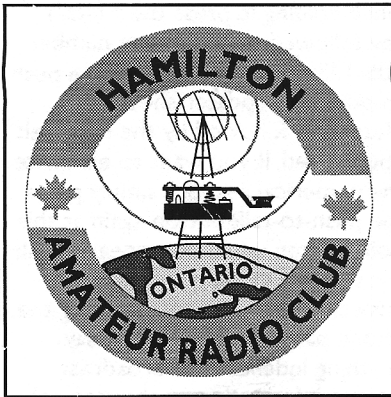


VE3BK



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.hwcn.org/link/harc/>

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A Short Bio of VE3UFZ

At our last Executive Meeting, Mardy VE3QEE asked me if I would be interested in submitting a short biography for the club newsletter. I haven't put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) in earnest since retirement so this could be a fairly daunting task.

Well, it all started on a cold snowy evening in Goose Bay Labrador, December 1941.

My father had been posted in Vancouver at the outset of war to teach code and maintain a new type of radio direction finding device (RADAR). In the summer 1941 he was posted to Goose Bay Labrador. That resulted in an arduous cross Canada train trip to Ottawa for my Mom and brother. At the end of a two week train trip my Dad settled the family into wartime housing in downtown Ottawa and then jumped a flight to Goose Bay. I was told that air transport in wartime was nothing like what we know today as air travel. Sitting in the cargo portion of a Dakota in sub-zero temperatures is no picnic. To keep him warm during the trip he carried a bottle of Haig & Haig Scotch to sip. Sadly, the ride was really turbulent and the bottle took a short violent ride from his seat to a bulkhead (his duffle bag smelled of scotch for weeks after). So what does the cold snowy evening in Goose Bay Labrador have to do with anything? Well, after getting settled in to his new duties my Dad received orders that he was to take a pre-Christmas leave, and be prepared to spend a very long time back in "Goose" after the leave.

That was December 1941, and on August 8, 1942 Roger Harry Pimm came into the world at Ottawa Municipal Hospital (do the math). My Mom tells me that I was born on the same day, in the same ward as the present Queen of Holland. The then Queen of Holland had given birth to her daughter in a standard Ward and

had tulips delivered to every mother on that Ward. Tulips were also given to the City of Ottawa by the Royal Family of Holland and those Tulips are a national treasure to this day.

So that is where my journey began; on that cold snowy evening in "Goose". My Dad with a twinkle in his eye climbing into the freezing cargo hold of another tired Dakota. This time he was heading back to Ottawa.

My Dad was a HAM before the war. His call sign was VE3TAP, the suffix were his initials, Thomas Alfred Pimm. During the war he picked up the nickname "TAPS" because he taught morse code to pilots and radio operators. I was told recently that Goose Bay qualified my Dad to get an overseas medal. When he passed away I searched everywhere in his possessions but couldn't find one. I wonder if he was overlooked

Shortly after I was born, my Mother moved my brother and baby Roger back to Hamilton to be with family. We lived on Strathearn Ave. until my Dad returned from "Goose" at the end of the war. We then moved up to East 5th street on the "mountain". Dad proceeded to jack up and build a foundation for our small bungalow. This involved hand digging and wheelbarrows. Would anyone do that today? It turned out that the basement he built would be as much my schoolroom as the one I attended at Queensdale Public School. In that dark spooky basement I learned to wind coils, solder, cut tube socket holes in home made chassis, operate a scroll saw, build kites and shovel

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.

UP TOWER
ALL BALUN
160m 1/2 wave SLOPER
62'

1/4 = 130

coal into a very hungry furnace. I was too young to understand electronics, but I did understand that my Dad was building radios and using them to send and receive code from buddies all over the world. Even today I can close my eyes and hear the sound of chirping CW accompanied with the smell the Players "roll your own" tobacco. I started to build a Super Heterodyne Receiver when I was in grade 7. The project was in one of my Dads Amateur Radio Handbooks. I don't know the year, but every time I see a 50's vintage handbook, I flip through the pages to see if I could find the circuit. That project stayed with me right through high school, university and the start of my career with Bell Canada. I actually managed to finish it when I was working in Montreal in 1967. It took the help of a HAM in Montreal who was the curator of the Bell Museum in the Bell headquarters, Beaver Hall. I don't remember his call sign, but his name was Lance McAteer. If any of you reading this ramble knew Lance, I would really appreciate knowing his call sign.

It's unfortunate that I didn't get my ticket until I retired in 1994. My Dad never saw his Son get his ticket before he passed away. School, University and career got in the way. Most of my Dads equipment, books and parts were lost in flooding, along with my radio project.

Well, that is enough eclectic stuff for now.

I would like to welcome all of my fellow HARC members back to the club. This is my first experience as President of a club since University, so you will have to bear with me as I bumble along this year. I look forward to seeing all of you at our regular meetings. Let's work together and have some fun in the process. May I issue a challenge to each of you who enjoy radio; to bring a friend, family member, high-school student or someone you work with to one of our meetings? Who knows, maybe we can boost our

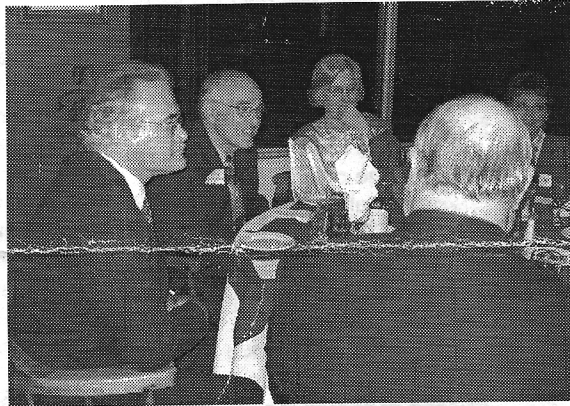
membership and interest in HAM radio this year.

73 - Roger VE3UFZ

Christmas Party

Announcement from Fred, VE3GCP

Here are the Christmas Party details for the newsletter. The Christmas Party is booked for WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14th at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. Reception and social hour at 6:00 and dinner served at 7:00. The price is \$30 per person. Tickets will be available soon. Note: this is the second Wednesday in December. Please mark your calendar and indicate to one of the executive your plans for attending.



Information Package for New Members

Vice President, John Hudak, VE3CXB, is putting together a package of information about the Club intended for new members. At this time the package is a work in progress. A portion of the package is presented here for your comments and suggested revisions.

The repeater has a telephone patch so you can make a local phone call from your mobile or handheld transceiver. Using the phone patch is easy. Listen first, to make sure the repeater is not being used. If the frequency is clear, identify and announce your intentions: "This is VE3XYZ, for the phone patch." Listen to see if anyone objects to your intentions. If nobody does, press and hold the push-to-talk button, and

while holding it, press the * (star) key, followed by the phone number 905-123-4567, then release the push-to-talk. The repeater should say "Autodial" followed by the numerals you pushed. If you want to eliminate the numerical readout simply press the push-to-talk button again at this point. Listen while the repeater dials the number. When your party answers, tell them you are using the phone patch, (so they won't say anything indelicate or broadcast private information to the masses). When your conversation is over say, "This is VE3XYZ, clearing the patch", then press the push-to-talk key while you press the # key. After the whole process is concluded, you may identify and say you are clearing the frequency, "This is VE3XYZ clearing the frequency."

You should test this process several times before trying a real call. To test without transmitting, put a dummy load in place of your antenna. To test while making an actual connection, call your home phone number. When you are just testing, identify like this, "This is VE3XYZ testing the phone patch".

If you are far away from the repeater in an area with "marginal" coverage, and can't get your tones to activate the patch, ask on the air if anyone monitoring the station could assist by opening the patch for you. This is common practice.

On many transceivers you can program telephone numbers to dial automatically. If your transceiver has this feature, program all of the numbers together including the star to activate the phone patch, like this, *9051234567. Using phone numbers that are stored on your transceiver saves a lot of effort when you are making calls.

If you are a member of the Club, you can ask the repeater chairman, John Vandenberg, VE3DVV, for an autodial number which is accessed by pressing two digits after the star. An autodial number can be used to access a phone number stored on the

controller. For example, if you had an autodial number set up to dial your home phone, you could simply press a number like *47, to make the autopatch dial your home phone.

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club maintains the telephone patch as an open access service available to any radio amateur within reach of our repeater. It is a service you should be able to use, so please try it out, and practice using the service regularly. Please offer to assist others who may be having difficulty making a local call.

Minutes of the General Meeting Sep. 21st, 2005

by Secretary, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

President, Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, opened the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Guest Speaker.

Roger introduced Rick Danby, VE3BK, speaking to us about QSL cards. Rick explained that many of our newer members, and holders of the Basic Licence who have recently been granted HF privileges, have not had experience filling out and sending QSL cards. Rick brought a number of unanswered QSL cards received by the Contest Group from all over the world, and distributed these to illustrate his talk. Rick explained the grid locator system, and the information on the card relating to 24-hour UTC time, transmission mode, RST signal reporting, frequency and band, call-sign of the station making the contact and/or the call-sign of the operator. He also pointed out that some cards stipulate responses should be sent to a QSL manager, not the station indicated on the card. Many cards have a check box to select TNX (thanks for the contact) or PSE QSL, (please send a QSL). And, we noted that some cards are received direct, by surface mail, while others come via the QSL Bureau. In short, you need to read the card carefully in order to respond. We were introduced to the cards VE3DC uses to answer QSL requests. Rick walked us through the

HARC 2005-2006 Chairs

Awards Chair

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Neil Galloway VE3VNG
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Repeater

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procedure for filling out a card, and we got the opportunity to actually respond to those cards we had selected from the samples Rick distributed.

Business Meeting.

Order of the Gavel. Lorraine, VA3NZ, was called upon to present the Order of the Gavel award to Mardy, VE3QEE, who served as President in 2004-05. The Club gavel was then passed to Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, our President for 2005-06.

ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Lorraine reported that the ARES organization is alive and well in the Hamilton area and looking forward to an exciting year. She explained that a new ARES co-ordinator has been appointed by RAC and that coordinator is Gerry Osborn, VE3JSO. Lorraine was asked by ARES to act as liaison with our Club. In that capacity, Lorraine welcomed Gerry, who has renewed his HARC membership, and asked him to bring us news from ARES.

Gerry is in the process of organizing a local ARES group. He will come to a future meeting to give us more details and sign volunteers who are able to make a commitment. Participation will not be hard work, but plans are to have a group meet regularly, perhaps once a month, in a conference room provided by Dofasco. Gerry has lined up speakers to talk about emergency communications, and ARES. There is a web page under construction to showcase the Hamilton ARES group. Incidentally ARES is a separate entity, not affiliated with any club. Individuals can volunteer service without being a HAM. Presently volunteers are being recruited from the CERV participants, but Gerry needs experienced HAMs and he will be back to ask for help from members of HARC. In the meantime, if anyone wants to contact Gerry his e-mail is <ve3js@rac.ca>

Awards. Lorraine has been giving out awards for more than ten years. In order to take on new commitments she is interested in reducing others. Lorraine has all the awards information and could turn that over

to anyone who would like to take on this job. Casey, VE3CVP, volunteered to be Awards Chairman.

Minutes. The minutes of the June 15th Annual Meeting, were accepted as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report. Fred took a moment to thank Joe, VE3OCD, and Mary, VE3OGQ, Urbanski for the fine job they did running the Hospitality station at Field Day. Fred gave a summary of the current financial state and stressed the importance of getting membership renewals in at this time. The report, moved by Fred, VE3GCP, seconded by Mike, VA3WXS, was adopted.

Secretary's Report. Mardy read off the frequencies where hurricane traffic can be heard. Amateurs may monitor these frequencies but they are asked to avoid transmitting near these frequencies (within 5 KHz) particularly at contest time. Here is a list: West Gulf ARES Emergency Net is active on 7.285 MHz days and 3.873 MHz nights. Health and Welfare traffic can be heard on 7.290 MHz days and 3.935 MHz nights. Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network, (SATERN) is active on 14.265 MHz and 7.265 MHz as needed.

Mardy read a thank you from the Canadian Cancer Society for the volunteer work done by HAM radio operators who helped out with the Great Ride and Stride for Cancer on the Linc. We had Mobile Stations under bridges along the route and a net control station in the Police Command Vehicle at Limeridge Mall. This year's event raised \$128,000. Thanks to those who participated and to the sponsors of VE3NCF the net control station.

Membership. Emsley, VE3JAI, reported that 39 members have renewed at this time. Their membership cards can be picked up at the October meeting. Also the names of paid-up members will be put in the early renewal incentive draw conducted at the next meeting. Roger, VE3UFZ, called upon members to help us expand our membership, particularly among younger people, by asking a friend to attend a meeting or event..

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 >

Education. At present there is a basic course of 4 students, running from September to December, and another scheduled for January to May. There is no advanced course currently offered, but if we find a

person to facilitate an advanced study group there have been several requests for a course and we have a location where classes can be held.

Health and Welfare. Mary, VE3OGQ, reported that Lorraine, VA3NZ, had spent some time in the hospital and has done very well, and we are happy to see her back tonight. Also, Rick has been ill but he has been making a good recovery and we are very happy to see him back tonight.

A sympathy card was sent to the wife of the late George Clark, VE3QD. George was the cousin of Don, VE3DDQ, and got Don interested in Amateur Radio. George was an active Field Day operator in the late 50s and early 60s, and he served as Club President. Stan, VE3GFE, visited at the funeral home and sent an SK report to RAC.

Contest Group. Rick, VE3BK, reported that a good time was had by all participants at the Canada Day contest. We could have used more operators but we did put on a full effort with with the people who were there and we had a radio on each band.

Coming up at the end of October is the CQ World-Wide DX contest. The phone contest is October 29th and 30th. It is a 48 hour contest starting on Friday Oct 28th at 8:00 PM (local) and runs for 48 hours. That weekend we put our clocks back so we are actually finished on Sunday Oct. 30th at 7:00 PM. The object is to work as many countries and zones of the world as possible. This contest is fun. There are antennas that really work at the contest site, and using the amplifiers we run, you can really reach out and get DX. You'll be working countries like Syria, or Korea, or South Africa. This is your chance to do some serious operating. Get out, join the group, and have some fun. Talk to Rick, VE3BK, contest chairman. (See list of chairs elsewhere in the newsletter for Rick's phone number.)

If you want information about this contest go to the web site at <www.cq_amateur_radio.com>.

Warplane Heritage Museum - VA3CWM Station. Doug, VE3NBL, and Frank, VA3FWL, commented on recent events at the Warplane Heritage Museum which include the acquisition of two new aircraft. A 727 cargo jet was donated by FedEx and flown to Mount Hope with 7000 lbs of fuel still on board. The plane was decommissioned on the runway at the airport. Also, a Tudor jet was brought in from Mountainview in pieces, and assembled for display.

Operators at the VA3HWM station are on 3.755 MHz, Thursdays between 3:00 and 4:00 PM operating as net control for the ONTARS Net. Regarding hurricane traffic, Doug recommended listeners tune to 14.325 for hurricane information. This frequency is like a central clearing house telling operators where to tune for specific types of traffic related to the emergency.

Doug also reported that the museum curator would like to build a prisoner of war room and show, as part of the display, a "Foxhole Radio" like the kind prisoners built from available materials. There are articles on the internet about "Foxhole Radios", and Doug thought it would be a great project for our members to put one together and display it at the Warplane Heritage Museum.

Repeater: John is traveling to Abbotsford BC right now and won't back before the end of the month. We'll hear a report at a future meeting.

Flea Market. Mardy, VE3QEE, reported that Fred, VE3GCP, will be organizing the Security detail. David, VE3DWJ, will be organizing the Parking detail. Danielle Coffey and her Pathfinder group will be providing refreshments. Rick, VE3BK, will supervise setup and cleanup volunteers. Mardy, VE3QEE, Don, VE3EIR, and Frank, VA3FWL, will work the Vendor Door from 7:00 AM until 9:00 AM. Emsley, VE3JAI, and the talk-in on 146.76 + VE3NCF. Members are asked to sign up in one or more of these areas.

Christmas Party. Fred, VE3GCP, polled members about the date of the

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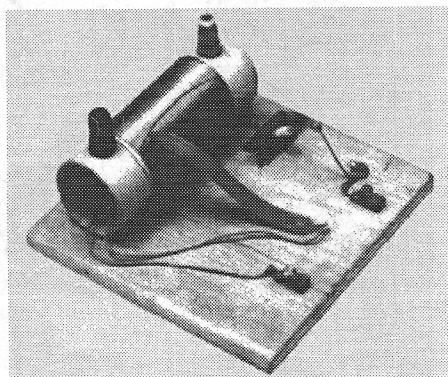
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The picture shows a sample foxhole radio from an article on the internet. For more information go to GOOGLE and type in "foxhole radio".

Christmas Party. After discussion the group consensus was that the party should be on Wednesday December 14th, the second Wednesday of the

month. The question arose about having the dinner at some location other than the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. Two locations were suggested previously, the Warplane Heritage Museum, and Dundurn Castle. While there are no objections to changing the venue, the time now is too short to explore alternatives. For a successful party we have to book the room and announce the date early enough for members to plan their own attendance. The Yacht Club has a nice ambiance. The price is reasonable. The service and food are good. For those reasons it is felt that we should stick with the Yacht Club this year, but we could explore alternatives for next year. A group should do that now and report back to the Club. Mike, VA3WXS, moved that Frank, VA3FWL, and Doug, VE3NBL, look into having the Christmas Party at the Warplane Heritage Museum in 2006, and report back at a future meeting, with details like cost, menu, what the facilities are like, etc. as an alternative to the present location. Motion was voted on and carried.

Announcement. Roger announced that Murray Thompson, VE3ZPV, has a tower for sale. If you are interested give him a call.

Historic Note. Gord Barber, VE3AAH, who has been a HAM since April 1, 1932, the same year our Club was founded, used to live in Toronto, and was a member of the VHF association. They used to give an award for working 2 meter stations. One award was for working 50 stations and another for working 100 stations. Gord showed his 50 station award dated 1962. Gord's observation is that 2 meters is not the same as he recalls. He seldom hears anyone calling CQ and only hears the occasional conversation. Could it be that time spent on two meters is down because more time is being spent on competing technologies, like the internet and cellular telephones?

Adjournment. 10:03 PM.

Contest Scene

Rick, VE3BK, sends word that the contest group is planning to operate in the CQ Magazine sponsored World Wide DX contest for single sideband. (DX means long distance). Here are the details.

Hi Everyone, We will be running the CQWWDX contest for SSB at least. The contest is 48hrs long starting local time on Friday 0:00 Z October 28, which is 8pm local, until Sunday October 30 24:00 Z which works out to 7pm local, because we set the clocks back on Sunday. This is the contest where we have loads of fun working DX. I was thinking of running Multi Operator 2 Station, which gives us 2 radios to work on any band we want, as long as both stations are not on the same band. That way we are not overextended, and can have fun with the DX. Everyone gets a chance to operate. Soooo, let me know if you can make it or if you want to provide a radio and or a computer. If there are enough operators to run more stations, we could enter the Multi Operator Multi Station category for fun.

We have some new antennas to put up at the site and some work that could be done, but as far as this contest goes, we can do very little and still have enough antennas to do the job. Sooo, this is really the start of the new contest season. Hope we see some of you newer fellows (and gals) come out and have fun working DX. This is the contest where everyone in the world is on the air looking for contacts. The objective is to work as many zones as possible. Let me know if you are interested. This will be another one of those fun contests. I am certainly looking forward to it after basically being grounded all summer hi hi. If you send me an e-mail I can send the contest rules, or a link to the contest web site. If you have never contested before, coming out to work with the group is a good way to see how its done, and make a few contacts using in a friendly environment.

Rick's contact information is given in the sidebar listing HARC Chairs for 2005-6.

Croc Shock

Wednesday, September 21, 2005 9:56 AM. This crocodile was found in New Orleans swimming down the street. 21 FT long, 4,500 lbs, around 80 years old minimum. Specialists said that he was looking to eat humans because he was too old to catch animals. This crocodile was killed by the army last Sunday at 3:00 pm, currently he is in the freezer at the Azur hotel. The contents of it's stomach will be analyzed this Friday at 2:30pm. sent in by Roger, VE3UFZ

