



June 2003

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The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
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 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956

The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter - 71 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2003

LoTW

David VE3OJ – Editor

(Wouldn't it be interesting to work someone, submit log data and know in seconds that your QSO was confirmed? Or, work some rare DX, submit the record of that contact and be credited immediately with "a new one" or know immediately when you've gained the required number of contacts for DXCC credit?

Here's some information that will have us well on our way to just that scenario in the extremely near future. It's called Logbook of The World, or LoTW.

The following is taken directly from the ARRL website and dated May 30/2003):

"Logbook of the World" (LoTW) beta testers for the most part have reacted positively to the latest version of ARRL's secure electronic contact-confirmation system, but some users have run into difficulties. Responding to problems encountered by some early beta testers, the League has released an updated beta version of LoTW that should resolve these issues. Beta testers are encouraged to download the new version of the software, 1.02beta, from the LoTW webpage: <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>.

"While most installations and subsequent e-mailing and uploading of log data have gone flawlessly, as expected there have been problems," said ARRL's Dave Patton, NT1N, who's been a part of the LoTW project from the start. "Many of the new digital mode designations, such as MFSK-16 and JT6M, were not recognized by the LoTW server software, and this caused

fatal errors while digitally signing logs."

Patton says the beta update will allow users to "map" any mode designation to one of the valid Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) modes or to one of the LoTW mode categories--CW, phone, image, and digital--without changing the actual log data. He said the beta upgrade also will correct other log data problems that caused fatal errors in "signing" a log, including allowing the signing process to complete the "good" parts of a log without crashing.

Next meeting's Speaker

June 18

"Election Night & IRLP Pt. II"

There seems to have been good response to the call for nominations sent out by the election chair, Neil Galloway VE3VNG. Neil will call for any final nominations from the floor and then conduct our election. As usual the new directors will take office in September. Please call Neal now if you wish to nominate someone and please make sure you come to the meeting to vote.

John Vandenberg VE3DVV and David Locke VE3DLK will give a more formal presentation on the use of our IRLP than was possible at the last meeting.

There will be a Q&A as to our final Field day plans, which have been coordinated by David Bruton VE3DWJ and Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI.

"Several astute users noted that the LoTW signing process alerted them to bad data in their logs, such as frequency typos, busted call signs and signal reports, that they were able to fix and

Club meetings – 3rd 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!

resubmit," Patton said.

Beta testing got under way May 15. So far, the 1300 or so beta testers have uploaded upward of five million contacts to the LoTW database. Once it's ready later this year, LoTW will provide a way for amateurs worldwide to qualify for awards such as DXCC or WAS without having to first collect and submit hard-copy QSL cards.

One beta tester from Brazil lavished praise on the LoTW project. "I applaud the creators of LoTW," he wrote. "This will be, for sure, the salvation of DXing and award collecting. Please keep up this essential work!" For now, log data are limited to contacts made no more than five years ago (on or after January 1, 1998) to get a representative sampling, Patton explained.

The Web site to access LoTW user information "is working well in its very basic state," Patton said, adding that many "happy users" have indicated a desire to perform more in-depth data searches on their logs and their matched QSOs.

"There will be many more bells and whistles added to the site over the weeks ahead," Patton said. One of those will meld LoTW with DXCC. He noted that the DXCC software used at ARRL Headquarters is undergoing a major revision right now. "That work will need to be completed before full integration can occur," Patton said. "By that time LoTW will have likely 'gone live' and been tested well enough to allow integration to proceed."

System planners say LoTW eventually will be able to search users' DXCC records and find new credits automatically. The program also will provide full viewing of users' DXCC records, automatically alert users to new awards achieved and offer comprehensive support for many other awards, including WAS, VUCC and any new awards that might be established.

Announcements and new software versions will be posted to the LoTW website. To join the beta testing program, visit the Logbook of the World "Getting started" site, <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/getstart.htm>

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+ 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

1. The beta testing period will wrap up later this year.

All QSO data submitted to LoTW will be deleted when the beta test period ends, and users will have to obtain new

digital certificates to submit log data to LoTW once it 'goes live.'

ARES Ontario

Gary VE3TTO (via Joe VE3OV)

This is directed to all ARES stations in the western end of Lake Ontario. This includes stations in the following regions: Niagara, Hamilton, Halton, Peel, York, Durham and Toronto. Stations bordering these regions are also included.

The Western Lake Ontario ARES Regional Net is moving to Thursday night at 8.30pm. The net operates on the linked UHF stations VE3SNM in Toronto on 442.850 (136.5) and VE3WIK in Carlisle north of Hamilton on 443.675 (131.8).

The purpose of this wide area net during an emergency situation will be to provide a channel to link together the control stations of public service organizations across regional lines. This includes Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, Salvation Army, social service departments, hospitals and EOC's.

Stations currently checking into the net will become familiar with the frequencies involved and the range to be expected. In some areas the installation of a fixed UHF beam antenna might be considered.

This regional network is expected to be a model for similar regional wide area networks throughout the province. Like the cells that make up the cellular telephone system, this regional network system has the potential to supplement 80m & 40m HF nets which may at times become overloaded or unreliable for wide area communications.

Currently the net control stations are Gary VE3TTO, Hamilton and Joe VE3OV, Toronto. Ideally we should have a control station in each region within the network coverage area.

If a dedicated UHF radio is not a part of your control centre, then think again!

Joe VE3OV ve3ov@rac.ca - Toronto
ARES Coordinator, VE3EMO
Liaison/Trustee

Fessenden project a winner

Richard VE3YAG/VE0RCN

A heritage fair was held recently at the Dofasco Rec Centre. One of the projects on Canadian heritage was done on Reginald Fessenden, submitted by my daughter Katherine Appleyard.

The centrepiece of the exhibit was a one-tube regenerative radio receiver. Information on Mr. Fessenden was supplied by Tom Domalkas, who gave the presentation last year at the club meeting. The schematic for the radio was provided by the Hammond Museum in Guelph. Assisting in building the radio and trouble-shooting was Rick VE3BK, while the hair-pulling trouble-shooting and near rebuilding of the radio and rewiring of headphones fell upon Don VE3VZ.

The result of using 1924 drawings and a working radio resulted in comments like, "cool, neat and awesome" by young and old.

The end result of her research and the assistance given by dedicated hams is that Katherine is now headed to Sudbury for the National Heritage Fair. Without Don and Rick's assistance this would not have happened.

Next project for Katherine is to study for her Amateur licence!

Contesting

David VE3OJ - Editor

Related to both Contesting and the upcoming Field Day was a session held just before our last general meeting by Rick VE3BK. Rick outlined the finer points of operating with the "now-FREE" CT software.

As I mentioned last month, this software package has been one of the cornerstones of contesting for the past couple of decades, just recently being

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released to the public. Using it on Field Day will drastically improve the ability to keep better track of the QSO's made and permit much easier log submission because of the ability to merge the logs from each of the FD stations. It will also allow the flawless sending of computer-generated CW, should you desire.

I thought I would again plug the software, it's location and also the fact that the CT authors have now posted a manual on their site to better aid new users of the package. I strongly suggest you take a look!

CT Manual now online!

In addition to updating the version of CT you may be using now or downloading the complete setup of CT, now that it is free to use, the authors have now placed a manual for the program on the CT website. If you haven't used the program in some time or are new to it, I strongly suggest visit the site, download the material and familiarize yourself with the software. Field Day and RAC Canada Day will be here in no time!

The link is: <http://www.k1ea.com>.



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RAC Canada Day Contest

Once again VE3DC will be making a concerted effort to lead the pack in the up-coming RAC Canada Day contest on July 1st!

Talk to Rick VE3BK if you would like to be part of the group in this, or any other, contest. And, please, make sure you get on the air July 1st 0000-2400z and make a few contacts with other Canadian Amateurs, and VE3DC of course!

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 [NL] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NU] (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>.

Field Day

David VE3OJ - Editor

VE3DC is always active in the annual ARRL Field Day. Please seek out David VE3DWJ if you are not involved yet, but would like to be!

Field Day has one of the most complicated set of rules of any

Hamfests

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2003

Marritt Hall, Ancaster
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th
Admission: \$6
Talk in: 146.760 MHz

Contact Hamfest Chair for table info.

Ontario Hamfest 2003

Burlington Amateur Radio Club Inc
Milton Fairgrounds, 3km South of Hwy 401.
SATURDAY, JULY 5th
Admission: \$6
Talk in: 147.520 MHz

NPARC 1st Annual Tailgate

Hamfest & Auction

Niagara Peninsula ARC
Basil Reid Park, 699 Allanburg Rd., Thorold.
SATURDAY, JULY 12th
Admission: \$5
Talk in: 147.240 MHz

Hamfest 2003

Brantford Amateur Radio Club
Burford Fairgrounds, South of Hwy 53 on Park Avenue, Burford.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16th
Admission: \$5
Talk in: 147.150 MHz

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

"operating event" (some still don't acknowledge this as a contest) so I've included just a rough outline:

1. Eligibility: Field Day is open to all amateurs in the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

2. Object: To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

3. Date and Time Period: Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. **Field Day 2003 will be held June 28-29, 2003.**

3.1. Class A and B (see below) stations that do not begin setting up until 1800 UTC on Saturday may operate the entire Field Day period.

3.2. Stations who begin setting up before 1800 UTC Saturday may work only 24 consecutive hours, commencing when on-the-air operations begin.

3.3. No Class A or B station may begin their set-up earlier than 1800 UTC on the Friday preceding the contest period.

4. Entry Categories: Field Day entries are classified according to the maximum number of simultaneously transmitted signals, followed by a designator of the nature of their individual or group participation.

4.1. (Class A) Club / non-club portable

4.2. (Class A - Battery) Club / non-club portable

4.3. (Class B) One or two person portable

4.4. (Class B - Battery) One or two person portable

4.5. (Class C) Mobile

4.6. (Class D) Home stations

4.7. (Class E) Home stations - Emergency power

4.8. (Class F) Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)

5. Exchange: Stations in ARRL / RAC sections will exchange their Field Day operating Class and ARRL / RAC section (i.e. 4A ON). DX stations send operating class and the term DX (i.e. 2A DX).

6. Miscellaneous Rules

6.1. A person who participates by making a QSO from one Field Day operation may not subsequently work that same operation from which he participated to provide them point credit.

6.2. A station used to contact one or more Field Day stations may not subsequently be used under any other callsign to participate in Field Day. Family stations are exempt provided the

subsequent call sign used is issued to and used by a different family member.

6.3. Each Phone, CW and Digital (non-CW) segment is considered a separate band. A station may only be worked once per band.

6.4. All voice contacts are equivalent.

6.5. All non-CW digital contacts are equivalent.

6.6. Cross-band contacts are not permitted.

6.7. The use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode is prohibited. Exception: a dedicated GOTA station may operate as prescribed in rule 4.1.

6.8. No repeater contacts are allowed.

6.9. Batteries may be charged while in use. Except for class D stations, the batteries must be charged from a power source other than commercial power mains. To claim the power multiplier of five, the batteries must be charged from something other than a motor driven generator or commercial mains.

7. Scoring: Scores are based on the total number of QSO points times the power multiplier corresponding to the highest power level under which any contact was made during the Field Day period plus the bonus points.

7.1. QSO Points

7.1.1. Phone contacts - one point each.

7.1.2. CW contacts - two points each.

7.1.3. Digital contacts - two points each.

7.2. Power multipliers: The power multiplier that applies is determined by the highest power output of any of the transmitters used during the Field Day operation.

7.2.1. All contacts made using a power of 5w or less and if a power source other than commercial mains or motor-driven generator is used (batteries, solar cells, water-driven generator), the power multiplier is 5.

7.2.2. All contacts made using a power of 5w or less, but the power source is from a commercial main or motor-driven generator, power multiplier is 2.

7.2.3. Any or all contacts made using an output power up to 150w or less, the power multiplier is 2.

7.2.4. Any or all contacts made using an output power greater than 150w, the power multiplier is one.

7.2.5. Power multiplier for an entry is determined by the maximum output power used by any transmitter used to complete any contact during the event. (Example: a group has one QRP station running 3w and a second station running 100w, the power multiplier of 2 applies to all contacts made by the entire operation).

Please check the ARRL site for additional information about Bonus Pts, etc. (and there's plenty)!

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/rules-fd-2003.html>

Trans Provincial Net newsletter

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

(I was asked to pass along the following information, hoping that it may be of some use to your operating activity. It comes via Jim VA3KU, website editor for the Trans Provincial Net. He's also asked that I post a link to the information on our own website, which I plan to do...ed)

I publish a weekly newsletter that goes out via e-mail to over 700 Amateurs at the present time. I also post the newsletter on the TPN website every week on Saturday afternoon. As you will see the newsletter covers many interesting items on Amateur Radio related topics such as International, National, Provincial, Local Community, DXing, Special Event Stations, Solar Flux Reports, Silent Keys, Upcoming Hamfests and much more. This information is gleaned from many sources every week so the newsletter is always current.

<http://www.tpn7055.ca/tpnbulletin.html>

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Columbia follow-up

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

The space shuttle Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) has released what it's calling "a working scenario"

http://www.caib.us/news/press_releases/pr030506.html to explain the February 1 tragedy that claimed the lives of seven astronauts, three of them Amateur Radio licensees. Preliminary findings, based on three months of "intense investigation," suggest that just over a minute into the January 16 launch, a piece of foam insulation from the shuttle's external fuel tank struck and damaged the lower left wing reinforced carbon-carbon (RCC) panels. The CAIB says its evidence indicates that a breach in the same area of the left wing allowed hot gases to flow into the wing during re-entry into Earth's atmosphere, eventually leading to the spacecraft's destruction.

In an effort to pin down that probability, investigators at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio has been using a gas-fired cannon to shoot pieces of insulating foam at actual shuttle RCC and insulating tile components.

Many Amateur Radio volunteers provided communication support during the early days of the shuttle debris recovery effort. NASA and Amateur Radio have a longstanding relationship through the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) programs.

More information is available via the NASA Human Spaceflight Web page <http://www.spaceflight.nasa.gov/>.

May minutes

Fred VE3GCP – Secretary

The meeting began at 8:05pm with the president Michael Krebs VA3WXS welcoming everyone and extending a special welcome to Stephen Erwin who recently obtained his basic license and

has applied for a call-sign. The president introduced Lorraine McPherson VA3NZ chairperson for awards, who presided over the Home Brew Contest portion of the meeting.

There were seven entries for Home Brew. Lorraine thanked the contestants for their entries, appointed Rick Danby VE3BK and Joe Urbanski VE3OCD as judges and invited the contestants to speak briefly about their projects. Mardy Eedson VE3QEE spoke briefly about his am/fin modulator and gave a demonstration with the aid of an oscilloscope. The primary purpose for this modulator, he explained, is its use as a teaching aid for his Amateur radio classes. He also brought in an antenna (ham-stick) mounted on a tripod for show, but not an official entry.

Casey VanBroekhoven VE3CVP showed off his four bands travel antenna. It consisted of three detachable sections and a coil at one end. It was made entirely from parts he had lying around the shack.

David Locke's VE3DLK entry was a 2m listening antenna. It consisted of a short whip mounted on top of a metal conical shaped base. The base performs a dual function, as it not only supports the whip but also serves as the ground plain for the antenna.

One of the more amusing entries for the evening was from Gerald Johnson VE3GMJ. His entry was labelled as a ham piece and in its current state was non-functional. It demonstrated the lighter more amusing side of ham radio.

The remaining three Home Brew entries were from Bernie Granby VA3XJ, Neil Galloway VE3VNG and John Vandenberg VE3DVV. Their entries were a Dummy Load, 2m Band Pass Filter, and a Multi Mode box respectively. Neil's 2m filter was designed to combat inter-modulation when he is mobile through some areas of the city. John's multi-mode box connects his radio to his computer via a sound card and with the appropriate software is able to do PSK31, packet, slow scan TV, APRS etc.

While the judges were meeting privately to choose the winner, David Locke

demonstrated the IRLP system on VE3NCF. The winner of the Crawford Radio Trophy for Home Brew was Casey VE3CVP for his travel antenna. Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI was awarded the Order of the Gavel for serving as president during 2002.

The meeting broke for refreshments at 9:10 and resumed for the business portion at 9:40. The following reports were given:

Education : Mardy stated that he has one student who will sit for the Basic Examination in June and new classes will begin in the fall.

Membership: Mardy urged the current members to renew their membership early.

Financial: The treasurer Walter Bayliss VA3WWB gave the financial report. He said the club was in good shape in spite of the fact that not all the members renewed last year. The bank account balance is \$5,318.00

Repeater: John Vandenberg stated that the 440 repeater was not functioning properly and he will be looking for a replacement for it. The 2m antenna was repaired and is now working well.

Old Business: Fred Robinson VE3GCP, mentioned that he has had inquires about a trip to the Hammond Radio Museum in Guelph. Fred moved, seconded by Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ, that the club organize a trip to the museum this summer. Carried.

New Business. Neil VE3VNG, elections chairperson, appealed to the members for nominations for the June election. Neil also asked about the club's involvement in CERV (Community Emergency Response Volunteers). Fred suggested that the club should find out more about CERV before a commitment is made and the incoming executive should do that.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mardy VE3QEE and seconded by Emsley VE3JAI. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm