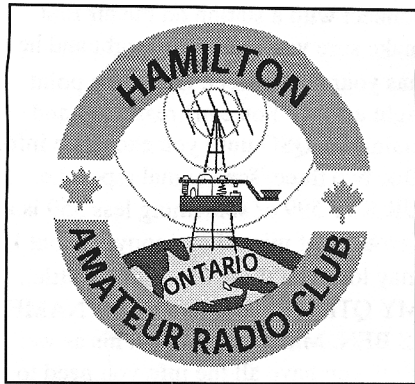


VE3BK



The Hamilton Amateur

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

Vol. 72, No 1 — Sept. 2004

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

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Est. 1932 Inc. 1956

Welcome Back

By Mardy, VE3QEE.

By the time you get this newsletter the 2004-2005 Club year will be off to a fast start. September 1st was a Wednesday, and so our monthly meeting will be as early in the month as it can be, that is, Wednesday September 15th. Look for us at the new location, Hamilton District Christian High School, 92 Glancaster Road, at the corner of Highway #53 and Glancaster Road, or Rymal Road and Glancaster Road. The phone number at the school is 905-648-6655. Take your handi-talkie with you tuned to 146.760 or 444.075 in case you need assistance getting there the first time.

The speaker for this evening will be John Ludwig of Mt. Hope, a local professional tower installer. John has erected many of the commercial towers you see on buildings in the city. Please join us for more on this lofty topic and between now and then look up; you may get a chance to have some of your questions answered regarding the array of local antennas you see.

Just as September began on a Wednesday, it will also end on a Wednesday, meaning that the October meeting will be as late in the month as it can be, placing it on October 20th, four days after the HARC flea market.

Our annual flea market is on Saturday October 16th, the weekend following Thanksgiving, at the usual location, Marritt Hall in Ancaster. We'll need

lots of volunteers for running the flea market, so please arrange to set the morning aside, and please, lend a hand.

The new Board of Directors was elected at the June General Meeting, and they have met twice since that time. The executive positions for this year are: Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, President, Mike Krebs, VA3WXS, 1st Vice President, Ron Ouwehand, VA3OUW, 2nd Vice President, Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, Secretary, Fred Robinson, VE3GCP, Treasurer, Emsley Mitchell, VE3JAI, Membership Chairman, and John Vandenberg, Repeater Chairman.

Contact information for the executive is found in the sidebar titled: HARC 2004-2005 Chairs, further on in this newsletter.

Incidentally, Emsley is also looking after the appearance of the Club's Web Page, and it is currently under revision. Take a look at it and pass any suggestions or comments on to Emsley.

I am excited about the coming year and I hope you are too. I look forward to seeing you all at the new venue and talking with you on the air.

Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

FIELD DAY! What a field day! Best ever. Mary and Joe the hospitality was hospitable in every way. Great food and great good times. So MURPHY was

Club meetings – 3rd Wednesday each month (except July and August) - 8pm in the Hamilton District Christian High School, 92 Glancaster Road at the corner of Rymal Road (Hwy. #53) and Glancaster Road. Parking on location. Complimentary refreshments.

Deadline for articles last weekend of month

there. 40CW lost its antenna 15 minutes before the start. Lucky for us Fred and Mardy were on the spot so they were able to put it right and we were on the air by 1830Z hrs. Most stations ran up good scores which augers well for our position in the 4A On category. I think Mardy and Fred set a record for 80 SSB, at least in my memory which goes back some 25 FDs. Rick's 40 SSB band became a multiband station and ran up a terrific score. We had more CW ops than ever before when you consider that 40 CW had loggers operating the keyboard which sent out the responses. We have come a long way since straight keys.

I started a survey to try to decide what directivity my multiband dipole antenna exhibited. I tuned it up on 20 mtrs (14.040 Mhz). My CW CQs were sent out on the dipole, then I had intended to switch to the beam and get a second signal report. Imagine my surprise when the first contact was W7VWV in Quincy Washington. We both reported 579. The time was 1435 Zulu'. Unfortunately I lost him after one exchange each..... How about this? As I was reassembling my station after field day I had my finger over the antenna switch trying to make a co-ax connection when I got a real interesting wiggle of static electricity. Not pain but a lot of surprise. Where did it come from. Static electricity from the dipole I guess. Watch those feed lines!

Further to the antenna coming down at the start of field day we noticed that the antenna worked better after we shortened it to remove the folded over section at the top of the pole holding our inv. vee dipole. At least the match was better over the band width of the antenna. Lacking more sophisticated methods we judge the effectiveness of the antenna by the match. BOY I know of some now dead experts who are turning in their graves at that statement. Some made their reputations and maybe money with articles in magazines telling us SWR doesn't matter. ...What do you think? How about sharing your opinions. Send me an Email. Should we really be trying antennas with high

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 Mardy, VE3QEE < ve3qee@rac.ca >

SWR that radiate better. What would be a better antenna for FD?

Just a word to all the Hams studying Morse code using one system or another. Communication is the name of the game. When you

connect with a station on the air first make sure you get his call right and he has your call correct. Get to the point right a way. You can't really log and claim this QSO until you exchange info. One two three, send signal report i.e. UR RST 599 or something less 559 is a favourite of mine. I can copy you but I may lose you if the band slips a little., MY QTH HAMILTON, ON., NAME IS BEN. Make sure you get his as well. Now you have all the info you need to log the contact and even send a QSL card

Why would you want to send a QSL card? Have you got Pitcairn island? Prove it. Her's the card I got from Tom Christian a direct descendant from the mutineers from Capt. Bligh's BOUNTY. It costs at least \$1.25 to send a QSL card overseas. Heres where membership in RAC comes in handy and cost effective. Through the RAC outgoing mail service you can send about twenty QSL cards for a 49c stamp. Your incoming cards come from the bureau for about the same 49c stamp. Membership in RAC costs 40.00 a year, makes sense EH? Overseas stations will say QSL via buro sure. STOP FLASH!, there's another way to QSL....eQSL. Rick VE3BK can tell you about this, he tells me he gets lots of them. Just for fun I checked my eQSL acct and there was one in there for a contact in 2004. Very fast, typically the buro takes years.

Nice to hear someone on 440 or is it 2M. Fred VE3GCP sounds good even if it is a recording. I guess the recorded message is better than kerchunking to get a signal report. I must find out how to do that.....HMMMMM.

My reference to Tom. Christian above was only partly factual, my card did not come to validate a contact with Tom. Oh my qso was with Pitcairn all right but it was with a noted visitor to Pitcairn.

I hope we will all be able to make it to the new meeting place at 92 Glancaster road. Congratulations to the new exec.....lets all support them. I'm sure we are going to have another great

year. CU there...73.de...VE3EKY et all
dat.....berngran@hwc.org

Letter from Stuart Fedak

Stuart sent this e-mail to the contest group.
You may remember Stuart's white tent on
20 m phone at field day 2003. All the best
in your new QTH Stuart.

Hi Guys:

Just to let you know I have moved to
Ottawa in August. I have purchased a
house with a nice big back yard, so I
hope to start planting towers next
year. If I have time, I will try to put up
some simple antennas for the winter
months.

I am actually sending this message from
Yellowknife, NT. I did the move from
Dundas to Ottawa and then came back
up to Yellowknife to help out in the
local hospital for 3 more weeks. I only
have 2 days break, then start work in
Ottawa.

I will be working at the "Ottawa Civic
Campus" of "The Ottawa Hospital" in
the Intensive Care Unit. Louise
(VE3LOI) will be working at the
"Ottawa General Campus" of "The
Ottawa Hospital". I did my hospital
pharmacy residency at the Ottawa
General Hospital in 1979-80, and both
Louise and I enjoyed our stay in
Ottawa.

On September 12th, I will try to get an
antenna in the air and try to work you
on either 40/80 metres on the local
Ontario nets. I will raise a "807" in
honour of the folks at VE3DC.....

I wish to thank all of you for the good
times, camaraderie and applying radio
theory to practice at the VE3DC
contest site.

73

Stuart VE3SMF/VA3YO/VE8SMF

HARC 2004-2005 Chairs

Awards/Volunteer Examiner

Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ
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Contesting/Property Manager

Rick Danby VE3BK
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Education

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Gary Notto VE3TTO
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Volunteer Examiner

Bernie Granby VA3XJ
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Field Day

David Bruton VE3DWJ
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Flea Market

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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
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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 Annual General Meeting, June 16th 2004

by Roger Pimm VE3UFZ, secretary

The meeting was called to order by
President Mardy at 8:00pm.

Mardy kicked off things with a
summary of our club's achievements in
the 2003/2004 year. The club
atmosphere has been great this year
thanks to a great deal of contribution
by many people. The special interest
groups have been pulling together to
accomplish significant strides in growing
various programs like operating the
Warplane Heritage Museum and
participating at the Contest Site.

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

Doug Last and Don Grisenthwaite
briefly outlined the changes and
improvements at the Museum and were
congratulated by the club members.

Repeater

Note was made of the use of IRLP on
our repeater. John Vandenberg
suggested that the facility could be used
much more. John also mentioned that
club members can get a two digit
number assigned for their personal
home telephone numbers and that
there are still spare numbers available if
you could use more than one.

Treasurer

Fred Robinson reported that the club
books have been successfully converted
to Quick Books and our accounts have
been moved from the Royal Bank to
Canada Trust (who are a much more
user friendly organization). We
presently have a \$4000 GIC at Canada
Trust.

Education

We had 10 students in total complete
the basic qualification in two courses

run this year. One student completed on their own and wrote the exam at our club.

Health and Welfare

Mary Urbanskyi had no bad health news to report, however there was one silent key. Dennis Oxley (VE3ISH) passed away at age 93. He is survived by his second wife.

Contest Group

Rick Danby presented quite a few certificates, which were earned by VE3DC. Unfortunately these certificates take so long to be sent to the various contest winners, sometimes years.

Flea Market

We have been distributing fliers at local Flea Markets to promote our cause.

Field Day

David Bruton invited all HAMS and friends to come out to help set up our field day site. Field Day will be held at Rock Chapel from 2pm Saturday to 2pm Sunday. Visit WWW.ARRL.COM to download all of the rules and literature regarding Field Day.

CNIB Program

Mike Krebs reported that 2 people have been training for their basic license. Assistance will be required in the removal of the tower at the CNIB site since the CNIB will be moving to a new location.

ARES

Lorraine McPherson described her role as official HAM radio contact in Hamilton. On June 16 there was a pandemic EMO exercise in Hamilton and our communications went flawlessly. Gary Notto was notified at 9:00am by Lorraine. Stan Bolabruh made the calls to find operators. Mike Krebs responded at VA3SEE by what we needed was an HF link from VA3SEE to VE3CWM. The club repeater would be used for contacting HAMS to volunteer for ARES work in the event of an emergency.

HARC 2004-2005 Executive

President

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

First Vice President

Michael Krebs VA3WXS
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Second Vice President

Ron Ouwehand VA3OUW
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Secretary

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ
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Treasurer

Fred Robinson VE3GCP
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FredRobinson@MountainCable.net

Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV
905-692-3802
JVandenberg@mountaincable.net

Membership Chairman

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

Technet

_Reg Bagshaw and David ? started 124 Fridays about 2 years ago. Since then this net has grown from just a couple of HAMS ragchewing to a regular group of HAMS who discuss any and all topics related to radio.

Elections

_Joe Urbanski read the articles from our constitution regarding club elections. Six nominations were read out and noted on the chalkboard.

Since there were no other nominations the 6 people are now our Executive, official members of the board.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mardy showed slides of past field days from the 1960's.

Moved by Roger Pimm and seconded by Mike Krebs that the last meeting of the 2003/2004 club year be adjourned at 9:45pm..

Golden Horseshoe ARES Net

Our Emergency Coordinator, Gary Notto, VE3TTO, submitted the following information.

All Amateurs in the Niagara, Hamilton, Guelph, Halton, Brantford, Toronto, Mighty Bruce and South Georgian Bay/West Simcoe areas are invited to check into the 'Golden Horseshoe ARES Net' which is held every Thursday at 8:30 pm on the following linked repeater system.

In the Niagara area use VA3WAJ
442.425mhz tone 107.2
Hamilton, Guelph, Halton and Brantford area use VE3WIK 443.675mhz tone 131.8
Toronto area use VE3SMN
442.850mhz tone 136.5
The Mighty Bruce and South Georgian Bay/West Simcoe area use VE3MBR
147.105mhz tone 131.8
Also amateurs in the Hamilton and Toronto, areas can use 146.460 Simplex

A 'Net Control Station' is assigned for each area, please wait for the net control station to call out for your area before checking in, and please use the repeater closest to your area.

The net is informal and involves mainly discussions on ARES-related topics however in the event of an emergency the net reverts to its primary function which is to link up ARES stations associated with public

service agencies such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, St. John Ambulance, social services, hospitals and EOCs across regional boundaries.
(Golden Horseshoe ARES Net Team)

Brave New Spectrum World of the 21st Century.

For the last couple of years, a debate has been raging in spectrum management circles between the "techies", and the "economists" about how the radio spectrum should be managed. This debate is taking place at the ITU, and among spectrum managers and spectrum users within many countries, with the US FCC taking the lead.

In a recent article in the Economist, the debate is described as taking place between two "mindsets".

On one side are notions of radio frequencies as scarce resources that can be used by only one transmitter at a time and are worth lobbying and paying billions for; on the other side is the idea that any number of transmitters and receivers can peacefully co-exist on the airwaves and that spectrum should therefore be open to all--not individual property, but rather a commons.

The old mindset, supported by over a century of technological experience and 70 years of regulatory habit, views spectrum--the range of frequencies, or wavelengths, at which electromagnetic waves vibrate--as a scarce resource that must be allocated by governments or bought and sold like property.

The new school, pointing to cutting-edge technologies, says that spectrum is by nature abundant and that allocating, buying or selling parts of it will one day seem as illogical as, say, apportioning or selling sound waves to people who would like to have a conversation.

An example of the new mindset, are the wireless cards used by laptops to

connect to the Internet through Wi-Fi, a technical standard (officially called 802.11) that does not have a government licence but operates in "unlicensed" bands of spectrum in the 2.4 GHz or 5.8 GHz range. These are bands which governments have deliberately set aside as, in effect, an experiment for new technologies such as Wi-Fi. Almost anything goes in these bands, and any interference between Wi-Fi base-stations, cordless phones, and microwave ovens is for vendors, not the government, to sort out.

What the article doesn't say, is that licensed services like amateur radio also share these bands and for the moment at least have priority. If the economists have their way, that may change, and all of us will be on a "level playing field". With the trend of governments to walk away from their traditional role as spectrum police, we are already starting down that road.

VE3PU
(RAC News Service)

Transit of Venus

The importance of being in the right place at the right time is well illustrated by the picture below, found on the web site <Space Weather . com>

Story quoted from the web site.

"On June the 8th in a tiny village in Slovakia, Tomas Maruska took a picture that is ... beyond rare. It shows Venus and the International

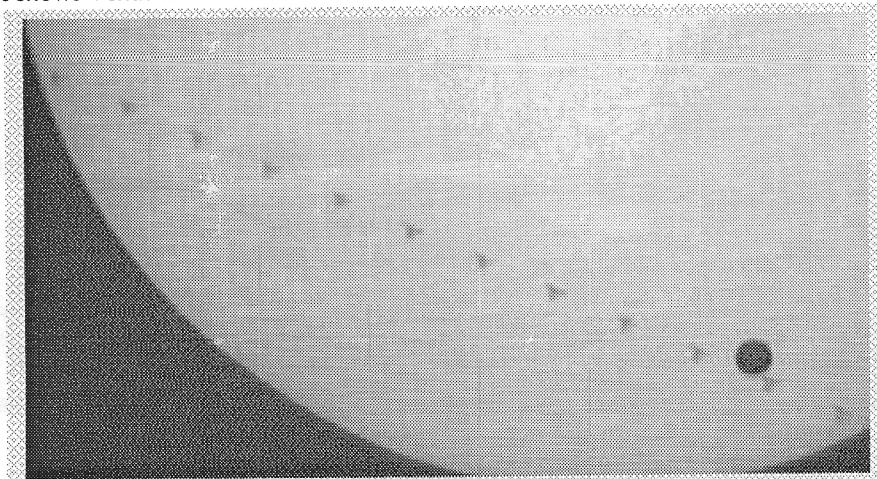
Space Station (ISS) transiting the Sun at the same time. The double transit was visible only inside a narrow corridor a few hundred meters wide. And it was brief. The space station crosses the sun in a split second. Maruska knew when and where to look thanks to the predictions of Thomas Fly, an expert forecaster of ISS transits."

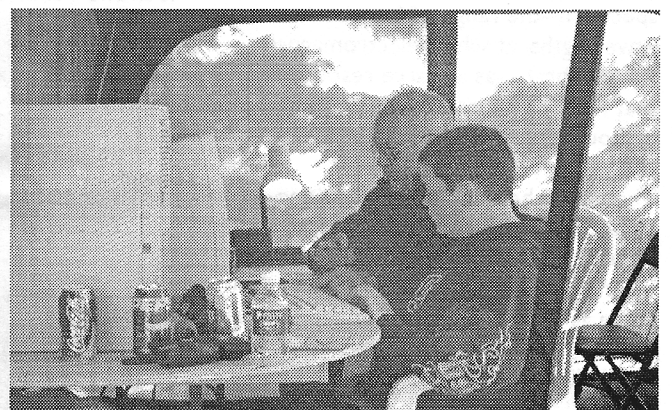
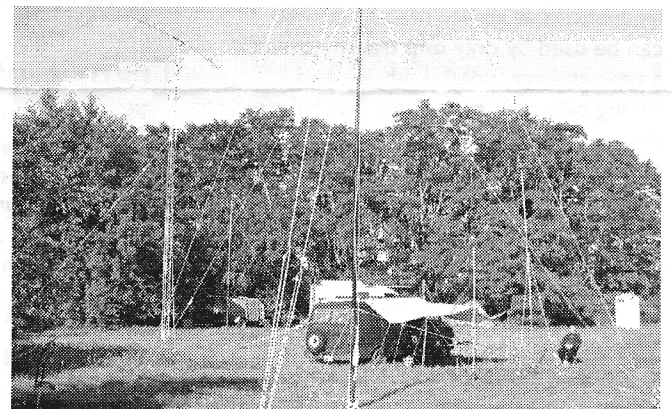
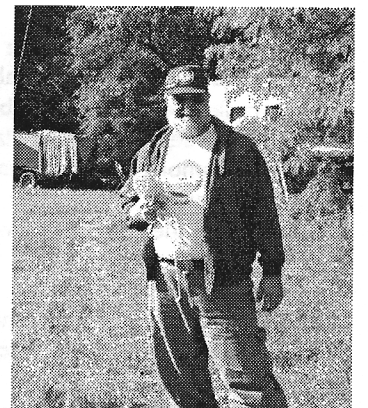
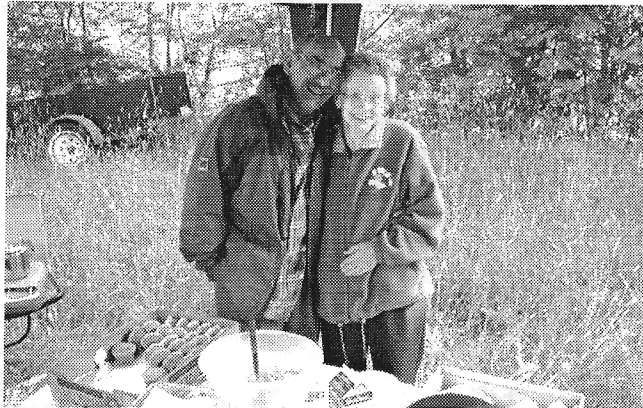
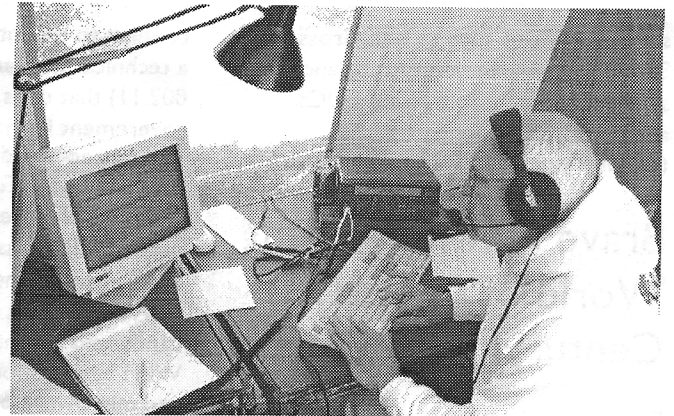
Digital Voice Arrives on HF HAM Bands

The following article,(printed here in part only), was sent to subscribers on the RAC weekly e-mail bulletin.

Three South African amateurs made what is believed to be the first successful transmission of a Digital Voice signal over HF amateur bands in the country. The Digital Voice signal was transmitted at 11:16 on Sunday 8 August by Andrew Roos, ZSIAN, and received by Dennis Wells, ZSIAU, with technical assistance from Etienne Vosloo, ZRIAHW. The transmission took place on the 10 m band, with an occupied bandwidth of approximately 2,3 kHz.

The software used in this experiment was HamDream version 2.4, which is an open-source implementation of the Digital Radio Mondiale broadcasting standard that has been adapted for amateur use by HB9TLK. It can be downloaded free of charge from the SARL website, www.sarl.org.za For more information, see HB9TLK's website, www.qsl.net/hb9tlk





VE3DC, 4 A ON, at Rock Chapel

Field Day 2004

pictures by Rick Danby, VE3BK