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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 - 72 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2004

Silent Auction

Station equipment is being offered for sale in the hour before the February Club meeting. Read on for details.

On Wednesday February 18th in the hour before the club meeting usually begins, from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the St. John's Ambulance Building, there will be a display and silent auction of equipment donated by the family of one of our current members. The equipment consists of transceivers, amplifiers, and associated station accessories, meters, mics, phones, etc. covering the normal HAM bands. The equipment being auctioned is subject to a reserve bid which will be displayed on the item. Any item not auctioned at the meeting will be offered for sale at a future fleamarket. All proceeds are going to the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club.

The Amateur Radio Program at the Hamilton CNIB

submitted by Mardy, VE3QEE

Mike Krebs, VA3WXS, HARC Past President, volunteers his services at the CNIB where he sits on an advisory committee and where he manages the radio station and a program offering instruction to CNIB clients who are interested in amateur radio. Mike has recruited Mardy, VE3QEE, and Roger, VE3UFZ, to present a course of

instruction. Right now the amateur radio class consists of two people, with others expressing an interest in joining the program. Formal instruction takes place on Tuesdays from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM. After that, Mike opens the station so candidates can try their hand on the air. Usually there is someone listening on VE3NCF and class members have had some productive sessions on the air. Currently Mike operates VHF from the station, but he is working on CW and hopes to have HF privileges soon. The station is equipped with a Kenwood HF rig, with a voice synthesizer, and auto tuner. Trustee of station VA3SEE, and Mike's Elmer, is Doug McClellan, VE3TX of Ancaster.

At the HARC January Club meeting, Doug Last, VE3NBL, suggested that I write an article for this Newsletter explaining what we are doing at the CNIB and what sort of support we could use in these early stages as we get the program up and running. In the rest of this article I will try to do just that. Firstly, teaching at the CNIB is all new to Roger and Myself. The teaching methods are being developed as we go, week-by-week.

George Fanjoy, VE3PEB, Chairman of the CNIB Amateur Radio Program, who spoke at our January meeting, has provided instructional materials including a set of one-of-a-kind tactile aids, which George constructed himself and which he has generously loaned for the current course. Seeing what George produced, Roger and I have been inspired to develop similar materials as we teach.

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.

At the station there is a self supporting tower, a dipole, and a VHF antenna. Waiting to be installed on the tower is a beam antenna with a rotor and control box. At this time it appears that the program could use two things immediately: volunteers to put up the beam antenna and get it working, and financial support for the needs of the station as it is being set up for HF operation. In the future, Mike would like to call upon the services of guest operators to help provide operating experience from time to time for the participants.

If you would like to help out in some capacity, please direct your inquiries to Mike Krebs, VA3WXS, or Mardy or Roger and we will do our best to put your assistance to good use.

Contest News at VE3DC

submitted by Rick Danby VE3BK/VE3OZY, Contest Co-ordinator for VE3DC

The contest season is upon us for another year.

We started back in October with the CQWW which is a DX contest. A lot of competition from all over the world on this contest, with the CW contest in November and the SSB contest in October. We have a lot of fun working this contest. Not much chance in winning but we do have certificates for this one and have placed rather well, considering the competition.

Next comes the Radio Amateurs of Canada RAC Winter Contest. This usually falls between Christmas and New Years. We have done well over the years on this contest but because of it's proximity to Boxing Day this year, we did not participate in 2003.

Next in the CQWW160 meter contests. One in January for CW and February for SSB. The end of this month we will be at it again, probably with 2 stations. We have done really

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

well on these and have many certificates of First Place Canada, First Place Ontario etc. Ask me if you want to join in on the fun.

Coming in April is the Ontario QSO Party. We need all the help we can get on this one as we run Multi-multi as you can see by the pictures of the group in action. These are pictures from April 2003. It is a 24 hour contest on April 17. This is a fun contest as the stations in Ontario (us), are in demand. We even have time for the odd Qso with the other participants we know, something like the RAC contests.

Some of the Contest Group mentioned the WPX SSB Prefix Contest at the end of March. Not sure at this time if we are doing this one or not. Keep Posted for future updates.

Still to come is Field Day, and the CANADA Contest by RAC. Again, fun to work. Will discuss these contest later.

Minutes of the January 21, 2004 General Meeting

submitted by Roger, VE3UFZ, HARC Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm sharp by Mardy. Two of our special guests were introduced. , Randy Nelson (VE3WRN), Manager – CNIB Amateur Radio Program, and George Fanjoy (VE3PEB) Program Chairman. Both Randy and George made the effort, along with their volunteer driver, to travel from Toronto to attend our meeting. Their attendance at our meeting made it very clear how important club support of the Amateur Radio Program is to the CNIB.

Past President Mike Krebs introduced our guest speaker, Janice Giftopolous, Transitional Training Centre(TTC) Program Manager for the Hamilton CNIB. Janice began her presentation with an excellent video entitled "The Door to Independence". This video makes an eloquent statement about what many sight impaired people want

– to live their lives in an independent, safe and responsible way. Janice then followed the video with an overhead presentation, which explained the program and how it works at the Hamilton CNIB. Hamilton has the only Transitional Training Centre in Canada. This is a live in facility with dedicated teachers and facilitators. Graduates of this program will be able to assimilate into society and live independent lives.

Amateur Radio

There are currently 3 candidates working on their HAM ticket that are live in at the TTC. They have already had three introductory sessions, moderated by Mike Krebs. Mike has been using talking book facilities to date. We are hoping to get additional Braille texts and some teaching aids for sight-impaired students.

George Fanjoy then talked about the CNIB HAM program. There are currently 453 operating sight impaired HAMS across Canada. George impassioned plea is that we need to get the message out to other "white caners", not just the few at our Hamilton TTC. How this will be done is no known yet, except that every HAM should be aware that teaching programs do exist in various locations across Canada. If anyone has questions, George would enjoy discussing "HAM radio for white caners" any time. George liaises with Industry Canada, he is an authorized examiner for white caners, and he works closely with manufacturers in the production of use friendly HAM equipment and manuals for white caners.

All three of our guests were thanked for their contribution, both to our meeting and to the CNIB HAM program.

HARC 2003-2004 Executive

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Past President

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1st Vice President

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Fred Robinson VE3GCP
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FredRobinson@MountainCable.net

Membership

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

Business meeting call to order 9:15pm

Repeater

It was reported that the 440 repeater was in bad shape. The final isn't working, as it should. A replacement is being sought. Autopatch mailbox slots are still available. John Vandenberg would prefer an Email request for a mailbox rather than a phone call. An autopatch mailbox is a two-digit code sent on DTMF to call your home number.

Contest Group

Rick Danby reported that April 17/18 is the Ontario QSO contest. Get your feet wet, have some fun, participate as an operator. Rock presented a number of certificates that the contesting group acquired since 2000. The next critical date for contest is February 28/29. Anyone wanting to operate at the VE3DC contest site, on 160M, please contact Rick Danby.

Treasurers Report

Fred Robinson presented his report. Moved by Fred Robinson and seconded by Mike Krebs, that the treasurers report be accepted as read. Our unaudited balance is \$2445.67.

Education

Mardy reported that there were 4 students writing the basic exam on January 22. There is also one student who has moved to Ottawa and will be taking his exam under the auspices of the Ottawa club. Mardy is working on a CW course to Spring 2004. Moved by Mardy and seconded by Fred Robinson, that the education report be accepted.



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It has been suggested that we approach a high school in order to teach a large group the basic skills for HAM radio. This idea has merit, and has been used successfully by other clubs. The executive will consider this suggestion.

We are still looking for an Editor for our bulletin. Mardy has been doing yeoman duty in producing the bulleting, but we really need a full time dedicated editor. It was suggested that the bulleting could be made available using Email. The executive will pursue this idea.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Review of the Koch Method CW Trainer a computer program for teaching Morse Code.

At last, a different kind of Morse Code trainer that is free, and will teach you the code using your own computer sound card.

Ray Goff, G4FON, has developed a computer program, to teach Morse Code. The program is free, and can be downloaded from an internet site as a .zip file. When the file is unzipped and installed on your computer it works with the computer's sound card to send code for copying. The program has adjustments for setting character speed, code speed and the length of a practice session. At the end of a session you can check your work from a printed copy on the screen and work out your percent.

The program starts by sending two characters. After a number of days, when you can copy these two characters with 90% accuracy, or better, you can ask the program to send one more character. Through time, you progress one character at a time, until you have been trained to copy all 40 characters in the alphabet,

Future Speakers

February 18th

Steve Parsons, from Radioworld will be bringing an assortment of recent radio equipment and talking about its use. You may recall the last time Steve spoke to our group. We look forward to his visit and a chance to examine and ask questions about goodies from "the candy store".

March 17th

Herb Hilgenberg from the Burlington Amateur Radio Club will be speaking 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.

April 21st.

Mike Kassay, will be speaking to us on the topic of Heath Kit Equipment. Mike has been collecting Heath equipment and also the manuals. Many of us own a piece of Heath equipment. Come and hear what Mike can share with us.

prosigns, numbers, and punctuation automatically. The Koch method is based on conditioning which develops your body reflexes, rather than learning which is more subject to interference. Because the pace of teaching is slow, and the learning steps are small, this method greatly reduces frustration and increases the opportunity for success.

The method teaches rank beginners, and improves experienced users alike. Because the program is developing a

set of conditioned reflexes, the creator of the Koch method recommends starting with the same character speed and word speed you want to achieve at the end.

Several new Radio Amateurs who just completed the basic qualification are now teaching themselves Morse Code using the Koch Method. I am using it daily to improve my copying speed. If you would like to join in, the program is available at the following web site: <<http://www.qsl.net/g4fon/>> Scroll to the bottom of the page for download selections. If you are unable to download the program, ask to borrow a CD containing the zip installation file. Get your full HF privileges before the rules change. Start your training in CW now.

My Career

This outline was submitted by Joe VE3OCD. I had no idea Joe was so widely experienced.

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned. I just couldn't concentrate. Then I worked the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe. After that, I tried to be a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it, mainly because it was a so-so job. Next, I tried working in a muffler factory, But that was exhausting. I wanted to be a barber, but I just couldn't cut it. Then I tried to be a chef. I figured it would add a little spice to my life, but I just didn't have the thyme. I studied a long time to become a doctor, but I just didn't have any patience. Next was a job in a shoe factory. I tried, but I just didn't fit in. I became a professional fisherman, and I really got hooked, but then discovered I couldn't live on my income. I got a job in a zoo feeding giraffes, but I got fired because I wasn't up to it. Next, I found being an electrician was interesting, but the work was shocking. After my years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a historian. I kept this job until I realized there was no future in it. My last job was at Starbucks. But I had to quit because it was always the same old grind.

Now that I'm retired I enjoy amateur radio but I find the activity comes and goes in waves. Joe

Request for Financial Support

The club executive from time to time gets requests for donations. After lengthy discussion, we decided to refer these requests to the members for their consideration as individuals rather than make a donation on behalf of the club. We get an annual request for a donation to the CNIB Amateur Radio Program, 1929 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, M4G 3E8. Members can mail in a donation and ask for a tax receipt.

Considering that request, the executive wondered if it might be good to channel our support to the local CNIB Transitional Training Centre in Hamilton where there is a fledgling radio station, VA3SEE, and a basic certification program administered by our own Mike Krebs, VA3WXS. If members wish to donate at a club

meeting, a container for such donations will be provided at the coffee table, and the proceeds will be taken to the TTC. If members wish to make a direct donation to the Hamilton program and request a tax receipt, the address is J. Giftopoulos, Program Manager, CNIB Transitional Training Centre, 1686 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON, L8S 1G4.

Congratulations to Four New Amateurs

Four candidates who took the HARC amateur radio course at Mohawk College have successfully completed their Basic Qualification.

Congratulations to:

Ann Tekatch, VA3NOE
Ron Ouwehand, VA3OUW
Allan Gammon, pending
Wojciech Rusin, VA3WWR
(pronounced "Voitek")

Ann, Ron and Wojciech have started independently studying CW using the

Koch program reviewed elsewhere in this bulletin. All three have stated their intention of earning a Morse qualification and becoming active on the HF bands. Ron, and Ann are now members of the club, so if you see them at a meeting make sure they feel welcome, and extend an invitation for them to participate in some of the annual activities, like public service events, operations at the Warplane Heritage station, contest site activities, weekly talk nets, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service net, Field Day activity and so on.

It is always nice to hear that members have offered assistance to new amateurs by giving advice about equipment, explaining operating techniques, and also by giving assistance putting up antennas, setting up and testing station equipment. You probably recall those first contacts you made on air, and the encouragement you got from experienced amateurs who patiently responded to your first words and later became friends when you contacted them again or met them at a hamfest or two.

While they're excited, and we're delighted. Welcome to the hobby and congratulations on a job well done.

FB - 73 - de VE3QEE and the gang at HARC.

Tip for the Shack

by Mardy, VE3QEE

Since big box merchandising has taken over the retail scene a number of new products have become available to the casual customer. One of these is plastic and rubber hose. Several large stores have a display of hose in a variety of diameters. I have been putting small pieces of plastic hose to good use around the shack. Here are some of the uses. The on/off knobs of my HTX 202 and HTX 404 transceivers were hard to get hold of for changing the volume and switching the rigs on and off. A 3/4" length of plastic hose slipped

over that knob has made the task much easier. Tap wrenches, reamers and screw vices and some other tools have a loose bar for twisting the tool. This bar often falls out, especially when you are using the tool. A 1/4" section of tight fitting plastic hose slipped on the loose shaft from either side does the trick of keeping it in position, but allowing you to slide it as needed. I have also used longer lengths of large diameter hose to protect sharp tools.

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,
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