.

Finally, Mardy gave an update on the plans for our annual flea market, which is in October on Saturday the 19th. There was a typo in the September issue of The Hamilton Amateur giving the wrong date for our flea market (*my apologies..ed*). A special flea market meeting will be held at the conclusion of our usual executive meeting on September 24th.

It was announced that our 440Mhz repeater is back on the air. The input is 449.075 and the output is 444.075Mhz. It is not yet hooked up with our 2-meter repeater and does not have a tail yet. After some further testing it will be put into full operation.

Gary Notto VE3TTO is the ARES coordinator and he announced that a "call out" was made on Monday Sept. 16th and the result was that the contact call list was put into action and it performed quite well. The ARES exercises can be lots of fun and you can learn some practical public service techniques.

Emsley announced that the special event, 70th anniversary station operation at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum was also a success and made 117 QSOs and so far 21 special certificates have been sent out. A letter from RAC was read, congratulating the HARC on our 70th continuous year of club activity.

David Bruton VE3DWJ was our Field Day Coordinator again this year and he reported that our scores look even better than last year, so we may end up on top of the heap again. We can expect to see the official results in the upcoming issue of QST.

On Wednesday October 2nd there will be a celebration at the CNIB recognizing the 10th anniversary of VE3TTC. Our president, Mike

HARC 2002-2003 Executive

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Director

Murray Thompson VE3ZPV
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VA3WXS will be on VE3NCF from 1:30 to 4pm and asks that you give them a shout.

Once again Bernie VA3XJ requested an assistant to work with him on the coffee break refreshments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm!

Contesting

David VE3STT - Editor

Contest season begins!

It is widely recognized that the beginning of the contesting season is October each year. It marks the time when all the summer activities with

family and friends are done, the kids have been back in school for about a month and any pressing antenna/shack work has been completed in nice weather.

One of the first challenges is the annual set of CQWW DX Contests. VE3DC is always well represented in both the CW and SSB weekends of these events. A very basic outline of the rules follows:



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
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nutech.electronics@sympatico.ca

SSB: Oct 26-27 & CW: Nov 23-24
Starts 0000z Sat & ends 2400z Sunday

I. OBJECTIVE: Amateurs around the world to contact other amateurs in as many zones and countries as possible.

II. BANDS: All bands, 1.8 through 28 MHz, except for WARC bands.

III. TYPE OF COMPETITION (choose only one):

A. Single Op: Single band or all band; only one signal allowed at any one time; the operator may change bands at any time.

1. Single Op Hi Pwr: One person performs all of the operating, logging, and spotting functions. DX alerting assistance of any kind places the station in Single Op Assisted.

2. Single Op Lo Pwr: Same as III A 1 except output power shall not exceed 100w.

3. **QRP**: Same as III A 1, except that the power output must not exceed 5w.

B. **Single Op Assisted**: Spotting Net, like Packetcluster allowed (self-spotting not allowed).

C. **Multi-Op** (all band only):

1. **Single TX (MS)**: Only one transmitter and one band permitted during any 10-minute period.

2. **Two TX (M2)**: A maximum of two signals at any time on different bands. Both transmitters may work any and all stations. Each transmitter may make a maximum of 8 band changes in any clock hour (00 through 59 minutes). (this is a brand new category as of 2002..ed)

3. **Multi-TX (MM)**: No limit to transmitters, but only one signal and running station allowed per band.

IV. **EXCHANGE**: RS/RST plus CQ zone (we're zone 4, as an example..ed).

V. **MULTIPLIER**: Two types:

1. A multiplier of (1) for each different zone contacted on each band.
2. A multiplier of (1) for each different country contacted on each band.

VI. **POINTS**:

1. Contacts between stations on different continents are worth (3) points.
2. Contacts between stations on the same continent but different countries,

Hamfests

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club

Hamfest 2002

Marritt Hall, Ancaster

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19th!

Admission: \$5

Talk in: 146.760 MHz

Contact Hamfest Chair for table info.

York Region Hamfest

York Region Amateur Radio Club

Markham Fairgrounds, McCowan Rd

and Elgin Mills Rd E, Markham

SATURDAY, NOV 2nd!

Admission: \$5

Talk in: 145.350 MHz

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

- (1) point. *Exception*: N.American stations *only*, contacts between stations within the N.A. boundaries count (2) points.
3. Contacts between stations in the same country are permitted for zone or country mult credit but have (0) point value.

VII. **SCORING**: Final score is total QSO points multiplied by the sum of

your zone and country multipliers.

For much more information, please visit the <http://www.cqww.com/> page. And, by all means, get on the air and operate on any of the prescribed HF bands. You stand an extremely good chance of easily working DXCC in a weekend!

VE3H - HARC 70th anniversary celebration

Emsley VE3JAI - Past-President

(An example of the certificate sent out can be seen to the left of this article. The original was a full colour. Because of size reduction and the change to black & white within my publishing program, this does not do it justice, but thought you might be interested!

If you were among the people on the other end of QSO's with VE3H and haven't received your certificate yet, hang in there, they are well worth the wait!..ed)

Special event station VE3H was on the air August 4-5 from the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum celebrating the 70th anniversary of the club and announcing the inauguration of the amateur radio station VA3CWM. A total of 117 contacts on five bands were made over the two day period. Some of the QSO's were from as far away as Russia, Ukraine, Czech Republic and France. On the North American continent we had contacts primarily from the East and West coasts and the Mid West.

All who participated in this event had a great time working the radios and explaining Amateur radio to visitors at VA3CWM. We have also received 19 QSL cards to date and have reciprocated with our 70th Anniversary certificates.

A special thank you to all the members of the 70th Anniversary committee and to members of the club who came out to operate the station for the two-day event.



Wire antenna launching system

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

(Once again the internet reflectors on the various aspects of our hobby provide a wealth of information. The following came via the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, which is delivered to me e-mail box monthly.

In this case, the subject was how to best get wire antennas into the trees. Given that some great winter months on the bands are coming up, if you don't happen to have an HF antenna in the air, or want to add a few dedicated bands via wire antennas, read on.

Thanks to Ward NA0X, George K3TKS and other contributors..ed)

How best to get wire antennas into the trees? A sampling of recent discussion on the subject from the QRP-L reflector (<http://qrp.lehigh.edu/lists/qrp-l/>) includes these good ideas.

A miniature fishing reel and rod makes a good launcher. Be sure to keep it away from yourself in case of backlash and wear goggles in all cases! Good types of weights include fishing sinkers, particularly conical ones 1.5-2 oz., painted bright colours, discarded tire balancing weights, a hockey puck (requires a 25-lb test line and a strong arm), spark plug sockets or just the spark plug, 20 oz. plastic soda bottles one-third filled with water, baseballs, tennis balls, golf balls with a screw-eye attached, locking sandwich or bean bags filled with sand, and fruit, like lemons or apples (if they get stuck, just pull the line through them).

A good way to locate the weight after it's gone over the tree and into the bushes is to use a 20-foot orange fishing leader on the weight. My favourite idea was the K3TKS Antenna Arrow. "It is a 36" aluminium hunting arrow crowned with an empty 30.06 cartridge filled with molten lead. I put a small hole in the end of the shaft for the #12 monofilament line. Use about 60ft of it

HARC 2002-2003 Chairs

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Public Liaison Co-Chair
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Repeater
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Swap Net Control
Frank Love VA3FWL
905-679-4524

then tie that to heavier Dacron(TM) line. I generally use an old #40 straight bow or compound bow for my antenna fishing."

Predicting the future

Rick VE3BK

(Some may have already seen this, but I thought it worth passing along here. I'm sure a list like this will only keep getting longer and longer as technology, and in some cases common sense, overcomes all..ed)

We've all heard predictions about the future. Sure, sometimes "experts" are right on target, but check out what they got wrong! Thanks, and enjoy!

"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau."
Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929.

"Man will never reach the moon, regardless of all future scientific advances."

Dr. Lee DeForest, Inventor of TV

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."

Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"640K ought to be enough for anybody."
Bill Gates, 1981

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out."
Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

"Everything that can be invented has been invented."
Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, U.S. Office of Patents, 1899.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."
Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"



Hamilton Amateur Radio Club

Hamfest 2002

An amateur radio, computer
and electronics flea market

*** Saturday, October 19th, 2002***

Talk-In: VE3NCF 146.760-

Location: Marritt Hall (Ancaster Fair Grounds) On Highway #53 -
Between Southcote Road and Kittymurry Lane.

General Admission \$5.00

Doors open to vendors at 7am & general public at 9am.

Vendor Information:

ALL TABLES NOW - \$ 10.00 (plus admission)

Reservations: Mardy (905) 648-0187

e-mail: Mardy VE3QEE meedson@cogeco.ca

SaudiSat 1A and 1B were launched along with TIUNGSAT-1 on September 26, 2000, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, aboard a converted Soviet ballistic missile. Both satellites have been in various stages of commissioning since then.

President's message

Mike VA3WXS - President

The transfer of office went very smoothly and thanks to the last executive for their efforts during the past year. We had a very good turnout for our first meeting of the year and the guest speaker gave an excellent presentation on Digital photography.

Please remember that Hamfest 2002 is coming up and I urge all our members to support this event. The organizers are looking for volunteers to help in the various departments. Take care and hope to see you at the next meeting on October 16th.

1AW card on eBay

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

A 1923-vintage Hiram Percy Maxim 1AW card recently went for \$2125 on eBay! It was believed to be a record price for the sale of a single QSL card.

Neither the seller nor the buyer have been identified, but ARRL member Paul Cassel VE3SY, of Petersburg, ON acted as the sale agent and posted the card on the auction site. "The winning bidder is in California and is a very serious QSL collector," he said after the auction closed. Cassel pledged to donate half of his sale commission to the W1AW Endowment Fund.

Although the card proclaims "American Radio Relay League Station 1AW" across the top, the now-famous call sign was Maxim's own personal call sign at the time, not the League's, and Maxim operated from his home on Hartford.

Until the 1AW card sale, Cassel says the highest known price paid for a single QSL card was more than \$1100.

David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

SaudiSat is on-air

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

SaudiSat 1-A (SO-41) now is reported open for Amateur Radio communication. According to information received by AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton VE3FRH, SO-41 has been configured for FM voice repeater operation.

Turki Al Saud, director of the Space Research Institute in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the satellite's sponsoring agency, told AMSAT-NA that SO-41

will automatically enable its UHF transmitter over Saudi Arabia and the US for approximately 20 minutes each pass. The spacecraft reportedly is configured for Mode J, with a VHF uplink of 145.850MHz and a UHF downlink of 436.775MHz. The spacecraft will operate in this mode intermittently, as power and spacecraft experiments permit, the announcement said.

SO-41's downlink RF power is 1w with left-hand circular polarization. The uplink antenna, located atop the spacecraft, is linear in polarization. Experiments and software development continue with SaudiSat 1-B (SO-42), and that satellite is not yet available to Amateurs.