

# 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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 Hamilton, ON L8N 4G4  
 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956  
<http://www.hwcn.org/link/harc/>

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## A Good Time at the Contest Site

by Mardy, VE3QEE

I was invited to help operate for this year's CQ World-Wide DX contest. There were two radios set up at the

site and I was able to go out for an afternoon on October 30th. On arrival, I was unfamiliar with how to operate the radio, the computer, and the antenna rotor control connected to my station, but that didn't matter because Mark Proctor, VE3RY1, was there looking over my shoulder and giving assistance whenever needed. Ten meters was open to the south, which is unusual when the sun spot cycle is at a low point as it is now. On ten meters when the conditions are right you can work the world on a few watts. We were using the rigs "bareback" transmitting with 100 watts to a beam antenna. Here are the results for my short time operating. Some of these countries were firsts for me. I had contacts with French Guiana, Grenada, California, Barbados, Uruguay, Argentina, Trinidad, Pennsylvania, Dominica, Brazil, Guadeloupe, and Monserratt. How's that for an afternoon on the air. I highly recommend a visit to the contest site where you will be learning a lot, as well as having fun with your fellow HAMs, and getting satisfaction from the hobby. I'll be going back again. Hope to see you there.

## The Awards Corner

News from Casey, VE3CVP, recently appointed Awards Chairman.

As a new Awards Chair, I have been finding out how things work in this area of the club. The Order of the Gavel award is given to past presidents. It is interesting to see all the names of the past presidents of our club since 1933 on the Order of

the Gavel award. In the year 2000, the last place for a name plaque on the original Order of the Gavel award was engraved. To bring the award up to date and provide space for future names another section holding more name plaques is being added. After bringing that board up to date, I would like to have it on display for all to see.

Another award is the "Art Ferguson Trophy" which is named after the club's president (For the first two years Art was president). The "Crawford Trophy" is, as you may know, for "Home Brew". There is a "Thumbnail Sketch" of the Crawfords from Hamilton, (Maybe for a future blurb.) The "Order of Merit" seems self-explanatory, but of course there are some rules. And the fifth award is the "CW Operating Trophy" with a lot more rules, but more about that in a future issue of the newsletter.

You'll be hearing from me down the log -- 73 -- Casey, VE3CVP.

### City of Hamilton Emergency Operations Centre Alert

by Gerry Osborn, VE3JSO, Hamilton  
 Wentworth ARES Co-ordinator

9 November 2005

At approximately 4:00 pm this afternoon, a severe rain and wind

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.

storm hit the Hamilton area. Damage has been reported to roofs, trees, wires, lights and a reported wall collapse. Two individuals have been reported to have received moderate injuries.

At approximately 18:15hrs, the City of Hamilton activated its Emergency Control Group to respond to issues resulting from this late afternoon storm. This was not an exercise. As the Hamilton E.C., I was placed on standby. Lorraine (VA3NZ) reported to the Emergency Operations Centre at Hamilton City Hall. She established an RF link with Alan (VA3AM). Alan and myself tested several radio links, including packet, in the event an alert was called.

At approximately 19:05hrs, Lorraine instructed me to activate a net and announce that radio amateurs standby. Stan (VE3GFE) began calling local amateurs from a roster. Within minutes, there were 15 check-ins. In less than an hour, 25 amateurs had checked in, not including, Lorraine, Alan or myself.

Although our participation was not required, the excitement level remained high throughout the alert, and everyone was ready, willing and able to assist if necessary.

At 21:10 City officials dismantled the Emergency Control Group and we were advised to stand down. Many of the amateur check-ins, stayed on the air and discussed the events of the Alert.

Mayor Dilanni and Bill Pasel were impressed with the speed of our efforts and willingness to assist.

Many thanks to the following Radio Amateurs for checking in:

VA3WXS	VA3TK
VE3YAG	VE3DVV
VE3KUL	VE3ISX
VE3UFZ	VA3HLI
VE3QEE	VA3VLL
VE3GFE	VE3EIR
VA3BK	VA3RCE
VE3DNN	VA3XXS
VE3VNG	VE3VZ
VE3DWJ	VE3JSU
VE3WVC	VA3NNH
VE3FDK	VE3REB
VA3HRM	

## HARC 2005-2006 Chairs

### Awards Chair

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

### Contesting/Property Manager

Rick Danby VE3BK  
905-544-3253 rdanby@sympatico.ca

### Education

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE  
905-648-0187 meedson@cogeco.ca

### Volunteer Examiners

Bernie Granby VA3XJ  
905-527-7175 berngran@hwcen.org  
and  
Lorraine MacPherson, VA3NZ  
905-389-7653 va3nz@rac.ca

### Field Day

David Bruton VE3DWJ  
905-383-9808 am983@hwcen.org

### Flea Market

Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE,  
905-648-0187 ve3qee@rac.ca

### Health/Welfare

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ  
905-388-8383

### Hospitality

Bernie Granby VA3XJ  
905-527-7175 berngran@hwcen.org  
Ilona Davidson VE3UGM

### Membership/Web

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

### Newsletter

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE  
905-648-0187 meedson@cogeco.ca

### 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

### Communication

Michael Krebs VA3WXS  
905-523-9005  
mkrebs@sympatico.ca

## Dis & Dat

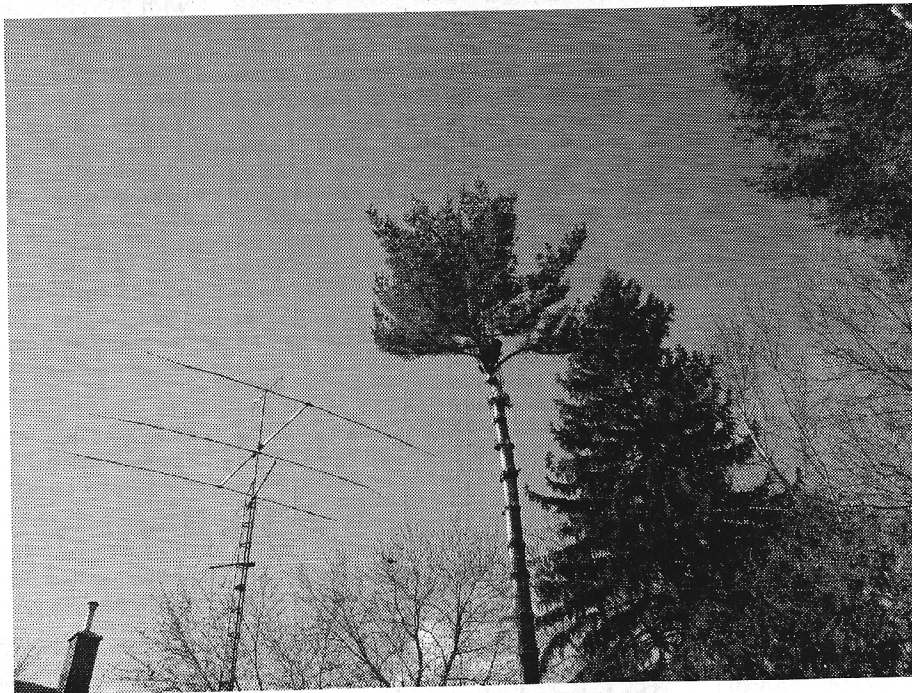
by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

Lets not say too much about the WX we have been getting .Its really too much. The tornado on the east mountain was an eye opener. Up in the mountains of probably Kashmir one of our Canadian Army medical teams hiked up to this remote village to help them and see what they needed. Well it seems these villagers are proud and self-sufficient and they said they only needed shelter as all their dwellings were destroyed in the quake. One of our medic soldiers asked a villager what would make him happy. He replied whatever God sends us makes us happy. Such faith! Well all this is a lead- in to what I hope will make me happy. As the wind blew and the tree swayed and pushed against my tower and beam I feared for them. The ends of the elements were buried in the 50 year old pine tree. Would it last until the tree cutter arrived. Well yes it did and the tree man (Chris) finally got here last Saturday. I filmed the whole operation with my Digi (Fuji ) camera. It was a very busy day around here with lots going on. The tree came down piece by piece every branch carefully pulled out of the beam before being cut and falling straight down.. Each of the branches were like individual trees. The top man stayed up there and cut his way back down to the ground. Now at last I can look up and see my whole beam. I could almost hear the driven element saying " I can see Singapore ). Well I tuned up 20 m. and heard a JA Japan station working a few DX contacts mostly to the states. My beam was pointing north so I surmise the signal was coming from over the pole. I was afraid to try him because of the person up the tree next to the beam. Better safe than sorry.

Well the tree cutters have left and the wind is back and the poor beam is swinging back and forth alarmingly. I hope the tree was not holding the whole thing together. Hi Hi It's a Hy-Gain Thunderbird TH-3 Senior so its very solid ; it has to be to last so long.

.o0o.

Yesterday Nov. 15 it rained all day. Around 4:00 in the P.M. I listened around the 20M and 40M bands. Nothing! Not a lot of band noise. So heck what could I do.? I tried some SWR measurements on 20 M. Must be all that rain because the SWR was 1:1 all the way up to 14.2. I mean like no reflected indication even on full PWR in (200 W ). I am able to tune top band 160 M its very sharp and has to be tweaked every time the FVO is moved. That's OK, I can do that....HOWEVER it's a terrible waste of effort. This band as you know is a night time game. It also requires a lot of power. A couple of times I have heard Ont. stations in Qso with "G" stations in the British Isles. The local stns either don't hear me or are out there for DX only. The local stations are about S9 ( so I guess they are running about 1000W. Once about 15 years ago I wrkd the CQ CW contest and I wrkd about 65 stns. I sent my score in but never saw it in CQ magazine. I think maybe I will cut the 160 portion off my dipole. It probably will work better. What do you think? When I say "local" I mean Ontario and the northern states of the U.S.A. I almost never hear a Hamilton stn on the air. Back when I first got my licence there were lots of Hamilton people ( Hams the real people) on the CW bands and a lot



of SSB ops too.. In those days I had a HW-7 from Heathkit running about 3 watts to an inverted dipole and used a straight key. After my first Field Day up at Rattlesnake point using a

straight key my wrist was so sore I promised myself to operate the next year with an lambic keyer. Well we did it Tom VE3KTP and myself built a keyer each modeled after one Boris VE3ITY brought in to the club for show and tell. That was the only year I ever brought in a project for homebrew night. Any other year I would have won as not many brought in projects. That year there were a few hy-tech true homebrew projects. My keyer didn't have a hope. Well anyway I did bring it out the following FD and I have been lambic ever since. There still is a version of that early keyer. Son Scott has it. One problem still exists for that unit; it was intended for tube radios with negative key lines. It could be converted to a universal key line by the addition of a relay

on the output. Our costs on that were \$8.00. My box was a HV cage from an old TV set.. Our versions had a glitch which put in an extra dit a the start of every return. A trip up to the home of our mentor Glen Simpson VE3DSP who at that time had taught pretty well every one of the members of the club ( 200 at one time ). Of course the old timers were self taught and many of them were right

there along with Marconi. Glen discovered the keyer had a race circuit in it. Two sigs were directed to the same intersection and the wrong

one was getting there first. What to do? I watched in wide eyed wonder as Glen just tried a few values of resistor to slow the winner down and when that happened Glen handed the board to me and said take it home and make the connection to the resistor a little neater and your all set and you can put the same value res. In Tom's set as well. Well I got to tell you Glen good old Bernie just left the res. hanging and shoved the board back in the box and it worked fine. You had to see this circuit board and most of the time we wouldn't let you see it because one of the wires might fall off if we opened it up. The boards were wired "ratsnest), something new to me at the time.

The other night I ( wearing another hat and Mardy gave the Basic test for the worlds newest Ham Patrick Maille he did very well on the test and for good measure did his 5 WPM code test even though he didn't have to because he bettered the new threshold of 80% to gain access to the HF bands. Congratulations Patrick..

The guest speaker spoke on Astronomy and WOW it was great we had a great turnout and nah nah nah nah nah to you who were not there. Roger you know some fascinating people. I would like to humbly thank the people who so generously voluntarily pressed donations on us to defray the costs of providing the coffee and treats; and a great big smooch to Mary VE3OGQ for being there and holding the cup for coffee treats donations. My feeble old brain didn't remind me to put the bottle in with my supplies. Ain't it awful forgetting things?

Our newest Ham is Patrick Maille VA3PMA one of Mardy's students, who was at the meeting the other day congratulations. Patrick has his 5WPM also.

A few wise words now. Its windy enough and soon will be cold enough to start doing some antenna work.

Grain of Salt. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

## 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](mailto:ve3qee@rac.ca) >

The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

Conclusion: Eat and drink what you like. What kills you is speaking English.

Michael Fitzpatrick ; The Electronic journal Spiked.

Well folks dats all of dis and dat for now 73, 88 es all good stuff de Bernie VE3EKY.....Merry Christmas es A Happy New Year which happens to be my birthday so have I'm going to try..bg

## Minutes of the General Meeting for November 17, 2005

by secretary Mardy, VE3QEE

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

Roger, VE3UFZ, welcomed to the meeting two new people, Richard Campbell, a friend of Dave Webb's who is interested in tonight's presentation on Astronomy, and Patrick Maille, VE3PMA. Patrick is our most recent basic course graduate and holds full band privileges along with 5 WPM code.

### Guest Speaker:

Guest speaker for the evening was Andrew Blanchard. Andrew, an amateur astronomer, brought several telescopes and related photographic and optical instruments for viewing the sky and recording digital images. Over the course of the hour he shared with us some of the amazing images he has produced of galaxies and other objects in space. Andrew described how the modern telescopes can automatically track movement of these objects long enough to gather light from which a digital image can be produced in more detail than that possible using a telescope and the eye alone. Following the talk, Andrew answered many of our questions and explained the use of equipment on display. His presentation gave us a fascinating glimpse of the hobby of astronomy, but left us wondering at the enormity of the cosmos.

Business Meeting

Adoption of the Minutes. Lorraine's call sign should be corrected to read VA3NZ. With this correction the minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Technical Question of the Day. Doug Last, VE3NBL, posed the following technical question for discussion. The Warplane Heritage Museum group have permission to put up a long wire for the 80 meter band. The antenna will have to be fed from one end by coaxial cable. What kind of matching unit could be designed to do the job from a box mounted on the tower? This is the challenge. John Kassay suggested the design can be found in the ARRL handbook from 1960.

Treasurer's Report. Enough income was generated from the Flea Market to keep us in good financial health for the current year. The count of paid admissions, and table rentals was very close to the number counted the previous year. At the same time we reduced operating costs to run the Flea Market slightly meaning that we earned a little more money over last year. In the area of our annual Club expenses, the executive has been successful negotiating a lower insurance premium with equivalent coverage by going to a different insurer. Fred put in a plug for the Christmas party. The cost per person is \$30.00. The party is on Wednesday of December, the 14th, at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club, social hour beginning at 6:00 PM, and dinner at 7:00 PM. It is dressy casual. The meal is a full course turkey dinner with all the traditional "fixins" dessert, gifts and prizes. - a special night out for the ladies. In the past several years it has been our pleasure to host fifty or more people for this festive occasion. Please join us by letting Fred know your plans to attend. You can pay ahead or at the door, but we must have a guaranteed count in advance.

Health and Welfare. Mary, VE3OGQ, reported that Stanley has recovered sufficiently from a bad fall to be at the meeting tonight, and welcomed him back. There were no other items for the month.

Contest Group. Rick, VE3BK, presented the club with awards for 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 from

## HARC 2005-2006 Executive

**President**

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ  
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**First Vice President**

Ron Ouwehand VA3OUW  
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**Second Vice President**

John Hudak, VE3CXB  
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**Secretary**

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE  
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**Treasurer**

Fred Robinson VE3GCP  
575-5197  
FredRobinson@MountainCable.net

**Repeater Chairman**

John Vandenberg VE3DVV  
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**Membership Chairman**

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI  
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eamitch@mcmail.cis.mcmaster.ca

Ontario QSO Party contests. Our contest group was top multi-multi operator in Haldimand Norfolk County and South-Western Ontario all those years and in 2002 they got a "clean sweep" in that contest. Casey, VE3CVP received the awards on behalf of the club. The next contest is December 17th. Contact Rick if you are interested in participating at the site and getting **your** name on a future award! Mardy, VE3QEE, recommended to new operators that they should arrange to go out for one of the contests. New operators can learn a lot about ham radio in a short time by seeing the set-up, and by watching the action, and by getting their feet wet participating. Its a great opportunity to talk with the other

guys and get some of your questions answered. Roger, VE3UFZ, and Rick VE3BK, also mentioned the maintenance work going on at the contest site and invited members to come out and lend a hand.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service, (ARES), Report. Lorraine, VA3NZ, was called to the Council Chamber at City Hall last Wednesday as part of a City disaster response to an actual emergency - the tornado that struck the Lawfield area and the east end. In less than an hour we had 25 amateurs on the air. The Mayor and City officials including the police and fire officials were pleased with results of the callout. Lorraine turned over a more detailed report on this event from Hamilton area ARES Co-ordinator, Gerry Osborn, VE3JSO, for publication in the newsletter.

Repeater Chairman's Report. John Vandenberg, VE3DVV, reported that we are in the process of evaluating our antenna mounting and feed system and will be bringing recommendations to the executive for routine maintenance shortly.

. Roger added the following information. Since IRLP is not available on VE3NCF at present, Barry, VE3ISX, has graciously invited members to access this service through his radio, which is not a repeater, in other words, use simplex. The frequency is 147.565 using a sub-audible tone of 135.5. Barry's IRLP node number 2970. For information on using IRLP go to the official web site at <<http://irlp.net/>>.

New Business. Gord Barber rose and indicated that he had brought an amplifier and speaker set for the club to take and use. At present, the microphone was not with the set and is still being sought. The unit is intended for use at club meetings to project sound to the back of the room for the benefit of members who want to hear better.

*Following up on the last item, it is our pleasure to report, the microphone for the set has been found and arrangements have been made to store the set between meetings. - secretary.*

Adjournment 9:46 PM.

## Ground Rods And Ground Resistance

a technical review by John Hudak, VE3CXB

I was surfing around the internet and the matter of ground rods and grounding came up on one particular discussion group. I found a couple of interesting tidbits of information.

First off we commonly find ground rods for sale which are 8 or 10 feet in length. Or we may use a piece of copper plumbing tubing for our ground. We are told to pound them into the ground to almost their full length. This can be hard when you have earth full of rocks like I do.

The reason we drive these ground rods into the earth is to reduce our ground resistance. In other words we want the resistance between the ground rod and the surrounding earth to be as low as possible. This, as a certain TV personality says, is a good thing. It's good for some types of antennas which require a good ground for return RF currents. It is also good if we are relying on a ground to help protect us from lightening mishaps. Common sense might say that we should pound these ground rods into the ground as far as we can, and that it might even be good if we use more than one ground rod connected in parallel. After all, Ohm's law tells us that two or more parallel resistors will have a total resistance that is less than the smallest resistance value.

Tidbit #1.

When using a grounding rod, most of the decrease in ground resistance occurs within 5 feet of the surface. For example, if we use our 10 foot long ground rod as an example, approximately 85% of the "reduction" in resistance will occur within 5 feet of the ground. As this drop in ground resistance is exponential after 5 feet the change in resistance becomes progressively less. In other words, after we go past 5 feet into the ground we get rapidly diminishing returns. We get 90% drop in resistance at the 6 foot level, and the

drop in ground resistance gets progressively less as we go deeper in the ground. PLEASE NOTE - We are not talking about absolute values of resistance here. We are talking about CHANGE" in resistance as we go deeper. The absolute resistance of your earth is another story altogether.

Tidbit #2

If you are going to use more than one ground rod, you should space the grounds "no less" than 1.1 times the length of the ground rods. In other words, if your ground rods are 10 feet into the earth, it does no good to space them closer than 11 feet apart. I'll bet there are a lot of multiple ground rod users who feel that spacing them closer together will give less resistance. Not so. Now, there is a formula for calculating this, but I won't bore you with it. I will describe what is happening. When you drive a ground rod into the earth there forms around the rod a "zone of effectiveness". This "zone of effectiveness" is shaped like a round bottomed cylinder with the ground rod at the central axis of the cylinder. This "zone of effectiveness" is the volume of earth in which there is substantial "coupling" between the ground rod and the surrounding earth. Again, once you get past a certain distance away from the ground rod the law of diminishing returns pokes it's head into the works. The point at which this diminishing return becomes significant is 1.1 times the length of the ground rod. So, what does this all mean? Well, if you're going to use two (or more) ground rods and you drive them into the ground such that they are less than 1.1 times their length, then their "zones of effectiveness" will overlap. If these zones overlap then you gain nothing. By having your ground rods at this 1.1 distance, the two individual zones will just touch and you will now have the maximum drop in ground coupling resistance. Once again note that we are not talking about "absolute" resistance values but rather "change" in ground resistance. You might ask why the resistance of your particular patch of earth does

not come into play. It is exactly because we are talking "change" of resistance, not absolute values of resistance. If you want to lower the absolute resistance of your earth you have to resort to other methods such as chemical grounds, etc.

So, the moral of the story is, when you're out there in your backyard sweating away while pounding in that ground rod just remember that once you get past 5 feet into the ground your sweat equity is giving you a smaller and smaller return on your investment. And, keep those multiple ground rods spaced apart no less than 1.1 times their length, otherwise once again you will have wasted your efforts.

Reference: *Designing For A Low Resistance Earth Interface* by R.B. Carpenter and J.A. Lanzoni of Lightening Eliminators and Consultants, Inc., Boulder, Colorado March 2004

## Christmas Party

Reminder from Fred, VE3GCP

Once again here are the Christmas Party details. 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. Fred's number is: **905-575-5197**

## Membership

If you have not renewed your membership for the Club year 2005-2006, you won't be getting this newsletter. If you know a former member who didn't get this newsletter please remind them to send their renewal to:

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,  
PO Box 91215, Effort Square PO  
Hamilton, ON, L8N 4G4

Please ask your friends to see if this applies to them. We don't want to be losing members because of a simple oversight.

## Canadian Towns and Cities Certificate

by John Hudak VE3CXB

I check into the Transprovincial Net (7.055 MHz. daily) fairly frequently and heard there of an award/certificate called the Towns and Cities Award. All you have to do is log QSO's for as many towns/cities within Canada as you can. It should be pretty easy if you have a reasonable number of QSO's with hams in Canada.

This might be a good certificate for new hams to try for. It seems like a nice easy way to get your first certificate without having to fight through all the high powered stations during a contest, and there isn't a mad rush as there is no time limit. You can do it at your own leisure. When you get your first hundred send in your list and get a nice certificate to hang up on your wall. We new hams have got to start putting up that wallpaper sometime! In my first two weeks on the air on HF I managed to log 35+ different towns and cities. It can't be all that hard if I can do it!

This award is sponsored by the TP Net and administered by Eric, VE3GGO. Eric is usually on most all day Saturdays on 7.065 MHz. taking check-ins so that hams can work each other to get more logs. A certificate is awarded for 100, 200 and 300 towns/cities contacted. Or it can be awarded on a point basis.

For more info check out their web site: <http://www.tpn7055.ca/tpnaward.html>

## Future Speakers

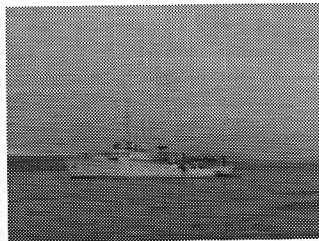
information from Mike Krebs VA3WXS. On Wednesday, January 18th we have tentitively booked John Sluymmer, VE3EJ, for a return engagement to tell us about his recent DX Pediton to the Kerguelen Islands located in the sub-antarctic region of the Indian Ocean.

John was one of twelve operators, on this month long DXpedition. His talk will be illustrated with a film



depicting highlights of the trip. Once again, the group hired the the vessel Braveheart to get to their remote location.

In the event that John is called away at the last minute due to work commitments his presentation will be rescheduled.



Our scheduled speaker in February will be Steve Parsons from Radioworld, who is coming to show us the newest and latest amateur radio gear. Steve has been well received in the past. The last time we met in the St. John's Ambulance headquarters.

In March a group from Kitchener Waterloo has been invited to give their presentation on HF techniques and etiquette a timely topic for those who have been awarded full band privileges.

## Pictorial

*A look at work proceeding at the contest site getting ready for the winter season.*

On the last page you will see pictures of the group of 13 amateurs who spent time on three successive Saturdays working at the contest site. The group assembled to put up a full sized 160 meter horizontal Delta

Loop antenna for DX. The antenna had been held up on poles last year but came down when the poles were damaged due to storms. This time the plan was to erect three 48-foot supports made of TV tower, each anchored by a hole in the ground, and guyed by rope. The holes were drilled by hand with a post-hole auger, and shaped to accommodate the triangular tower. Each of the towers was painted and assembled at the trailer then each was carried to location by the whole team of volunteers. It took many people to put up each tower. Initially, everyone lifted the tower and pushed it up as high as we could, then pike poles were placed to support the upper end. Some of the people lifting moved to grab the ends of guy ropes and helped further raise the tower by pulling the ropes. With a team effort each tower was raised to the vertical position, then lifted and dropped in the hole, adjusted for plumb, and guyed in place. The process got progressively easier as we learned what to do.

Many thanks to those who participated in the work party.

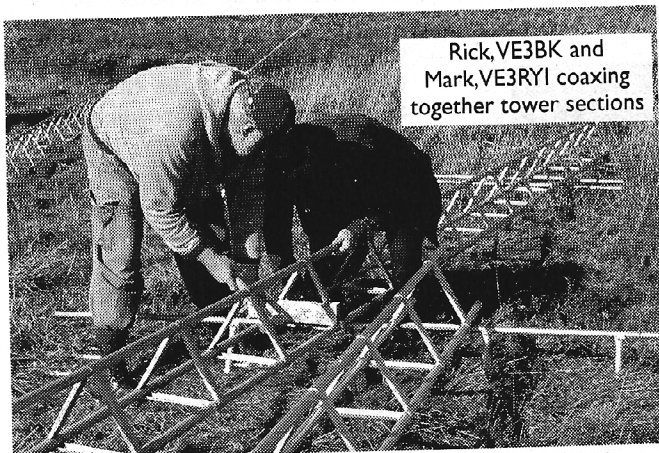
Volunteers include,

Dan, VA3DJ; Rick, VE3BK;  
Mark, VE3RYI; Mardy, VE3QEE;  
David, VE3DWJ; Emsley, VE3JAI;  
Anita; Patrick, VA3PMA;  
Lucas; Brian, VA3BMB;  
Fred, VE3GCP; Kevin, VE3HNG;  
and Mike, VA3WXS

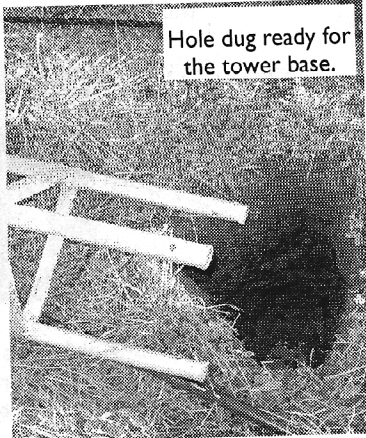
In the November issue of the newsletter there was an invitation to all members to participate in RAC Canada Winter Contest. Take another look at that invitation and call Rick if you can join us for part of the time to help out. The contest site is ready now. Truly, it is a great place to operate. Come out and have some fun.

From the wilds of Haldimand County there is little in the way of QRM, and you won't have to worry about working your neighbour's TV or Telephone. Hi.

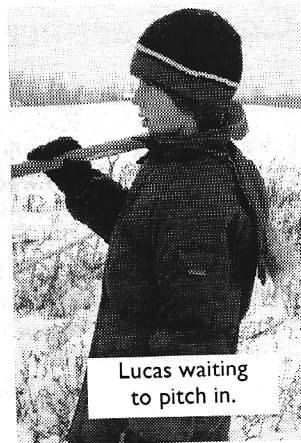
# Pictorial - Raising a 160 meter horizontal loop antenna at the contest site .



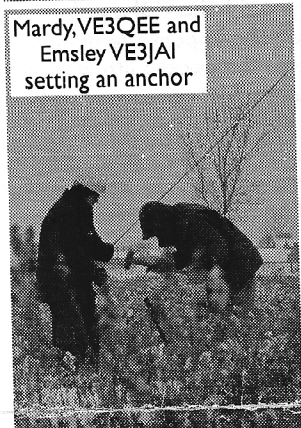
Rick, VE3BK and Mark, VE3RYI coaxing together tower sections



Hole dug ready for the tower base.



Lucas waiting to pitch in.



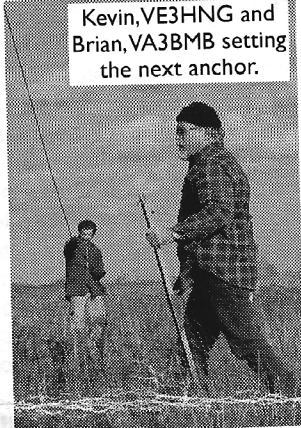
Mardy, VE3QEE and Emsley VE3JAI setting an anchor



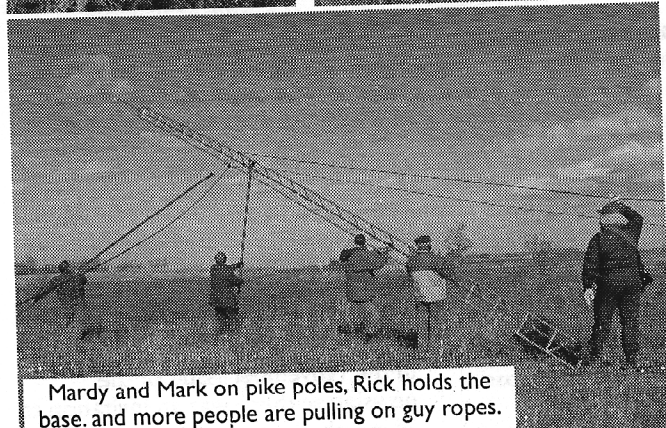
Rick VE3BK and David VE3DWJ checking the level.



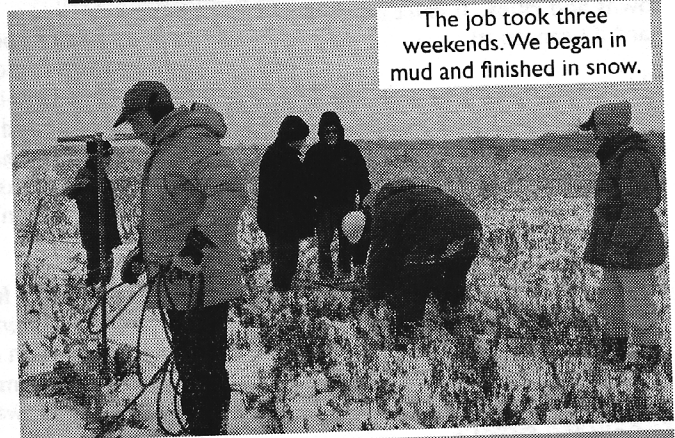
Fred VE3GCP keeps the line tight while the others measure



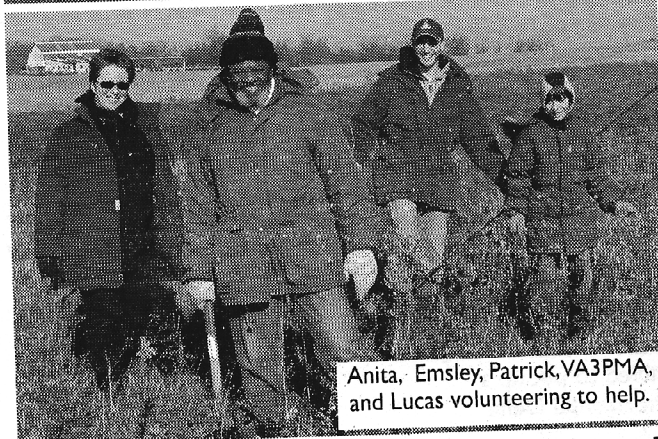
Kevin, VE3HNG and Brian, VA3BMB setting the next anchor.



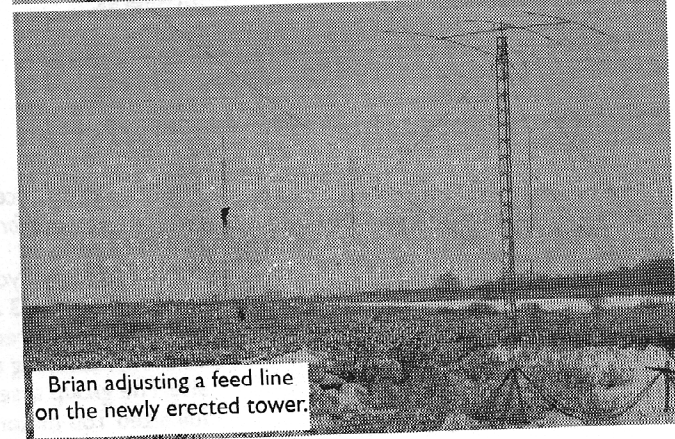
Mardy and Mark on pike poles, Rick holds the base, and more people are pulling on guy ropes.



The job took three weekends. We began in mud and finished in snow.



Anita, Emsley, Patrick, VA3PMA, and Lucas volunteering to help.



Brian adjusting a feed line on the newly erected tower.