



The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter – 73 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2005

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
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Est. 1932 Inc. 1956
<http://www.hwcnc.org/link/harc/>

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Special Prefixes Authorized

To Celebrate Opening of the New Canadian War Museum and VE Day+ 60, Canadian Amateurs may use a special prefix. Details have been provided by Debbie Norman VA3RGM, General Manager, Radio Amateurs of Canada, reporting in the weekly RAC e-mail Bulletin.

At the request of Radio Amateurs of Canada, Industry Canada has authorized all Canadian radio amateurs to use special event prefixes for the month of May, 2005, to mark the opening of the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa on 8 May, 2005 coincident with the 60th Anniversary of VE Day.

The official opening of the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, the national capital of Canada, on May 8, 2005, coincides with the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day -- VE Day -- which, on May 8, 1945, officially ended the Second World War in Europe.

The year 2005 has been declared The Year of the Veteran by the Canadian government in recognition and commemoration of the determination, service and sacrifice of Canada's WW II veterans.

Canadian radio amateurs are authorized to use the following special event prefixes during the period 1 May to 31 May, 2005 inclusive:

- CF for VA stations
- CG for VE stations
- CH for VO stations
- CI0 for VY0 stations
- CII for VY1 stations
- CI2 for VY2 stations.

Murphy's Law

The article on which this report is based originally appeared in an Air Force publication, Desert Wings March 3, 1978. It was written by the AFFTC History Office.

Murphy's Law, "If anything can go wrong, it will", was born at Edwards Air Force Base, in 1949.

It was named after Capt. Edward A. Murphy, an engineer working on Air Force Project MX981, designed to see how much sudden deceleration a person can stand in a crash.

One day, after finding that a transducer was wired wrong, Murphy cursed the technician responsible and said, "If there is any way to do it wrong, he'll find it."

The contractor's project manager kept a list of "laws" and added this one, which he called Murphy's Law.

Actually, what the contractor did was take an old law that had been around for years in a more basic form, i.e. "If anything can go wrong, it will", and give it a name.

Shortly afterwards, the Air Force doctor Dr. John Paul Stapp who rode a sled on the deceleration track to a stop, pulling 40 Gs, gave a press conference. He said that their good

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



The picture shows Dr John Paul Stapp strapped aboard a sled in an experiment testing the effects of sudden deceleration.

safety record on the project was due to a firm belief in Murphy's Law and in the necessity to try and circumvent it.

Aerospace manufacturers picked up the "law" and used it widely in their ads during the next few months, and soon it was being quoted in many news and magazine articles. Murphy's Law was born.

Doctor Stapp, had a paradox of his own, called, Stapp's Ironical Paradox, which says, "The universal aptitude for ineptitude makes any human accomplishment an incredible miracle."

Our own Rick Danby, himself a firm believer in Murphy's Law, is known to have taken extraordinary steps protecting the contest group from its possible effects. -ed.

The "Ann" tenna A New Trend in Landscaping

by Ann Tekatch, VA3NOE

I own the world's ugliest antenna. Actually, it's the antenna mast that is ugly. The antenna, a Cushcraft A270

(dualband VHF/UHF), is an aluminum beauty. (It must be beautiful because it cost an obscene amount of money for its size. And only minimalistic artwork costs that much!) Anyway, back to the mast.

When I was newly licensed last year, I was really eager to get on the air. It was winter and there was no way of properly erecting my beautiful new Cushcraft antenna. I was pondering this dilemma one day while sweeping the kitchen floor. I suddenly realized that the broom handle in my hands was just the perfect size for a mast. I made the ultimate housekeeping sacrifice and I quickly had a great, but very short, mast for my antenna. I attached the antenna to the broom handle and stuck it in a snowbank next to the house. Voila – I was on the air! Well, my snowbank eventually melted and I needed to find a new spot for my antenna. A quick trip to the lumber store was in order. Then another. And another.

What evolved from all these trips is a mast consisting of a 16' long, wolmanized lumber 2 x 4 which is bolted to our backyard fence. To this 2 x 4 is bolted an 8' long spruce 2x2. To that 2x2 is bolted another 8' spruce 2x2. Clamped to the second 2 x 2, is the aforementioned broom

handle with the Cushcraft A270 still bolted to it. (Our local Home Depot experienced a sudden surge in bolt sales last year – their marketing department is probably still puzzling over this anomaly!) Black electrical tape binds the coax cable to the mast at irregular intervals, lending an air of Red Green to the ensemble.

You will note that neither of the 2 x 2's is wolmanized. I am still recovering from the shock of how much wolmanized lumber costs and so no further explanation should be necessary! I am also well aware of the fact that regular spruce 2 x 2's are not weather-proof. My husband continually reminds me that I promised the antenna "thing" was only temporary and I had better replace it before it turns to compost before my very eyes!

The entire mast structure is about 24' high. It dominates the skyline of our property and detracts from the beautiful Linden tree/HF antenna in the backyard. (The Linden HF antenna story will have to wait for another time.) The mast structure is supremely ugly and a blot on my family's reputation in our neighbourhood. Martha Stewart would not be impressed. I am ashamed.

On the plus side, none of our neighbours have complained or said anything about it! This bodes very well for the possibility of erecting a REAL antenna tower. I dream of erecting a real antenna tower. I fantasize that my lovely Cushcraft A270 will someday stand proud at the top of a matching, gleaming metal tower. And if that day ever comes, you can be sure that my antenna will still be clamped to the broom handle that started it all!

Pitch In

Here is a Project if you would like to take it on. ed.

ARRL Field Day 2005 publicity information available: Field Day 2005 is the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. Per rule 7.3.2, 100 bonus points are available to FD stations in all classes for bona fide

efforts to obtain publicity for your Field Day operation from local media. ARRL Field Day 2005 publicity information now is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/2005/04/fddocs>> for public information officers and clubs. The page includes sample news releases and information on publicizing your participation in Field Day 2005. It also reviews publicity information for "National Take your HT to Work Day" June 21, when hams are encouraged to clip their handheld transceivers on their belts or place them on their desks to raise awareness and prompt inquiries about Amateur Radio from co-workers. Amateur Radio Week 2005 is June 19-26.

David Bruton, VE3DWW is our Field Day co-ordinator. Direct any specific questions to David. See the HARC Chairs insert for contact info.

Minutes of the General Meeting April 20, 2005

by Secretary, Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ

The meeting was called to order by Mardy VE3QEE at 8:00pm. Mardy announced that John Ludwig, who delivered an excellent presentation on tower erection and safety at our September 15, 2004 meeting, has earned his basic HAM licence and has the call sign VE3BZT. John earned his licence by studying on his own and writing the exam. Congratulations John. Mardy introduced our guest speaker, Jim Forrester, a teacher and a mentor to Mardy in his teaching days. and Gary Birchall, creator of the graphics presentation. Both of these guests were teachers, secondary school geography heads and, in their turn, Supervisor of Geography for the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. The slide show and lecture was prepared for presentation to passengers on board a Royal Norwegian west coast cruise to Alaska. The presentation was made by Jim Forrester. Since this was a pre-cruise "dry run", Jim asked us to provide feedback at the conclusion

HARC 2004-2005 Chairs

Awards Chair

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Rick Danby VE3BK
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Public Liaison Co-Chair

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Mardy and Roger, (me), at Hill Park in the 50's.

Secretary's Note:

There was an overwhelming amount of visual and factual material in the presentation. I have tried my best to do it justice in words. I hope that the following paraphrasing can give you a flavour of what we saw and heard.

The presentation we saw was an explanation of the evolution of geography of the northwest coast of North America. A subsequent presentation which we didn't have time to hear is intended to cover the migration of aboriginal peoples, animals, and settlement of this area.

A fascinating time lapse sequence was used to show the movement of tectonic plates over the eons of time that led to the creation of the continents as we see them today. The movement of the low density continental plates against the higher density oceanic plates created mountains and faults in the earths crust. The continents as we see them today are under constant change due to the "hot cooking soup" that the earths crust floats on. The presentation focused on the collision of the ocean plate with the continental plate on our West coast.

One interesting fact is that there are close to 7000 earthquakes per year in the Vancouver area due to the ocean plate collision with the continental plate. These plates are moving against each other at a rate of 3 to 4 centimeters per year. Vancouver is on the famous Pacific "Ring of Fire". Mount St. Helen's sits on this Ring of Fire and was peaceful for 130 years before the recently famous eruption. A warning shock of 4.1 on the Richter scale preceded the eruption which destroyed 230 square miles of forest in a pyroclastic storm. The talk concluded with some wonderful slides of glaciers and the land forms, such as fiords, that they create. Global warming was illustrated with graphs which clearly showed the alarming rate at which the average temperatures are rising due to greenhouse gases. Even with

of the show. An interesting side note is that Jim Forrester taught Gary,

the fact of Global Warming, believe it or not, we are currently in the declining stage of an Ice Age. The concern that geographers are warning us about is the accelerated rate at which glaciers are receding. It seems that the ice which covers our poles effectively reflects solar radiation. When they disappear, all of the solar energy that passes through our atmosphere will be absorbed by the earth's crust. Then things will really start to cook.

Mardy thanked both Jim and Gary for their efforts and wished them success in their venture on the Alaska cruise. Fred VE3GCP presented Jim and Gary with club T Shirts in thanks for their presentation.

Business Meeting. Moved by Mardy, and seconded by Roger that the minutes in the last club newsletter be adopted. Carried.

Treasurer. Fred VE3GCP reported that we \$200 on the good side of our budget.

Membership. Emsley reports that we currently have 75 members, 67 primary members and 8 family members.

Education. Basic classes are proceeding. There has been one student loss. There is a HF rig and power supply for sale which the student who dropped out of the basic class has for sale. Call Mardy if you are interested.

Health and Welfare. Mary VE3OGQ has sent get well cards to Gerald VA3GMJ, David Locke VE3DLK and Ron Bradshaw VE3IUJ. A sympathy card has been sent to the wife of silent key Herbert Stott VE3LMQ who passed away on April 10, 2005. Herbert is survived by his wife Kathleen.

Contest. Rick VE3BK updated on the Ontario QSO party that was enthusiastically supported by two new HAMS Ian Smith and Jim Sowodski. Remember Field Day and also the Canada Day contest is on July 1, 2005.

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. There will be a gathering of

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 >

HAM's, who have been involved with the Mississauga Maritime Net, at the Museum on April 21, 2005.

Field Day. David VE3DWJ brought us up to speed on the developments between the Royal Botanical Gardens

and the club regarding parking and site preparation for field day. Parking will be charged "by the hour" in the regular parking lot, but there will not be any charge for parking inside the fence for field day participants.

Announcements. Club "T-Shirts are on sale for \$28. We are also looking for a volunteer to chair the nomination the new club executive for 2005/2006 which will take place at our June meeting.

Next Meeting. Home Brew!!! Bring your creations in and let your fellow Ham's see what hamming is all about. Junk box to treasure box!!

Adjournment. Moved by Walter VA3WWB, seconded by Rick VE3BK, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 PM

2005 Emergency Preparedness Day

Saturday May 7th at Hamilton's Bayfront Park the annual Emergency Preparedness Day was held. The Amateur Radio community was represented.

You may have noticed in the Hamilton Spectator of Monday May 2nd a 20 page insert titled "72 Hours ...Are You Prepared". This insert announced the 2005 Emergency Preparedness Day display at Bayfront Park.

The HAMs were there. A group of local Radio Amateurs were there to demonstrate Amateur Radio and its ability to step in and provide communications when commercial communication systems become overloaded or fail. (This kind of situation happens almost every week somewhere in North America due to severe weather, fires, floods, mudslides, earth quakes, industrial accidents, train wrecks, and a host of other causes. You read reports about these situations in the ARRL and RAC e-mail bulletins.)

This year's Amateur Radio display was the most successful yet. We were housed in a large tent. Demonstrations of UHF/VHF voice

and packet communication, the APRS network, and HF communications were featured. The HF station was set up facing into the tent so the public could sit down beside the operator, have a good look at the equipment, and actually have a QSO. One of the antenna masts we use on field day was deployed behind the tent with a multi-band G5RV dipole up 40 feet. That configuration enabled Robert Rodriguez, VE3R0R, to make contact with a large number of stations. There were contacts from Florida, Costa Rica, and California, to name a few. A number of the contacts were made on the 17-meter band, (18.068 to 18.168 MHz), but there were also contacts made on 40 meters.

We had quite a number of visitors to the display and more inquiries about the hobby than last year. Amateur representatives, on hand for the event, included: David Bruton, VE3DWJ, Neil Galloway, VE3VNG, Al, VA3AM, and Lorraine MacPherson,, VA3NZ, Robert Rodriguez, VE3R0R, Gerry Osborn, VE3JSO, Bill Bouwhuis, VE3YR, Don Roop, VE3EIR, David Locke, VE3DLK, and Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE.

CERV Team Members Graduate As Radio Amateurs

At the Emergency Preparedness Display, (see previous article), right beside the Amateur Radio tent was the CERV display. CERV stands for Community Emergency Response Volunteer. CERV teams in each community have been trained in "basic emergency management principles and skills". As reported in the February, 2005 issue of The Hamilton Amateur, page 5, a number of CERV team members took a course to become certified Amateur Radio operators.

All of the team members who took the qualification test were successful. When I met them they were delighted to have just received their call signs in the mail. The official Graduation Ceremony took place at

HARC 2004-2005 Executive

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Membership Chairman

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the Amateur Radio Tent, and Bob Bratina presented each with a Certificate of Achievement and a commemorative T shirt. The event was filmed by local media.

All of this publicity raises the image of Amateur Radio in the community. If you see these new hams at a club meeting, or hear them on the air please give them a heartfelt welcome and offer any assistance they might use. Incidentally, many of these new HAMs are women, all of them are enthusiastic volunteers, and a number of them are young.

Congratulations to Al and Lorraine MacPherson for mentoring this group of CERV trainees and helping them

qualify to become Amateur Radio operators.

Check out page 6 for pictures of the Emergency Preparedness Amateur Radio display and CERV Graduation.

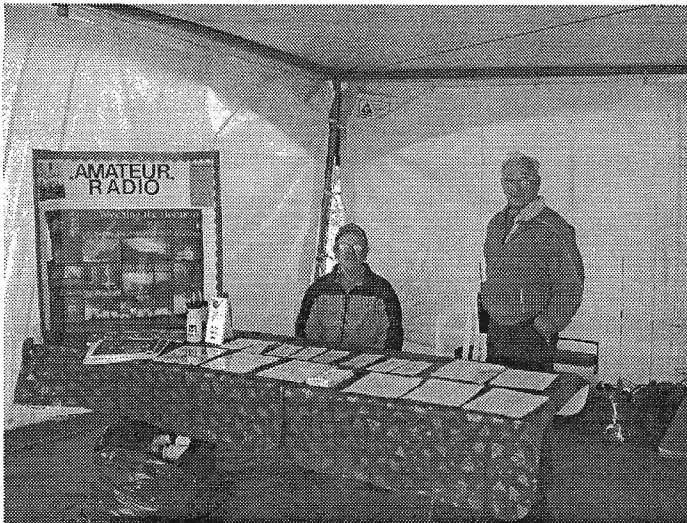
Future Meetings and Announcements

The next meeting, Wednesday, May 18th, is our annual HOME BREW meeting, featuring a Home Brew contest, judging and awarding of the Crawford Radio trophy. In addition there will be a SHOW AND TELL session where any member is invited to show and tell about a piece of Amateur Radio Equipment, or pass along a good idea that could benefit other amateurs. Come and share your good ideas and see what has been brewing over the past year.

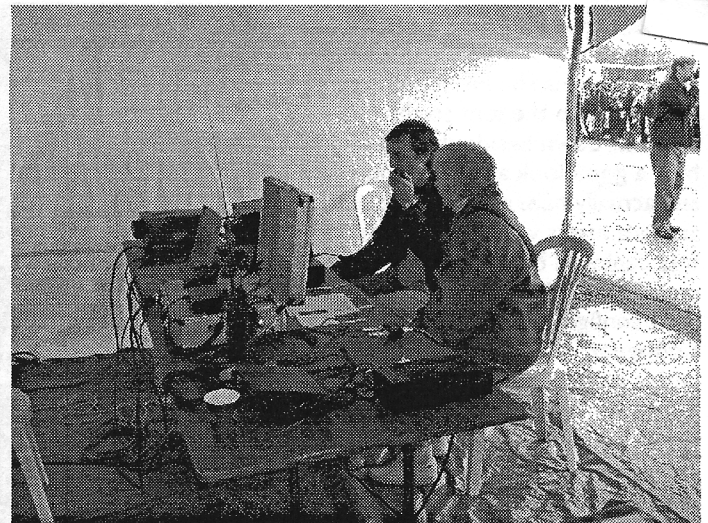
The meeting on June 15th is as early in the month as it can be, because June begins on a Wednesday. That June 15th meeting will be our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. We are looking for people to stand for election to the Board of Directors. We need seven people to serve as Directors. According to the club constitution, the directors, once elected, decide among themselves how to share the work of the club and fill the offices of President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. Joe Urbanski is the Elections Chair. If you have questions or recommendations talk to Joe at 905-388-8383, or anyone on the executive (on this page).

On Sunday May 29th is the annual Great Ride and Stride for Cancer on the Linc. We would like to have a Radio Amateur mobile station under every bridge on the Linc. The commitment lasts from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. If you can lend a hand please contact Mardy, VE3QEE.

There are still a few Club golf shirts available at cost, for \$28.00 each. These are a must for nice weather. Talk to Ron Ouwehand, or bring money to the next meeting.



David, VE3DWJ and Neil, VE3VNG manning the information table.



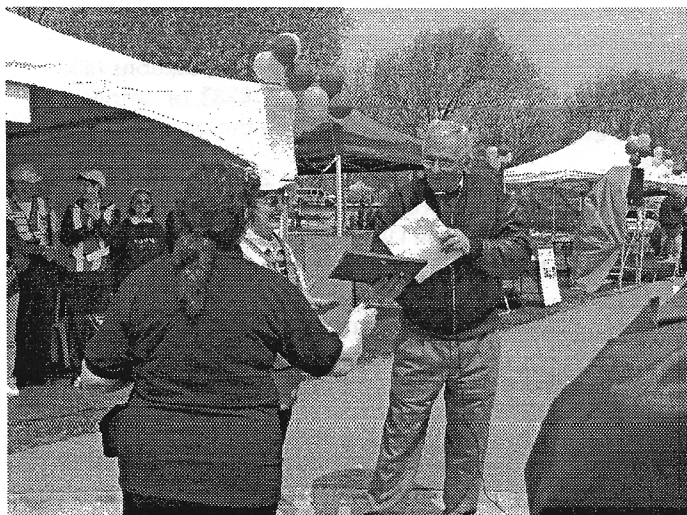
Robert, VE3ROR, establishing a contact so a visitor can talk to a HAM in another part of the world. Conditions were good.



One of the CERV graduates, Adrian Warner, VA3ONI, making his first ever contact on the air.



CERV graduates attending lined up ready to get their award.



Bob Bratina was on hand to present each CERV graduate with a certificate of achievement.



Adrian gets his certificate while the rest of the CERV team applauds. Welcome to the hobby of Amateur Radio!