

VE3 BK



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/>

In This Issue

June 15th Annual Meeting and Elections----- 1.
 Band Captains' Meet--- 1.
 American Call Signs---- 1
 Advanced Amateurs---- 2
 US Call Sign Map----- 2
 Minutes, May 18th-----3
 HARC Chairs ----- 3
 Important Points----- 4
 Morse Code Beats Cell Pone Text Messaging----4
 Membership Renewal-- 5
 HARC Executive----- 5
 Great Ride & Stride-----5
 HF Propagation-----5
 A Good Son-----5
 Pictures----- 6
 Dis & Dat ----- 7

Announcing the June 15th Annual Meeting and Elections

The Annual Meeting of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club will be held on June 15th, at 8:00 P.M. in the Hamilton District Christian High School. Elections for the Board of Directors for the coming Club year, Sept. 1st 2005 to Aug. 31 2006 will take place at the Annual Meeting. Paid up members in good standing are entitled to vote in person or vote by proxy provided written indication of proxy is deposited with the Secretary prior to voting, as provided in the Club Constitution. Nominations have been open since the May 18th meeting and will be open from the floor at the Annual Meeting until declared closed prior to the vote by the elections chairman, Joe Urbanski, VE3OCD.

At the time of publication the following candidates have been nominated:

- WALTER BAYLISS, VA3WWB
- BRIAN BOWIE, VA3BMB
- JOHN HUDAK, VE3CXB
- MIKE KREBS, VA3WXS
- EMSLEY MITCHELL, VE3JAI
- RON OUWEHAND, VA3OUW
- ROGER PIMM, VE3UFZ
- FRED ROBINSON, VE3GCP
- JOHN VANDENBURG, VE3DVV

Following the election, the new slate of Directors will meet to decide who will hold the offices of President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The decision

will be announced in the September Newsletter.

Field Day Band Captains' Meeting Before the Annual Meeting

As we have done in previous years persons interested in Field Day can come to this meeting for planning and information.

David Bruton, VE3DWJ, Field Day coordinator is holding a Band Captains' meeting one hour before the Annual Meeting - that is 7:00 P.M. in the same place as the Annual Meeting. All those who will be participating in Field Day are invited to attend. At this meeting we will be making final plans for Field Day, sorting out any issues regarding equipment, logging procedure, personnel, etc. Get your questions answered and help finalize plans for Field Day.

Interpreting American Call Signs

Information from the ARRL Amateur Radio Education & Technology Program.

The FCC gives out US call signs in several different types. You may get a call sign that is a "one by three." This is a letter followed by a number and then three more letters. An example of a Technician license is N1NAG. You may also get a call sign that is a "two

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.



Pictured above, L. to R.: Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, Ann Tekatch, VA3NOE, Wojtek Rusin, VA3WWR, and David Bruton, VE3DWJ. Missing from the photo is the late, Gerald M. Johnson, VA3GMJ, SK.

Wojtek (pronounced Voitek) assembled materials and studied, on his own, in the spring of 2004, to successfully obtain advanced certification. At the urging of Roger Ann and David, he agreed to help them study to earn their advanced certification as well. Thanks to Wojtek's excellent teaching, I am told, and a lot of hard work on the part of Roger, Ann and David, all candidates were successful in early 2005. Congratulations to our latest group of ADVANCED AMATEURS, and a very special thank you to Wojtek who made it all possible..Those smiles say it all. Good job well done!



PAC: KH

PR: KP4
VI: KP2 KG4

by three". An example of a Technician license is KBIDCO. The letters before the number are the call sign prefix. The letters after the number are the call sign suffix.

Extra class amateurs may have "two by two," "one by two," or "two by one" call signs. Examples of Extra class call signs are AAIGW, N1RL, and WR1B.

Once you have a call sign, you may keep it as long as you want to (unless your license expires or is revoked). Or you can change your call sign when you earn a higher license class.

The first letter of a US call will always be A, K, N or W. These letters are assigned to the United States as amateur call-sign prefixes. Other countries use other prefixes — LA2UA is a Norwegian call sign, and VU2HO is from India.

The number in a US call sign shows the district where the call was first issued. The map (on page 2) shows the 10 US call districts.

Amateurs may keep their calls when they move from one district to another. This means the number is not always a sign of where an amateur is. It tells only where he or she was living when the license was first issued. For example WB3IOS received her license in Pennsylvania, in the third call district, but she now lives in Connecticut, the first district.

Minutes of the May 18, 2005 General Meeting

Home Brew Night 2005

The meeting was opened by Mardy VE3QEE with the reading of an obituary and a moment of silence for Silent Key Gerald Johnson VA3GMJ. We are sure that Gerald would have appreciated that there were a good number of fellow HARC members that paid their last respects at the Funeral Home during visitation.

Present at the meeting were a number of new HAMS who received their license by attending BASIC

HARC 2004-2005 Chairs

Awards Chair

Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ
905-389-7653 va3nz@rac.ca

Contesting/Property Manager

Rick Danby VE3BK
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Education

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905-648-0187 meedson@cogeco.ca

Volunteer Examiners

Bernie Granby VA3XJ
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and
Lorraine MacPherson, VA3NZ
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Field Day

David Bruton VE3DWJ
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Flea Market

Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE,
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Health/Welfare

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ
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Hospitality

Bernie Granby VA3XJ
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and
Ilona Davidson VE3UGM

Membership/Web

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI
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Newsletter

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Public Liaison Co-Chair

Stanley Bolibruch VE3GFE
905-528-4002
Neil Galloway VE3VNG
905-383-6986

Repeater

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

Swap Net Control

Don Grisenthwaite, VE3DDQ,
905-388-1365 ve3ddq@cogeco.ca

classes provided for volunteers to

the CERV group. Lorraine McPherson VA3NZ introduced the new graduate HAMS. Thanks to Lorraine and Al McPherson there will be a total of 16 new HAMS in the Hamilton CERV group. CERV HAMS in attendance at this meeting were:

Patricia VA3HRM
Hans VA3HJJ
Bill VA3WLL
Lili VA3ABD

The Home Brew and Show and Tell session consisted of a number of interesting items. Casey VE3CVP had a miniature dummy load consisting of two 200 watt, 100 ohm resistors in parallel connected to a piece of 50 ohm coax and connector. The entire package was only about 1/2" X 1/2" X 2" in size. Mardy VE3QEE had a keyer that he built from scratch, in the process learning about circuit board etching. Kevin VE3HNG showed us two 2 meter antennas that he built from scratch for the purpose of field day use. Roger VE3UFZ had a show and tell for a remote automatic antenna tuner that he uses on his boat for Marine SSB and HAM. The same tuner is used at his home to tune a random length long wire antenna.

The judging by Lorraine and her assistant was very scrupulous, and the result was, drum roll..... Mardy VE3QEE winning with his home brew keyer. The keyer had a unique paddle which was in a fixed position, each side of the paddle consisting of a capacitive etch. Touching either side of the paddle changed the capacitance sufficiently enough to operate a solid state switch producing either a dot or a dash. Very interesting.

Business Meeting

Moved by Mardy VE3EE, seconded by Fred VE3GCP, that the minutes of the April meeting be adopted as published in the club bulletin. Passed.

Treasurers Report

Fred VE3GCP informed us that we are in good financial shape and will be able to finance all of the supplies and expenses associated with field day.

Education Report

Mardy VE3QEE reported that there

are still 3 in the Basic class who will write the test on the second Wednesday of June.

Health and Welfare

We were all sad to hear about the passing of Gerald Johnson VE3GMJ.

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

David Lock VE3DLK, a frequent participant at the Canadian Warplane Museum, is still in Hospital but made the effort to get a day pass and visit the Emergency Preparedness Exhibit.

Field Day

Field Day is on the 4th weekend in June, as usual. There is new bonus for youth operators under the age of 18. Twenty points, up to a maximum of 100 points may be awarded. A new rule for this year is that band switching of rigs during the contest will not be allowed. The club will be making a contribution to the Royal Botanical Gardens to compensate them for grounds maintenance, grass cutting, etc. Motion by Mary VE3OCD, seconded by Casey VE3DVV, that each participant and visitor at the site be asked to make a contribution to the cause of \$5, or whatever they can afford. It was voted unanimous.

New Business

Doug VE3NBL informed us that all HAMS, regardless of license qualification, can access HAM communications via WWW.echolink.org. This WEB site allows 2 way communications with HAMS all over the world via internet. A microphone and sound card are needed in your computer to work this facility.

Joe VE3OCD read the rules regarding nominations and election, requesting any nominations from the meeting. The following eight members were nominated:

Roger VE3UFZ, Fred VE3GCP, Ron VA3OUW, Walter VE3WWB, Brian VA3BMB, John VE3CXB, Emsley VE3JAI, John VE3DVV,

Nominations closed for this meeting. Nominations are open till the next meeting. Further nominations may be forwarded to Joe Urbanski,

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>

Nominations Chairman, at URBANSKI@HWCN.ORG.

Moved by Neil VE3VNG, seconded by Walter, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Morse Code Beats Cell-Phone Text Messaging

The following item appeared in the ARRL weekly e-mail bulletin, submitted by Mike Grenville on Thu, 05 May 2005 23:01

It seems that morse code is still faster at sending text messages than using txt speak. Even when the morse code sender is 93 years old and the SMS challengers were teenagers!

According to The Times, an Australian museum staged a contest that pitted the oldest type of electronic text messages with the newest.

Devised by Samuel Morse in 1832, the simple combination of dots and dashes was the mainstay of maritime communication up until 1997.

Not only was the technology a battle of ages, but so were the contestants. Tapping out the winning morse code message was 93-year-old telegraph operator Gordon Hill, who learnt to use the technique in 1927 when he joined the Australian Post Office.

He easily defeated his 13-year-old rival, Brittany Devlin, who was armed with a mobile phone and a rich vocabulary of text message shorthand. Mr Hill, whose messages were transcribed by another telegraph veteran, Jack Gibson, 82, then repeated the feat against three other children and teenagers with mobile phones.

In the competition, at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Mr Hill and his rivals were asked to transmit a line selected at random from an advertisement in a teenage magazine.

It read: "Hey, girlfriend, you can text all your best pals to tell them where you are going and what you are wearing."

While the telegraphist tapped out the line in full, to be deciphered by Mr Gibson, Miss Devlin employed text slang to save time. She keyed: "hey gf

u can txt ur best pals 2 tel them wot u r doing, where ur going and wot u r wearing."

Just 90 seconds after Mr Hill began transmitting, Mr Gibson announced that he had the message received and written down correctly. It took another 18 seconds for Miss Devlin's message to reach the mobile phone belonging to her friend. Mr Hill said that he was impressed by modern technology, even though his clunky telegraph machine emerged on top in three further contests. Want to brush up your Morse Code skills? This site claims to be able to teach you in just a minute!: www.learnmorsecode.com.

HF Propagation

by Mardy VE3QEE

This past week I had a few minutes to get on the air using a short G5RV Junior dipole. Contacts were made with Spain, Romania, the Russian Federation, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Porto Santo Island, (one of the Portugese Madeira Islands off the coast of Africa) and Florida. Not bad for being near the bottom of the Solar Cycle.

Renew your HARC Membership

Emsley, VE3JAI Membership chair.

This is a note informing members that the new club year will be starting on September 1st 2005. 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 21st. Please take a moment to join or renew your membership at this time. Membership dues help 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.

HARC 2004-2005 Executive

President

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE
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meedson@cogeco.ca

First Vice President

Michael Krebs VA3WXS
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Fred Robinson VE3GCP
575-5197
FredRobinson@MountainCable.net

Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV
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JVandenberg@mountaincable.net

Membership Chairman

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

Membership Renewal

Name (s):

Callsign (s):

Amount enclosed:

Send your renewal to:

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,
Box 91215 Effort Square P.O.
Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 4G4

Great Ride & Stride

This event took place on May 29th

Many thanks to those volunteers who took part in the Great Ride and Stride event. We had Radio Amateurs stationed along the entire route, to report on progress of the event and make calls for assistance. There were volunteers under almost every bridge and a pedestrian mobile unit. The weather was great, and there were few mishaps to report. Special thanks to Gerry Osborn, VE3JSO, net control for the day, Al and Lorraine MacPherson and the CERV group who swelled the ranks of volunteers. See the back page for pictures.

A Good Son

An old man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his potato garden but found it difficult as the ground was hard. His only son, Fred, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Fred:

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.

Love, Dad.

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Dad:

For heaven's sake, don't dig up that garden! That's where I buried the BODIES.

Love, Fred

At 4 am the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. At day-break they apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad:

Okay, you can plant the potatoes now. That was the best I could do from here.

Love, Fred



CERV team helping out with the Great Ride and Stride.



West end of the Linc. Cyclers resting at the turn-around.



CERV team getting ready for the action. Can I remember my call sign - and the call of Net Control?



Roger, VE3UFZ, Mardy, VE3QEE, and Mike, VA3WXS enjoying refreshments and a rest following the Great Ride & Stride.



Jack Gauthier, VE3JG, presenting Mardy, VE3QEE, with the Crawford Trophy, on Home Brew Night.



Italian Sandwich. Lorraine, VA3NZ, flanked by Commissioner of Emergency Management, Julian Fantino, and Mayor of Hamilton, Larry Di Ianni at the Emergency Preparedness day.

Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

Gerald Johnson, VA3GMJ, — SK —
Its sad to say goodbye to a familiar
face and the person.

Oh boy Its April 05 and
looking in my log I see NADA! No
qso's not even a CQ for 05. I better
turn on the rig and see how the
bands are. Its a Sunday and the
bands sound empty. I send out
some auto CQ's on my ancient
memory keyer anyay. Well well, I get
a nibble on 10.105megs. Its Billy in
Ala. I call him 559 and I'm 599 hmm
. Does he give everyone a 599 ? I
don't, unless its a genuine great sig I
use 559 a lot. If I ask for repeats on
his name QTH and sig report he
won't think I'm a nut case. I thought I
was tongue tied for a moment its
been 3 mos, but I got over it and
soon was in the swing again. Lets try
again and I got Wlad UA3GAF he's
559 and I'm 579, thats better maybe
thats a real report. He says he's in
Russia. Its 2000 Z. I've made
contacts with a great many
USSR hams named Vlad. After I logged
him I listened for awhile. He was
making a few contacts on 14.034
megs and continued to say his name
was Wlad. As I often do I said to
myself I think I'll go to QRZ acces
thru our website and see what his
name is. So QRZ said no record for
this call, but the site has been
accessed 70 odd times in the last 6
mos. Soooo thats that ; then I
rememrbered to try Buckmaster. So I
did and Buck said his name was Vlad
and he lives in Lipetsk, Russia. Now
where the heck is Lipetsk in Russia
and then it occured to me for that
matter where is Russia these days or
for that matter where was it ever. I
know its not in Latvia Estonia or
Lithuania. They were never a part of
Russia they were forced into the old
U.S.S.R.. Please don't write me or
Email to tell me where Russia is
today. Please don't take offense I
know these are touchy subjects to
some. I have a great many QSL cards
from the U.S.S.R. and I never did figure
how many countries I had, it was



always a quandry. In those bad old
days all cards had to go through the
ubiquitous box 88 in Moscow.
The people in the know said that was
so they could keep them for a year
or so before delivering them and by
that time any secret info would be
long out of date. If you think about it
most of our cards came and went
through the A.R.R.L. and they were a
couple of years old by the time we
got them so I guess we were just the
same.

You know, years ago, the principle at
Westadle High had Scott, (my
youngest), on the carpet for not
taking geography too seriously. Scott
responded, who needs to know
geography as he never intended to go
to any of those places.....". You
know, Scott never ate foreign foods.
He stuck with good Canadian food
like PIZZA.

OK getting back to CW. If
you pitted a couple of good CW ops
against a couple young text
messenger with their cells, can any of
you predict the winner for speed and
accuracy. Well a young woman in the
audience of The Jay Leno show was
asked and she said the cell phone ops
would win. The other night Jay put
just such a challenge on his show. I
won't say who won but you can get a
audio visual clip of the contest on the

WWW. Go to www.rac.ca . I saw
some of it but could not get the
thing to play. Maybe someone could
do this put it on a disc or floppy
and bring it out to the September
meeting. Don't forget your annual
dues to the club should be paid
shortly. Now is a good time.

Well I set out the other day
to work all the bands at least once.
I sat for about 2 hrs the other nite
on 160M. Nada not a peep. I then
tried a few other bands nada. Well I
thought it must be solar flares. To
check that I went to www.rac.ca
again and followed propagation
links. Well I couldn't understand the
lingo but they did mention Flares so
I guess that is what they were
saying. While talking to Mardy
VE3QEE and Roger VE3UFZ, later,
they confirmed there were solar
flares upsetting the appcart. Too
technical by a long shot. Someone
else asked me if my vertical was
operating as a 1/4 wave. gee.....I
didn't know. But it worked I will
show it to you sometime.

If you recognize
yourself in some of my comments
you're right. I hear a lot of things that
I think could be stated more simply
but I usually don't want to go head to
head on it .

As you see I favour
the KISS approach. Keep it simple and
I may remember it, and thats the
important thing, remembering it,
especially as we get older.

Got a new country
yesterday, Dante, TG9ADM, in
Guatemala. On QRZ his pic shows a
very young fellow. He was new to
CW and he got a lot of his Q sigs
mixed up but I got the idea OK. He
says if his QSL takes a while send him
an Email. Trouble is he did not put his
Email address on QRZ. Nice, but no, I
would not pay a buck and a half for
postage to confirm Guatemala. This
contact was on 14.0146 at 2346Z.
Sigs weren't too bad so I guess the
old solar cycle is not dead yet.

FLASH STOP . I just went
looking for the site Jay Leno's clip
was on and they have wiped it....sorry
about that. I guess I better tell you
the CW team won!!!!