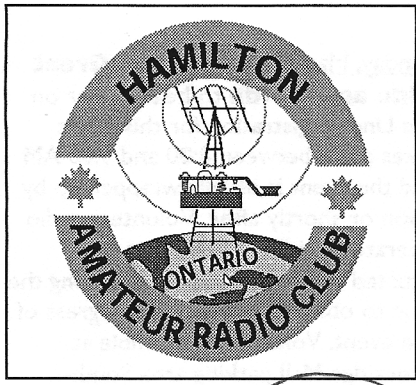


VE3BK



The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter - 72 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2004

Vol. 71 No.8 - April 2004

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

Complete information is available at <http://www.odxa.on.ca/ogphome.html>

(Thanks to Bob Chandler VE3SRE and Jim VA3KU)

Spring Events and RF Recreational Activities.

About this time of year a number of events occur providing Hams the opportunity to use their portable equipment and, in some cases, provide service to the community.

The VE3DC contest group are big competitors in this event. They will be running 5 or 6 stations at the contest site. This is your opportunity to join the group and act as a logger, or a relief operator and get some contesting experience. If you are available and would like to help give Rick, VE3BK, a call at 905-544-3253, e-mail <rdanby@hwcn.org> If you can't join the group at that time, give them a call from your QTH. Every contact helps. Lets get together and put our testers on top. This is the big one.

On Saturday April 17th the **Whitby Fleamarket** is taking place in the Jubilee Pavillion # 55 Lakeview Park Avenue, Oshawa, To get there take Exit # 417 off Hwy # 401 eastbound, and follow Simcoe Street southbound, almost to the shores of Lake Ontario. Lakeview Park Ave. is the last street on the right before the lake. Times are: Vendors 7AM. Public 9AM to 1PM. Admission: \$5., Tables \$10.00, Tailgaters \$ 5.00 + \$5.00 Admission. Talkin is on VE3WOM 147.150 +.

On Saturday April 24th the **Durham Fleamarket** takes place at the Iroquois Park Recreation Centre which is located on Victoria Street, south of Hwy.#401 in the town of Whitby. To get there, on Hwy #401, pass Brock Road, in Pickering and continue on to Brock Street in Whitby. Exit Hwy.#401 and go south toward the lake. At the first light south of Hwy.#401, turn right (west) onto

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I am listing several kinds of events together in chronological order. If your calendar is handy you may wish to make a note and participate.

Saturday April 17th through Sunday April 18th the 8th Annual Ontario QSO Party will be taking place.. The following announcement appeared on the RAC web site: "Bob Chandler VE3SRE sends a "heads up" that Canada's third largest amateur radio contest.... the 8th Annual Ontario QSO Party, sponsored by the Ontario DX Association takes place on the weekend of April 17-18th this year. The contest starts at 1800 UTC on the Saturday and runs till 1800 UTC on the Sunday. This is a fun and friendly contest where hams in Ontario get on the air in big numbers! Ontario stations work everybody and stations outside Ontario work Ontario hams.

All of the HF bands (except WARC) are included, both SSB and CW, along with the VHF/UHF bands.

There will again be quite a number of "multi-county" mobile and rover stations operating ...along with all kinds of other stations both "big guns" and little folks!

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 91215, Effort Square PO
Hamilton, ON L8N 4G4
Est. 1932 Inc. 1956

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.

Victoria Street. Look for the Iroquois Park site on your right at the corner of Henry Street. This is the original hamfest they used to call "Pickering". Times are: vendors 7:30 am, public 9 am to 1 pm. Admission: \$6, tables \$25. Talk-in: VE3SPA 147.375 +

On Sunday, April 18th the **Paris to Ancaster Bike Race** is taking place. This event is a 60 km cross country bicycle race. that begins in the morning and ends around 4:00 PM in the afternoon. HAM volunteers have been providing communication at check-points along the route for several years. Volunteers can do their duties from the comfort of their car at a check point, or out in the fresh air using a hand-held transceiver.

Volunteers usually meet for breakfast between 7:30 and 8:00 AM at the Hotel California, Highway 2 near 53 south of Ancaster. If you are interested contact Gary, VE3TTO, 905-387-1103, e-mail <notto@sympatico.ca>.

Sunday, May 2nd, the Cancer Assistance Program, CAP, is holding its annual **Moving Mountains** ride, run, walk or roll spring fundraiser. Local radio amateurs will be providing communication along the route for the safety of participants.

Saturday, May 8th, the annual **Emergency Preparedness Hamilton** display will take place at the Bayfront Park, entrance off Bay Street at Strachan. The display features the professional services maintained for emergency response by the city of Hamilton, including Police, Fire, Ambulance, services, along with other prepared groups that are recognized for their abilities in a disaster situation. The radio amateurs will be represented. The display is there for the public to see, and it runs from mid morning until mid afternoon. There is lots of shiny equipment to see, and a chance to ask questions and talk to the personnel.

Saturday, May 8th, the **Skywide Fleamarket**, takes place in Etobicoke at Westway United Church, 8 Templar Drive, near Dixon Road and Kipling. Take QEW east to 427; take 427 north to Eglington; take Eglington east to

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

Kipling; take Kipling north to The Westway; take The Westway east one block to Templar Drive where you should see the church on the west side of Templar. Time: 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Admission \$5.00. Talk-in 146.985 –

Sunday, May 30th is the annual **Great Ride and Stride** to beat cancer on the Linc. Registration for this event takes place between 8:00 and 9:00 AM and the event is usually wrapped up by noon or shortly after. Volunteer radio operators with a mobile unit are situated under every overpass along the Linc to observe and report progress of the event. Volunteers assemble at Limeridge Mall parking area South-West corner. Tentatively, Net Control will be in the Police Command Vehicle. If you received in the mail a volunteer form as a result of participating last year, please complete the form and mail it back. A package of information for volunteers will be available shortly from Mardy, VE3QEE. We are looking for approximately 12 mobile stations.

If you have information about an event that would be of interest to HAM radio enthusiasts, and you would like it announced in the newsletter please drop an e-mail giving details to Mardy <ve3qee@rac.ca>

Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

Where did all that snow come from? I'm glad it came a day before the meeting as the roads were pretty good. However what is happening to Upper Wellington. Help me out here. About a year ago and for how long was the road under demolishment? They just got it finished and here they are tearing up all that what must be described as new road. Don't tell me.

Well what a great turnout for Herb's presentation. I enjoyed it. It was well prepared and well presented. It's got to be a highlight of our year. Thanks to all who contributed to the refreshments. Frank VA3FWL's wife cooked up some delightful chocolate squares and we say many thanks. Thanks also to those who contribute to the donations pot. We appreciate you all.

Is anybody operating? How

about sending me an Email. Have you contacted the south pole on ILRP? What's happening on HF? What does your antenna look like? Are you going to try something new on Field Day? Are you going to come out on Field Day. How is the morse code going? My Email address is berngran@hwcnc.org

How is propagation at your QTH? Looking through my logs for the past little while I see most of my operating is done around 2000 Z 40,30,20, and 17 mtrs on HF. UHF and VHF is still limited to the Tuesday call up. I spent all of February in Florida. I took my new hand held with me. No contacts partly because I have not got the hang of sub audible tones and programming the ICT7H. No action at all on the simplex channels. I made a couple of good contacts on CB. I had a strap hanging down from my bicycle rack on the back of my van. Two transport trucks went by me waving their mikes. When I came up on ch 19 I had a couple of solid QSO's on CB. A first for me even tho I held a CB licence about a 100 yrs ago. I held it for my son who was under 16 then and used to tell elephant jokes to all the old guys he met on the air. While I was down south I wandered by accident into an old tracking site. I'm not sure what it was used for but there were two of the biggest dishes I have ever stood near. They were sitting on top of huge concrete bunkers and they were tuned by gears and tracks bigger than my house. They were at Crystal River Fla. I couldn't get a photo of them.....camera fumbling again. I thought I could find out something about them on the internet but no luck so far.
 dats dis & dat for now
 73....bernie....VE3EKY
 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.

HARC 2003-2004 Chairs

Awards/Volunteer Examiner

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

Contesting/Property Manager

Rick Danby VE3BK
905-544-3253 rdanby@hwcnc.org

Education

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

Emergency Services ARES

Gary Notto VE3TTO
905-387-1103 ve3tto@rac.ca

Volunteer Examiner

Bernie Granby VA3XJ
905-527-7175 berngran@hwcnc.org

Field Day

David Bruton VE3DWJ
905-383-9808 am983@hwcnc.org

Flea Market

John Kirstein VA3AWK
905-648-6456 OBSKDS@netcom.ca

Health/Welfare

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ
905-388-8383

Hospitality

Bernie Granby VA3XJ
905-527-7175 berngran@hwcnc.org
and
Ihona Davidson VE3UGM

Membership/Web

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

Newsletter

open position – we are looking for 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

The Official Canadian Temperature Conversion Chart

This table of information was submitted by G. Birchall,, Geographer, friend and former colleague..

50° Fahrenheit (10° C)
Californians shiver uncontrollably.
Canadians plant gardens

35° Fahrenheit (1.6° C)
Italian Cars won't start
Canadians drive with the windows down

32° Fahrenheit (0° C)
American water freezes
Canadian water gets thicker.

0° Fahrenheit (-17.9° C)
New York City landlords finally turn on the heat.
Canadians have the last cookout of the season.

-60° Fahrenheit (-51° C)
Mt. St. Helens freezes.
Canadian Girl Guides sell cookies door-to-door

-100° Fahrenheit (-73° C)
Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.
Canadians pull down their ear flaps.

-173° Fahrenheit (-114° C)
Ethyl alcohol Freezes.
Canadians get frustrated when they can't thaw the keg.

-460° Fahrenheit (-273° C)
Absolute zero; all atomic motion stops.
Canadians start saying "cold, eh?"

-500° Fahrenheit (-295° C)
Hell freezes over.
The Toronto Maple Leafs win the Stanley Cup.

Minutes of the General Meeting March 17, 2004

by Roger Pimm VE3UFZ, secretary

Our guest speaker was Herb Hilgenberg VE3LML. He spoke to us about his experiences providing weather information and advisories to yachting and shipping interests in the worlds oceans. Mr. Hilgenberg provided us with interesting stories of his early involvement in sailing, curiosity about variations of wind and weather, and his frustration with the limitations of weather advisories being provided to off-shore sailors. This combination of experiences led him to study meteorology with particular interest in ocean weather and how it can affect small and medium sized vessels. Over a ten-year period of managing a company in Bermuda he had the opportunity to combine his interests of sailing, amateur and marine band radio, and meteorology.

After starting out to help one boat with accurate weather advisories by radio, he soon found himself in demand by a growing number of other vessels until he was providing a daily service to scores of vessels all over the Atlantic and sometimes Pacific as well. His efforts have been recognized and honoured by the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). His daily commitment amounts to about 8 hours plus occasional phone calls to and from the Coast Guard. Herb uses the results of a variety of computer forecasting models, satellite imagery and his experience to produce a "game plan" for each vessel his is in communication with.

The frequencies he uses (in the marine bands) are 12.359 megahertz (ITU channel 1253). For traffic near the eastern seaboard, west of the Gulf Stream, he uses ITU channel 851 (8.294 megahertz). The use of these frequencies is dependant on propagation.

For equipment he uses a 150 watt transceiver and two satellite dishes to gather weather information. The Micro-forecasts he prepares are for individual vessels that maintain daily communication with him. He works in a room that used to be the family

laundry room. His day starts at 11:00am EST, check-ins start at approximately 3:00pm EST with the net running for up to four hours.

If you wish to learn more about this exceptional man and his dedication, please take a look at his web site at www3.sympatico.ca/hehilgen/vax498.htm.

Business Meeting

The business meeting started at 9:50pm.

Treasurers Report

Our Treasurer reported that the club will purchase a GIC at our new bank and that we have enough in our cash account for the club day-to-day operations.

Membership

Emsley reported that we have 66 paid up members and introduced two new members, Jim (VE3XCR) and Voyjtec (VE3WWR).

Field Day

Dave Bruton informed us of the dates for Field Day, June 26-27. The rules for this year's event will be the same as 2003. If you would like to volunteer your help, and we need volunteers, please contact Dave.

Contesting

Rick Danby informed us of the next contest, the Ontario QSO Party, which will be on April 17-18 (18:00UTC to 18:00UTC). Operators please contact Rick. There will be another QSL party to sort out the 100's to QSL cards still in disorganized stacks. A date for the sorting parting has not been set yet.

Repeater

John Vandenberg reported that the 2M repeater is having some problems. Currently there is no link to the 440 transmitter. The 440 repeater is being serviced and should be in service soon.

Canadian Warplane Heritage

It was reported that some new equipment has been received and is currently on display. Mondays and Thursdays are good days to visit the

museum. If you are planning to attend the museum, check in on the Club Net on Tuesday evenings to ensure that there will be a member on site to escort you through the radio room.

Home Brew Night

Let's see what you have on your hobby bench. Bring them along to the May meeting. Don't be shy ... get involved.

QST de WIAW

Special Bulletin From ARRL Headquarters to all radio amateurs

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station at ARRL Headquarters, WIAW, will sign with a special designator - /90 - through the rest of 2004. The call sign reflects the 90th anniversary of the League's founding by Maxim and Clarence Tuska in 1914. Operation as WIAW/90 will begin April 3.

Special QSL cards will be available for WIAW/90 contacts, and Carcia noted that self-addressed, stamped return envelopes should accompany all QSL requests. All contacts with WIAW/90 will also be uploaded to Logbook of The World.



Nutech Electronics

166 Parkdale Av N Hamilton, ON Tel: (905) 547-8420 Fax: (905) 547-8422 Toll Free: 1-800-263-8620	11E Neilson Street St. Catharines, ON Tel: (905)682-9200 Fax: (905)682-8922 Toll Free: 1-866-6NU-TECH
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Hours:
 Monday to Friday...8:30am to 5:30pm
 Saturday...9:00am to 1:00pm

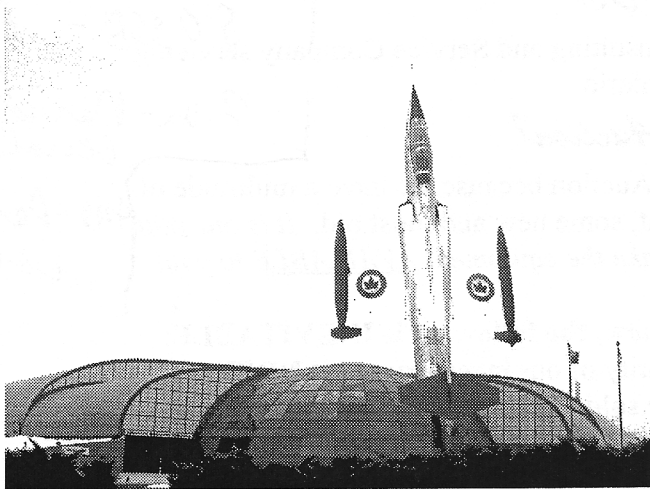
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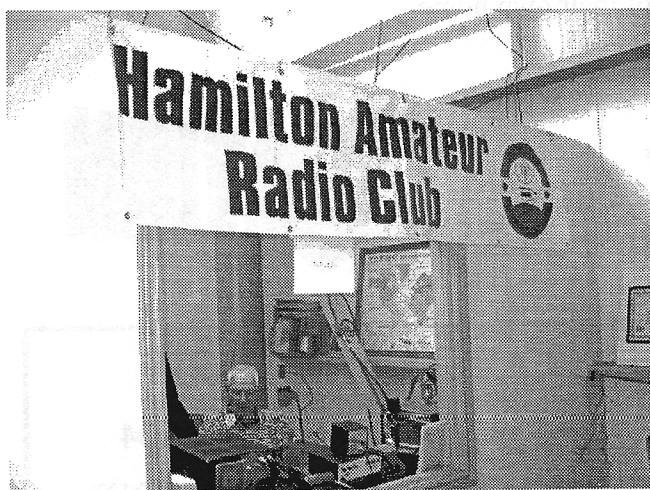
April and May Future Meetings

Wednesday, April 21st 8:00 PM

News From the Warplane Heritage Museum,
Mount Hope



Since its inauguration, the radio station at the Warplane Heritage Museum, VA3CWM, which is staffed exclusively by volunteer members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, has seen major development. To show us the changes and explain the development we have Doug Last, VE3NBL, speaking to us, and being ably assisted on video by Fred Robinson VE3GCP.



JIM SMITH
VE3XCR @ m.ca
OQP HNO single Page 5

Wednesday, May 19th 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM

May meeting is Home Brew night preceded by a Field Day Band Captain's meeting.

Regular Meeting begins at 8:00 PM Wednesday May 19, 2004

The May meeting of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club is home-brew night. This year home-brew night will feature a show-and-tell session where members can share ideas. If you have something that would benefit or interest another HAM in the hobby, this is the opportunity to demonstrate and explain that item. As part of the show-and-tell session, there is a builders' competition for the Crawford trophy. If you have put together an item that is useful for HAM radio you can enter it for judging in the home-brew competition. Either way, home brew night is for members to share with members. Participate and make the evening fun for everyone.

Preceding the regular meeting is a Field Day Band Captain's Meeting starting at 7:00 PM

An hour before the May meeting we will have a Band Captain's meeting for those setting up Field Day stations at Rock Chapel to discuss details for the day regarding contest rules, number of stations, location at the site, antenna configuration, electrical power, refreshments, hospitality, publicity, and so on. If you have an interest in contributing by organizing an aspect of Field day, feel free to join in. If you have any questions prior to the meeting contact David Bruton, VE3DWJ, who is co-ordinating Field Day this year. **Field Day weekend is on June 26th and June 27th.** Once again, the site is at Rock Chapel. David's number is 905-383-9808.

E-AUCTION

Who We Are?

Ernie's Electro-com – Ernie Estrabillo has been a past member of the H.A.R.C. and has always kept his services and expertise open to the club over the years

What We Do?

We are a home-based Telecommunications Consulting and Service Company servicing Southern Ontario

Why an E-Auction?

We are currently promoting an Electronic (E)-Auction because we have a multitude of inventory of two-way radio parts and equipment, some new and most old. *It is our plan to clear out the cluttered storage area and make the equipment AVAILABLE to you!*

If things continue as they are proceeding now, the following is INEVITABLE:

- Our Company will send a vast majority of our inventory to **LANDFILL**
- Any inventory that is saleable will be sold through flea markets or to metal recyclers for **OUR BENEFIT ONLY**
- Avid radio enthusiasts and experimenters will miss out on amazing deals AND will continue to spend their time and energy to physically drive out to other venues and pay close to **RETAIL** for some of their purchases

With our E-Auction, a virtual auction website for the disbursement of goods, here is what is POSSIBLE:

- **Eliminate** scrapping usable products to **LANDFILL**
- A percentage of the proceeds will be **DONATED** back to surrounding amateur radio clubs for **THEIR BENEFIT**
- Avid radio enthusiasts and experimenters will have the opportunity to bid desired items and obtain them at a cost that they **CHOOSE AND** all this can be done from the comfort of their own home

PREVIEW PERIOD

See Items that are up for E-Auction BEFORE Bidding begins

April 9, 2004 to April 30, 2004

www.ecomdataradio.com

Follow Links To **E-AUCTION** Web Site



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20 PH - Dave

40 CW + Bernie

40 SSB - Rick

80 SSB - Fred

2m - David &
Gerald

440 - David
Lorke

E-AUCTION

Robert AP6 CA West Indies
Pilot