

September 2003

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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

## Hammond Museum road trip

Fred VE3GCP - Treasurer

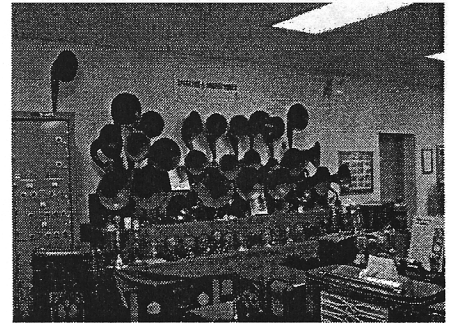
(Photos courtesy Rick VE3BK..ed)

If you weren't with us, then you missed a great evening!

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evening of August about 31 people boarded our bus for a trip to the Hammond Radio museum in Guelph. As announced, we met at a mall on Upper Wentworth St. between 6 and 6:30pm. When I arrived at 6:15, most of the people were all ready on the big yellow school bus. I was pleased to note that there were several young ladies in our company. Several last minute arrivals showed up with money in their hand, which kind of surprised me since most of our guests were Hams. It became necessary for me to speak to a couple of the more rowdy ones but all in all it was a good crowd.



We had a great bus driver in that he was experienced and had actually driven one of these things before. We were on our way by 6:40 and we took off across the link. During the one-hour trip, many conversations about many things broke out and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank God, no one started



singing the "old bus driver song".

Upon arrival at the Hammond Company we were met by our hostess, Nori Irwin and escorted directly into the museum. Nori gave a brief welcome and overview of the museum before letting us loose. You may recall that Nori was

### Next meeting's Speaker

September 17

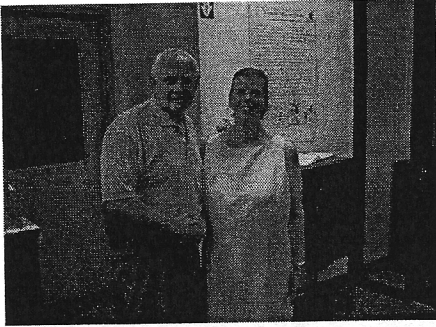
"Welcome Back"

I'm afraid we could not confirm a speaker in time for this bulletin deadline. We will have feed back on Field Day and of course the new exec will be formally installed.

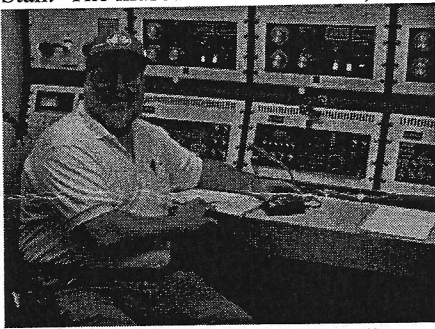
IF you have an area of special interest and are able to make most club meetings, the exec would be happy to hear from you. The business portion of the meeting will include some discussion on general policy for the coming year. We will also look for some opinion on repeating the Christmas Party, which was so well received last year. Emsley will be handling membership this year and the September meeting would be a good time to get your dues paid so that your name will be in the draw for a free membership.

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.

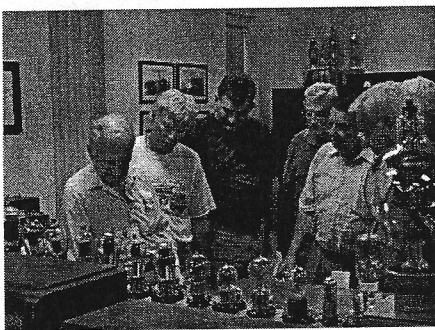
Complimentary refreshments!



the lady who came to give a presentation at our club a few months ago. John Hann VA3LKH and Lloyd Swakhammer VE3IIA accompanied Nori at that April meeting and they were on hand for our visit as well. These folks expertly fielded all the questions that we came up with. One thing Nori explained was that it is "hands-on" museum so we were allowed to touch and opened radio cabinets. Everyone thought this was just great, especially Stan. The museum includes 2 full,



multi rig operating stations, including a full Collins station. Several people took the opportunity to pull up in the operator's position.



At about 9:00 o'clock it was time to hit the road so we said "thanks" to our hosts and toddled back onto the bus like so many good, little school kids. Thanks to the expert driving of Mardy, our incoming president, we had a safe and smooth ride. Mardy is specially licensed to drive these big busses and he

## 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

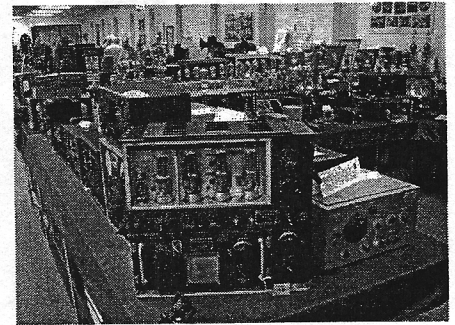
Club membership, including all privileges, is \$25 per person, per year, Sept 1 to Aug 31. Additional membership, for immediate family living in the same home, is \$1 per person. One newsletter sent to each address.

### 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](mailto:ve3stt@rac.ca)

does that every weekday for the real school kids. May I extend a sincere thanks to Mardy for arranging the bus and being our driver. I enjoyed arranging this trip and consider it to have been a success. The cost of \$7 per

person covered our costs and there will be a bit left over to put back in the general fund.



If you have an idea for a future trip that would be of interest to our club members and there guests, why not give someone on the exec a shout.

## Membership renewal

*Emsley VE3JAI – Membership Chair*

The club year for the Hamilton Amateur Radio club runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Last year the club experienced a decrease in membership from previous years. One of the objectives of the club is to restore membership to former levels.

We are encouraging everyone to renew their membership early, guaranteeing the delivery of the bulletin beyond the September issue and attend all the meetings. Let us look forward to interesting, informative meetings and excellent attendance.

## Field Day 2003

*Emsley VE3JAI & David VE3DWJ*

First of all, what is field day? For those who are new comers to Amateur radio, the customary explanation is that it is an emergency preparedness exercise. Radio clubs in North America participating in field day simulate an emergency situation by operating with emergency power in less than ideal conditions. For some of us it is an opportunity also to sharpen our operating skills and above all to socialize with other hams and have a good time.



Field day is always the last full weekend in June and this year HARC, as in past years, operated from the RBG's Rock Chapel Sanctuary. We had a fairly good turn out, approximately 24 people and ran stations on 80m, 40m, 20m and 2m. The club's classification was 4A and we ran five stations, 40 CW being first as usual to setup and on the air, with 40 phone running a close second. 80 phone had some initial difficulties but they were quickly resolved.

One of the key field day volunteers is the hospitality tent host/hostess. Their contribution has a tremendous impact on the mood and energy of the field day participants. The club was very well served this year by Mary and Joe Urbanski VE3OGQ and VE3OCD. We are taking this opportunity to say thank you Mary and Joe for a job very well done.

To all the other field day participants, thank you for coming out and contributing to the event. Let us carry this spirit of commitment and cooperation into the coming club year.

Finally for all who have not yet experienced field day, I urge you to come out next year and join us in this wonderful event. I know you will have fun and with increased level of participation we may just win the big prize.

## WRC 2003

The following note was submitted as e-mail to [ve3dc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3dc@rac.ca)

At World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 held in Geneva, Switzerland, 9 June to 4 July, 2003, two principal revisions were made to the ITU Radio Regulations concerning the formation of call signs in the Amateur Services.

The prohibition against prefixes of Amateur station call signs commencing with a digit when the second character is the letter O or the letter I, has been removed. This has little direct impact for Canadian amateurs but will provide additional prefix options and greater flexibility for administrations assigned

## HARC 2003-2004 Executive

### President

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### Past President

**Michael Krebs VA3WXS**  
905-523-9005

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**David Locke VE3DLK**  
905-383-9612

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**John Vandenberg VE3DVV**  
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### Secretary

**Roger Pimm VE3UFZ**  
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### Treasurer

**Fred Robinson VE3GCP**  
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[ve3gcp@rac.ca](mailto:ve3gcp@rac.ca)

### Director

**Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI**  
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prefixes beginning with a digit followed by a letter. Thus 707 is now a legitimate Amateur radio prefix.

Of more direct interest to Canadian Amateurs is the fact that, provided Industry Canada approves, call signs may now be formed with a group of four characters (suffix), of which the last must be a letter, following the national identifier. Thus call signs such as VE5RCMP, VE3IARU, VE3P27U and VE200AA now will be permitted.

RAC's Vice-president Regulatory Affairs, Jim Dean VE3IQ, participated in the WRC-2003 review. RAC will work with Industry Canada on the necessary amendments to the

Department's Amateur radio call sign policy.

The Amateur Service made other significant gains at WRC-2003 as well.

In its quest for increased global allocations and a shift of the Broadcasting Service out of the 40m band, the Amateur Service sought to regain the band's 1939 status of an exclusive allocation of 300 kHz worldwide, free from the present interference of broadcasters in Europe and Asia. With six options on the table



### Nutech Electronics

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<b>Fax: (905) 547-8422</b>	<b>Fax: (905) 682-8922</b>
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at the onset of the conference, it was quickly evident that the negotiations would be very difficult and success could be achieved only through compromise.

Very intense negotiations lasted right until the second last day of the four-week conference, but when the dust had settled, it had been agreed that on 29 March, 2009, Amateurs in Asia, Europe and Africa will gain access to 7100 to 7200 kHz and the incumbent broadcasters will have moved higher in frequency and out of that portion of 40 metres. Amateurs in the Americas retain their allocations but will then have 200 kHz free from Broadcast interference.

The Amateur Service was the only Service to gain an HF allocation at WRC-2003. Gaining spectrum through

a move of the powerful, well-entrenched Broadcast Service was a historic first.

The Morse code was also a hot topic at WRC-2003. In fact, the Morse code examination requirement for radio Amateurs has officially been dropped.

In the face of pressure by some administrations to retain Morse testing, the conference decided to keep Morse as a recommended Amateur qualification, but that it would be up to individual administrations whether or not they retain a Morse examination requirement. The dropping of Morse testing was one of a number of changes to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations that will take effect on Saturday, 5 July.

This change does not mean that Industry Canada will automatically or immediately drop Morse testing. Industry Canada will likely want to determine the wishes of Canadian radio Amateurs and will have to determine what Canadian regulatory changes, if any, first will be necessary.

Radio Amateurs of Canada has already commenced discussions with Industry Canada on the future of Morse testing in the meetings of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB).

## Contesting

David VE3OJ – Editor

First, let's start the 'new' year off right with some good news, taken from a recent edition of the "ARRL Contest Rate Sheet," from Dave K4JRB. Dave reports that he received 1140 CW and 528 SSB logs for the 2003 CQ WW 160 contests, the highest number of logs ever!

Naturally, VE3DC is always a major player in the contest and our performance this year will only be enhanced knowing that so many others were competing! The results of the contest are usually published just before the next contests in December and I'll have that for you right here.

September is traditionally the month of calm before the storm of contesting

## Hamfests

### Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2003

Marritt Hall, Ancaster  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Admission: \$6  
Talk in: 146.760 MHz

Contact Hamfest Chair for table info,  
OR visit our website.

### RadioFest 2003

Ontario DX Association  
Monte Carlo Inn, 374 S. Service Rd.  
E., Oakville.  
**SEPT 19, 20 AND 21**  
Admission: \$10

### London ARC Fleamarket

London ARC  
Western Fair Grounds, Special  
Events building, London.  
**SUNDAY, SEPT 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
Admission: \$6  
Talk in: 147.660 MHz

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

kicks in again for another season. The California QSO Party is widely recognized as one of the kick-off events, as far as HF Contesting is concerned. It's coming up the first weekend in October. I'll have more on that contest, always well-populated with Ontarians, along with the Penn QSO Party and, of course, CQWW SSB at the end of October, in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, get ready for the season by working on (or putting up a few more) antennas, trying to thin the pile of QSL cards on your desk, or simply get on the bands and operate to keep the skills sharp for the coming season. A great place to start would be the 40m, 80m and 160m bands. As the sunspot cycle winds down that usually signals better days for low band operation. And, given the CQWW 160 Contest has a record showing this past January and February, it simply means there could quite possibly be even more people on during the coming years of

the contest; All the more reason to improve the low band performance at your QTH.

## OQP 2003

Looks like the prize again goes to VE3DC in the M/Op category. The crew logged 286,234 Pts to place first M/Op. This year, both of the "bonus" callsign stations entered the M/Op/Mobile/Rover category and because their calls were worth extra points, they cleaned up. In lieu of that, possibly a few changes are coming with respect to reporting the results and awarding prizes next year?

On an individual level, I'm quite pleased that my score seemed to hold up in the Single Operator category!

## Long waves

The following note was submitted as e-mail to [ve3dc@rac.ca](mailto:ve3dc@rac.ca)

*(I actually had this next piece all ready to go in the last newsletter before the summer, but it was bumped at the last minute...ed)*

The Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland is breaking new ground on the long waves by conducting experiments aimed at assisting RAC in acquiring a 136kHz allocation and promoting interest in low frequency work. A proposal written by club member Joe Craig VO1NA was endorsed by RAC and the proposal was approved by Industry Canada. Since then, a low frequency transmitting station, the first on 2200 metres in the Newfoundland and Labrador Section, has been on the air as MRCN members conducted various experiments including several cross-band contacts. Signals from the station have been copied by WITAG near Boston and by G3NYK in England. The latter was the first transatlantic LF transmission by a Newfoundland amateur radio station. MRCN was also the first amateur group in Newfoundland to span the Atlantic on 5MHz last November and is actively planning to do the same on 2 metres. For further information, please see the MRCN web site at



<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~jcraig/mrcn.html> or by searching for VO1MRC with your favourite search engine.

## Three new to IARU

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

*(This was another piece that I held for this newsletter because I simply ran out of space last time around...ed)*

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has admitted three new member societies. The National Association Radioamateurs of Georgia (NARG), the Federation of Radiosport of the Republic of Armenia (FRRA) were voted in April 10; the Vietnam Amateur Radio Club (VARC) officially joined IARU on April 4.

NARG has 156 licensed members out of a total of 485 Amateurs in the country. The NARG president is Mamuka Kordzakhia 4L2M. FRRA counts 84 of Armenia's 128 radio Amateurs as members. Its president is George Badalian EK6GB. VARC was founded as a national organization in July 2002 under the Vietnam Radio-Electronics Association. The president of VARC is Eng. Nguyen Bac Ai XV2A/3W6AR.

The IARU, founded in 1925, is a worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio societies with members in 156 countries and separate territories. In addition to joining the worldwide IARU, NARG and FRRA become members of IARU Region 1 and VARC becomes a member of IARU Region 3.

## June minutes

*Fred VE3GCP – Secretary*

The June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was convened by the president, Mike Krebs VA3WXS at the regular monthly meeting location being the St. John Ambulance Association at 500 Upper Wellington St., Hamilton at 8:05 PM. After the usual welcomes, the president announced that this will be the AGM and as such the annual election of officers will take place. It was confirmed that there was sufficient

### HARC 2003-2004 Chairs

#### Awards/Volunteer Examiner

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905-389-7653 va3nz@rac.ca

#### Contesting/Property Manager

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#### Volunteer Examiner

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#### Field Day

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#### Flea Market

John Kirstein VA3AWK  
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#### Health/Welfare

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ  
905-388-8383

#### Hospitality

Bernie Granby VA3XJ  
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and  
Ilona Davidson VE3UGM

#### Membership

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI  
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eamitch@mcmail.cis.mcmaster.ca

#### Newsletter/Web

David Jones VE3OJ  
905-549-1919 ve3oj@rac.ca

#### Public Liaison Co-Chair

Stanley Bolibruch VE3GFE  
905-528-4002

#### Public Liaison Co-Chair

Neil Galloway VE3VNG  
905-383-6986

#### Repeater

John Vandenberg VE3DVV  
905-692-3802  
Jvandenberg@mountaincable.net

#### Swap Net Control

Frank Love VA3FWL  
905-679-4524

members in attendance to constitute a quorum (25) and Neil Galloway VE3VNG took the floor to act as election chairman.

Neil explained the election processes as required by our constitution and handed out the ballots. Scrutinizers John Galloway and Steven Irwin were appointed. Each candidate was asked to speak briefly so as to let members now them better. Those nominated were; Stan Bolibroch, Brian Bowie, Mardy Eedson, Michel Krebs, David Locke, Roger Pimm, Fred Robinson, John Vandenberg and Emsley Mitchell. The completed ballots were collected and Neil retired with the scrutinizers to tally the vote.

At this point a coffee break was called.

After the break the coordinators, David Bruton and Emsley Mitchell, held a Field Day Workshop. Several last minute bugs were ironed out and it appeared that we were in as good shape as one could reasonably expect for Field day.

At this time, Neil returned to announce the results of the election. The successful candidates were; Mardy Eedson, David Locke, Roger Pimm, Fred Robinson, John Vandenberg and Emsley Mitchell. These people then retired to determine who will fill each of the seats on the executive.

At this point Walter Bayliss our outgoing treasurer gave his financial report. He informed us that we had a slightly lower ending balance this year as a result of lower membership income and higher expenses. Most notable among the expenses was the increase of our insurance premium from \$500 to \$1,000. A year-end financial report will be made to the new exec in September. Since Walter was unable to stand for election, due to the heavy demands on his time with a charitable organization, the secretary thanked him for his service to our club during the past year.

Neil Galloway then announced the formation of the exec as follows; President- Mardy Eedson VE3QEE, 1<sup>st</sup> VP- David Locke VE3DLK, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP- John Vandenberg VE3DVV, Secretary- Roger Pimm VE3UFZ, Treasurer- Fred

Robinson VE3GCP and Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI as Membership chairman.

David Locke and John Vandenberg then gave a talk and demonstration on IRLP and the operating procedures involved.

Mardy gave an overview of his efforts as education and membership director over the past year. He also announced a new call sign had recently been issued, VA3CUT to Steven Irwin.

Fred then announced the final plans for the club bus trip to the Hammond Radio Museum. After the meeting several members took time to book/pay for seats on the bus.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.

## RAC Morse proficiency

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

*(Given the WRC 2003 item earlier in this edition of the newsletter about their decision on the Morse code, I thought I would also add the following information from the RAC website, just to keep the code top of mind..ed)*

Industry Canada has discontinued the requirement for the 12wpm Morse code qualification and now accepts the 5wpm Morse code qualification for operating privileges on all HF Bands. This leaves a conspicuous gap in the encouragement of Morse code proficiency at higher speeds for the many Amateur radio operations in CW mode on HF and VHF bands.

Radio Amateurs of Canada now offers a Certificate of Proficiency in Morse Code, to be administered by the RAC Awards Manager, to recognize voluntary candidate Morse code reception proficiency at speeds of 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40wpm. A new dated certificate will be issued with each new 'qualification' earned. The examination and certificate are also available in the French language. A charge of \$5 is assessed to cover printing, handling and postage costs.

The certificate and associated testing is for reception proficiency using the Industry Canada RIC-1 standards of a three minute receiving test with less than 5 errors remaining after a two minute correction time allowance. Testing may be performed by any Accredited Examiner holding a current Industry Canada Letter of Authority who voluntarily chooses to participate in this program. As this program is not related to Industry Canada, Accredited Examiner participation or non-participation in this program has no effect on their Industry Canada appointment. The examination may be generated by any of several software programs, or audio tapes prepared using such a program, using suitable text selected by the Accredited Examiner.

As with 5 and 12wpm Morse code examinations under RIC-1, the plain language examination text should be limited to the letters of the alphabet, the ten numerals, and the period, comma, dash, question mark and fraction bar. A candidate who is being re-examined at the same or higher speed should be given a different examination text for each examination.

The blank form to be completed by the Accredited Examiner to 'qualify' the candidate may be downloaded from the RAC website and reproduced as needed. Accredited Examiners may also authorize the form for candidates who produce an original Advanced Amateur, First Class or Second Class Commercial, or military Morse qualification certificate issued by the Canadian government to that candidate, for the same receiving speed shown on such certificate. In such instances, the Accredited Examiner should date the Authorization Form with the date on the certificate produced as proof of proficiency. Once the form is completed by the Accredited Examiner, it may be given to the candidate to mail in to the RAC Awards Manager with a money order for \$5. As the certificate conveys no operating privileges, candidates are expected to respect the honour system.

## More pics...

