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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

Just What Do Hams Do?

Mardy VE3QEE – President

I have occasionally been asked by people, who are not hams, to explain what hams do. On the spur of the moment, that is not a question with a simple answer, because as many as there are hams there are answers to the question.

However, considering the activities of a lot of Hams I know, I think there is one answer that applies to quite a few of us. *Hams establish and maintain a routine communication schedule.* Think of all the people you know who do this. There is a group of hams that routinely check into our Tuesday Check-In Net and listen to the Swap Net that follows on VE3NCF. On simplex, Wednesday nights, there is another local group that gather for a wide ranging discussion that is different every week. The frequency is 146.430 simplex. Everyone is welcome. Jon, VE3JSU, is the host of that group. Friday night there is a Tech Net hosted by Reg, VE3BBQ. They meet on 146.550 simplex. (See article later in the Bulletin). The group at the War Plane Museum, operate routinely from VA3HWM. Ask Frank, VA3FWL, Don, VE3DDQ, or David, VE3DLK for details. I know of family groups that keep in touch on the radio, and we have all have heard friends checking in with each other on a routine basis. There are any number of daily and weekly nets on HF, for example, the Trans Provincial Net on 7.055 MHz between 9 AM and 5 PM (local time) daily, and the Sandbox Net from 7:00 PM on 7.0635 MHz in

the evenings until the band goes long. There are nets for almost every interest. The snowbirds keep in touch from Florida, and the Maritime Mobile net contacts yachters. (See article later in the Bulletin). This is what hams do.

If you are a new ham, or one who has not been using the radio too much lately, my suggestion is to establish a routine communication schedule at a time when you have a few moments free each day or week. I was lucky, in the first days of my ham career, to be welcomed on the air by a group of hams who regularly checked into repeater VE3UHM. This was back in 1993 when I first got my license and first radio. Thanks to their invitational nature I felt encouraged to continue checking in and to increase my participation in Amateur Radio.

The next time you are talking to a radio amateur ask them about what they do on the air. Write down a few times and frequencies and listen in. If there is an invitation you may have the opportunity to join in. A regular schedule of contacts not only will show how well your equipment is working but also will open the door to the exchanges which can greatly contribute to your enjoyment of the hobby. In short, participate, — thats what hams do.

Student Bursary

Announcement by Awards Chair — Lorraine, VA3N.

A chosen student will receive a single \$100.00 Scholarship while in College or University.

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.

To Qualify:

1. The Student must hold a valid Amateur Radio License in order to be considered as a serious applicant.
2. Be active in some of our club functions and events (volunteer) e.g. help out at Field-Day and Victoria Day contests and with the Flea Market etc. to get some experience.
3. Be an independent member of HARC or be a paid member under family membership for at least one Full Year prior to application of the scholarship.
4. Must show proof of enrolment in the second year of college or university.
5. The student will present their application at the October meeting when above requirements #1, #3, are fulfilled.
6. The Candidate will write a sincere and creative 500 word essay as to:
(A) Who they are.
(B) Why they should be considered for a scholarship.
7. The lucky student will be chosen by HARC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE at the January business meeting and presentation shall be made at the February General Meeting.

Commemorative Event Station

The following announcement appeared in the ARRL weekly e-mail to subscribers. Those who collect special event awards may be interested. Any takers at VE3CWM?

W4B to commemorate Wright Brothers' flight centenary: The North Carolina Special Events Group is operating special event station W4B December 12-17 (UTC) to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. One station will be on 14.260 MHz continuously as propagation permits, while a second station will alternate between SSB and CW. For more

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

Secretary

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

information, visit the NCSEG Web site <<http://www.ncseg.org>> or contact Robert Hamrick, WA4RH <wa4rh@ncseg.org>. The North Carolina Special Events group is a nonprofit organization that promotes historical and other events via Amateur Radio to increase public awareness of ham radio. Orville Wright was at the controls for the first successful flight December 17, 1903. The 120-foot flight lasted just 12 seconds.

Maritime Mobile Operation

Several of our members are associated with the Mississauga Maritime Net, Doug Last, VE3NBL provides us with some details.

The Mississauga Maritime Net began in 1980 when daily contact was being made with two Canadian yachts owned by ham radio operators as they headed south for the winter. Dr. Ernie Meyer (VE3ODV) now VE3EGM was working C/W with one and Doug VE3NBL was working the other on 20 meter phone. Both Ernie and I were in Mississauga and members of the Skywide Amateur Radio Club. We were later to be founding members of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club.

We had daily skeds on 14.121 mhz at 7.45 am EST. which lasted until around 8 am every morning 7 days a week. Today the net still operates on 20 meters on 14.122.5 mhz at the same time 7.45 am EST. We moved up in frequency to be free of daily QRM from another net on 14.118 that persisted in causing us interference.

The net has proven to be very popular with Canadian yachting hams as a reliable means of keeping in touch back home while sailing off shore. Because the Net was always there every morning at the same time and frequency it became a regular means of also keeping in touch with other boats to monitor their progress and location. The number of land based stations also increased over the years and a very effective relay system developed with the various stations. With Tom VP9V in Bermuda, Don 6Y5DA in Mandeville Jamaica and Orvil C6AHZ in Andros Bahamas we were able to work every weak station in the north. Southern stations were always heard by either Ernie EGM, Doug NBL or Ron VE3AUM up in Ottawa. Later in the net Ron AUM would turn his big 20 meter monobander to the east out in the Atlantic and pick up boats crossing the Atlantic on a regular basis.

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.

The net offered the assistance of two Doctors to give advice of a medical nature when needed and weather information was also relayed by a number of stations to vessels at sea.

The ability to provide phone patch facilities became very comforting to family members back home with health and welfare traffic being passed on a daily basis. We have received numerous letters of appreciation over the years from sailors expressing their appreciation of the Mississauga maritime net. It was their one link to back home when no other means of communication existed.

Ernie, VE3EGM is now 90 years old and still active on the net. The present Net Controller is Marty VE2MH in Montreal, backed up by Doug VO1DD in Hearts Delight Newfoundland. In the south we still have Tom in Bermuda and Don In Jamaica. I am now in Mount hope with limited antennae facilities but still participate after 15 years of acting as Net Control while living in Mississauga and Brighton. The days of 55 foot towers, linear amplifiers and tribander beams is just a memory now but I still participate every morning on the net.

I would encourage any of you to listen in on 14.122.5 mhz in the morning at 7.45 . You will probably hear Frank VA3FWL that you all know, he is one of our newest members and we are glad to have him on board.

In our club we have a number of sailing hams who are planning to sail offshore that we will be keeping in touch with . Try to join in and experience the fun of

Future Speakers

January 21st

Mrs Janis Giftopoulos, Program Manager for the Transitional Training Centre at the CNIB in Hamilton, has been invited to speak to us concerning the Ham Radio programming at their location. Our own Mike Krebs, VA3WXS, and his Elmer Doug McClelland, VE3TX, have established an HF and VHF station at the CNIB and are currently expanding the scope of their activity. Join us to learn what is going on in Amateur Radio under the auspices of CNIB.

March 17th

Roger, VE3UFZ, has invited Herb Hilgenberg from the Burlington Amateur Radio Club to speak to us. Herb's topic, "High Seas Communication and Ship Routing, a hobby". Herb is well known among offshore yachtsmen for the daily, boat specific forecasts he prepares. Herb can be heard communicating with yachts on marine sideband about the weather they can expect in the next 24 hours, and their sailing plans. If you would like to learn more about Herb's hobby see his web site:

www3.sympatico.ca/hehilgen/vax498.htm

We feel privileged to have Herb talk to our Club. This is one meeting be sure to attend.

real life sailing and ham radio operating, I hope you will enjoy it as much as I have. 73 to all, Doug VE3NBL.

Tech Net

Information about the local Friday, simplex tech net — submitted by Bill, VE3BNW

It all started from a whim in Burlington almost a year and a half ago by Reg Bagshaw VE3BQQ on the freq of 146.550 simplex. His first contact was

Dave VE3DLK in Hamilton. 96 weeks later and still going strong, the 100th episode will be on Boxing Day Dec 26th. It has become a Friday night ritual with an average of 30 or more check-ins using the Internet via Echo link, e-mail and of course good old fashioned RF radio.

The idea behind the Tech Net was to have someplace for Hams to meet and ask questions relating to radio, computers and basic electronics. From there it has grown into field trips such as a trip to Bob's place VE3RKK to view his solar and power station. Also a trip to the VE3WIK repeater site in Carlisle so people could behold the mystery behind repeaters. The latest outing was a Fox hunt in Hamilton in which about 25 Hams participated and had a good time chasing down the fox. This sparked interest with the Kitchener club, and they in turn had one as well, spearheaded by Terry VE3NSV.

In October, Bill VE3BNW started a web site for someplace to put info, pictures, and news relating to the Tech Net. The web site has since grown to offer streaming audio on Friday nights via the Internet, a swap shop and message board. The site also features weather, pictures of the latest field trips and links to Ham related sites.



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As the Tech Net grew a lot of people started to help Reg with the Net. Terry VE3NSV supplied us with an e-mail account for the Net, tech-net@rogers.com. Bill Watson for the website, Rick VE3RNK for the use of the repeater, plus John for his repeater VE3SNM. Soon to come on line will be the East Thorold repeater VE3ZEC. We would like to also mention that Al VE3AXF has an Echo Link on 146.550 that has enabled people from all over the world to check out the Tech Net.

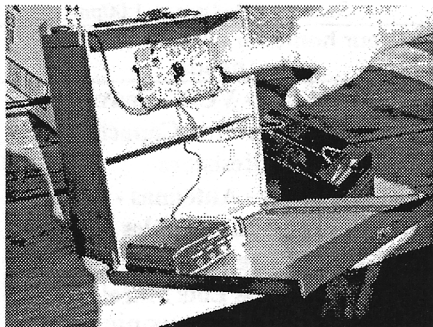
The future of the Tech Net is that soon IRLP will be on VE3WIK thanks to the support of the listeners of the Tech Net. Plus there are lots of other plans in the working. You will be able to find out what is happening on the web site.

We would like all to check in on Friday night and if you have any information, comments or questions (ICQ), feel free to jump in; we would love to hear from you.

Tech Net Fox Hunt



The Fox



Check in on:
 146.550 simplex (it is cross banded to VE3WIK via Gary, VE3TTO)
 443.675+ VE3WIK 131.8
 442.850+ VE3SNM 136.5
 Echo Link Node#45944 Courtesy of AL VE3AXF
 Web Site for streaming audio
<http://home.cogeco.ca/~technet/>

73 Bill VE3BNW

November Minutes

Roger, VE3UFZ — Secretary

Our guest speaker for the evening was Paul Brown, Director of Engineering for Hamilton Hydro Inc. Paul delivered an illustrated talk using a power point presentation to show how the power system works. He gave us a brief overview of the Hamilton Hydro system from generation to transmission to distribution.

This installation is at Sir John A McDonald High School. The heat produces by the steam turbines will be used to heat Hamilton City Hall.

Power is generated in three phases. There are three wires: one for each phase, and a ground return. Power systems utilize earth as ground, and the neutral conductor running along the top of the towers is connected to ground at regularly spaced intervals throughout

HARC Membership

*Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI,
 Membership Chair*

HARC membership runs from September 1st through August 31st annually. Dues are \$25.00 for a primary member and \$1.00 for each additional family member residing in the same household.

For new members joining during the year, (i.e. persons who have never been members of HARC previously), the membership fee is pro-rated at \$2.50 per month remaining in the club year.

Information For Renewal

Name (s): _____

Callsign (s): _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Additional Information for New Applicants

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

e-mail address _____

Renewals / applications can be sent to:

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

the system. The voltage generated at power plants is stepped up from the 1000's of volts to 100,000's of volts for transmission. This reduces the current flow and thus reduces the gauge of the conductors needed to carry the power load. Long distance transmission is in the order of 115,000 to 500,000 volts to reduce line losses.

There were many questions from the membership ranging from costs per KW Hour to the use of Power Transmission lines for data transmission. Many thanks Paul for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk to us.

Following the refreshment break the business meeting was called to order

Health and Welfare

An announcement was made regarding two Silent Keys. Glenn Allan Gibson (VE3FHQ) and Harold Frederick Gibson (VE3NKU). Fred Robinson shared with us some of his memories of Glen Alan Gibson. Sympathy Cards will be sent to the families.

Education

Mardy informed us that there currently 5 students taking the Basic Course which will finish in the middle of January. Details about a spring session have not been announced.

Treasurer's Report

Fred announced he is setting up Quick Books for the club accounts. Fred's objective is to convert our budgeting format from spreadsheet to proper bookkeeping format and setting a process in place that will make transition from one treasurer to the next a routine operation. Fred and the executive are exploring methods of cutting expenses and pursuing the philosophy of zxa "Zero Base Budget".

Membership

We currently have 59 paid up members. This number includes 5 new memberships paid up at the meeting, and 4 existing membership renewals. Good news Emsley!! Emsley would like to get Email addresses for the membership so that the Executive may analyze the advantage of using Email to

make the monthly bulletin available via Internet.

In his closing remarks, Mardy, VE3QEE, drew our attention to the NorCal Keyer, which was on display at the back of the room. This is an excellent kit project for the incurable Kit Basher. If you are interested in this project and didn't get to the meeting to see it, give Mardy a call.

Moved by Frank Love and Seconded by Casey, meeting adjourned at 2100hrs.

Spelling Checker

You may wonder why there are no spelling mistakes in this publication. Well, we use spelling checker software. Here is how it works...

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

Club Tune-Up Survey Preliminary Results

This survey appeared on the back page of the October Bulletin

Of 118 surveys distributed by mail, the executive received 7 completed questionnaires. If you would like to submit your opinion, take a moment to look at the survey and fill it out. Feel free to leave out any questions that do

not apply, or add your comments about topics that were omitted from the survey. We want this club to serve its members better, so please give us your input.

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.

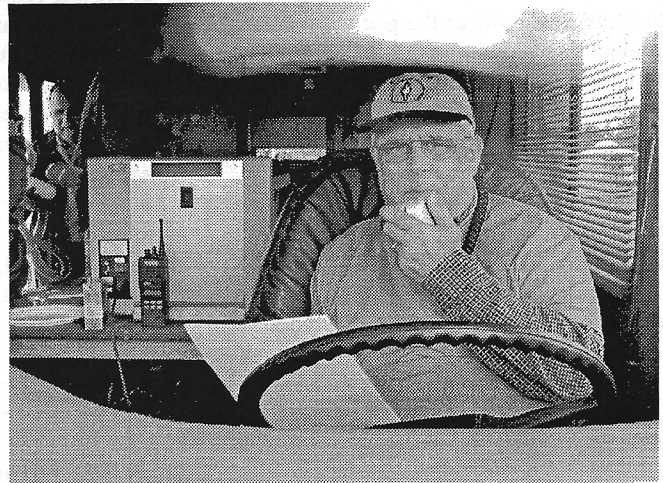
The Hamilton Amateur

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

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year



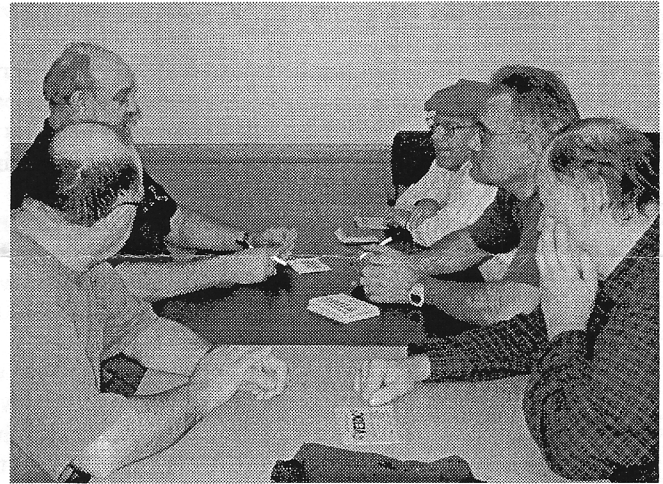
Gerald, David, David & Joe - VHF Station F.D.



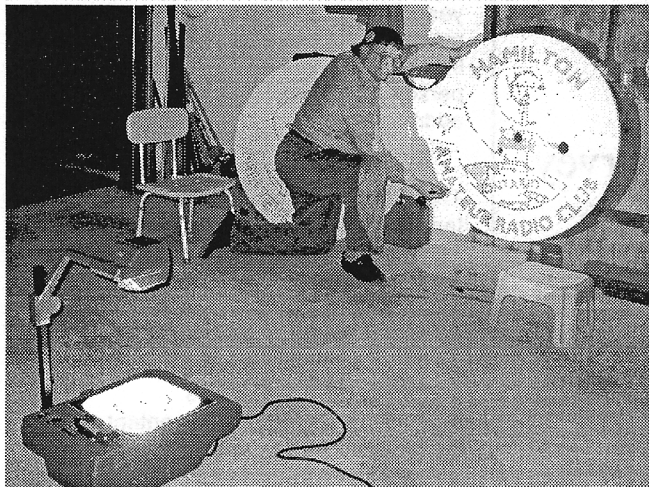
Mardy Net Control - Great Ride & Stride on the Line



John Servicing the VE3NCF Antenna



Rick Giving Instructions - QSL Reply Party



Vic Creating the Outdoor Club Crest



Bernie Checking out an Antenna prior to Field Day