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The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
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 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956

The Hamilton Amateur

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

What's Happening

By Mardy, VE3QEE.

Don't forget **our Hamfest** (flea market) on October 16th at the usual location Marritt Hall in the Ancaster Fair Grounds. A crew of club efarlyh rising members come in at 6:00 AM to set up tables, vendors arrive starting at 7:00 AM, and the doors open for patrons at 9:00 AM. The event begins to wind down around noon. The clean-up crew takes down tables empties garbage and sweeps the Hall after the vendors leave and the doors are locked up, usually by 2:00 PM. If you would like to assist with any part of this operation, (particularly cleanup), your services would be welcome. Club members direct cars to parking spaces in the lot. Tickets are sold as patrons come in the front door, Shifts of members act as security watching the doors at the back while vendors are setting up their displays, and later at the front when patrons are entering. Throughout the event security is needed to make sure everyone coming in has purchased a ticket. The kitchen this year is being looked after by the Pathfinders group as in the past two years. They provide free coffee and sell sandwiches etc.

The **next Club Meeting** occurs the following Wednesday, October 20th. at the new location Hamilton District Christian School, Rymal Road and Glancaster Road. You can park near the front entrance. When you come in, turn left. Our speaker will be Mr. Vern Sherwood from Mississauga. His

company Excess Energy specializes in alternative energy technologies including solar, wind, and custom battery packs. "All the Power to you! Anywhere!" is their motto. Vern will explain and demonstrate these technologies which are currently being used and are available for purchase. With hydro and natural gas prices rising and the potential threat of interruption , due to weather events or subversive activities, alternative energy has certainly become a topic of increasing interest. So come and enjoy Vern's presentation and learn what type of products are in the market and available for your use today.

Oct. 5 2004 Resignations of RAC President and First Vice-president

The following announcement was sent to VE3DC in the RAC weekly news bulletin.

RAC regrets to announce that effective immediately, RAC President Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, and First Vice-president Bob Nash, VE3KZ have resigned from their positions for medical reasons. Both officers have been hospitalized with severe, heart-related problems. The RAC Board of Directors and Executive thank them both for their dedicated service to amateur radio and RAC, and are confident that all radio amateurs wish them a full recovery and fast return to the amateur bands.

The RAC Board of Directors will convene a special meeting of the Board

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.

as quickly as possible and in accordance with the Constitution to deal with the vacancies on the Executive created by these resignations.

You may recall from the last issue of *The Hamilton Amateur* that President Lamoureux was scheduled to speak to our Club at the October meeting. We were saddened by the news of his resignation and wish him a speedy recovery. —ed.

Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

This past summer was nothing to write about. So except for Field Day; enough said. I found the bands (all of them) dead or at least badly crippled. Or is it my famous 50 year old antenna equipment? So what to do ? Well I started to go through all the old copies of *The Hamilton Amateur* that I have on file. (thats the bulletin that is mailed to you every month). You should read it twice at least or maybe three times. I sigh sometimes when I hear the questions on the air and at the club meetings.....I can't find code practice on WIAW (The headquarters station of the A.R.R.L (The American Amateur Radio and Relay League)). Marty our editor covered that in the January 2004 issue of T.H.A. See *The Hamilton Amateur* above. Pay attn. EH ! Last month at the meeting and since on the air we wanted to know how to get on ILRP.....there it is in the May T.H.A. All this good stuff in the bulletin. If only we would read it. The bulletin is great Mardy....first rate.

I spent some time going through old TCA's. (*The Canadian Amateur*); it comes with your membership in RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada). Sort of the canuck version of ARRL see above) Any way in the March-April issue of TCA in an article (*The Friendly Jungle Telegraph*) by our own Andy Neimers VA3SMM Andy touted this web site where you can track the ISS (International Space Station) on your computer.

<spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/tracking/index.html> Andy says to watch there is no www at the start of this URL. Try it

you'll like it. WOW, its so neat. You can watch the sun as it goes across the sky and from day to day as it moves further south. The grey line is also shown. Boy is that thing ever fast. Which reminds me that picture Marty put in our THA it was terrific. Think about it.

I got a chuckle re-reading *The Official Canadian Temperature Conversion Chart* by G. Birchall in the April 04 THA. Good work Mardy you have kept me going all summer.

In a previous piece I asked what was the best antenna for field day. Well no one sent an Email disputing my way of judging an antenna on field day. So in the November-December issue of TCA an excellent article by Gerry King VE3GK gave me a plausible answer. It was a short treatise about the Inverted Vee dipole. Its in plain language. Read it its very worthwhile.

Dats all about dat fer
nw...73...de.....Bernie..VE3EKY CU

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@hwcn.org

47th Jamboree on the Air 16-17 October 2004

JOTA is an annual event in which about 500,000 Scouts and Guides all over the world make contact with each other by means of amateur radio. It is a real Jamboree during which Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, thus contributing to the world brotherhood of Scouting The JOTA is a world-wide event. Units may operate for 48 hours or any part thereof, from Saturday 00.00 h until Sunday 24.00 h local time. It is for members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), and also for members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

World Scout Frequencies: Band SSB(phone)

80 m	3.740 & 3.940 MHz
40 m	7.090 MHz
20 m	14.290 MHz
17 m	18.140 MHz
15 m	21.360 MHz
12 m	24.960 MHz
10 m	28.390 MHz

CW(morse)

80 m	3.590 MHz
40 m	7.030 MHz
20 m	14.070 MHz
17 m	18.080 MHz
15 m	21.140 MHz
12 m	24.910 MHz
10 m	28.190 MHz

Full details of this event online at:
<http://home.zonnet.nl/worldscout/NJOnetwork/47JOTAcirc.pdf>

New HF net beginning in October

Several of our members have asked about traffic handling. Here is your chance to learn about traffic handling and get in on the act. The following information from the RAC e-bulletin was announced by Glenn Killam, EMSN Net Manager

A new HF net will commence operation On Sunday, October 3rd, 2004. The net will operate on a frequency of 3.742 mhz daily from 7 am to 6 pm. Due to a shortage of controllers at startup, the net will only cover the peak hours at first, namely 7 to 9 am and 4 to 6 pm. This new venture is to be named the Eighty Metre Service Net (EMSN).

The objective of this net, as set out in its Constitution are as follows:

1. To provide a service to all Radio Amateurs in the form of a controlled on air "check in" frequency
2. To provide information, resources, and assistance to all Radio Amateurs wishing to learn more about "traffic handling", the NTS (National Traffic System), ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and related subjects.
3. To provide a medium for all Radio Amateurs who wish to practice and hone their "traffic handling" skills.
4. To liason with the OPN (Ontario Phone Net) for the purposes of passing traffic.
5. To promote excellence, the state of the art and the interests of Amateur Radio's many varied activities through a program of technical, regulatory and general information within the Amateur Service and to the Canadian public.

Complete information on the EMSN is posted on the World Wide Web, at: www.hfradio.net

HARC 2004-2005 Chairs

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Newsletter

open position – we are looking for
an Editor

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Swap Net Control

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In the USA, Broadband Provider decides to drop BPL 2004-08-01

The broadband provider that's been testing BPL in the Village of Penn Yan, New York, reportedly plans to "move away" from that technology. The Western New York community of some 5000 residents has been considering various proposals with Data Ventures (DVI) to offer broadband service. A BPL trial has been underway in Penn Yan for several months. The village reportedly would get 10 percent of the generated revenue. According to an article in the July 28 edition of the Finger Lakes Times Online, DVI now is proposing to employ wireless mesh "WiFi" technology instead of BPL.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Penn Yan Mayor Douglas G. Marchionda Jr and DVI for going with wireless broadband instead of BPL. "Not only will your citizens receive better service, but a serious radio spectrum pollution problem has been averted as well," Sumner said in a fax to Marchionda and to DVI CEO Marc Burling. "We hope that other communities will be able to profit from your experience." Sumner raised the issue of interference complaints from the Penn Yan BPL trial with Marchionda last April.

The Finger Lakes Times report quotes Burling as saying that his company didn't feel BPL was "commercially deployable." He also cited issues with the BPL trial including security concerns and interference-- which will not be an issue with the wireless system.

Burling told ARRL that the Penn Yan BPL system remains on line but would be shut down once DVI starts deploying its wireless system. As for BPL, "We are going to sit back and wait

for an official ruling from the FCC and go from there," Burling added.

Penn Yan already has rejected two DVI proposals to bring high-speed Internet service to the community, the newspaper said. Village officials reportedly met again with DVI representatives this week. DVI is partnering with Nortel to offer the wireless service.

In a March 23 article "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham- Radio Fans," Wall Street Journal reporter Ken Brown described a "firestorm" of protest from amateurs when Penn Yan approved the BPL test plan.

ARRL also has learned that Energy East--a cooperative of New York State Electric & Gas and Rochester Gas & Electric--decided against deploying BPL in their Western New York service area. Energy East based its decision in large part on the high levels of radio frequency interference an engineer and company officials observed during a visit to the Penn Yan field trial.

On July 29, Grand Haven, Michigan, announced that it had become the first community in the US to deploy a WiFi network <<http://www.ottawawireless.net/about-us/press-room.html>> that blankets the city and up to 15 miles off shore in Lake Michigan with broadband Internet access.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl/>> page on the ARRL Web site.

(Thanks to the ARRL)

Thoughts on Tower Safety

The following ideas were submitted by John Sims VE3JSU

The fall has finally arrived and we can think about antenna work. Much of antenna work involves towers or at least climbing on roofs or in trees. This means we must consider SAFETY. In my personal experience the younger one is the less concerned with safety. However this means getting to a ripe old age in good health must involve a lot of good luck. By now I have it figured out that I must have used up all or most of my good luck and I had better give safety some serious consideration.

While there is a lot more to amateur radio safety than preventing a fall off a tower, that is easily one of the most destructive to the human body. And keep in mind that just about every single case of serious injury, like a fall, happens to someone who thinks it's going to happen to someone else.

The most obvious safety precaution when working up high is, of course, the safety belt. If you are going to work on a tower you need a safety belt. The safety belt gives you, in addition to keeping you on the tower, may also give you freedom to use two hands while you work. Safety belts come in many different designs. They all have a belt that goes around your waist. Some also have straps that go around your legs so you can sit in the harness and spread the force of the belt supporting your weight. Belts have a strap called a lanyard that attaches to the tower. The lanyard attaches to rings on the belt in either one or two places. Most belts I have seen are made from a woven cotton, nylon or synthetic fiber. Synthetic fibers are more resistant to damage from moisture, mold and mildew. Because belts are made of components stitched or riveted together they are subject to wear and deterioration. It is recommend that you inspect your belt before each use. The lanyard also takes abuse when you are on the tower and it WILL wear out. Inspect the hooks or snaps that connect your lanyard to your belt. make sure they function properly and are not damaged or weakened in any way. Considering how important your safety belt is and how small it is, you

should be able to store it in a safe dry place in the house.

For climbing towers it is recommended climbers use a pair of lanyards with gorilla hooks. These are lengths of webbing or rope with a hook on each end. One hook attaches to the ring on your belt, and the other is connected to the tower. Snap one hook as high as you can reach, then climb up to the attachment point. Hook the other lanyard as high as you can reach before detaching the first lanyard. Climb some more and repeat the process. Follow the same procedure in reverse coming down the tower. This keeps you attached to the tower at all times.

Footwear is an important consideration for work on towers. You need shoes that will keep your feet comfortable as possible. On towers with X bracing comfort is really a misnomer but but you have to do the best you can. Steel soled workboots, or at least thick soled boots will give some protection from the pressure of tower cross braces on your feet..

If you are over tired or too hot, or thirsty, you are at increased risk of injury. This injury may be nothing more than a scrape but it could mean falling off the tower. Remember when you are climbing to stay attached to the tower. On hot days you need to drink lots of water. One of the symptoms of hyperthermia is light headedness which could cause you to take a fall. In the colder months (when we hams do our best antenna work) your hands will get much colder holding a metal tower and being exposed to the wind. That could cause you to loose feeling in your hands. Now if you are half way down and realize you can't tell if you have hold of the tower or not just exactly what are you going to do?

Wear a hard hat, for protection from the sun, as well as protection from falling objects, and from bumps on the head when you lean into a U clamp or a piece of angle iron you didn't notice.

Watch out for power lines. While you are installing or removing an antenna it

is quite possible for you to lose control of it. You could end up with one end of this metal object in your hands and the other across powerlines.

I have left the most important precaution of all to last. Don't work alone. Even if the other person is just observing, a second pair of eyes can save you a lot of grief. At the very least you'll have someone who can call 911 if you come to harm. We all do it, "Ill just be 2 minutes no need to bother anyone." Most times you will probably be fine but one day you may not. Remember SAFETY IS THE ABSENCE OF RISK. Of course you could eliminate all risk by hiring a professional. But if you are going to do the work yourself, take your time, plan carefully and make good choices.

Minutes of the September 15, 2004 General Meeting

by Roger Pimm VE3UFZ, secretary

Mardy VE3QEE called the meeting to order at 8:00pm sharp. Note was made that this is our first meeting at the new location, Hamilton District Christian High School. Ron Ouwehand VE3OUW introduced our Guest Speaker, John Ludwig

John has been in the tower business for over 35 years and had many anecdotes on the building, maintenance and removal of commercial and HAM towers. He has worked with white cane HAMS in erecting towers and getting them on the air. Satellite dishes were big business (in more ways than one) in their early conception. Now, with the introduction of Bell Express View and Star Choice, these dishes have reduced in size to the point where they are easily installed by "do it yourself" methods.

In answer to a question regarding safety, John related his experience in erecting a tower at a private residence

where the customer had done some of the preparatory work. Without checking, John proceeded to erect 3 more 10-foot sections. While John was on the tower, it collapsed, resulting in a serious fall. Obviously he survived, but recovered in hospital. This is a wake up call to all HAMS who do any work on towers. We must always keep an eye out for safety. Use safety boots, harnesses, lanyards (2), gloves and a keen eye. Towers have been known to collapse!

John was thanked for his well prepared presentation by Fred VE3GCP and presented with a monogrammed (Hamilton Amateur Radio Club) golf shirt.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the last General Meeting as published in the newsletter were adopted.

Membership

Emsley VE3JAI is currently on vacation in the Caribbean. We all hope that he is well out of the way of the recent wave of Tropical Storms.

Health and Welfare

Mary VE3OGQ informed us the Ed Charlesworth VE3ZF suffered a recent heart attack. Ed served in just about every office in the club, including the club bulletin. Ed was publisher of the Chicken Junction Directory. We wish Ed a speedy recovery.

Flea Market

The annual Flea Market will be held on October 16, 2004 in Marret Hall at the Ancaster Fair Grounds. We are looking for volunteers for a variety of jobs. If you wish to help us out in this worthy project you may show up at 6:00am at the site to help set up the tables and signs.

Contest Group

_Rick VE3BK again had the opportunity to present to the club 3 new awards. 2001 RAC Winter Contest: VE3DC First Place Multi-Operator score: 1,298,528 points 2002 Canada Day

Contest: Multi-Operator score: 1,122,984 points
2003 Canada Day Contest: Multi-Operator/Multi Xmtr score: 783,540 points

Rick agrees, its better late than never for receiving those awards.

Repeater

_Message number 8 has been added to the repeater list. This message describes the use of IRLP.

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

_Doug VE3NBL related an incident where a visiting HAM from Grenada requested VE3CWM to attempt a contact in Grenada. Doug had no luck, but when trying the IRLP he found a HAM in Barbados who was willing to make a contact and set up a schedule with a contact in Grenada. Well done Doug! This is what Amateur Radio is all about, people helping people.

ARES

_Gary VE3TTO provided us with a list of the emergency frequencies we may monitor if we wish to keep informed of the current hurricane situation down south.

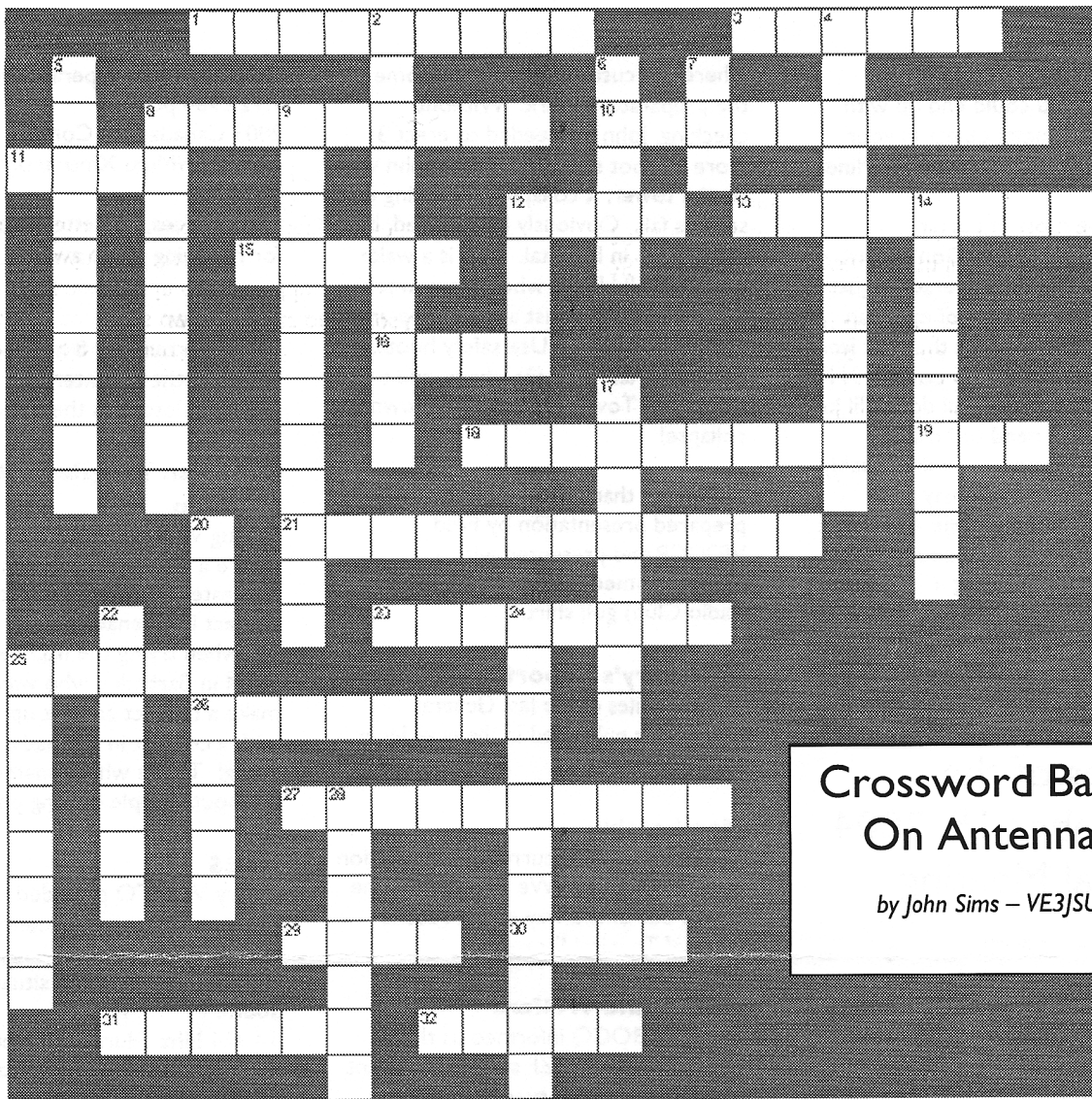
14.324 Mhz Hurricane Net
14.265 Mhz Hurricane Watch
3.950 Mhz Saturn Net
3.965 Mhz New Orleans
7.243 Mhz New Orleans
7.285 Mhz Florida
3.873 Mhz Florida
3.935 Mhz Florida
7.290 Mhz Florida

Executive Recommendations

VE3RCB, the Canadian Red Cross building location, still has our club owned call sign. The HF station that was at this location is still owned by the club. This set is a Kenwood TS450S circa 1992. The executive recommend that this rig be sold.

Motion by Mary VE3OGQ that the radio be sold on the club swap net with a reserve price set at a reasonable market value. Seconded by I. Davidson VE3UGM. Approved by vote 18 to 1.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm



**Crossword Based
On Antennas**
by John Sims – VE3JSU

Across

- 1. Energy coming off an antenna is called
- 3. A particular type of direction finding antenna
- 8. Antenna wound on a semi conducting rod
- 10. Antenna Polarization parallel to the ground
- 11. A multi element antenna with one radiator
- 12. A device with less power out than in, has ...
- 13. The element on an antenna that sends out energy
- 15. A device to connect unbalanced to balanced
- 16. A device to electrically terminate an antenna
- 18. The antenna has on this frequency
- 19. The band with higher frequency than VHF
- 21. The act of erecting, placing and or connecting an antenna
- 23. Coaxial cable that is very stiff due to it's outer shield
- 25. A device that blocks, particularly RF
- 26. A device that connects two antennas or radios to one
- 27. The insulating material in coaxial cable
- 29. An antenna having 4 elements
- 30. The correct measure of reflected energy in an antenna system
- 31. An antenna mounted on a car would be a
- 32. A device to connect two different impedances

Down

- 2. A device to reduce the incoming signal
- 4. That which identifies position
- 5. A device to match a transmitter to an antenna
- 6. The two signals are 180 degrees out of
- 7. Abbreviation for power produced which is the same as
- 8. Electrical discharge from or to a cloud
- 9. The condition of having or giving polarity
- 12. Antenna wound in a circular shape
- 14. To reduce a signal in strength
- 17. The act of turning an antenna about it's axis
- 20. The combined effect of both resistance and reactance
- 22. A type of feed line having one line inside the other
- 24. The property of an antenna being more sensitive in one direction
- 25. Multielement arrays fed both in and out of phase
- 28. Electricity or RF caused to arise in a nearby object or element