

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

## In This Issue

- President's Message---- 1.
- November Speaker---- 1.
- A New Feature----- 2.
- HARC Chairs----- 2.
- Dis & Dat ----- 3.
- Minutes GM Oct. 19th 3
- Important Points ----- 4
- Member of the Month: 5
- H.A.R.C. Executive-----6
- Christmas Partyt----- 7
- RAC Winter Contest-- 7
- Little Known Facts-----7
- Pictorial----- 8

## The Seasons Turn, Turn, Turn...

by president, Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ

Well another sailing season ends and the radio season begins in earnest. As some of you already know Monika and I are avid sailors. Our daughter

# The Hamilton Amateur

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

Kathryn is also becoming an avid sailor and each year learns more about the routine of setting anchors, trimming sails and using the time on long passages to entertain herself. Our plan for next year was to head south again on an extended tour of the Bahamas and Exuma Islands. That plan has now been put on hold for 5 years as a result of my partner's new 5 year business plan. I have already had a productive career and have been retired for 11 years so I suppose I can cope with another 5 years of anticipation. The problem is that once you have been "down there" it is difficult to get the images out of your head – white sand, palm trees, rum punch, fresh fish... oh well, all good things come to those who wait. Next summer we will sail Paw Prince up to Georgian Bay and spend a few weeks in the North Channel. We have been told that the North Channel is one of the best kept secrets that sailors share only after a good number of libations.

This past summer we went to the Thousand Islands. We were there for a total of 6 weeks and enjoyed every day – rain or shine. The trip down was uneventful, but on the trip back we encountered squalls and truly foul weather. As we were leaving Presquile Bay we encountered 2 meter seas and 40 knot winds. Fortunately the seas and wind were on our stern so we had quite an exciting roller coaster ride. I swear I would rather be out on the Atlantic in 40 knot winds than on Lake Ontario. There is something about our Great Lakes that makes weather more difficult for sailors to handle.

We had a couple of experiences where Cell Phone service was unavailable, but Marine VHF still worked. Cell Phone providers still have a way to go in providing coverage on Lake Ontario. For that matter, the Coast Guard Service and the Marine Weather Service have some room for improvement as well. There were at least two areas on Lake Ontario and one on the St. Lawrence River where the signal was so weak it should be considered unserviceable. It is interesting that my 2 meter rig was able to pull in the Coast Guard and Weather service better than my "type approved" marine VHF.

Well Paw Prince is now out of the water and "on the hard". All that is left to do is winterize to engine and shrink wrap the hull. Maybe I will be able to find some time this winter to do some fixing and repairing instead of waiting till spring.

My wish is that I can follow in the steps of previous club presidents and add something to the club history – other than a name on a plaque. Your executive has some really interesting speakers lined up for the winter and we will be trying out some new ideas to maybe make more informative meetings.

## November Guest Presentation

by president, Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ

The topic for our November guest presentation is Amateur Astronomy.

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

Guest speaker, Andrew Blanchard, is a man of many achievements and interests. I first met Andrew (Andy) the year I retired from Bell Canada after 30 years service. Andy had a small financial planning business in downtown Oakville. Since I am financially illiterate I was in real need of advice on how to handle retirement, pension and settlement payments from my employer. Andrew was introduced to me through a trusted friend, and after listening to what could be done with my meager assets I liked the business so much, I ended up courting and marrying his partner, Monika.

Andy has many interests other than financial planning: aeronautics, hiking the Bruce Trail, sailing, and astronomy to name a few. As well as these activities he has managed to finish his Executive MBA studies. I truly don't know where he finds the time to indulge in these rewarding pastimes and at the same time get himself involved in public service activities such as the "Make a Wish" foundation. His involvement in the latter involved a sponsored safari to Kenya to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. That event resulted in a significant contribution to the wish fund. If there is time at our meeting, Andy may have some pictures to show us of this "extreme" event.

I for one am looking forward to hearing his presentation.

## New T.H.A. Feature: Member Of The Month

*Here is an explanation of a new feature for the newsletter, a feature that began in the last issue. John Hudak, VE3CXB, who came up with the idea, explains it in this issue and illustrates it by sending his own biography which appears later on page 5. -ed.*

During one of our past executive meetings I was throwing out some ideas. Now to be fair, most of these ideas are ones that I have "borrowed" from other clubs that I belong to. This particular scheme is an attempt to get some additional copy for the

### HARC 2005-2006 Chairs

*Cathy VE3CUP*

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The idea is to have one club member submit a mini-biography each month to be printed in "The Hamilton Amateur". Last month our president, Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, started the ball rolling. And if I do say so he did an admirable job. Thanks Roger. Now don't get scared. We're not asking for a writeup worthy of a Pulitzer Prize. All we need is a few paragraphs on who you are, some background (unless you're trying to keep a low profile from the law - Hi, Hi!), your career in ham radio, what your ham radio interests are, what other hobbies you might have.

Far too often in a club members remain unknown to each other. I've seen this in many clubs I've belonged to, and I've belonged to a lot of clubs over the years. If we know a little bit more about each other then maybe we'll find that we have a common interest that we didn't know about. Sure we are all interested in ham radio, but did you know that for some odd reason there seems to be a lot of hams that are also interested in astronomy, photography and model railroading? I don't know why that is, but someone, somewhere figured that one out. The point is that by having a short bio we might find that we have another common interest, whatever it might be, with another member or members of the club. This would give folks another topic to talk about on the air. After all, isn't the purpose of ham radio to communicate and share with others our interests? Also you might discover that there are other hobbies that dovetail in with amateur radio.

It would be great if we could have people volunteering their bios. However we may have to (gasp!) ask you for your bio. As I said, it doesn't have to be anything fancy. If you are unable to write something out yourself we could "interview" you and then write up your bio for you. Trust me - really, it doesn't hurt. If, for example, there are 50 members in the club this would supply enough material for 5 years.

So, don't be shy. Step up and give us your bio. The first several will be bios of the exec members, just to show you that it doesn't hurt.

club's newsletter, and to increase the interaction of club members.

# Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

Last month as you know I travelled the ETR from its start near Burlington as far as the 400 highway. This month the bill finally came. It was not itemized, just said you owe us \$28.75. Hmm ! That used to be a half hour or so trip down to the 400. It still takes about the same only maybe less stressful on the ETR. I'll have to give it some thought for the next time. I could have bought about 25 L of gas for that amount I think!.

Now for things amateuristic. I finally set up my station and went back on HF. We are near the absolute pits of the solar cycle. Worse than that every time I fire up my 745 it seems we are suffering another insufferable solar flare. Nada on any antenna and any band. However every once in a while a few DX stations rise up out of the band noise. I worked Scotland on one of these occasions. (GM3CIX I was 449 and I gave him a 559. When I give a 599 that means you may be 599 now but maybe its too good to be true so you may drop out and maybe I will have to ask for repeats on your report. I lie I see I gave WD9AWW in IN.USA a 599 so there you go. I've noticed Amerk ops have a bad habit of sending meaningless dahs and dits after a thought instead of double dash which I use myself and I recognize. This other stuff throws me completely and I miss the next couple of words. I guess I'm out of practice. In the mean time I have been having fun tuning up my wire antenna to one of the bands covered by my beam and then switching back and forth. Usually the beam really out performs the dipole by a mile. Lately however the beam does not sound that much better. I guess a report from the other end would be more definitive. Of course the feedline is only 50 yrs old that might explain it. Age probably makes the difference and Oh Boy some mornings I really feel that. I've had to let my dipole down on the west arm. My next door neighbor....read absentee landlord ( who turned out to be a nice guy ) has decided to take down the pine tree that has been strangling my

beam and tower for years. I figure putting the dipole down on the ground under controlled lowering may save it from total destruction. Pray for my beam as I can't lower it so easily.

I still can't use the wire dipole as I wait for the tree guy to come. The best part of this "Dis & Dat" got gobbled up by my PC. It's a real problem. Every time I save I tremble in my boots as the computer asks me do you want to revert to the saved version?. The right answer is no, but every so often I get confused and the monster wipes out all or some part of my work. It's baffling.

I got to go to the H.A.R.C. fleamarket and hamfest this year. I along with Bill SWL watched the side door to keep some order among people going in and out. It was good to see the Ham dealers out in full force. I hope they had a good day, so they will be back next year. I saw lots of old friends there. Bob VE3CIB was there still with the jokes and ready smile. Vic VE3HPD was another. One of Mardy's students was there Patrick Maille along with his family They sound very excited about Ham radio. They showed me a CW program on their Palm Pilot. It's a neat trick And a far cry from our Air Cadet instructors telling us to sound out the words from the billboards in dits and dshs as we rode to school on the old beltline street car. Let me see that was probably 1943. There was a war going on. Yes some people are still intrigued by CW.

On the weekend I saw another neat trick. A friend demo'd an Ipod connected to an FM transmitter about the size of his thumb, to his AM-FM car radio. He had enough music in it to play steady for 23 days without repeating. He had it all catalogued by artist. Genre, song title.....you get the idea. Half of the memory was reserved for downloading pics from his camera so he can takes thousands of them while he is on his vacation. We didn't have time to try it out on my Bosch system in the van. We could have blown our ears away.

Backing up a little about VE3CIB. He told me his certificate of membership bore the number one. I don't know when we started doing certificates and numbering them. I took my certificate down off the wall .The date on it was January 26, 1976 and it was number 281. Certainly Bob was a member when I joined as also was Fred VE3GCP. Anyway it's a long time ago. Do we still issue certificates and do we number them? I hope we do. Anybody know?

Well dis is it about dat for another month, Mardy tells me its deadline time NOW! ...So dats all foks... de.....bernie.VE3EKY

## Minutes of the General Meeting for October 19th, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 PM.

Guest Speaker. Roger introduced Reg Bagshaw, VE3BQQ, co-founder and net control for the Tech Net. Reg referred us to the Tech Net website at <[www.hamtechnet.com](http://www.hamtechnet.com)>. The Tech Net began in Burlington 195 weeks ago, a little under four years. It began as a technical discussion among a few people talking on 146.550 on Friday night. Since then it has grown in number of participants, and the size of the area covered. What began as few local stations contacting one another on a simplex frequency is now a network of linked systems extending in range across southern Ontario and beyond and incorporating simplex frequencies, cross links, repeater systems, echo link, and IRLP. The net starts at 8:00 PM on Friday night and goes until it finishes. On the 100th week of the net they had 100 check-ins. Reg's goal for the 200th edition is to have 200 check-ins. They are close to that now. On air, the original technical discussion format has given way to a check-in format because of the numbers and extent of the system. Five weeks ago, a Tuesday night edition began, with a smaller area of coverage and a return to the discussion format. Right now the

discussion is focusing on topics related to the Advanced Course material.

The group became involved in public service recently, when some of the regulars volunteered to help a family burned out of their home. Radio operators provided security and communication, as well as organization for holding a flea market and street dance, not to mention advertising on the tech net web site. The Tech Net also gathers for social events. Recently they had a tour and Reg asked Paul Selvey, VE3XPS, to describe the day's events. Paul reported that they went to see Bob, VE3XKB, who makes his own antennas. He explained the setup, and what was on the towers. After that the group went for breakfast. Then they went to Westover where another HAM, Bob, VE3RKK, has wind generators and solar cells for power. He uses power for heating and water heating. And to top things off, he let the group tour his well equipped radio room.

To find out more about the Tech Net, visit their web site, and check in with them on Friday evenings. Roger thanked Reg on behalf of the club for a very interesting and well received presentation.

**ARES.** Roger introduced Gerry Osborn, VE3JSO, who is the ARES coordinator for the Hamilton Area to say a few words about the recent emergency preparedness exercise. Gerry explained the City of Hamilton conducts an emergency preparedness exercise once a year and it took place last Wednesday, Oct 12th. Lorraine VANZ, and Bill VA3YR, were called to City Hall where, in the Council Chamber, they acted as liaison with the HAM radio operators. Lorraine had a link with AI, VA3AM, and AI communicated with Gerry by packet all the detailed information given out as part of the exercise. Gerry called out a number of HAM operators including Mike VA3WXS, at VE3SEE, the CNIB station, and Stan VE3GFE. Gerry had twenty-seven HAM operator check-ins and three C.E.R.V. HAM operator check-ins, for a total of thirty, not including Lorraine, Bill and Gerry. The

## 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 >

government observer from Emergency Management Services was very impressed with the support radio the amateurs were able to demonstrate. Gerry said he "really appreciated everyone who checked

in, it made us look good, and we impressed the powers that be".

Gerry announced that he brought some sign-up sheets for ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). The ARES group has an official meeting place at Dofasco and there will be monthly meetings. Already a number of speakers have been arranged including the police, C.E.R.V., and local industry reps. Members were invited to sign up at the coffee break.

Coffee and Refreshments were served at 8:54 PM.

**Business Meeting.** The business meeting was called to order at 9:19 PM.

**Secretary's Report.** Mardy called for acceptance of the September minutes as published in the newsletter. Two errors were noted. The call-sign for the Warplane Heritage station is VA3CWM. Also Rick Danby's e-mail address will be updated in the November newsletter. With these changes the minutes were accepted.

**Membership Report.** Since Emsley is away Fred gave a brief report. At the time of the flea market we had 41 renewals processed and more money has come in since then. Fred distributed processed membership cards and receipts prepared by Emsley before he left on vacation. The early renewal incentive draw was conducted to see which of the 39 people who renewed before the deadline at the end of the September meeting would win a free membership for the Club year 2006-2007. Mike drew from the envelope of names prepared by Emsley. The winner was Stojan Petrovic, VE3SNC, Steve. Mardy will look after seeing that Steve gets the news.

**Repeater.** Since John is away Fred gave a brief repeater report. You may recall the repeater announcing that the battery was overcharged. Fred and Don Graziano investigated and found that a 30 year old device that switches the backup battery in and out had failed. The switching device has been removed for repair and the

repeater is not operating on backup power at the present time.

**Treasurer.** Shirts. Fred drew out attention to the club shirt which he was wearing. We still have some of those shirts available for \$28.00. If you would like to look good wearing a club shirt please see Fred or Ron while supplies last.

**Flea Market.** Fred called for a round of applause for the Flea Market Manager, Mardy Eedson, and reported that financially we did at least as well this year as we did last year. We had slightly fewer patrons this year, we had a few more vendors, and we have cut expenses slightly without affecting service. Mardy joined Fred in thanking the members and reported that in this flea market there are so many people pulling their weight and doing numerous jobs that the whole event took place smoothly. We had more help this year than we had last year. People knew what to do because they had done things before and it went so smoothly. We had lots of eyes keeping watch for security. Vendors reported they were able to get in quick and get out quick and they had no hassles. They had lots of space to set up their displays. Thanks to the efforts of all of us who helped, we have a lot of pleased people out there. And that means we generated some good will that can help us toward success in our efforts next year.

**Insurance.** Fred was pleased to report that we have negotiated insurance coverage with a different underwriter and reduced our costs to approximately 60% of what we had been paying for essentially the same coverage. We have also arranged for the insurance to become due at a later date in the year to improve our cash flow requirements.

**Education.** Mardy reported that the Basic course continues with 4 students. A basic course is scheduled to begin in mid January. We have candidates interested in an advanced course but we have no teacher at the present time. The group was introduced to N8TDD, (Nancy ate two dozen donuts), Mike Hewitt, who

is planning to study for the Advanced course on his own.

**Health and Welfare.** Mary reported reading the obituary of Ronald Shepherd, VE3RZF SK. Ron was a past member of the Club but had not been active in recent years. John Kassay knew him for many years from the Hamilton Police Service. A sympathy card has been sent to his wife Darleen.

**Contest Group.** Rick, VE3BK, reminded us about the CQ Magazine sponsored World Wide contest coming up the weekend of October 28-30. The station at VE3DC will be running 2 radios, covering all bands, using whichever two bands are open at the time, phone operation. We need a supply of operators who can each take a portion of the 48 hour contest schedule. If you can help out contact Rick by telephone or e-mail. His information is in the sidebar. This is a great way to get some training in the company of experienced operators. The atmosphere at the contest site is fun, **not** competitive. You will contact countries you have not contacted before, and use bands you can't get on at home. Ask anyone who has done it. It is a great way to get your feet wet, and get to know members of the club.

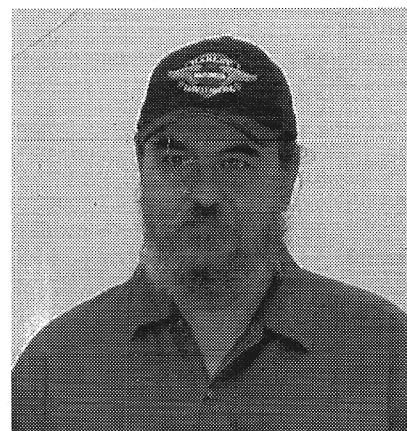
**Christmas Party.** We have booked the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club for a Christmas party on Wednesday, December 14th, social hour at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM. The tickets are \$30 per person. See Fred for tickets, or give him your commitment on the phone and purchase tickets at a later time. Dress is "dressy casual" and this is a ladies' night with a full course sit down dinner, salad and dessert, door prizes, fun and good fellowship.

**Warplane Heritage Museum Station, VA3CWM.** Doug informed the group that John has prepared a foxhole radio for the museum's POW display. During research into this project, to solve a question of authenticity, it was discovered by Doug and his group, that the first toilet paper rolls were produced in 1876. However, Doug went on to say that the two inch diameter coil required for the

foxhole radio needs a larger form than a toilet paper roll and their recently discovered fact was no longer of practical importance.

The meeting adjourned, amid smiling faces, at 9:46 PM.

## Feature Member of the Month: John Hudak, VE3CXB



I was born in Hamilton some 54 years ago. Lived in Oakville for a good number of years. After high school I went to Sheridan College to take photography. I then moved back to Hamilton to go to McMaster University where I studied chemistry/biochemistry. As it turns out I never left the university. I spent all my working life at Mac involved in research of one type or another, typically in either chemistry or engineering and materials research. I was a lab manager and operated a scanning electron microscope facility. Electronics played a large part in my job. I also taught some undergraduate and graduate classes.

Most of my interests are scientific in nature. Most, but not all. Over the years, hobbywise, I have dabbled in chemistry, physics, amateur rocketry, geology, astronomy, radio and electronics, stamp collecting, model railroading (O scale), railfanning, photography, motorcycling, home audio, woodworking, metal machining, car rallying and racing, music (I play guitar & electric bass, and I'm in the process of learning

piano). I'm sure there are others I've long forgotten.

It seems I've always been interested in radios or electronics and electricity in one form or another for as long as I can remember. As a child I still recall my father making an electromagnet from a battery some wire wrapped around a nail, picking some iron filings and paper clips. While still in public school a classmate introduced me to radios and shortwave radio. I was hooked. My first receiver that had shortwave on it was an old wooden tabletop mutliband radio that probably dated from the 1940's.

I managed with that old radio until I bought myself a Knight Kit Star Roamer in the 60's. I had a paper route and diligently saved my money until I had enough to get buy it. I don't think I could have jumped any higher than when it finally arrived in the mail. One night I built that kit in one marathon session. I think I finally finished at something like 4 o'clock in the morning. Nervously I plugged the line cord in and turned on the power. The pilot lamps came on, the tubes lit up, and sound came out the speaker. I was on cloud 9 - no, maybe it was cloud 10. As such most of my life I was a short wave listener. I learned how to write reports to shortwave broadcasters and send away for QSL cards. I also got my SWL "callsign" from a Popular Electronics magazine sponsored SWL program. My SWL "call" was VE3PE2RC.

The Star Roamer made it possible to now seriously listen in on ham radio operators. I discovered that a couple of my classmate's fathers were hams, so I managed to get an invite to their homes. Once again I was on cloud 9. I was at last actually seeing the equipment, in person, that I had only seen in magazines up until then. I eventually wound up buying a Hallicrafters SX-111 from one of these hams, which now meant I had a receiver with a proper product detector. This was important as more and more hams were abandoning AM and going to SSB. I've still got the Hallicrafters. I eventually sold the Star Roamer, which is something I've always regretted doing.

## HARC 2005-2006 Executive

### President

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I managed to combine my interest in radio with that of astronomy. I got into radio astronomy, and with a couple of friends, set up a radio telescope for studying the sun. I also got into solar-terrestrial physics, which is the study of how the sun affects our local geomagnetic environment, like our earth's magnetic field and our ionosphere. All very important for how radio waves are propagated. I wrote a couple of papers for a few hobby publications and one for an astronomy magazine.

Fast forward to 2004. One night I was sitting in my easy chair watching TV and for some odd reason I just said to my my wife "You know, I think I'll finally get my ham license." You see, even though I had dabbled with radio most of my life, for some reason I never got my ham license. I got a hold of Mardy, VE3QEE, and

signed up for the course. I passed both my basic exam and the morse code requirement. Now, I had never intended to write my code test at that point in time, although I had been studying for it. However on exam night Lorraine, VA3NZ, the official examiner, told me in no uncertain terms that she didn't bring all her code equipment for nothing and that I was going to write the code test whether I wanted to or not. OK. I saw I wasn't going to get out of this one. I thought for sure I'd fail since I had not been studying that long. As it turns out I passed my code exam. A few weeks later my license and callsign came in the mail. Off I went to the ham radio store to buy myself an HT, and I got on the air. My very first contact on 2m was none other than my instructor, Mardy.

Now, there is a bit of a story behind my call letters, which are VE3CXB. When I first started taking Mardy's class we were told that we could access a list of available callsigns on the RAC web site. I went there, downloaded and printed out all the available VE3 calls. I started going through each and every single call, all 5,000 of them. I checked to see how it sounded, how it would look on a QSL card, how the phonetics sounded, how hard it would be to send on CW. For some reason I kept coming back to the call VE3CXB. I didn't know why. It looked nice, and sounded OK. I guess I just liked the way "Charlie X-ray Bravo" sounded. I kept running it through my head, over and over again. Then one night I was going through some of my old stuff from my childhood that I had kept. I found my first "real" shortwave logbook. I hadn't seen this old logbook for decades. I came to the section where I kept my ham radio logs and what should be the "very first" call I had heard - none other than VE3CXB. I nearly fell out of my chair. This logging was made in the 60's. It belonged to Norm up in Sudbury, and there it was, log entry #1 in my book. Of course I just had to get this call for myself and so my search was complete. After I got my license I came across a copy of an old Ham Callbook and looked up VE3CXB. I got the full name of it's previous owner. I wondered what

had become of him. Hopefully not a silent key, but it could have been given the time frame. I then went to the RAC callsign search engine and plugged in Norm's full name. Up came Norm with a two letter callsign, still living in Sudbury. Just for fun I sent him a letter with my QSL card to see if he would respond. He did - with a nice letter and a few momentos with VE3CXB on them when he was the owner of the call.

So now I have, after some 40 plus years, finally gotten my ham license. I've finally gotten together the components for my HF station. Just recently I made my first call and had my first ever HF contact with N3STQ in Allentown, PA. Another "first" entry in my "new" logbook, and a another "first" QSL card for my collection. Some day I may even have a QSO with Norm up in Sudbury. That would certainly complete the circle.

## Christmas Party

*Reminder 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 are available. Call and let me know how many are coming. You can pay now or arrange to pay at a later date. Mark the date in your calendar. We have good turnouts at this event and it is a lot of fun, a night out for the ladies, and good fellowship for all. Please join us this year. Fred's number is: **905-575-5197**

## RAC Canada Winter Contest

*Rick Danby, VE3BK has issued an invitation for club members to come out and work as part of a contest group using the VE3DC call sign to have some fun working the RAC winter contest. from a contest site with good antennas in an area with good propagation and no QRM. If you are interested in getting out and having some fun, contact Rick*

*Danby. You don't have to know anything. The guys out there will show you what to do. Find Rick's contact information in the sidebar on page 2.*

*Here, below, are the rules of the contest as published on the RAC web page.*

In December each year, the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sponsors the Canada Winter Contest. Amateurs all over the world are invited to participate.

**Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC on December 17, 2005.** At our location that would be 7:00 PM Friday December 16th until 7:00 PM Saturday December 17th.

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.) Suggested frequencies: CW - 25 kHz up from the band edge; SSB - 1850, 3775, 7075, 7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS (T) and province or territory. VEØs and stations outside Canada send RS (T) and a serial number.

QSOs: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØs are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are worth 20 points. RAC official stations are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC. You may work any station once on each of the two modes, on each of the eight contest bands. It is prohibited to make CW contacts in the conventional phone sub-bands, phone contacts in the conventional CW sub-bands, or to make or solicit QSOs through a repeater during the contest period.

Multipliers: Canada's 10 provinces and three territories, and may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands. The multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are: Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, VA1, CY9, CYØ); Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2); Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3); Manitoba [MB]

(VE4, VA4); Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5, VA5); Alberta [AB] (VE6, VA6); British Columbia [BC] (VE7, VA7); Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8); New Brunswick [NB] (VE9); Newfoundland and Labrador [NL] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NU] (VY0); Yukon [YT] (VY1); and Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2).

Final Score: Total your QSO points from all bands, and multiply by the total number of multipliers from all bands.

One RAC winter contest several years ago I was making a few contacts from my station at home. While dialing in the 40 meter band I heard the VE4RAC station calling from Winnipeg. I jumped in with my call sign and the operator gave me a 59 report. I thanked him for the contact and he said, "Good luck in the contest Mardy." I asked him how he knew my name, thinking that my name might have appeared on a computer equipped with a call-sign database. Turns out it was our own David Jones, VE3STT, operating from Winnipeg where he had gone to visit his parents for Christmas. He was working the contest as one of the group operating the official RAC station. What a surprise!

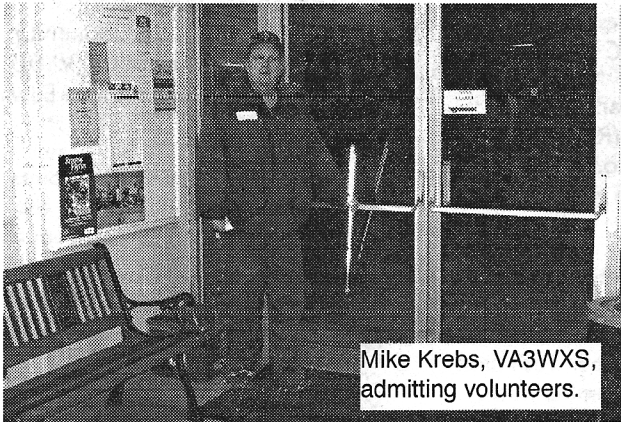
## Little known Facts

*Here are a few interesting facts found by Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ.*

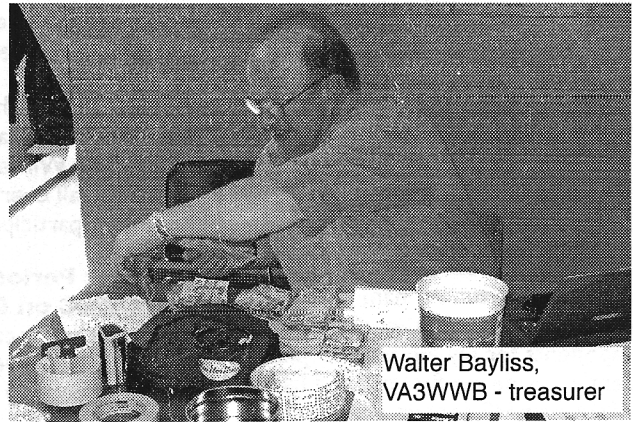
### Did you know?

A dime has 118 ridges around its edge.  
A goldfish has a memory span of 3 seconds. (Almost better than mine).  
A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time lasting 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second.  
If you are an average North American in your whole life you will spend 6 months waiting at red lights.  
On the Canadian \$2 bill the flag flying on the Parliament Building is the US Stars and Stripes.  
There are 293 ways to make change for a "Loonie".  
Can you still remember what year the toilet paper roll was invented?

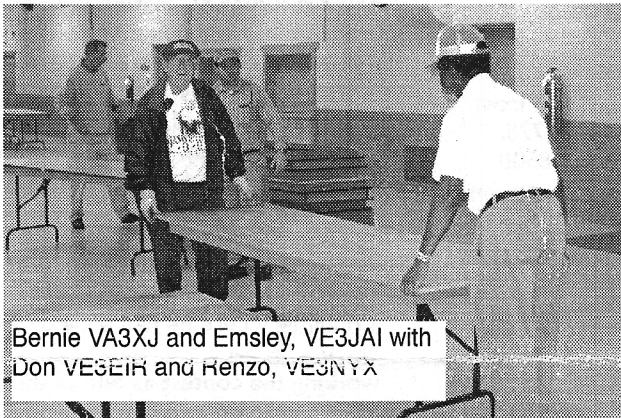
# Pictorial. - H.A.R.C. Hamfest 2005



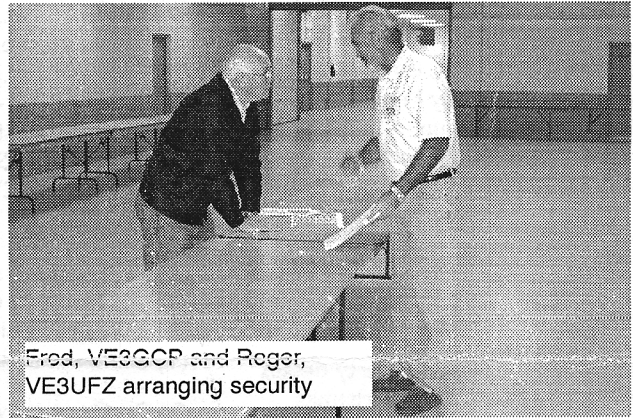
Mike Krebs, VA3WXS, admitting volunteers.



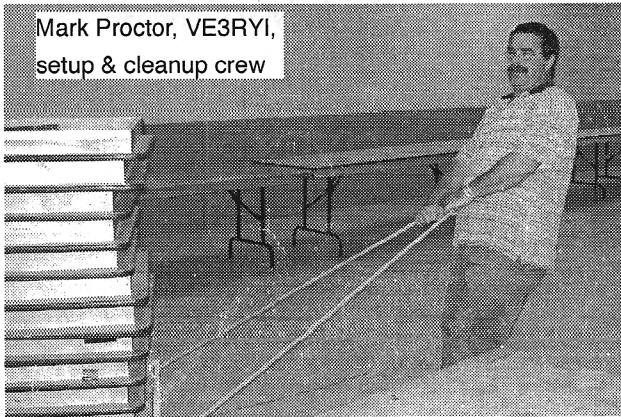
Walter Bayliss, VA3WWB - treasurer



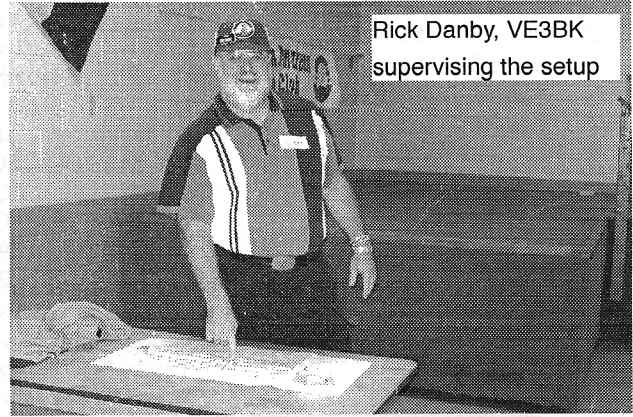
Bernie VA3XJ and Emsley, VE3JAI with Don VE3EIR and Renzo, VE3NYX



Fred, VE3GCP and Roger, VE3UFZ arranging security



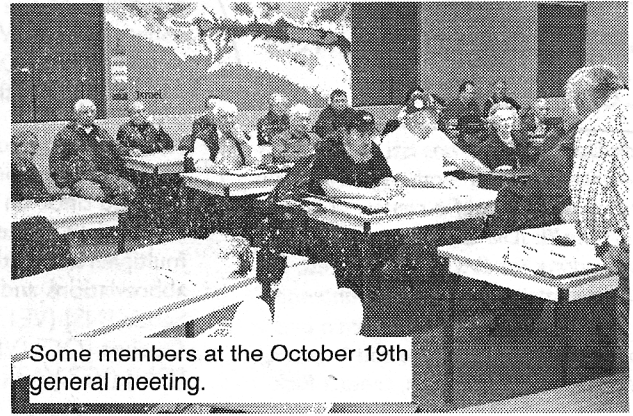
Mark Proctor, VE3RYI, setup & cleanup crew



Rick Danby, VE3BK supervising the setup



Frank, VE3FWL, and Mardy, VE3QEE, ready for the vendors



Some members at the October 19th general meeting.