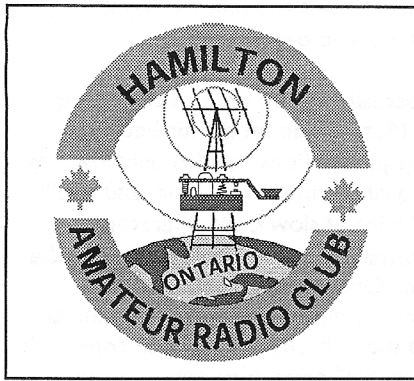


VE3BK



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[Http://www.hwcn.org/link/harc/](http://www.hwcn.org/link/harc/)

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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

Why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"

From Florida Skip Magazine - 1959
kc5ikv@webside.com. This article was submitted by Emsley, VE3JAI

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY and POOGIE MURRAY.

At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HY-AL-MU", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They then decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station CALL became "HAM".

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call-letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity. In 1911 ALBERT HYMAN chose the

controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his Thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator DAVID I. WALSH, a member of one of the committees hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis is that he asked HYMAN to appear before the committee. ALBERT HYMAN took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the BILL went through that they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the BILL imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The BILL finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM". That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record.

Nation-wide publicity associated station "HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably until the end of time in radio an amateur is a "HAM"

New Morse Code Symbol Adopted

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.

the following item has been partly adapted from a National Post news article, dated Feb. 23, 2004, that was submitted by Terry, VE3AUB.

The International Telecommunications Union voted in December to adopt a new symbol into the Morse code. This is the first addition to the code since the Second World War. The new symbol, made by running an A and a C together, di da di da dit, will be used to represent the @ found in e-mail addresses. Quoting the National Post Article: "The lack of a Morse code character for the @ symbol has long posed problems for the ham radio operators wanting to exchange e-mail addresses, says Guy Charron of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), a not-for-profit organization that represents the country's 51,500 amateur radio enthusiasts."

Until now there was no common way of sending the @ symbol. Some people were making stuff up or just using the word "at". The name of the new symbol is a "commat" (think of it as a "commercial at") which is derived from a phrase the French used to name the symbol, "*a commerciale*".

Morse code, was invented in the 1830s by Samuel F. B. Morse for use with his invention the telegraph. The Morse code has been in continuous use, one place or another, since then. It appears there has not been a new symbol added in the last 50 years. At the last ITU session, the International Telecommunications Union removed its recommendation that Amateurs need a knowledge of Morse code to be licenced to use the HF bands. While Canadian Amateurs still require 5 w.p.m. proficiency in Morse code for access to the HF bands, Industry Canada is considering dropping the requirement and replacing it with a more rigorous testing regime for issuing a licence upgrade.

Morse code, today, is used mainly by radio amateurs who prefer this mode of operation. Nothing so completely strips away the accent from a person's speech as morse code. Morse code

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 8:00pm. 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 \$5.

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

cuts through QRM and QRN better than any other person to person mode. And Morse code can share a crowded band with many other signals and still

be singled out and followed by an experienced operator.

It's actually a good time to start using the Morse code on the air because most jurisdictions require only 5 w.p.m. for qualification at this time, and you'll find a lot of slow code operators transmitting in the CW portions of the band. One personal difficulty I had when trying to copy code from the air, was the difficulty of having to cope with a "double" code. Not only were you copying letters of the alphabet and translating them back into words, but also the words themselves were abbreviated into a second code: vis. CUL for see you later, and OM for old man, GM for good morning, XYL for wife, (ex young lady) and ES for and or plus. It was, initially, insurmountable. The newer slow code operators seem to be sending plain English and that should make it easier for us all to get on and have some fun.

Minutes of the February 18, 2004 General Meeting

by Roger, VE3UFZ, Secretary

Mardy called the meeting to order at 8:00pm. Our guest speaker, Steve Parsons, was introduced by Mardy. Steve, as many of you may already know, is an active HAM and is employed by Radioworld. Steve arrived at our meeting with a bag of goodies that had most of us drooling. Items from microscopic HT's to an alarm clock that projects super sized numerals on the ceiling (for those of us that don't have arms long enough to read a watch in low light, which would include myself). It would appear that the HAM radio market has reached a plateau, so it may be seen that radio shops such as Radio Shack and Radioworld are beginning to stock more gadgets on their shelves. Good news for those of us that get all goosbumby over bells and whistles. Not so good news for those of us that are

looking for discrete electronic components, general service radio equipment, or HAM equipment. The editor seems to recall that it wasn't that long ago that Radio Shack stocked some bombproof and inexpensive VHF and UHF equipment. I can also remember visiting a radio shop in East Hamilton with my father (VE3TAP/VE3ALB) to purchase some enameled wire and coil stock to wind coils for a superhet we were building.

Steve showed us the Kenwood TS-480DSP multi-band, multi-mode transceiver. This unit may very well be the last HAM specific transceiver that Kenwood designs and manufactures. Another geewhiz radio, the VX2, was passed around. This unit is so small that my ham fists had trouble finding and pushing individual buttons. A great shirt pocket radio.

There were a number of other current pieces of radio equipment passed around the group: an MFJ balanced tuner with a 150 watt rating, an ALINCO switched power supply, and a pair of Garmin FRS radios with GPS capability, a Garmin hand held GPS, and finally an item that every business person needs, an integrated PALM/GPS that has map data for what appeared to be the entire North American continent.

Mardy thanked Steve for his very informative and entertaining presentation. Questions and discussion carried into the coffee break. During the coffee break a silent auction took place.

Business Meeting 9:40pm

Moved by Mike Krebs that the minutes as published in the club bulletin be accepted. Seconded by Terry VA3AUB.

The Repeater Council has been paid and informed that we intend to remain on frequency and in business for at least another year.

Treasurers Report

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

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Treasurer

Fred Robinson VE3GCP

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Membership

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI

905-627-0333

eamitch@mcmill.cis.mcmaster.ca

Our Treasurer reports that there will be a formal report at our next meeting. Fred is really working hard at learning the new software we acquired (Quick Books), and is diligently incorporating the two bank accounts that we presently have. We will finally have an easily maintained set of books which will facilitate a smooth handover to new executive at the beginning of the new club year 2004.

Health and Welfare

We have a silent key to remember.
Peter Walton VE3FEZ / VA3PW.

Repeater

There is nothing new to report.

Membership

Emsley reports that we currently have 65 paid up members.

Education Report

Mardy reports that there are currently 4 prospective HAM's taking the basic course. There are also 2 white cane students at the Hamilton CNIB. There was a query about the advanced course indicating that there may be some interest in finding an instructor.

Awards

Lorraine ran down the list of awards and the timing for each one. The CW Award will be made at the May meeting. The Order of Merit will require nominations, which are now requested. The Art Ferguson Award also requires nominations. Please forward your nominations to Lorraine VA3NZ at 905-389-7653. There is also the Home Brew award, which is presented annually at our Home Brew contest at our June meeting.



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Field Day

Dave Bruton reported that we will again be going to Rock Chapel this year. We are looking for band captains. Please let David know if you will be available for Field Day.

Moved by Mike VA3WXS and seconded by Lorraine VA3NZ that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00pm.

Aches and Pains

The following contribution was submitted by Joe, VE3OCD.

Thought I'd let my doctor check me,
'Cause I didn't feel quite right. . .
All those aches and pains annoyed me
And I couldn't sleep at night.

He could find no real disorder
But he wouldn't let it rest.
What with Medicare and Blue Cross,
We would do a couple tests.

To the hospital he sent me
Though I didn't feel that bad.
He arranged for them to give me
Every test that could be had.

I was fluoroscoped and cystoscoped,
My aging frame displayed.
Stripped, on an ice cold table,
While my gizzards were x-rayed.

I was checked for worms and parasites,
For fungus and the crud,
While they pierced me with long needles
Taking samples of my blood.

Doctors came to check me over,
Probed and pushed and poked around,
And to make sure I was living
They then wired me for sound.

They have finally concluded,
Their results have filled a page.
What I have will someday kill me;
My affliction is OLD AGE

Future Speakers

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.

ARRL Responds to Wall Street Journal Article on BPL

For those of you who have been following the discussion on Broadband Over Powerline technology (BPL) here is the latest news from the American Radio Relay League in its weekly e-bulletin to members.

The ARRL this week responded to a March 2 Wall Street Journal article, "The Web's New Outlet," that presented a one-sided, rosy picture of Broadband over Power Line while avoiding any mention of its interference potential. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, faxed a letter to the editor of

the New York-based business and financial publication to point out some of BPL's shortcomings, which were largely missing from the WSJ report.

"Any listing of the pros and cons of using power lines to deliver broadband services must mention its major disadvantage: it pollutes the radio spectrum, interfering with nearby

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 licencees and new applicants 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**

radio receivers," Sumner said.

"The only known exception is a microwave system being developed by Corridor Systems of Santa Rosa, California."

Sumner pointed out that BPL involves sending wideband RF "over unshielded wires that were not designed for the purpose." Owing to the laws of physics, Sumner continued, these power lines function much like antennas, and BPL signals passing through wires in the vicinity can interfere with radio reception.

"The frequencies in question are used by public safety agencies, the military, aeronautical and maritime services, broadcasters, radio astronomers, radio amateurs, and others," Sumner noted. He said BPL system designers have had only limited success in resolving the interference issue by notching certain frequencies.

"Yet BPL implementation cannot go forward without solving it, because for very good and obvious reasons it is a violation of FCC regulations for a BPL system to cause radio interference," he went on. "If BPL causes interference--and it does--the BPL system must be shut down." Sumner included references to the ARRL's BPL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc#video>, which documents HF interference the League monitored at four BPL field test sites last fall.

The WSJ article, in the paper's "Marketplace" section, focuses on the announcement this week of what's said to be the largest rollout to date of BPL by Cincinnati-based utility Cinergy Corp and its BPL partner Current Communications. Cinergy and Current Communications hope to be offering the service to between 60,000 and 1.5 million Cincinnati-area customers by year's end and eventually to some 24 million potential customers elsewhere who are served by smaller utilities.

HARC 2003-2004 Chairs

Awards/Volunteer Examiner

Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ
905-389-7653 va3nz@rac.ca

Contesting/Property Manager

Rick Danby VE3BK
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Education

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Emergency Services ARES

Gary Notto VE3TTO
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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
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Hospitality

Bernie Granby VA3XJ
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and

Ilona Davidson VE3UGM

Membership/Web

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

Newsletter

Open: currently seeking an editor

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

While the article concedes that BPL "is unproven in wide use," it also cites FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Ed Thomas, who called the technology "ready for prime time." Thomas stopped short of saying that the same was true for the BPL industry, however. It also quotes Cinergy Executive Vice President Bill Grealis, who called BPL "the last-mile solution" and said the service--at between \$30 and \$40 a month--would be "cheaper and faster than DSL or cable."

A March 5 article about the Cinergy/Current Communications BPL rollout appearing in the Cincinnati Enquirer http://www.enquirer.com/editions/2004/03/05/biz_cinergy05.html cites Amateur Radio's concerns, although it also includes comments by FCC and industry sources saying that interference is not a major worry. Featuring a photo of ARRL Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, the report quotes the League's comments to the FCC in response to last April's BPL FCC Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 04-104). Phillips expresses his concerns that interference from RF on unshielded power lines could interfere "with all types of radio transmissions," including emergency agencies.

Sumner, in his letter to the Wall Street Journal, suggested that there are better choices than BPL, even from the standpoint of business and economics. "Potential investors in broadband delivery alternatives to DSL and cable would be far better off considering the various methods of delivering fiber-to-the-home in densely populated areas," he concluded. "For rural areas, adaptations of wireless LAN technology are generally recognized as offering far more promise than BPL."

FIELD DAY

submitted by Emsley, VE3JAI, 20 meters 'phone.

It is time to start thinking about Field Day 2004. This year the event will be held as usual on the last full week end in June . It is time to start thinking about that new innovative antenna that one that you always wanted to try out. Our club will be making all the necessary preparations for venue, insurance and hospitality in the very near future.

Last year Field Day 2003, the club's classification was 4A. The 4 stands for four transmitters and the A stands for a Club operation at a temporary location. We did not break any of our old records or dominate Ontario as we did in the past but we made a fairly good showing. A partial listing of the 4A results from the Dec. 2003 issue of QST is included below.

CLASS 4A

June 26+27

| Club | Call | QSOs | Score | Prov./State |
|--|--------------|------|--------|-------------|
| Port City ARC | K1R (+WIWQM) | 4956 | 15,198 | NH |
| Delaware ARA | K8ES (+N8OB) | 3537 | 12,652 | OH |
| Western ARA | N6ME | 3079 | 10,716 | ORG |
| Peel ARC | VE3XR | 1156 | 4,456 | ON |
| Greater Vancouver Radio Group | VE7VRG | 1317 | 3908 | BC |
| Hamilton ARC | VE3DC | 1081 | 3498 | ON |
| New Westminster Burnaby & Coquitlam ARCs | VE7BAR | 996 | 3440 | BC |
| Brownsburg Hawkesbury ARC | VE2CWB | 997 | 2946 | QC |

From the above HARC was second in Ontario and third in the 4A class in Canada. The Americans were first second and third in North America. Let us set our goal high for this year's event. Years ago we were among the top ten in North America. With some strategic planning and a greater effort we may well be there again.

Our Newest Member

picture submitted by
Rick VE3BK



FT
980 CAT
~~FT 980~~
cat Fred's Radio

12359 Wx USB
3 PM