

May 2003

Http://www.hwcn.org/link/harc/

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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 - 71 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2003

# The RAC Incoming QSL bureau

David VE3STT - Editor

As a follow up to the article last month outlining the service provided by the RAC Outgoing QSL Bureau, I thought it would be prudent to outline the services provided by the Incoming QSL Bureau.

Again, I have taken the liberty of simply transcribing the available information from the RAC site for you here. And, I've strictly concentrated on the Ontario Incoming Bureau, but each province and territory has its own, of course.

Member societies of the International Radio Union (IARU) operate a worldwide system of QSL Bureaus. RAC, as the Canadian member-society, operates a National Incoming Bureau, and sponsors the Incoming Bureaus for the twelve Canadian call areas.

Cards received by the National Incoming Bureau from IARU member societies are sorted and forwarded to the Incoming Bureau in each call area.

The National Incoming Bureau address, which really is only needed by other QSL bureaus in other countries as a funnel to get cards from their country to ours, is:

National Incoming QSL Bureau Sponsored by: Loyalist City ARC Len Morgan VE9MY, Manager Box 51 SAINT JOHN NB E2L 3X1

Although RAC sponsors the bureaus, all Canadian amateurs may use them. The actual address for the Ontario VE3

Incoming Bureau is:

VE3 Incoming Bureau Gary Westhouse VE3NIT, Manager PO Box 157 DOWNSVIEW ON M3M 3A3

But really the only time you'll actually need to use that address, as the cards simply flow from elsewhere through this office, is to keep them supplied with the needed means by which you'll receive incoming cards.

#### Next meeting's Speaker

May 21

"Homebrew Night & IRLP Talk"

Home Brew is on! Bring your best "stuff" and let us see what you've been working on.

Also tentatively, a short talk on "how to use the IRLP system." Don't know what IRLP means? Come to the meeting!

There are four different methods by which the bureaus establish your ways and means of receiving cards. In the case of the Ontario VE3 Bureau, they choose method "D" which I will outline here. You can visit the RAC website to find out more.

#### Method D: - Credits with labels

Send the Bureau in your call area \$5.00, together with a supply of self-addressed adhesive labels with print large enough for use on envelopes.

You will be informed when you should send more money or labels.

It's really as simple as that. And, trust me, if you operate on any band at any time, you can expect someone,

Club meetings — 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month (except July and August) - 8pm in the St. John Ambulance Association building, 500 Upper Wellington Street (on the Mountain). Park behind the St. John's building, NOT the Police station.

Complimentary refreshments!

somewhere to send you a card in hopes of receiving one in return. It's just another great aspect of our hobby!

# Emergency preparedness exercise

Lorraine VA3NZ

(First, I must apologize for the delay in getting this into our newsletter. This article was actually submitted by Lorraine, to be included in the April newsletter, but I simply ran out of space as I was working on it and realized later that I had neglected her article...ed)

On September 9th 2002, the Amateur Radio community was pleased to be an active participant in the City of Hamilton Municipal Emergency Exercise. Representative, Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ attended as part of the Emergency Support Group (ESG) in Council Chambers. Our aim was twofold; first to establish voice and digital text communications to the outside world independent of commercial and government facilities, and second, to muster willing volunteers who could be dispatched to community centres or the like, to provide voice communications back to the ESG. We met our goal on both counts.

The Amateur station in the ESG consisted of UHF and VHF radios, communicating to the outside world via UHF repeater station VE3RFI. From there we established communications with our Amateur Control Station VA3AM located on the Hamilton mountain, and with the ARES station set up at the Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope. The Control Station had the capability to communicate worldwide with HF radio. and locally using VHF radio, the Internet, and digital text communications known as PACKET radio. The ARES station had similar capabilities.

A total of six radio operators took part in the exercise. The operators have all had experience providing

## Important points

**Executive Meetings** 

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August at Mohawk College in room E031B. All members are invited to attend and participate. The meetings are on the Tuesday following the club General Meeting each month.

## VE3NCF [146.760- & 444.075+

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* 

communications for community events and the Hamilton Airshow. They are equipped with emergency battery operated equipment, and prepare in advance for such emergencies. Messages from the ESG were passed to the Control Station and on to the ARES. As the exercise scenario unfolded, information was passed on, and tasks were assigned. Each station was given a log sheet for contacts. The Warplane Heritage station at Mount Hope had a sign posted to alert any visiting operators to the station of the activity in progress.

There were a total of 15 local stations contacted ready to assist should this be a "real" emergency. A phone callout procedure was initiated to alert volunteers in the community, and resulted in a 25% success rate. ARES members and local Amateurs in Hamilton agreed to be on standby. The Toronto ARES group stayed on alert and in contact for the duration of the exercise.

The ARES/EMO co-ordinator Bert Amero VE1AMA was contacted via the Packet radio network and manned his station in Nova Scotia for the duration of the exercise. This station has access to Search and Rescue Trenton, via emergency contacts in Nova Scotia and at the Military base in Greenwood N.S., which is part of EMO for the province of Nova Scotia.

We were pleased with the response of the Amateur community, as they did not have prior notice of the exercise. In a "real" emergency the public would have been more aware and the pool of volunteer radio operators would have swelled.

Amateur Radio has, among its ranks, many willing and able volunteers who as communicators can bridge the gap should public communications systems fail. They can do so in an unobtrusive and professional manner, and are pleased to be of service to the community.

The exercise also provided us with an opportunity to watch the City in action as the various departmental participants dealt with the mock disaster. It gave us an appreciation of how well organized the City Emergency Plan is, and a better idea of the role we can play.

Once again, the participating operators included:

Hamilton Station - Alan VA3AM. Mount Hope Station - Gary VE3TTO (ARES), Gerry VE3JSO, Bob VE3MFM and Don VE3EIR. City Hall - Lorraine VA3NZ.

## Contesting

David VE3STT - Editor

As I write this column I am still working on the score I will submit for the recently completed Ontario QSO Party 2003.

#### **OQP 2003**

This year marked the seventh anniversary of the event, conceived by the ODXA (Ontario DX Association) and with major work through this year by Bob Chandler VE3SRE. This year Bob will be receiving some help with the administration after the fact courtesy of another Bob VE3AGC.

As always it was a great event. VE3DC was out in full force with their traditional Multi-Op set-up just south of Hamilton at the contest site. Rick VE3BK had a mix of veterans and some newbies at the site for this OQP, and from what I've heard everyone had a great time. I think we may have just created a few more contesters within the club!

Although their overall number of contacts was down somewhat from the past couple of years, the multiplier total was in keeping with past performances and, as I mentioned, the individuals had a great time on the bands, experiencing some decent conditions on the low bands. I would imagine Rick is also working on the VE3DC score right now!

I operated the contest from home, using my new call sign VE3OJ, which is great for SSB but actually slightly longer than my other call VE3STT on CW. It seemed to play pretty well! Together with Don VE3VZ on the bands and a few notable appearances by a few other members, we certainly kept up our end of the competition during OQP. Don

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commented shortly afterward that it would be great to get the kind of action we experienced on 2m FM Simplex during the upcoming RAC Canada Day contest. That would impact the overall VE3DC score quite positively. Consider the challenge thrown down!

The month of May means dusting off the CW key again for the annual CQWW WPX Contest. I won't repeat the details here, having done that already in a previous edition of The Hamilton Amateur, prior to the WPX SSB in March. I will, however, remind you to get on the air and participate. Even if you're a little timid behind the key, or are intimidated by the CW flying by at 30+ wpm, try making a few

contacts on Sunday. By that time, the bands have been "fished out" by most of the major contesters and they'll be happy to welcome you to the contest as a brand new contact. Every point counts!



#### **Nutech Electronics**

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#### CT Free!

And, despite many thinking it was a weird but wonderful April fool's joke, Ken Wolff K1EA, the author of CT, made the following announcement in and around that date:

As of today, I have reverted CT to a freeware program. The software can be picked up at

http://www.klea.com/ctvault/, without a password. Support will be via the users group reflector:

ct-user@contesting.com

In a day and age when everything costs more it is really hard to believe that a contest software package with the heritage of CT would revert to "freeware," that's right absolutely free!!!

You have absolutely no excuse to get out there and contest now. CT has long been one of the premier contest logging packages around. It is worth every cent that I have paid to be a subscriber for the past dozen years and now obviously

is well worth the effort of downloading and playing with!

And, by the way, while it doesn't support some of the smaller contests and QSO Parties (like the OQP), it does have a module for the upcoming WPX CW and especially the RAC Canada Day contest. And, last but certainly not least, *CT supports Field Day*! I would strongly urge that you obtain a copy, practice and then use it this Field Day with VE3DC!

## National Antenna Tower Review Committee announcement

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

On Friday, March 28 2003, Allan Rock, Minister of Industry, announced the appointment of the National Antenna Tower Review Committee. The Committee, consisting of municipal officials, as well as industry, health and academic experts, will be chaired by David A. Townsend, Professor of Law at the University of New Brunswick. Professor Townsend, you may recall, authored a previous study on towers.

The announcement outlines the composition of the committee but does not give the detailed process or target dates for the submission of inputs to the committee. Presumably they have been left to Professor Townsend and his colleagues to establish.

Professor Townsend and the Committee will consult with citizens, communities and companies on improvements in the policy and siting procedures for antenna tower placement. This review will examine issues, including:

- a) How can the local consultation process regarding the siting of a specific tower be improved?
- b) What are the most appropriate time frames for the processes of approving and resolving debates surrounding specific tower placements?

## Hamfests

#### Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2002

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

See you in 2003

Skywide Spring Hamfest & Flea Skywide Amateur Radio Club Westway United Church, 8 Templar Drive, Etobicoke SATURDAY, MAY 10<sup>th</sup>/2003! Admission: \$5 Talk in: 146.985 MHz

Central Ontario Flea & Hamfest Guelph & K-W Amateur Radio Club Fergus & District Community Centre, 10km N of Guelph off Hwy 6. SATURDAY, JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>/2003! Admission: \$5 Talk in: -

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

- c) What means are available to readily identify whether proposed installations may create radiofrequency fields in excess of established exposure limits in areas where people live and work?
- d) What information would most benefit concerned members of the public and how should it be provided?
- e) How and to what extent can tower sharing be utilized in order to reduce the total number of towers?
- f) Can protocols be arranged between local land-use authorities and antenna proponents regarding the planning and siting of antenna structures, visual guidelines and dispute resolution mechanisms?

RAC will participate in the policy review. Comments, suggestions and recommendations pertaining to the technical and operational reasons for amateur towers should be sent to Jim Dean, VE3IQ, RAC Vice-president Regulatory Affairs, at ve3iq@rac.ca.

The complete announcement and background information is available at: http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc\_mrksv/spectrum/engdoc/spect1.html

(I think it's worth pointing out that while Amateur radio could potentially be affected by the outcome of the hearings this committee will undertake, certainly Amateur radio is not the reason for the proceedings. Cellular towers have been popping up at a rather astounding rate during the past five or more years and certainly they potentially will be one of the largest concerns of this committee. My opinion only!...ed)

# More on potential 40m realignment

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

World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) will be getting under way in about two months in Geneva and it seems support is growing for two favourable proposals to create a 300-kHz worldwide 40-meter allocation. ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) seek a return to the 300-kHz allocation that existed worldwide prior to World War II but that now exists only in the Americas. Delegates to WRC-03 will attempt to address, and possibly eliminate, the overlap on 40-meters between Amateurs in the Americas (Region 2) and broadcasters elsewhere (Regions 1 and 3).

"There is encouraging news," says ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, in his "It Seems to Us..." editorial in April QST. He reports that, thanks to the efforts of IARU volunteers and others, more than 30 countries now have gone on record to support either one or the other of two favourable 40-meter realignment formulas. Sumner said more support is needed, but he called the interim head count "a good start."

Most popular among the half dozen realignment schemes outlined by participants at last November's WRC-03 Conference Preparatory Meeting is so-called Method B. This approach calls for a three-stage transition that would begin by allowing Region 1 and 3 Amateurs on 7100-7200 kHz on a secondary basis starting in 2005 and end with all ITU regions gaining access to 7000-7300 kHz by the end of 2009, with the top 100 kHz shared with fixed and mobile stations in Regions 1 and 3. Broadcasters would shift upward to 7300-7550 kHz worldwide.

For US and other Region 2 stations, such a change would mean an end to deafening night time phone band QRM from broadcasters and the necessity to operate split-frequency to work stations in Regions 1 and 3 on SSB.

Sumner says Method B is now a European Common Proposal with initial support from 17 CEPT administrations. At least three other countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific have also expressed support for Method B, he said. The IARU team now is working to gain the support of additional administrations in Regions 1 and 3 either for Method B or for the similar Method A, Sumner reports. Otherwise identical to Method B, Method A does not include any sharing with fixed and mobile services.

In the Americas, a dozen ITU Region 2 countries last month agreed to support an Inter-American Proposal that's virtually the same as the so-called Method D. Proposed by Canada, Method D would provide 300 kHz worldwide for Amateurs by shifting broadcasters in Regions 1 and 3 upward by 200 kHz. Region 2's broadcasting allocation would remain unchanged.

IARU Region 2 is now working to expand the list of Region 2 countries supporting that plan.

The US so far has taken no position on the 40-meter realignment issue, although it has long supported a 300kHz worldwide, exclusive allocation for Amateur Radio. The FCC WRC-03 Advisory Committee has recommended that Method A be a US proposal, but the

### **HARC 2002-2003 Chairs**

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Swap Net Control Frank Love VA3FWL 905-679-4524 National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has not yet agreed.

"Acting on behalf of the federal government users of the radio spectrum, the NTIA has been advocating 'no proposal' from the US, a position that the ARRL is working hard to overcome," Sumner points out. "A small number of federal agencies claim to be concerned that their backup circuits on HF would be affected by an upward shift of broadcasters."

Sumner also calls it "unfortunate" that some broadcasters persist in efforts to link the 7 MHz WRC-03 agenda item with another that deals with the adequacy of broadcasting spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz. Sumner said the broadcasting spectrum item is "a separate issue with an entirely different genesis.

## YI/Portable

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

(You probably noted a complete absence of material dealing with War in Iraq in the last newsletter. To your editor, that kind of subject seems well beyond the scope of a newsletter such as this. It's political, military and quite polarizing, so it's best to leave it in the hands of the "professionals."

But, when an Amateur radio angle enters the picture, then certainly that is cause for some material in these pages. And while the following story, taken from a recent ARRL e-mail newsletter somewhat relates to the War, it relates more to Amateurs that, like it or not, are part of that scenario and are continuing their hobby even in that arena. Bet you didn't even know that the call sign prefix for Iraq was YI?...ed)

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills N7NG, says the League will accept for DXCC credit YI/ operations from Iraq by US or British military personnel provided the operator has written permission from his or her commanding officer.

"There is precedent for this," Mills said, citing an operation during the 1991 Gulf War. "These operators will need written authorization to operate from their commanding officers until an interim Iraqi civilian government is in place," Mills said. After that point, operators would need documented permission from Iraqi authorities.

The Daily DX http://www.dailydx.com has reported that several hams with the US military in Iraq have been showing up on the air in recent days.

Mark Smith NG5L, has been active from near Nasiriya as YI/NG5L on SSB, usually around 0500 UTC near 14.195 MHz. He's also been spotted in Europe and North America on other 20-meter frequencies and at other times of the day. Smith is in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Jim Dunkerton YI/KT4CK, has been active on 15-meter SSB between 1430 and 1600 UTC. Dunkerton is believed to be with the 101st Airborne. Bob Furzer 9K2ZZ/K4CY, reportedly has been on the air from Iraq as K4CY/p or K4CY/m.

Other hams are known to be in Iraq but have not yet been reported on the air.

Still not known is whether Ed Giorgadze 4L4FN, now in the Middle East after wrapping up his North Korean (P5) operation last fall, will be on a United Nations World Food Program assignment inside Iraq in the near future. That could depend in part on how big a role the UN plays in rebuilding Iraq.

## April minutes

Fred VE3GCP - Secretary

Promptly at 8pm our president Mike, opened the meeting with the usual welcome. Our club policy is to begin the evening with our guest speaker so as to allow them to get away sooner if they wish. Tonight is an example of that since our quests traveled in from Guelph.

As you know, our guest speaker was Nori Irwin VE3AQZ who is the curator of the Hammond Radio Museum. The station is the life work of Fred Hammond VE3HC (silent key) and is now carried on in his memory. Nori brought two other Amateurs with her, who also have a rich and interesting back ground in Ham radio. They are Lloyd Swackhammer VE3IIA and John Hann VE3LKH who also happens to be Nori's husband. In turn these people gave very interesting stories of their involvement with antique radio equipment, especially as it applied to the early wireless years. Each of their stories was supported by an excellent slide show, which Nori has put together. There were many questions from a very interested audience and during the coffee break most members took the opportunity to have a closer view of the examples of radios that our guests brought along. This did cause the coffee break to be slightly extended this month and several people enquired about a possible club trip to the museum this summer or early fall.

After the coffee break the president took the members through the usual reports of the various committees. Discussion took place with regard to the QSL card party of last month and based on the success of that, plans where announced to have a QSL pizza party, set for the Wednesday after the club meeting at the St. John's building.

The other big topic of course was Field Day plans. In the absence of Emsley Mitchell who was again out of the country on one of those lavish high price vacations again, the co-chair

David Bruton gave a report. As always, most of the plans are in order for this annual event at Rock Chapel Sanctuary in Royal Botanical Gardens above Dundas. Again, we will have an extensive hospitality set up and everyone and their uncle is invited. It's the last weekend of June, the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

It was announced that the June meeting would be the annual Home Brew contest so bring your Rube Goldberg. We will also look into having a short talk on "how to use the IRLP system".

Meeting closed about 10:30pm.

## Call for nominations

Fred VE3GCP - Secretary

It is time again to select those who will manage the affairs of the club for the next club year. We now invite you to nominate or come forward if you wish to be nominated, in order that we may hold the election at he June meeting as required by our constitution. Every paid up member may vote and be elected.

The election Chairperson this year is Neil Galloway VE3VNG. His phone number is 383-6986 or email ve3vng@rac.ca. Don't be afraid to call him because VE3VNG is a very nice guy. This announcement will be repeated at the May general meeting and in the next issue of this bulletin.

PHOTO (below): Rick VE3BK sorting VE3DC Qsl cards!

