



November 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

Party!

Fred VE3GCP - Secretary

The Hamilton ARC is happy to invite all interested Amateurs and their guests to this years **CHRISTMAS PARTY** at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club!

On **Thursday evening, December 12, 2002** the members of the HARC will convene and welcome guests to enjoy the spirit of the season at this well known location on Hamilton's harbour. We will begin at **6:15pm** followed by **dinner at 7pm**.

The cost is \$25.00 per person and we would ask that you confirm your reservation(s) as soon as possible. This will allow our executive to better arrange the menu choices and confirm the number of guests with our host. When the lady asks "what do I wear?" you can tell her that it will be *gentlemen - shirt & tie and ladies - dressy casual*.

This will be a good chance to show the ladies how much we appreciate their tolerance our hobby all the rest of the year. There will be some door prizes. There will be a cash bar.

Tickets will be available at the club meeting on Wednesday, November 20 but please call or email your reservation to Fred VE3GCP, Emsley VE3JAI or Mardy VE3QEE. Their phone numbers and email addresses are found in the Executive list of this bulletin.

You could also check in to our Tuesday evening net at 7:30pm on VE3NCF just before the Swap net at 8pm. Tickets can be picked up at the club meeting, so please help us by booking now. You'll be sure to see some old friends there.

RS 12/13 – silent

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

The Russian RS-12/13 satellite, long a popular "easysat" because of its downlinks on 10m & 2m and uplinks on 2m & 15m, is off the air and unofficial reports say it may be dead.

Next meeting's Speaker

November 20

"Radio-controlled model aircraft"

Mr. Reg Bagshaw VE3BQQ will join us. Reg has had a very interesting career in the radio communications business. He is a member of the OPP Auxiliary-Retired and a 10-year member of the Stoney Creek Model Aircraft Club. Reg will give us a practical and technical presentation of Radio Controlled Model Aircraft. This will be your chance to see these hand made planes up close. The fact that Reg is both a radio control hobbyist and an Amateur makes him the perfect speaker to introduce our club to the exciting field of radio-controlled models.

According to postings on the AMSAT-BB internet reflector and AC5DK's RS-12/13 Satellite Page, Jerry Brown, K5OE received word from a ham friend in Russia that the satellite had succumbed to last summer's blasts of solar radiation, first losing its receivers and control circuitry, then the beacon transmitters.

Stressing that his information was unofficial, Oleg, RV3TH also told Jerry that controllers will try to bring the satellite back to life, but have little hope

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!

of success. RS-12/13 was launched in 1991 as a secondary payload aboard COSMOS 2123, a Russian navigation satellite. The last transmissions from the satellite were heard on August 20.

October minutes

Fred VE3GCP – Secretary

The October 16th meeting was called to order by our president Mike Krebs, VA3WXS at 8:10pm and the first order of business was to introduce new members and guests. A new licensee and member to the club is David Nusko and he has the call VE3DVD.

Promptly, Mardy Eedson was asked to introduce our guest speaker Winston Seeneey VE3WFS. Winston is from Belmont Lake, which is near Peterborough, and was sponsored by Durham Radio to attend our club meeting. He began by telling us some of the facts that surround the Camp X, which has been getting more noteworthy in the past year or so. Winston turned the majority of his talk to his travels and experiences as an Amateur of ten years now. He brought his collapsible dipole antenna which he uses as he travels to other countries allowing him to operate from hotel balconies and so on. This man clearly enjoys his Amateur experiences and implored us recall the days when we made our first contact and the passion of those moments.

Before adjourning to our coffee break, Mardy conducted the now traditional free membership draw for those who signed up prior to September 30th. This year the prize went to a long-standing member who we are very pleased to see back at the meetings again, Mike Patrick, VE3FMG.

The meeting was called back to order (somewhat later than the usual time) and so the business meeting was conducted with somewhat more dispatch this month. Mardy reported that the memberships are rolling in as usual and we expect to be over the 100 mark again soon. This years membership cards will be sent soon.

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

Our treasury is also in good order but no new report will be done until after the Flea Market as there are still accounts payable and the receipts to be totalled.

Thanks was expressed to Ilona Davidson, VE3UGM and Gerald Johnson, VA3GMJ for donating the donuts this month and assisting Bernie Granby VE3XJ/VE3EKY with the coffee break set up.

Rick Danby, VE3BK announced the upcoming contest and presented the club with yet 3 more awards to hang on the wall for past contest success.

Some discussion ensued as to preparation for the flea market, which takes place the Saturday following this meeting.

At 10:30pm a motion to adjourn was carried with everyone saying...*see you on Saturday.*

Contesting

David VE3STT – Editor

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the contest season is widely recognized as "warming up" with the CQP (Cal QSO Party) and the PaQP (Penn QSO Party). Then the real season officially begins with the annual CQWW SSB on the last weekend in October. Having just finished off the latest edition as a member of the VE3DC contest team, I can give you a brief report.

The group decided that, primarily based on available operators for the weekend and to be in a little more competitive category than trying to play with the "big guns" in M/M, we should enter the brand new M/2 (Multi-Op/2 Tx) category. And by early indications, the decision proved to be a good one.

The contest started with a bang on the low bands, 160m and 80m proving to be "money" well into the evening. That continued through the wee hours with some significant runs on 80m, while 40m was the traditional slugfest between all the non-US stations below 7100. "Split" sometimes becomes a curse word!

Daytime provided some great fun on 10m and 15m, while 20m is always a challenge. But in the end, I think we did VE3DC proud, and I am certain we had a blast! But, because the category

is a brand new one, there is no current benchmark with which to compare our score, so we'll just wait and see how VE3DC shakes out as M/2.

CQWW CW in November

If you liked SSB, you'll love the CW portion of the CQWW contests. The signals explode from each band all weekend and from every corner of the globe. And, because it's CW, more people can have more fun in the same bandwidth it takes to do SSB.

And, in case you missed it last month, a quick recap of the essential info:

CW: Nov 23-24
0000z Sat to 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 - Hi Pwr, Lo Pwr or QRP

B. Single Op Assisted: Packetcluster allowed (self-spotting not allowed).

C. Multi-Op - (MS), (M2) & (MM)

IV. EXCHANGE: RS/RST & CQ zone

V. MULT: Two types:

1. (1) for each different zone/band.
2. (1) for each different country/band.

VI. POINTS:

1. Between stations on different continents - (3) pts.
2. Between stations on same continent but different countries, (1) pt.
Exception: NA stations only, contacts between stations within NA, (2) pts.
3. Between stations in same country permitted for zone or country mult but (0) pts.

For more info: <http://www.cqww.com/> and remember, you stand an extremely good chance of working DXCC in a weekend!

Contest e-mail bag

The day after the big CQWW I received a very nice e-mail, which I thought I

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would share. It really needs no further introduction:

Was very pleased to work the club station VE3DC on 10 & 15m during CQWW contest this last weekend.

VE3DC was my father -in- law's old call in the late 1930's until it was withdrawn and his station confiscated by the Government on 3 September 1939 when World War 2 broke out.

His name is Dolphus Chene, hence VE3 'DC' and he lived in Sudbury, Ontario. He served in the RCAF in England during the war being involved in developing Radar. He got married in England during the war and returned to Canada when the war finished and started a business in Val d'Or but

returned to England in 1948 without having taken up the option of having his old call or his station returned to him, which he has always regretted!

They had a daughter Denise, who is my wife, so that is my involvement and I have been looking out for VE3DC on the bands for many years for a QSO and here we are.



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When he returned to the UK he started a small electrical and refrigeration business for a few years before becoming attached to the Military/Government when he became Chief Engineer at the RAF Fylingdales Early Warning Station on the North Yorkshire Moors during the "Cold War" with the USSR.

When he was retired from there he became a Consultant/Engineer for 18 years until last year when we finally got him to retire fully. He now lives with us and has become a SWL again!!

It has brought back many memories for him, so I thought club members might like to know some of the history of the club call sign.

I hope you find this of interest and look to hearing from you.

Graham G3OHC

On behalf of the club I took the liberty of quickly responding to Graham (I might have even been the one on the radio when we made contact, but the calls were certainly fast and furious during an incredible 10m opening that I really would have to go back through the logs to be sure) and promised to include his e-mail in our next newsletter and forward a copy to him in England for posterity!

Odds and ends – The “Rock”

On October 21, 2002, the postal symbol for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador will change from NF to NL.

Canada Post will continue to recognize NF for a period of six months after implementation of the new symbol.

I raise this as a contesting item only because it will impact most of the software packages commonly used now.

TVI?

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

(Once again this month, I scoured one of my favourite internet reflectors for some useful information. I think I'm safe in saying that it doesn't happen quite as much as it once did, but if you happen to get into the neighbours phone or stereo better than you happen to get into Europe on 10m, then you may have a dreaded case of "TVI" and should read the following for a suggested cure! This information can be credited to Chuck W1HIS...ed)

1. It is important to put good common-mode-current RF chokes on both your coax and your rotor cables. First, right at your Yagi feed point, put an air-wound choke coil in your coax by winding six turns of the coax closely, in a single layer (not bunched or overlapped), on a 4-inch-diameter form such as PVC. This choke will have low power-dissipation but will not have enough choking impedance by itself.

Then you should have two good ferrite-core chokes, spaced at intervals of about 2.5 meters (a quarter-wave at 10 m). Winding about 12 turns of your cable on

Hamfests

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
Hamfest 2002

Thanks to all our club volunteers!
And, THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
THAT ATTENDED our annual
Hamfest!

See you in 2003

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

NPARC Big Event 25
Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club
CAW Hall, 125 Bunting Rd.,
St. Catharines
SATURDAY, FEB 1st/2003!
Admission: \$6
Talk in: 147.240 MHz

Burlington Spring Flea Market
Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 828
Legion Rd., Burlington
SATURDAY, MAR 1st/2003!
Admission: \$6
Talk in: 147.210 MHz

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

an Amidon type FT-240-43 or FT-240-77 toroidal core can make a good ferrite choke. Ferrite "beads" slipped or snapped over a cable are not good enough at HF. They don't have nearly enough impedance.

The chokes on your coax should be co-located with the chokes on your rotor cable, so that one cable cannot carry RF current past the choke on the other cable.

2. In addition, put good ferrite common-mode-current chokes on the TV-antenna cable(s). If the TV cable(s) run(s) parallel to your ham-antenna cable, then the common-mode-current chokes on

the TV-antenna cable(s) should be co-located with the chokes on your rotor and ham-coax cables, so that one cable cannot carry RF current past the choke on another cable.

3. If a TV antenna is near your Yagi, you should also insert a high-pass filter in its feed line, to keep HF RF out of the preamp/distribution amplifier.

4. If the TV preamp or distribution amplifier on your roof has a separate cable for power, then put a ferrite choke on this power cable, too. Same for the IF and power cables of any satellite-TV downconverter.

5. Put a good low-pass filter at the output of your HF transceiver.

If you do all these things you should have no trouble with TVI. I transmit 1.5kW on all HF bands, 80 through 10 meters (except 30m). The coaxial feed line of my ham antenna runs right by my TV antenna and very close to its coaxial feed line, yet I have no TVI on any channel. In my case I also inserted a second high-pass filter at the downstairs end of the TV cable, and I also inserted common-mode chokes at the downstairs ends of all cables. This may have been overkill (*yikes, there's an understatement, but if you have TVI, go for it to restore peace and harmony...ed*), but chokes are cheap and you may as well do all of them at once.

An important other benefit of common-mode chokes is that they stop RFI from the electric power wiring inside your building, and from the sweep circuits of the TV sets in your building, from being conducted up to your ham antenna. This makes a huge difference on the lower-frequency ham bands.

DXCC on 30m anyone?

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

(As the 30m band is strictly a CW and digital band, this should hopefully motivate you to check it out on those modes, if you have done so already...ed)

The ARRL has added 30 meters to its list of single-band DXCC awards. Applications began to be accepted on October 1, 2002, for Amateurs with confirmed contacts on the 30-meter band with stations in at least 100 separate DXCC "entities."

Amateurs in the United States must be ARRL members to apply for any DXCC award. For more information, contact the DXCC desk at ARRL headquarters, or via e-mail to dxcc@arrrl.org.

Quote, unquote

Fred VE3GCP – Secretary

Over the years I have been asked, "how do you get away with some of the things you say?"

Well I've always enjoyed good quotes and one of my favourites is, "it's not so much what you say but rather how you hold your tongue." I'm not sure but that have may have been Will Rogers. Maybe that's a bit like, "it's not what you say but how you say it." In any case there is a recent and contemporary quote that has come along and I happen to think that it is a particularly good one.

Since the terrible terrorist attacks on the USA, General Norman Schwarzkopf was asked if he thought there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harboured and abetted the terrorist who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America. His response was as follows, "I believe that forgiving them is God's function. Our job is simply to arrange the meeting."

QST...QST

Fred VE3GCO – Secretary

Very recently I received an email from George Morgan VE3GM, asking if I may assist him in locating a long lost friend of his. Part of the problem is that George forgot the call sign of his friend. He is looking for Bill Bonner.

Apparently these fellows went to school together during the war (I assume WW2). If you know anything of Bill,

HARC 2002-2003 Chairs

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Neil Galloway VE3VNG
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Repeater

John Vandenberg VE3DVV
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Swap Net Control

Frank Love VA3FWL
905-679-4524

you can contact George at cgmorgan@rogers.com or if you're not on the Internet just give me a call.

Here is a little tip that some of you may not realize. The Radio Amateur of

Canada (RAC) website is www.rac.ca and with a click on *Call Book* you can follow the prompts to locate Amateurs by *call sign or name*. The site also does other neat stuff. For example, there are four Amateurs with the family name Bonner presently licensed in Canada. Heck, that's good enough reason to join RAC right there and you get a really good Canadian magazine as well!

New QCWA President

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

For the first time in the history of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), founded in 1947, a Canadian radio Amateur has been elected as its president. Croft Taylor VE3CT, who previously served as vice president, assumed office for a two-year term on September 1, 2002.

Croft received his Amateur radio licence in 1950. He served in the military and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and as well, was employed and now retired with Bell System Canada. He is a former president of the QCWA National Capital Chapter 70 and resides in Ottawa with his wife Elizabeth.

For more information about the QCWA organization see, <http://www.qcwa.org>

The UK 5-meggers

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

The so-called "Fivemegs Experiment" in the UK got off to an enthusiastic start in early August of this year. Several Amateur stations wasted no time in obtaining the required Notice of Variance (or NoV), to operate as part of the experiment to investigate band propagation. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) announced in July that the Radio communications Agency (RA) and the UK's Ministry of Defence have granted permission to allocate five frequencies in the range 5250kHz to 5450kHz.

"We now have over 200 Full Class A license holders authorized to operate on the five spot frequencies," said RSGB Spectrum Director Gordon Adams G3LEQ, who's directing the experiment.

Frequencies available in the UK are 5260, 5280, 5290, 5400 and 5405kHz. Gordon says 5400 kHz is serving as a calling channel, but UK stations have been looking for US experimental activity on 5260kHz. Activity in the UK has been on upper sideband.

Responding to an ARRL petition earlier this year, the FCC has proposed allocating 5250 to 5400kHz to US Amateurs on a secondary basis. US operation under the ARRL's WA2XSY Experimental license continues on an occasional basis. Charly Harpole K4VUD, a WA2XSY participant in Florida, reports that Paul Gaskell G4MWO, in England confirmed reception of Harpole's 5MHz CW signal on August 8 at 0200 UTC.

A transatlantic two-way on 5 MHz is the next logical step, but it's unclear if WA2XSY participants are permitted to work the UK experimenters within the scope of the WA2XSY license. The ARRL is researching that question. In the meantime, cross band contacts remain an alternative.

As propagation indicators, the UK experimenters are listening for WWCR, an international short wave broadcaster at 5070kHz. He advised WA2XSY experimental stations in the US to check for USB stations RAF Volmet on 5450kHz and Shannon Volmet on 5505kHz.

For more information on the UK experimental activity on 5MHz, visit The Fivemegs Experiment page <http://www.rsgb.org/licensing/fivemegs/fivemegs.htm> on the RSGB Web site.

Follow-Up item...

David VE3STT - Editor

While not directly contest related, the "Team Zone 2" contest group (who happened to be in northern Quebec preparing for their annual CQWW SSB trek, and this year using special call

VC2C) was given experimental authorization by Industry Canada to conduct tests on the 60m Amateur band. These were the first ever operations on 60m from Canada and took place October 22nd, 23rd and 24th as the group was setting up their contest station.

Only Qso's with those stations in the USA and in the UK who have 60m authorization were undertaken, but the group did appreciate reception reports. The call sign used prior to the actual contesting with VC2C was VA2BY.

Drilling masonry

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

(Because it's "last-minute antenna work" season, I thought the following information might be both useful and practical, especially if you're trying to get your antenna feed line from point "a" to point "b" through a basement wall or equivalent. This article can be credited to Bill W9OL in Chicago...ed)

A friend recently made a real mess out of trying to install long feed-through long feed thru double female coax barrel connectors through his basement wall.

(By the way, in another post on this subject, another Amateur noted that one should always check the long barrel connectors under full-power to determine continuity. He purchased a few at a fleamarket that he found contains "opens" when he went to utilize them...ed)

As a Licensed Masonry Contractor I fixed it up for him. And I'll give you some tips.

First rent a "Hammer Drill" and proper bits from your local tool rental store. Home Depot rents them.

Next, the tip:

Get two bits, both obviously long enough, but a small diameter bit such as 1/4" to drill the first pilot hole. And another bit with a diameter large enough to accept the barrel connector.

Drill the 1/4" all the way through first. Then switch to the large bit but put a piece of tape equal to half way through the wall on the bit. Don't try to drill all the way through. It will blow out the other side surface and make a mess.

Drill half way through from the inside, and go out and drill the rest of the way. You will end up with a neat job and no mess.

Smiles

David VE3STT - Editor

Just in time for the holidays, I thought I would brighten your day, week, holiday time with a selection of quotes I received via e-mail from a friend in Winnipeg. These are the work of comedian Steven Wright (who appeared in Hamilton earlier this year). His warped outlook is perfect for putting smile on your face. These are but a few that I received:

Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.

Half the people you know are below average.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

OK, so what's the speed of dark?

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.

Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film