

November 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

Hamfest Donors

Mardy VE3QEE - President

Approximately one person in ten received a door prize at this year's Hamfest, Congratulations to John Kassay VE3FDK who won a VHF handheld donated by Ernie's Electrocom, and Dmitri Budnitski of Beamsville, VE3DBU, who won the ARRL Handbook donated by Durham Radio.

The following donors generously supported Hamfest 2003:

900 CHML Hometown Radio
 Adventure Attic, 1056 King St. W.
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 Bell Arte Camera 85 Ottawa Street N.
 Bell Canada,
 Black Forest Inn, 255 King Street East
 Brano's Painting & Decorating
 Company, 143 Montmorency Dr.
 Bryan Prince Bookseller, 1060 King.W.
 Cambridge Mill Outlet, 341 Ottawa N.
 Camtech Photographic Services, 588
 Concession Street
 Coin & Stamp Hut, 897 King Street E.
 Durham Radio, Whitby
 E.D. Smith Company Limited, Winona
 Ernies Electrocom, 19 Chipman Ave.
 Glentel Wireless 979 Main St. E.
 Grand & Toy, 2 King St W.
 Hamilton Hobby, 236 Kenilworth N.
 Hammond Museum of Radio, Guelph
 Hill's TV & Audio, Hamilton
 Jerry's Man Shop, 155 James St. N.
 Wallace Funeral Home, 151 Ottawa N.
 Labatt's Ltd., Toronto
 Marval's Jewellery Boutique, 441 Brant
 Street, Burlington
 Nutech Electronics, 166 Parkdale N.
 Okimi's Office Furniture, 8270 Hwy#
 20, Smithville

Old Mill Inn, 548 Old Dundas Rd.,
 Ancaster
 Provincial Coin Co. Ltd., 449 King E
 Rookies Café, 1429 Main Street E.
 Schindler Elevator Corp., Hamilton
 Shoppers Drug Mart , 753 Main East
 Shoppers Drug Mart , Rosedale
 So Lo Sales, 556 Concession Street
 Stoney Brook Florist, 370 Hwy #8,
 Stoney Creek
 Surreal Painting & Decorating,, 2166
 Headon Road
 Swiss Chalet, 1563 Main Street West
 The Painting Company, 691 Powell Ct.,
 Burlington
 Tim Horton's, 535 Upper Wellington
 Whitley Flowers, 39 King William St.

We take this opportunity to thank the many donors. Members are encouraged to patronize these businesses and express our thanks for their support of the community.

Hamfest 2003 a Success

Hamfest committee.

This year's Hamfest was by all accounts a success. Participation by donors and patrons was comparable to what we have seen in recent years. A number of participants commented favourably about the event. When asked for an explanation some said they appreciated the consistency from year to year and they liked the degree of organization.

The Hamfest Committee would like to thank the many volunteers who shared the work - some doing multiple duties, and thank the leader and girls of the Pathfinder group who ran the kitchen. The food and service were great.

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. Free parking. Complimentary refreshments.

It's Party-Time Again

Announcing the HARC Annual Christmas dinner party, Wednesday December 10th the second Wednesday in December.

As we did last year, the members and executive of the HARC are inviting you to our Christmas dinner. We will be at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club on the shore of Hamilton Harbour. This was a tremendous success last year and we have been able to arrange another excellent dinner. Our social hour will begin at 6 PM and we will eat at (about) 7 PM. Just like mother used to make, we will have a Christmas turkey including the bread stuffing and gravy, mashed potatoes and broccoli florets. There will be good old Christmas pudding and hard rum sauce. There is a cash bar and wine available for those who wish. Last year, this shirt and tie social proved to be a great success and the ladies seemed to enjoy an evening "not based on Ham radio". You can come early and share some time in the lovely dining room, which overlooks the harbour. We will again have some tokens of appreciation for our ladies and a promise of "no speeches". We welcome all Amateurs and their guests so you may want to book early and plan a table for your group. The cost this year is \$26 person and we ask you to register ASAP by calling into the Tuesday evening net on the repeater or phoning or emailing an executive member at the number / email address listed in this news letter. We will have more info at the club meeting on November 19, and you can buy your tickets then if you wish. This event will be lieu of our regular club meeting for December. Please help us plan this event by booking your seats soon.

In case you were not there last year, we have included a couple of pictures showing the partygoers at last year's Christmas party. Hope you recognize the participants.. No doubt, you'll agree with the comment by David Locke, who observed "They clean up good!"

Hope you'll join us this December.

The Exec. HARC

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.

Nets

HARC "check-in net" is held every Tuesday evening, except July and August, at 7:30pm. HARC "swap net" follows at 8pm. The ARES net is held on Thursdays at 7:30pm. All contacts are welcome.

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 Emsley VE3JAI at ve3jai@rac.ca

Amateur Radio Licensing Structure Proposed changes

*Lorraine, VA3NZ
designated examiner*

It is proposed to progressively have three classes of license for Canadian Amateurs, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Firstly, the Morse code requirement would be dropped. Testing for Morse code would remain available for those wanting to operate in countries, which require morse.

The pass mark would be raised to 70% for all tests from the current level of 60%. Those having an 80% or over pass mark on the Basic exam would receive an Intermediate license. This is the same privilege as the Basic + Morse now. The new exams would have more emphasis on regulations and operating procedure than do the present exams. It is proposed, the new exams will have three components all of which the candidate must pass at the same time, (theory, regulations and operating procedure).

Intermediates would be able to construct equipment with a 10 watt output above 2.3GHZ.

Holders of the Basic license would remain the same with the same privileges. Holders of Basic + Morse would become Intermediate. Advanced or Advanced + Morse would hold the full highest license.

So, if any Basic license holders wish to have H.F. privileges as soon as these changes take place; they should either become licensed with Morse Code now, or do the Advanced exam before this proposal is implemented. Alternately, the Basic exam could be re-taken to obtain the 80% pass mark after implementation, as there is no proposal for 'Grandfathering' for previous test results. All exam pass marks after the proposal comes into effect will be 70%.

This has been only a brief overview. The complete document can be read on the RAC web page at:
<<http://www.rac.ca/news/>>.

When visiting this page read the Morse Survey results which outlines how and why the changes are being proposed in the Interim report document. There is also an analysis of the current Multiple-choice examinations and why there are proposed changes.

David Jones, VE3OJ, Leaving HARC

Mardy, VE3QEE – President

It was with sadness that many of us read, in the October Newsletter that David Jones has taken a new job in Kitchener-Waterloo, and would not be renewing his membership in HARC. David will be greatly missed at the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, where, for the past four years he has been newsletter editor, web site administrator, Hamfest master of ceremonies, and avid contester with the contest group.

As some of us struggle to assemble this month's newsletter, David's expertise is becoming painfully apparent. It is the mark of a true professional that the work they produce looks easy when viewed by others. I can attest to the fact that David has been a true professional in every respect in all his dealings with our Radio Club. We will miss our close association with him. But at the same time we wish him well in his in his new location and his new job.

All the very best, David. I hope we will meet again, and often, down the log.

-73-

You can reach David at
<ve3oj@rac.ca>

October minutes

Roger VE3UFZ – Secretary

Meeting called to order by the president at 8:00pm sharp

HARC 2003-2004 Executive

President

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE
905-648-0187
meedson@cogeco.ca

Past President

Michael Krebs VA3WXS
905-523-9005

1st Vice President

David Locke VE3DLK
905-383-9612

2nd Vice President

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

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Roger Pimm VE3UFZ
905-560-2628
rpimm@cogeco.ca

Treasurer

Fred Robinson VE3GCP
575-5197
FredRobinson@MountainCable.net

Membership

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI
905-627-0333
eamitch@mcmail.cis.mcmaster.ca

Our guest speaker was introduced by Fred Robinson.

Roger Borrough is the owner/operator of CAMTECH photography on Concession Street. His topic for presentation was telescopes and binoculars for both terrestrial and astronomical observation. Roger explained the differences between terrestrial and astronomical telescopes. They may be of the refraction or reflection type. He discussed two of the most common myths associated with these instruments.

1. How far can I see?
2. How much magnification power do I need?

The first question can only be answered in terms of light years for astronomical observations. The second question relates the "x" figure most commonly quoted for both telescopes and binoculars. 600X or 700X magnification is a meaningless figure unless it is related to both the object and eyepiece diameters. For example: Let's say that we have a telescope with the following parameters. Focal Length = 900mm
Diameter of object lens (D) = 114mm
Diameter of eyepiece lens (E) = 25mm
Magnification = Focal Length/E
Exit Pupil (EP) = D/Magnification
Therefore: 900/25 = 36X magnification
And: 114/36 = 3.17mm of exit pupil (EP)

Rule of Thumb

Any exit pupil greater than 5mm would be a waste because the human eye cannot dilate greater than that amount.

The presentation then shifted to the use



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and design of digital telescopes. These instruments are controlled by an internal computer which controls a motor drive, which in turn positions the telescope at the heavenly body we wish to observe. Not only does it locate the object, but also it moves the telescope to follow the 15-degree per hour movement of the earth so that the object stays centered in the telescope. Terrestrial telescopes of 15 to 60 power would require a base of some kind to keep them steady. If they are hand held all that could be observed is blur due to our natural body movement. Field of view is very important for terrestrial telescopes and binoculars. Field of view is expressed in degrees or mm. For example, a 10x50 pair of binoculars would yield the following:

Diameter of object lens (D) = 50mm
 Magnification = 10
 Therefore: 50mm/10 = 5mm (the diameter of the exit pupil) Using the above rule of thumb, these binoculars would be fine. For Marine use, 7X50 would be desirable.

The business meeting was called to order at 9:20pm by Mardy. Niel Galloway made the draw for the free years membership. The winner this year is VA3JWE Joseph Irwin. Congratulations Joseph.

Flea Market

We still need some volunteers and all are welcome to show up on the morning of the event. Jobs will be assigned as you arrive.

Membership

36-37 members are paid up for the 2003-2004 club year.

Treasurer

An audited year end for 2002-2003 is not yet available. Fred will be setting up a new data base using current software for our books.

Fred thanked David Jones VE3OJ, for the huge effort he put in to producing our monthly newsletter over the past 4

Hamfests

Your attendance at fleamarkets supports those local clubs, and helps to keep them financially healthy.

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2004

Marritt Hall, Ancaster
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16th
 Admission: \$6.00
 Talk in: 146.760 MHz

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

Niagara Peninsula ARC Fleamarket 2004

Canadian Auto Worker's Hall
 124 Bunting Road,
 St. Catharines
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7th
 Admission: \$6, Tables \$20

**For the latest information,
 about these and other
 hamfests, visit the RAC
 website
www.rac.ca/fleas.htm**

years. In addition, Fred noted that David also maintained our website and was an active contender. We will miss David and his service to the Club.

Education Report

We are in the 6th week of the current course with five students.

Recently, Herb Stot, who had a U.S. call sign, has now earned his Canadian qualifications. Also a visitor to our meeting, was introduced, Allan Walker, who has also recently earned his basic HAM license. Congratulations were expressed to both HAMs.

New Business

Our Xmas party will be held on December 10 at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. Tickets will be \$26 per person. Call Fred, Stan, Mardy or any other member of the executive to

indicate your intention to attend this primo event. Ticket sales will commence at the November meeting. [See announcement in this month's bulletin]

ARES

Gary Notto informed us of an emergency exercise being organized by VE3OSH for October 16, 2003. The exercise will commence at 10:00am on 147.285.

Moved by Fred Robinson and seconded by Brian, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

HARC Membership Notice

This is a reminder that membership dues for the current club year are now payable. Please take a moment to renew your membership now. A membership renewal form is provided for your convenience. I will be at the November meeting to process memberships or you may mail your remittance to the club at the address below.

Please note that the November bulletin will be the last one mailed out to members that are in arrears.

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI
Membership chair.

Membership Renewal

Name (s): _____

Callsign (s): _____

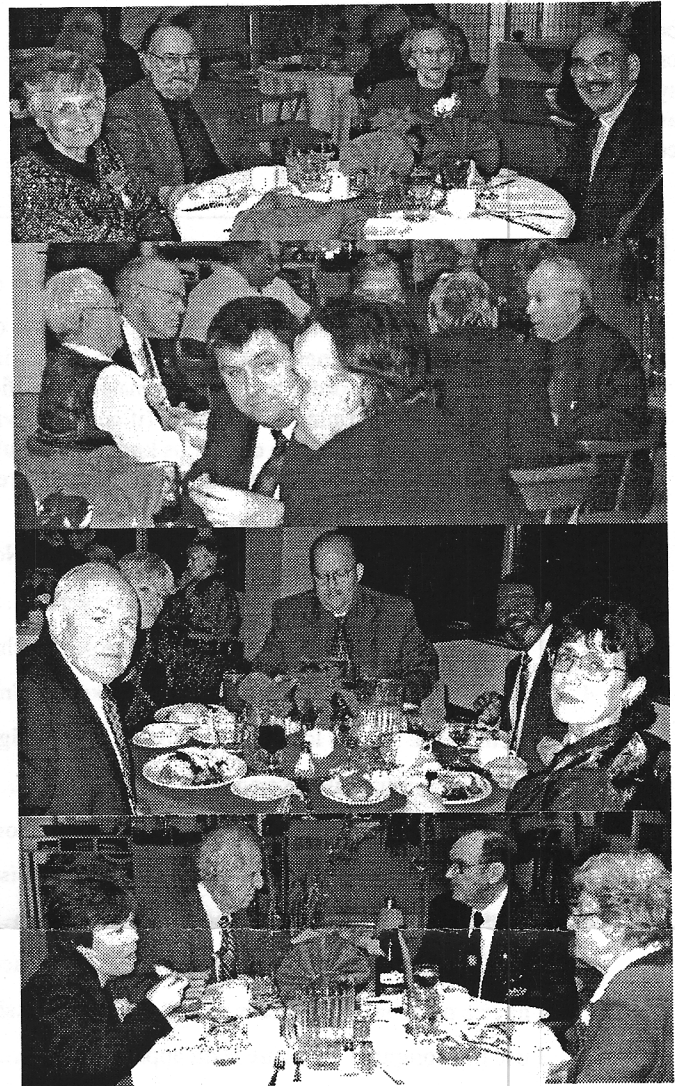
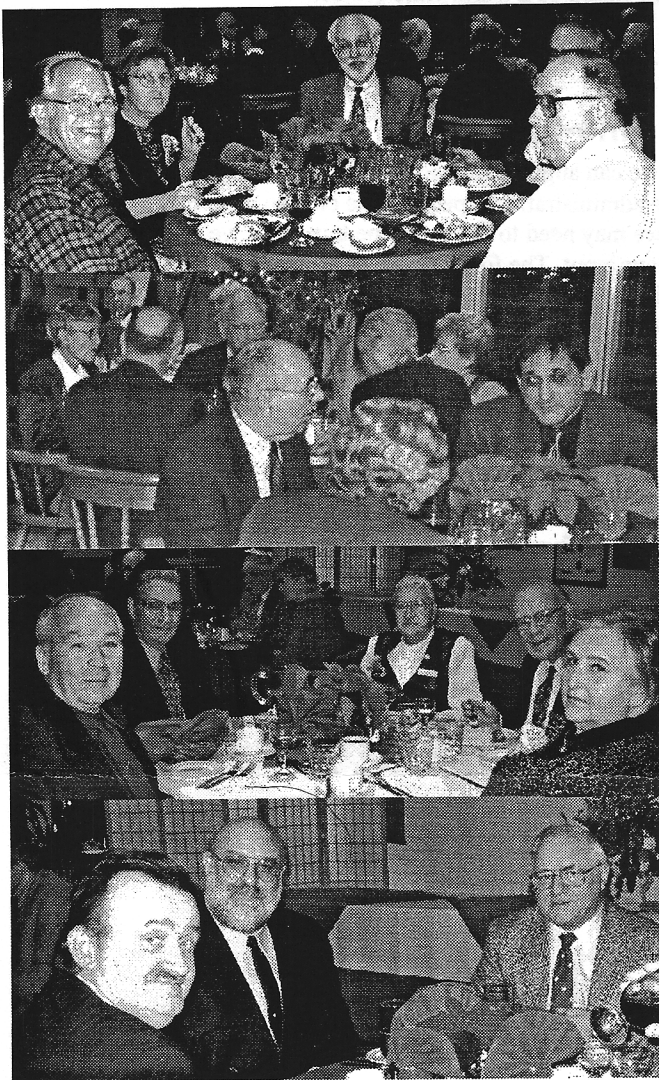
Amount enclosed: _____

Send your renewal to:

**Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,
 Box 91215 Effort Square Postal
 Outlet
 Hamilton, Ontario,
 L8N 4G4**

Christmas Party

Dinner party at the Hamilton Yacht Club 2002



battery connector. I also wanted an on/off switch, so I used a pot with an integrated on/off function.

The board supplied is one of the nicest I have seen. It is a five layer sandwich with two conducting layers and three insulating layers. The ground plane below, and traces above form the two conducting layers. The top and bottom of the board are insulating layers except where holes for the components, which are plated through, connect to small pads on the surface for soldering. It is an easy kit to assemble and it makes a good "beginner" project.

On the American QRP Club web page there is an extensive article on how to build the keyer. The article has lots of photos showing the step-by-step construction process. The address is <www.amqrp.org>

The unit works. It has three limited memories, and speed adjustment from 4 wpm upwards. It has an output jack to send CW to your solid state rig. The sounder has no adjustment for volume or frequency, but I found its

The NorCal Keyer Kit

A product review by Mardy VE3QEE

At the London Fleamarket this year I heard about the Northern California Keyer Kit, a circuit board and parts available by mail order for \$15 US. This unit is a budget priced iambic memory keyer with variable speed control set by menu, or by a potentiometer.

I sent a money order for \$15 US and a small package appeared in my mail box about four weeks later. The parts supplied include everything to populate the circuit board and a switch and sounder. A builder must supply the enclosure, the input and output jacks, a variable pot, and a 9 volt

performance to be adequate. The unit is menu driven, and it takes some concentration to learn how to navigate the menu system which is controlled by a button together with the dit and dah paddles. I made a chart to help me learn the combinations

You get what you pay for. This is an inexpensive unit so its functions are basic. However it does work as advertised and, for me, it was a satisfying project to build. If you are learning the code and you need a keyer with a sounder, this kit would be a worthwhile project.

Possible club tune-up

In the coming year, the exec will be looking at several ideas on how we can augment our activities if necessary, to create an enjoyable experience for the members. We will also be looking at the administrative aspects of the club so as to make our operation more efficient. In order to create the maximum efficiency we may need to re-tune some things, so we need your input. Please assist us in defining the problem (if any) by giving us your input. The following questions will guide us to the area(s) that most need our attention and let us know what club benefits you enjoy or appreciate the most. Please circle or check the most correct answer in your case. If you need more space add another sheet.

1. I attend club meetings, every month., never., No. per year.....
2. I feel the guest speakers are usually..... very good, acceptable....., poor
3. I like speaker topics to beon electronics.....technical....varied/not necessarily tech
4. My main reason for coming ... is the speaker....I'm on a committee.....to socialize
5. Meetings aretoo long.....too short.....just right.
6. One thing missing at meetings is.....
7. The repeater VE3NCF.....never use itonly for the weekly net.....1/2 times weekly.....5/6 times per years.....just listen a lot.....only for club exercises
8. I read the club bulletin every month.....yes.....no
9. I think the club bulletin content is..... good.....acceptable.....poor
10. I have a personal computer in myhome.....shack.....at work
11. I use my computer for some Ham applications.....yes.....no
12. I would like to get my bulletin byemail.....web-site
13. I go to the HARC website from time to time...yes...no
14. I would go to the website if it had current news and/or was more interactive.
15. My interest in the club is mainly through the special interest group
...contest..... WP museum.....field day.....public service.....other =.....
16. My main interest in Ham Radio is.....building....low band op.....HF op.....digital...
public service..... club exec/chair.....contest.....CW.....phone.....other =
17. I am a regular attendee at southern Ontario flea markets....yes.....no.....2/3 per yr.
18. I have been a member of HARC since 19.....
19. I have been a licensed Ham since 19.....
20. I am a member ofRAC.....ARRL
21. My age range is...under 21.....20 to 40.....40 to 50.....50 to 60.....over 60

Thanks for your input. Please bring your completed survey to the November 19 club meeting, or mail it to the club PO Box, send by email to an exec member or give one of us a call. We thank you a look forward to seeing you at the club meetings.

The exec 2003-04