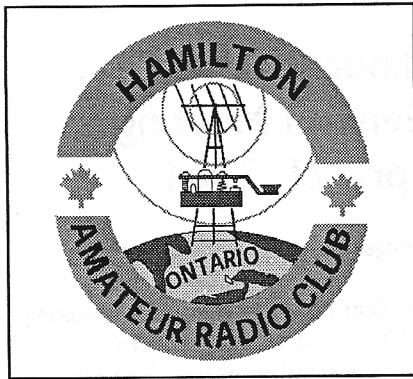


VE3BK



Vol. 71 No.9 — May 2004

[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

VA3CWM Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum Station.

By Doug Last, VE3NBL

If you have not visited our club station at the Museum lately this will bring you up to date on the most recent changes and additions that have taken place. You should put this on your list of things to do as you will find it very interesting and a lot of fun to get involved at the station.

All members are welcome.

We now have a weekly schedule on ONTARS at 3 PM on Thursday afternoons when Frank, VA3FWL, acts as Net Control for ONTARS from the club station. We have added **POWER** to our signal with our recently acquired Dentron amplifier putting out a signal with reports of 5/9 from most stations checking in.

Recently we have had donated four vintage HF receivers that you will find most interesting. Up and operating is a famous Collins R-390A. Proclaimed by most veteran operators to be the finest receiver ever built. With up to 35 tubes for a receiver alone and weighing in at 85 lbs. it is a prize addition to our station.

We recently were granted permission to connect to the Museum's internet system in recognition of the assistance we provided in repairing and extending their system to other areas of the museum. This now gives us unlimited

access to all aspects of Amateur radio via the WEB with two computers on line at all times.

If you would like to get involved at the station, or just make a visit, contact Frank, VA3FWL, or Doug, VE3NBL, and we can discuss your interest.



A picture looking up to the ham shack on the mezzanine level at the Warplane Heritage Museum — Mount Hope, taken by Fred, VE3GCP

Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

A month or so ago after listening to ve3dc on two meters all week and hearing nothing I got to thinking, never having been on 440, maybe I should get one of these new 2 banders and have a listen to all the action on 440.

After a lot of internet research I settled on the IC T7H from Radioworld. They were offering all kinds of inducements to buy now. I was hooked and I placed my order.

How about letting me know what you are doing on the air and off. I'll go first. Since September I have

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.

worked Romania, Lithuania, and Cuba plus a few odd American stations. W4Pu in Georgia USA tells me he was using 5W. to a TH6 Yagi tribander at 60 feet. I use a TH3 beam. Beam to beam gave him a 579 signal report. Unfortunately my beam no longer rotates so it was pointed towards Europe at the time. Oh I can rotate it all right but it entails going up my tower to the 15 foot level and manually turning the beam. So for now I have reverted to my old operating philosophy (If I hear them I work them) of course they have to hear me also. In a later note I will tell you more about my aging equipment .

Now the IC T7H, a few observations. Nice neat little rig. 6W on 2 and 440. Price went up \$10.00 the day I ordered it from Radioworld. The price was under 300.K (dollars to you CBers). The man said can't you spend another \$, you will get free shipping? OK says I how about a speaker mike or a spare battery? Both were priced at over 150K. Think about the cost of accessories the next time you buy a rig both new or used. Hold on he said. How about an after market spkr-mic for 40K. Ok 'I'll take it' It was delivered the next week by Canada Post. So much so good.what excitement. First I've got to tell you the manual must be written by the million monkeys. Shakespeare its not. A week later I finally got it on 440....but alas I couldn't get it on 2M. I couldn't even listen to the swap net!!!!(see above), thats how I found out I have been on 440 all this time. Don't laugh your father might be an old guy too.

Thats all for now. I intend to write more every month.....Don,t they say if you write it they will read it. I hope so. How about dropping me an Email? Tell me about ur ops. DX, local, whats your best...your worst. I might even try SSB.

berngran@hwc.org

73 CUL best DX and all..de.....VA3XJ.....all the way

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@hwc.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@hwc.org

Field Day

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

Flea Market

Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE,
905-648-0187 ve3qee@rac.ca

Health/Welfare

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ
905-388-8383

Hospitality

Bernie Granby VA3XJ
905-527-7175 berngran@hwc.org
and
Ilona 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

Minutes of the General Meeting April 21, 2004

by Roger Pimm VE3UFZ, secretary

President Mardy convened the meeting at 8:00pm sharp. Guests were introduced and some members who haven't been seen for some time were welcomed. Our most recent new HAM, Kevin Barker was introduced. Congratulations Kevin, and we hope that you get your desired call sign, VE3HNG in the next few days.

Our guest speaker this month was certainly no stranger to most of us, Doug Last VE3NBL. Doug extended an open invitation to all HARC members to visit the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. HARC members get free admission to the Museum. Be sure to bring a membership card with you.

Doug presented an excellent slide show, which highlighted the antique WWII radio equipment that is on display. There were also slides showing the radio shack currently set up and operated by a few dedicated amateurs who are also members of our club. Thanks to Fred's expertise with a digital camera, the pictures, all stored on his camera were projected from the camera through an attached data projector. The show was most interesting and I am sure that it motivated some members to pay a visit to the site. Incidentally, after the presentation Doug held up a USB storage device, (Universal Serial Bus), the size and shape of a watch fob, which held the whole digital presentation in electronic form. "What wonders hath God wrought!"

As a postscript, the editor discovered that Doug was not only involved with the construction of the world famous Lancaster bomber, he also enlisted in the RCAF as soon as he was of legal age during WWII. Thank you Doug for

your contribution, both past and present.

Business Meeting

Health and Welfare

Mary had no news, which is good news.

Education

Mardy informed us that he still has the four dedicated students on the Basic Course. The course will end in June, and another course is scheduled to begin the second week of September.

Contesting

Rick Danby brought us up to date on a new piece of free contest logging software. The software is free for the downloading at [HTTP:www.KIEA.com](http://www.KIEA.com). All reports are that this is a really nifty program.

The Clean Sweep award for the 2002 Ontario QSO Party was presented by Rick. This award is for the top multi operator station in the contest. Also presented was the Radio World Award for the 2003 Ontario QSO Party. This award is also for the top multi operator station.

Repeater

John Vandenberg brought us up to date on the use of our repeater for IRLP. To access the IRLP, first the "D" key must be sent prior to sending the digits for the node. There are also several messages on the repeater controller that members may access. To access the choice menu send the # tone followed by 0. You will find several choices of messages each of which requires the sending of the # tone followed by a single digit 1 through 4. Give it a try!

Examinations and Code

Bernie Granby (VE3NOE) informed us the RIC2 allows the copy of Morse code by typewriter or word processor is permitted for the Morse code exam. This doesn't mean that a code generator can be used for the sending or translating of code for the exam.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:55pm.

Notice of Election for Board for Directors for the year 2004-2005

Notice is hereby given: the election of a Board of Directors for the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club shall take place at the Annual Meeting commencing 8:00 PM on June 16, 2004 in the St. Johns Ambulance building, 500 Upper Wellington Street, Hamilton. The Nominations Chairman for the election is Joe Urbanski, VE3OCD,

Nominations preceding the election may be submitted to the Nominations Chairman in writing over the signature of a proposer and seconder. In addition, nominations may be submitted and seconded from the floor on the night of the election when nominations are called for by the Nominations Chairman. A person, in order to be qualified for nomination as a Director of the Club, must be a Member of the Club in good standing, and must accept such nomination either by personal assent, if present at the meeting, or by a written letter of acceptance if not personally present. Members shall vote in person, or by proxy, by secret ballot, at the election meeting. Six Directors are elected, and the seventh Director is the Past President of the Club.

The new Board of Directors shall, at its first meeting after election, select from among its six elected members an Executive, consisting of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary. The newly elected directors shall hold office from the first day of September 2004.

Nominations may be forwarded to:

**Joe Urbanski, Nominations
Chairman,
Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,
P.O. Box 91215, Effort Square
Postal Outlet, Hamilton, ON
L8N 4G4.**

Repeater News

This latest update describes the new features recently programmed on the repeater. Authored by Repeater Chairman (and programmer), John Vandenberg, VE3DVV.

Some new user commands have been added for announcements. The usage is as follows:

To request information on the following topics identify first and then use your touch-tone pad and enter the two letter code starting with #:

- #0 TO GET THE MASTER LIST SHOWN BELOW
- #1 REPEATER INFO
- #2 CLUB MEETINGS
- #3 OUR WEBSITE
- #4 NETS ON THIS REPEATER
- #5 HAM RADIO CLASSES
- #6 SPECIAL CLUB EVENTS

An ARES warning message command has been added to the repeater to allow the ARES coordinator to record messages and have them announced at 15 min intervals. For more information contact VE3TTO our ARES coordinator.

IRLP

A change for IRLP (Internet Repeater Linking Protocol) commands has been made to make it more reliable. The difference is the addition of the 'D' key to the node number. For example to call the Honolulu KH6FV node (node number 3720) do the following.

- Verify you have your TX PL tone on 131.8 Hz
- Identify yourself and show intent by saying:
"This is VE3XXX calling the Honolulu node"
- Hold PTT down and enter: D 3 7 2 0 and unkey
- The IRLP system may reply:
"Honolulu node 3720 is on"
- Identify again, this time for hams in Honolulu by saying: "This is VE3XXX in Hamilton, Ontario

Canada. Could anyone give me a call please"

- When turning over from receive to TX leave some extra delay time for the various parts of the system to each switch over
- When you are done and you want to close the link Identify again and show your intent by saying: "This is VE3XXX closing the IRLP link."
- Then enter: D 7 3 and unkey.

PS: You will find a list of the IRLP node numbers and their current status (i.e. active or inactive) on the internet at the following web address:

<http://statusirlp.net/>

For the new members who would like to make a telephone call using the autopatch feature of the repeater here is the procedure:

When you are ready to make a call,

- identify and state your intent, for example, "this is VA3ABC for the phonepatch".
- Press the PTT switch on your microphone and hold it while keying * 905 nnn nnnn (where nnn nnn is the number you are calling)
- Release the PTT switch and listen to verify that the repeater dials the number.

When you have finished the call, say "this is VA3ABC closing the patch"

- Press the PTT switch while keying the # key, then release the PTT.
- Listen to verify that the repeater has disconnected the phone patch.

If you are a HARC member I can also set you up an autodial slot for an often called number. An example would be dialing *88 would dial my home number.

Enjoy the repeater, phone patch and IRLP network. Also remember to be polite and helpful to other hams when using the repeater.

John VE3DVV

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

Our annual Fleamarket, **Hamfest 2004**, is being held on October 16th, the weekend following Thanksgiving. Plan now to attend.

Next Meeting: 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 This meeting is 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.

It will soon be time to renew your membership for the year 2004-2005. Membership Chairman, Emsley, VE3JAI, will be pleased to take your renewal at the May or June meetings.

Ontario QSO Party Results

reported by Rick Danby VE3BK, Contest Chairman.

Call Used: VE3DC
 Callsign(s) of Operator(s): VE3ATX, VE3BK, VE3OZO, VE3VMO, VE3GCP, VE3OCD, VA3DJ, VA3YO, VE3DWJ (Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Contest Group)
 Entry Class: Multi-operator

Band	QSOs	Multiplier
160	23	15
80	87	43
40	298	83
20	263	38
15	5	1
10	1	1
6	4	3
144	15	7
220	0	0
440	3	2

Total Score: 235200

Great contest as usual. We had fun despite the bad conditions and the storm on Sunday morning. We tried Writelog for the first time networking. Had a few problems, but worked great for the most part and are impressed with it's versatility. Thanks for everyone who worked us, especially VA3OPP/M for hanging in there for us. Hope to see you all next year.

Rick, VE3BK

The FISTS Club

Information about the FISTS Club submitted by Richard Appleyard, VE3YAG and marine mobile VEORCN

For us HAMs who can copy CW you have probably heard "CQ Fists" or received QSL cards with FISTS and a number following it. The HAM who sends CQ FIST or a number on their card belongs to the CW FISTS Club which is a chapter of the International Morse Preservation Society that has a

motto Accuracy Transcends Speed and encourages the use of CW. FISTS has over 10,000 members including SW listeners. FISTS was originally formed in the UK and then it spread into Europe, From there more chapters were added in Australia, New Zealand and some parts of Asia. The largest chapter is the North American chapter. FISTS sponsors contests like the Sprints CW and have quite a few awards. There is a Code Buddy programme to match up HAMs who would like to improve their CW with an Elmer for one-on-one practice in sending and receiving.



The calling frequencies for FISTS members usually end in ...58 in the CW subbands. plus 7.110 in the 40 meter US novice band and 10.110 in the 30 meter band. So if you hear "CQ Fist", and there is no reply, jump in and give them a contact as that person loves CW. Myself, I joined as a result of having a QSO with FB2FXK, who sent me a QSL with some literature about CQ FISTS and his QTH. His name is Jack Slocum. Some of you are asking who is Jack Slocum? For history of Canada buffs and nautical aficionados, he is related to Joshua Slocum of the Spray fame. Still not clued in, read history books. His QTH, Horsehead NY is dedicated to the US Army pack mule and horses of George Washington's Colonial Army where they wintered during the revolutionary war. You are wondering about costs to join. During my eight years of membership the cost has been fifteen US greenbacks and despite postal increases the cost has not risen. The North American manager is Nancy Kott, W8C, who is the editor of the keynote publication. If interested in joining, make a cheque out to Nancy Kott, (there is no business account for FISTS), FISTS CW Club, Box 47, Hadley MI, USA, 48440 - 0047. E-mail Nancy at <nancy@tri.com>. There is a web page at <<http://www.fist.org>>

Future New Location for the Monthly HARC Meetings

Fred Robinson, VE3GCP and the rest of the executive have been scrambling since the news that the St. John's Ambulance Building where we meet was put up for sale. Here is the latest news from Fred.

Hi everyone. This is an update on the business of loosing our meeting room at St. Johns. As I informed members attending the Club meeting in April, the St John's Ambulance building is being sold and to my surprise, it sold to a buyer who wanted to close the deal very soon (May 15). I did not think that the buyer could get all the necessary approvals in-time and sure enough, he did not. BUT the vendor got a replacement offer from another buyer who will build "offices". Because of this replacement deal, our Club we will be able to use the St. John's Ambulance building for our May and June meetings. They will be held as planned.

In the meantime, Ron Ouwehand VE3OUW was successful in arranging for us to move to Hamilton District High School at 92 Glanaster Rd. (near Hwy 53), starting in September 2004. Ron and I completed a rental agreement with the school and we and booked for September 2004 through June 2005 with the intention that the agreement will continue after that. There are some extra benefits to this location that Ron will discuss with us later. YES, there is bus service on Hwy 53, for those members who get to the meetings by bus. Now that these arrangements have been made the exec is in a position to announce / advertise that our meetings for May and June will be in the usual location and that we will start at the school in September. The May meeting I believe starts at 7PM for the Field Day Workshop. I feel that Ron, VE3OUW, has done a great service to the club and we are in his debt.

PED in NA Emsley away for July!

HAMs are Represented at the Annual Hamilton Emergency Preparedness Display

Bayfront Park, Saturday May 8th

The local Amateur Radio Community was showcased for the fifth year in a row at a display organized by Lorraine MacPherson, VA3NZ and Alan MacPherson, VA3AM at the City display of Emergency Response Units. Thanks to the ongoing work of Lorraine, Alan, and others in the Amateur Radio Community, local HAMs are recognized as a resource able to establish emergency communication networks in times of need.

This year's display was organized and staffed by Alan and Lorraine along with Jerry Osborn, VE3JSO, and volunteers Gary Notto, VE3TTO, representing A.R.E.S., Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE and David Bruton, VE3DWJ, representing HARC, and a Siberian Husky named Bailey who roamed the site carrying an APRS transmitter, signals from which were being received in the display and projected live onto a screen with a large scale map of the pathways at the Bayfront Park. Visitors to the display could see Bailey moving along the pathways.

Also featured at the display was a demonstration of HF radio. Garry, VE3TTO was hosting an hour of the Trans Provincial Net on his Icom hooked to an G5RV strung between trees behind the tent. UHF and VHF communications were being demonstrated by Lorraine, and Al was demonstrating packet radio passing messages to Nova Scotia and even to a cell phone in the hand of a visitor in the tent.

The weather was rainy and attendance by the public was low, but the show went on nevertheless. There was a helicopter rescue demo at the site. The Fire Department disassembled a car with the jaws of life. Kids were given the chance to operate a fire hose in the same training simulation the firemen use, first aiming the stream of water to blast cones and then directing it to extinguish a large fire ignited in a stainless steel trough. The Army was there, various Police units, the Hazardous Waste Disposal people and CERV citizen emergency response volunteers.

Despite the weather, this year's display was the best yet for organization and for things to see.

At the HAM tent we were visited by Bob, 8P6RC a pilot from Barbados who is in the local area getting a certification. Bob had been told of the display on one of the local repeaters and came down to see the activity. Bob is involved in a group that performs search and rescue in the Caribbean. Overall it was a good day. Plan to come and see us next year when we hope the weather will be dry.

