

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  
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 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956

# The Hamilton Amateur

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

EXECUTIVE

2004-2005

## Try Simplex

By Mardy, VE3QEE.

Quite a few of the newer handi-talki transceivers have a large number of memory channels. Instead of the old standard 12 memories like the HT 202 and HT 404 had, some of these newer rigs have anywhere from 100 to over 500 memories. If you own one of these rigs you would have the luxury of programming ALL of the simplex frequencies in addition repeaters which are locally accessible. Of course, you don't use an offset with the simplex frequencies because you are talking direct, that is from radio to radio, and not going through a repeater. One day, while driving down 401 on my way to Belleville, a car with a HAM licence plate passed me and the driver waved. I flipped my 2 meter mobile over to the calling frequency and hailed the driver ahead, using the call sign on his licence plate. The HAM in the car ahead came right back and we had a nice QSO. My wife could not believe it. "How did you know he would be listening", she wanted to know. That's the beauty of calling frequencies. HAMs use these to make initial contact, and then move to another frequency for a longer chat.

### The 2 m simplex frequencies.

- 146.415
- 146.430
- 146.445
- 146.460
- 146.475
- 146.490
- 146.505
- 146.520 the calling frequency

- 146.535 Roger Pinaud VE3UFZ
  - 146.550
  - 146.565 Eussley Mitchell VE3JAI
  - 146.580
  - 146.595 Fred Robinson VE3GCP
  - 147.420
  - 147.435 John Vandenberg VE3DUV
  - 147.450
  - 147.465 Ron Durehand VE3DUW
  - 147.480
  - 147.495 Mike Krebs VE3WXS
  - 147.510
  - 147.525
  - 147.540
  - 147.555
  - 147.570
- Past Pres.  
Mardy Edson VE3QEE

### The 70 cm simplex frequencies.

- 446.000 the calling frequency
  - 446.025
  - 446.050
  - 446.075
  - 446.100
  - 446.125
  - 446.150
  - 446.175
- new meeting Rm

There are a couple of simplex nets in our area, both on 146.430, the Wednesday round table net conducted by John Sims, VE3JSU, and the Friday Tech Net, conducted by Reg Bagshaw, VE3BQQ. Both are in the evening. You will only hear those participants within the range of your antenna, and you will only be heard by those listeners within range of your power. You will have more success transmitting with a base or mobile station especially if the participants are spread out. Put the calling frequencies in the call channels memories of your radio and give simplex a try. Its another aspect of Amateur Radio that you might find rewarding.

Club meetings - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

# Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

I'm late I'm late. No time No time. Like the rabbit in Alice in Wonderland I have no time to get on the air, not even VHF. Someone said the HF bands were dead. I don't know. although I did check in with Stan VE3GFE last week. The week before I Fell asleep in front of the television

Wow I got an Email, Ann VE3NOE wrote to tell me her Brother Alan got his Basic in February. Congratulations Alan, nice going. Kevin Barker also got his Basic . Terrific Kevin. Ann also brought up some questions about the morse test. Its been so long since we did a morse test that Ann's query sent me scurrying to the RIC 2 to review the regs pertaining to CW testing. Ann got an Email from me about that. For others getting ready for the test. Here is a short description of the test.

Firstly you have to receive and SEND 3 minutes of plain language code. To test your sending speed, send the word PARIS five times in one minute. That will be 5 WPM. YES VIRGINIA! there is a sending component to the test. Others may differ, but I think sending helps you to learn the code. Many times people have said to me " When I'm sending I know the code for a certain letter but when I have to receive it I can't think what it is." True, but practice makes perfect. The receiving part of the test usually is computer driven. A typical test might be.....< forecast periods will be shortened during heavy storms. Frontal zones keep qsj 1962 >

Ann also asked about using a typewriter or other device to transcribe the code. IC says the code may be copied legibly by hand, typewriter or word processor. No computer code readers may be used. A laptop and a word processor would be fine. If you are a good key boarder this would work well. Not being a good typist my advice is to write longhand (cursive ? ) printing takes too long and slows you down. However, you should

## 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](mailto:ve3jai@rac.ca)

use whatever works for you.

The test costs \$5.00. Usually you will be given multiple tries the same night. A different message each time. Don't forget your photo ID. Don't get too uptight about 5 WPM, its

a breeze. I would suggest practicing for the test at a higher speed such as 7 or 10 WPM.

Field Day!!! We need help. That's the royal we. I need help. I will again be doing the 40 M CW station. I need operators . We also can use good typists to assist the regular CW ops, no CW necessary but useful. You will be surprised how your Morse will pick up just by being there. I will write down the call sign all the typist has to do is typ it in to the program. Please come to visit or to stay, camp or just wander around. Help set up the stations in the morning or whyatever. You will have fun.

I finally got on the air today May 5th. Reception was terrible at this QTH. Evidently my sigs were better in Europe. After one CQ a French station came right back, followed by 2 German call signs. For a few minutes here I had myself a mini pile-up. Funny thing one of the stations were not listed with Buckmasters internet call book but noted that the station was accessed 54times. HMMM? I suppose I would do better if I updated my fifty year old tower feedline and beam, especially the feed. The beam is a TH3 Thunderbird senior. They must have built a good product for it to be still operating.

A last comment on the CW test, don't forget the characters period, question mark, slash, comma and the double dash (dah di di di dah ).

No more Emails. Aw come on Let me know what your doing. I'm at [berngran@hwcnc.org](mailto:berngran@hwcnc.org)

Dats Dits & Dats for now.....73 es best DX cul..de bernie..VE3EKY

## The Great Ride 'n' Stride to Beat Cancer on the Linc.

Thanks to those HAM operators who volunteered their services at the Great Ride 'n' Stride this year. The weather for this year's event was wonderful and an estimated 1300 participants walked,

roller-bladed, and cycled, raising funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. A special thanks to Jerry Osborn, VE3JSO, who served as net control, called into service at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour by Al Macpherson. A dedicated Alan Gammon, VA3SAG, completed the entire circuit operating his "bicycle mobile" unit. Alan admitted to being a little tired at the end of the run. It was good to welcome Linda Hardwick, VE3LJU, who volunteered to keep an eye on things at the Mohawk Road interchange and David Near, VE3DNN, reporting from his customary location at the Ottawa Street overpass. The Radio Amateurs did assist with reporting a missing person and the usual requests for more water at the water stations, as well as passing on communication about progress of the event. The HAM radio operators participated from 9:00 AM until Noon, although the Linc. was not opened to traffic until the published 2:00 PM.

This year's volunteers were:  
 Walter Bayliss, VA3WWB ,  
 Alan Macpherson, VA3AM  
 Lorraine Macpherson, VA3NZ  
 Jerry Osborn, VE3JSO  
 Steven Erwin, VA3CUT  
 joe Erwin, VA3JWE  
 David Webb, VA3RF  
 Neil Galloway, VE3VNG  
 Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE  
 Linda Hardwick, VA3LJU  
 Allan Gammon, VA3SAG

The Radio Amateurs have indicated their willingness to participate again, next year, should our services be needed. If you are interested let us know when the call for volunteers is announced next spring.

## Minutes of the General Meeting, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2004

by Roger Pimm VE3UFZ, secretary

Following a Field Day Planning meeting, which was in session from 7:00pm till

### 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@hwcen.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@hwcen.org

#### Field Day

David Bruton VE3DWJ  
 905-383-9808 am983@hwcen.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@hwcen.org  
 and  
 Iona 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

8:00pm President Mardy opened the General Meeting. There were a total of 42 in attendance. Undoubtedly the mixed agenda of Home Brew and Field Day Planning encouraged a few more interested HAM's out of their rocking chairs. Joe Urbanski, who is nominations chairman this year, announced that after the coffee break he would be requesting nominations for directors. President Mardy introduced a guest, Robert Chambers (8P6RC) who is currently a resident of beautiful Barbados. Robert is a commercial pilot who is a partner in an inter-island shuttle service, which operates out of Barbados.

Lorraine McPherson initiated the Home Brew portion of the meeting by introducing the contest judges Casey Broekhaven and David Webb. These two astute gentlemen used very structured criteria to evaluate each of the entries.

While the judges were busy doing their thing, Lorraine presented two award certificates. Bernie Granby received a certificate for Highest CW score in 2003. This award is officially entitled **The Order of the Gavel – CW Operating Award**. Mike Krebs received the **Past Presidents – Order of the Gavel** certificate. Casey Broekhaven was finally presented with his award for the 2003 Home Brew contest. Congratulations Gents!!

The Home Brew entrants were:

**Mardy Eedson** – An RF sniffer, home brewed with a tank circuit that facilitates tuning to one frequency.

**Ann Tekatch** - Ann showed us here home built paddle for a morse keyer. This was made exclusively from "stuff" purchased from Home Depot.

**Lorraine McPherson** – Lorraine showed us a GPS Tineytrack3 from Bionics. This device transmits Latitude and Longitude to a receiving station when the PTT is pressed, facilitating a display on a map.

**Doug Last** – Doug demonstrated a neat little blinking LED display that was built onto the remote speaker at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. This gadget ensures that the “attention deficit” operators wake up when there is a call of the VHF.

**John Vandenberg** – John demonstrated his gizmo that utilizes a three digit DTMF burst generated by a sender that turns on winking lights in the shack. The lights stay on until one of the operators disables them and makes a transmission on the club repeater requesting the identity of the calling party. This works sort of like a pager, I think...

**Lorraine McPherson**– Lorraine demonstrated her completely scratch built singing Christmas tree, complete with blinking LED decorations.

**Wojtek Pusin** – Wojtek showed us his completely original computer for keeping dart players honest. The computer is capable of keeping score for several different dart games.

And the winner for 2004 is.....(drum roll.....) Lorraine McPherson for her singing and blinking Christmas tree. Judged most original and creative.  
**Congratulations Lorraine!!**

Not to be outdone, three of our members demonstrated gadgets and gizmos that they have cobbled together, but didn't want to include in the home brew competition. David Lock showed us his modified J Pole Beam (using a recycled hockey stick). Mardy demonstrated his 70cm beam hand held which was constructed purely from sticks, glue, some of his wife's darning thread and a few lengths of aluminum rod. This is a neat, easy to build Fox Hunt antenna. Neal Galloway both astounded and mystified us with his demonstration of 60 LED's wired in parallel, and exposed to light. We were told that this circuit would produce a potential. However, for some strange reason (probably Murphy's law) the demo didn't quite

## HARC 2003-2004 Executive

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

**Past President**  
**Michael Krebs VA3WXS**  
905-523-9005

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
**David Locke VE3DLK**  
905-383-9612

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**John Vandenberg VE3DWW**  
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@mcmil.cis.mcmaster.ca

produce. We really do believe you though Neil!!

**Membership**  
As of this meeting date, we currently have 62 members.

**Education**  
There are currently 4 students enrolled for the basic course, with one additional student returning to complete the course. There will be another course starting in September. If you or a friend is interested, please call Mardy VE3QEE. We are also looking for an Advanced License

instructor. Bernie VE3NOE will be conducting one basic plus 5wpp examination on June 9 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in June). There is also the possibility of an Advanced License examination sometime this spring.

**Call for Nominations**  
The following were nominated at the end of the business meeting:

Roger Pimm - Nominated by Mardy VE3QEE, seconded by Mike VA3WSX.  
Emsley Mitchell - Nominated by Fred VE3GCP, seconded by Mardy VE3QEE  
Fred Robinson - Nominated by Ron VE3OUW, seconded by Casey VE3CVP  
John Vandenberg – Nominated by Doug VE3NBL, seconded by Mardy VE3QEE  
Ron Ouwehand – Nominated by John VE3DWW, seconded by Fred VE3GCP

Further nominations will be requested for the elections at our June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 by a motion by Fred VE3GCP, seconded by Lorraine VA3NZ.

**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.

## Starting in September, H.A.R.C. Meets in a New Location

Our June meeting takes place at the usual location, St. John's Ambulance building 500 Upper Wellington Street, Hamilton.

However, starting in September, 2004, our meetings will be held at a new location, in the Hamilton District High School located at 92 Glancaster Rd. at

the corner of Rymal Road (Highway #53) and Glancaster Road (just west of Upper Paradise Road and Rymal Road). There is ample parking at this site accessed by turning west off Glancaster Road. For those taking the bus, there is a walkway to the school from the bus turn-around area on Glancaster Road. Take the Upper Paradise bus to the end of the line.

Bring a handi-talki, and if you get into trouble, call on VE3NCF, 146.76 and 444.075. A rescue crew will be dispatched.

## How Was Your Week?

*You may recall in Bernie's Dis'n'Dat column, that Bernie invited members to send him an e-mail telling what they were doing. Here is an e-mail sent in by Don, VE3DDQ.*

Hi Bernie: Congratulations on your new rig. I am on 440 with my cousin and another HAM friend. You can find us on 445.150 around 11:00 AM daily... not always, but most of the time. HF is another matter. This might be a book rather than a note. Hi.

The winter raised havoc with my shingles on my roof and I had to do something soon. It was embarrassing having to go to my neighbours and ask for the return of my wayward shingles. – Just kidding. Hi. After checking with the doctor I was given the green light to go ahead and replace my roof if I took my time and did not have any stress. I lined up some help and got my nephew to give me a hand. Besides, I had helped my father reshingle a few roofs in the past, so I had a pretty good idea of how to do the job. The XYL picked out the colour, and I did the math to see how many bundles were needed, and set out to get all the materials. Do I have guts or am I just plain crazy? After all, I had a triple bypass seven months ago and as you recall I am legally blind. On Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> my nephew and I stripped the south side of the roof,

then struggled to cover the bare section with a tarp for three hours in the wind as it was supposed to rain. On Day 2, we laid out the ice and water protection membrane and the felt paper and set up the starter row, and laid three courses of shingles. Of course we had to fight with the tarp again as rain was coming. My Nephew turned out to be kind of shaky on the roof even though it was not that steep and was only one storey up.

On Day 3 it really rained and some rain dripped into the ceiling fan. We were able to lay more felt paper to the peak of the roof and that took up the rest of the day. Of course we had to put the tarp back on.

On Day 4, with no rain coming I did some shingling while my nephew stood on the ladder handing me nails. Then in the afternoon, my mother-in-law wanted me to take back the gray shingles and switch to black ones. When we got that sorted out we started a few more rows, then tarped off the roof and called it a day.

On Day 5, which was Friday, my nephew and I got a couple more tarps and commenced to strip the remaining old shingles. My father-in-law came up and we got the roof stripped, laid down the ice and water membrane, felt paper and a starter row. Then we fought with the tarps and called it a day. I wasn't getting much sleep worrying about the rain coming in or worse, that the tarp would blow off. My stress levels were extremely high and it really rained that night. Saturday morning I realized I had taken on far too much, but what to do?

I checked the yellow pages and started calling roofing contractors. Each time I called I explained my predicament. To make a long story short, only one contractor returned my call, came by and gave me an estimate. The price was reasonable, and his crew came by on Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 in the morning. They left just after 2:00 PM and my roof is all done. Incidentally, the XYL wants a patio door installed and a deck out back... It will not be done by me. I have learned my lesson well.

Now, back to the HF bands. In order to do the roof I had to take down my HF

antennas so I have not been able to check into COMMSONT Net on 7.135 MHz or see what is happening on the other HF bands. Last time I was on HF the bands were very bad.

Over the weekend I did some work to get caught up with e-QSL for VE3DC. So that's about it Bernie. Hope your week went better than mine.

73, Don – VE3DDQ

## Renew your HARC Membership

*Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI Membership chair.*

This is a note informing members that the new club year will be starting on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2004. Now is a good time to renew your membership. As in the past we are offering an early renewal incentive in the form of a draw for a free one year's individual or family membership. To be eligible for the draw your renewal must be received before the end of the September club meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Please take a moment to join or renew your membership at this time. Membership dues pay for our meeting place, the auto-patch telephone, repeater expenses, newsletter publication, event insurance, Hamfest promotion and other operational expenses of the club. A membership renewal form is provided for your convenience. Please mail your remittance or bring it to the club meeting.

### Membership Renewal

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Callsign (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Send your renewal to:

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

## Free Electronic Circuit Modeling Software

*a tip from Mardy, VE3QEE*

In the June 2004 issue of QST in the Short Takes section, p. 60, there is an article describing the student version of a program called Circuit Maker. This program works with a PC using Windows, and is available from the web as a free download. The program is used to design and test circuits on your PC. Although the student version is limited to a maximum number of 50 components, it functions like the full professional version of the software which sells for around \$900. If you want to experiment with a computer program that can model circuits that you find published in a magazine or in a Radio Shack Engineer's Mini Notebook, for example, check out the article in QST, or better yet, download the program from:  
**<[www.circuitmaker.com](http://www.circuitmaker.com)>.**

According to the article you will need a Pentium with Windows 98, 2000, NT, or XP, and 32 MB of RAM along with 40MB of hard disk space to unzip and run the program. I downloaded a copy and the .exe file was able to open the program on my PC. I have not had enough time yet to get a circuit up and running on the screen. That could be another summer project. If you check this out and get it running send an e-mail to me through the reflector, <[mycallsign@rac.ca](mailto:mycallsign@rac.ca)>.

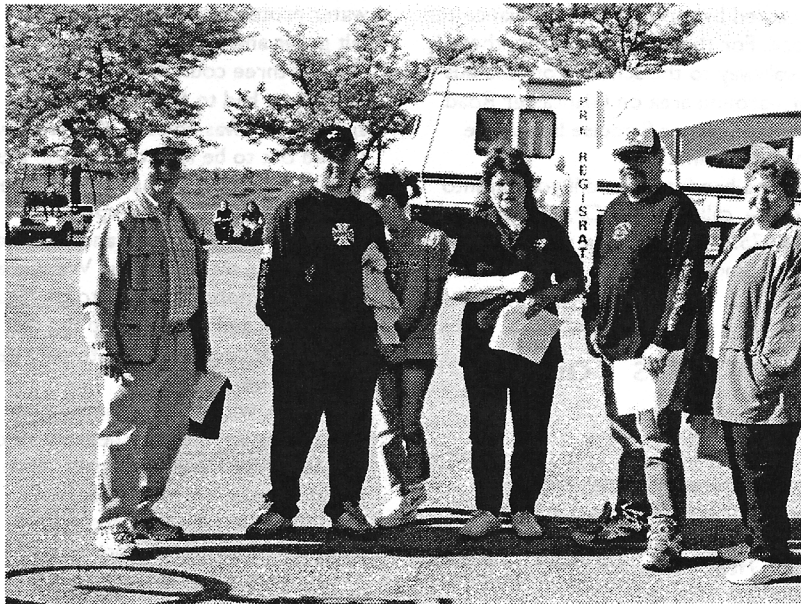
## June 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting

*Your 2003 – 2004 executive committee*

The election will take place at the Annual General Meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 PM. Nominations have been open since the last meeting. However, nominations will be accepted from the floor in June. See you there.

Don't forget Field day on June 26<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup> at Rock Chapel on the Escarpment above Dundas.

Until September, be safe, use the airwaves and have a good summer. All the best from your executive.



## Volunteers at the Great Ride and Stride.

Above, left to right, Mardy, VE3QEE, Steve VA3CUT and a friend, Lorraine, VA3NZ, Joe, VA3JWE, and Linda, VA3LJU

Below, Allan, VA3SAG, bicycle mobile ready to report en-route.

