



# The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter 74 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2006

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club  
 PO Box 91215, Effort Square PO  
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 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956  
<http://www.hwcn.org/link/harc/>

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## Next Meeting

Background information about the Crawford Trophy was submitted by Casey VanBroekhoven, VE3CVP, Awards Chairman. Talk to Casey if you have questions about Homebrew.

The next meeting, Wednesday, May 17th, is our annual HOME BREW NIGHT featuring a Home Brew contest, judging and awarding of the Crawford Radio trophy. In addition there will be a SHOW AND TELL session where amateurs are invited to show and tell about a piece of Amateur Radio Equipment, or pass along a good idea that could benefit other amateurs. Come and share your good ideas and see what has been brewing over the past year. Here is some background information.

### WHAT IS THE CRAWFORD TROPHY?

George Crawford, VE3YR, founder of Crawford Radio in Hamilton at 119 - 121 John Street North, and his son, Bill, VE3JU, brought radio to the city of Hamilton. Here is a thumbnail sketch taken from the January 1950 HARC newsletter.

“BILL CRAWFORD, VE3JU, puts in the time down at the Crawford Radio, at the corner of King William and Hughson in Hamilton. First interested in ham radio in 1927, started in to learn CW with Wib Clemence, Elton French and Slim Crossley. Licensed in 1931, and as most do, ambled down the line thru 80, then to 40 meters. Became educated to phone in 1933 but does take the odd jaunt down to ten. Must get his parts wholesale as he has one of the best and nicest looking rigs around the country. Married, but does get out with the boys occasionally.

Lives down on the Beach Boulevard amid the high tension lines.

In the late 1920s it was big news that a new radio station KDKA Pittsburgh was coming on the air. George was asked to put on a demonstration of the event at the local church and capture the grand moment of the station debut. Tickets were sold out. George worked all afternoon testing his home-built radio, at least as best he could with no other stations to listen to. In his



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.

exuberance, he put the B+ supply to the filaments of the tubes, and blew them all. He rushed back to his store for the parts, then rushed back to the church. After some frantic last minute repairs, the receiver was up and running. The event was a success with the Standing Room Only crowd cheering wildly at the magic of radio."

The Crawford Trophy was given to the club by Crawford Radio. I remember that store where you would always see a few of the local hams hanging around to talk radio and purchase parts. I was not a ham at the time but visited the store on occasion looking for small pliers and a wire cutter suitable for electronics work. They could show you good ones, with names like Klein and Lindstrom.

Naturally, the purpose of presenting the Crawford Trophy is to encourage members to build their own equipment. The trophy was first awarded in 1963 has been presented in May, each year, ever since. The home brew project must be usable in amateur radio operating, and must be completed by the builder during the previous 12 months.

If you have something that could qualify, no matter how large or small, bring it along. Your contribution may inspire others to do a little building, or just to appreciate another dimension of the hobby.

At the same time as the Home Brew Night we also hold a Show and Tell session to learn about other pieces of equipment that DO NOT QUALIFY for the Home Brew Contest. If you have something that is usable in amateur radio operating and you feel our members could benefit from seeing it, this is your opportunity to show and tell. While the Judges for the home brew competition are deliberating we have a spot of time to see some show and tell items. So, please, bring along an item or idea to share with the group.

*Cartoon from Electronics Illustrated March 1969 - courtesy David, N3VE3DNN*

## HARC 2005-2006 Executive

### President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ  
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### Repeater Chairman

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### Membership Chairman

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI  
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*"I'd like to contact the late Atwater Kent about a power-supply circuit."*

## Minutes of the General Meeting for April 19th, 2006

by secretary Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.

### Guest Speaker

Guest speaker for the evening was Ben Sasiela from Kitchener, VE3ST, speaking about HF Etiquette. Ben illustrated his talk with a power point presentation covering many aspects of operation emphasizing things we do to keep the airwaves a satisfying, and rewarding place to be. Ben's talk was enjoyable, thorough and thought provoking for new and experienced operators alike. From a ridiculous example of bad operation to the many aspects of good operation Ben offered insight and inspiration. He gave new operators some "rules of thumb" to follow, and explanations for certain procedures we have. Thanks to Ben for putting together this topic and reminding us the importance of maintaining a courteous presence on the air.

### Business Meeting

Minutes for the March 15th General Meeting. Moved by Mardy, VE3QEE, seconded by Fred, VE3GCP, that the minutes be adopted as printed in the April newsletter. Carried.

Treasurer's Report. Fred, VE3GCP, reports that we have money in the bank and appear to be finishing the year with a surplus over immediate operational needs.

Membership Report. On behalf of Emsley, VE3JAI, Roger, VE3UFZ, delivered the Membership Report. We currently have a membership of 67 paid up members, primary members 61 and family members 6.

Health and Welfare. Mary brought news that Gord Barber, VE3AAH is in hospital. Bud, Gord's wife has requested there be no visiting at this time. A card has been sent from the

Club. We wish Gord the very best and we will be keeping Gord and Bud in our thoughts and prayers.

Education Report. The current course will be finishing around the end of May. At present we have four people studying for the Basic Qualification.

Contest Report. Rick, VE3BK, reported that we participated in a contest Easter weekend. Because of holiday commitments operators split their time at the site. We had pretty good results which have already been sent in and the participants had fun. Our next contest is **Field Day** on June 24th and 25th, operating time is 2:00 PM local time until 2:00 PM the following day at the Rock Chapel site. The contest group will be there. On the weekend after Field Day there is the annual **Canada Day** contest Saturday July 1st (0000 UTC until 2359 UTC). At our location the time translates to 8:00 PM local time Friday June 30 until 8:00 PM local time Saturday July 1st. Please come out and help operate at the contest site. If you are interested, talk to Rick.

Emergency Preparedness Report. **ARES** - Lorraine, VA3NZ, reported that the ARES check in net last week did not operate as planned because the UHF repeater had been disconnected for service. If there appears to be difficulty with a repeater, recommended procedure is to listen on the input frequency for information and instructions. In the case of our ARES group there are two additional repeaters available, VE3WIK and VE3RFI.

**CANWARN** - The recent CAVARN training session was a big success and plans are underway to activate a local group. More news will be coming as plans are finalized.

Repeater Report. John Vandenberg, VE3DVV, reported that the VE3NCF - UHF repeater developed a problem and was taken off the air for servicing. As a result there is no link between 70 cm and 2 meters and no telephone patch. At this time the 2 meter repeater is operating as a stand-alone machine. The UHF machine will be returned to service

## HARC 2005-2006 Chairs

### Awards Chair

Casey VanBroekhoven, VE3CVP  
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### Contesting/Property Manager

Rick Danby VE3BK  
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### Education

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### Volunteer Examiners

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and  
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### Field Day

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### Flea Market

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### Newsletter

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### Public Liaison Co-Chair

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Neil Galloway VE3VNG  
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### Swap Net Control

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as soon as it is fixed.

Lighthouse On The Air. Rick Danby, VE3BK, reported that the Lighthouse On The Air event occurs on August 19th and 20th. Plans are underway to get a group together to operate from a lighthouse on those days. The idea is to raise public awareness of Amateur Radio in the community and to have a social event for members. We are getting information together to submit to government for approval to participate. We plan to put up an information table about Amateur Radio, and to operate a station in the Lighthouse event for the public to view. The old Hamilton Lighthouse on the beach strip is #63. The site we have our eye on is in Hamilton City jurisdiction and we might not even need Federal Government approval if the City gives its approval. The site is right beside the foot path along the beach so there would be lots of people going back and forth at that location. Mark Proctor, VE3RYI, is working on the arrangements. There is a group of volunteers that maintain and publicize the lighthouse, so if we got in touch with them we might be able to get them to come down and be part of the publicity effort. We are looking for a group of interested people to help with the planning and field work to get this idea off the ground. Rick Danby will coordinate this effort but help is needed now. Let Rick know if you can help out with the planning and organization.

Hat Sale. A box of HARC Hats with the Club Crest was brought from the former Club Room at Mohawk college. A motion was made by Mardy, VE3QEE, seconded by Mike, VA3WXS, that the hats be sold. Carried. A motion was made by Roger, VE3UFZ, seconded by Casey, VE3CVP, that the price be \$10.00 each. Carried. An addendum to the motion was made by Fred that one hat be reserved and offered as a 50¢ per ticket draw prize at the next meeting. The addendum was seconded by Mike and carried in a vote. The remaining hats were sold forthwith.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

## Rules for the 2006 RAC Canada Day Contest

*This outline was transcribed from the RAC web site. For more details see the RAC web site.*

Each year on July 1, the anniversary of Canada's Confederation, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sponsors the Canada Day Contest. Amateurs all over the world are invited to Canada's Birthday Party on the air.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC July 1, 2005.

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 and for 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.

## 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) >

Multipliers: Thirteen in total, Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Each multiplier 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: The total QSO points from all bands multiplied by the total number of multipliers from all bands.

*There is more information on the web site itself, and also the link to a program for generating a Cabrillo file to submit results after the contest is over if you have been logging contacts by hand.*

*Of course, Rick is looking for operators to come out and join the contest group at the site, but if you are unable join the group, at least you can give a few contacts from home. After all, this is our Canadian contest in celebration of our country's birthday. You should participate, even if it is only for a few minutes, enough to make five or ten contacts from home. We'll be listening for you. - ed.*

## What You Can Get by Rearranging the Letters

*This little gem was one of those amusing submissions that circulates on the internet. Its clever and shows that someone definitely has way too much time on their hands. Could also have been created by a Scrabble champion. See what you think.*

Here's what you can get by rearranging the letters.

DORMITORY - DIRTY ROOM

PRESBYTERIAN - BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER - MOON STARER

DESPERATION - A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES - THEY SEE

GEORGE BUSH - HE BUGS GORE

THE MORSE CODE - HERE COME DOTS

SLOT MACHINES - CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY - IS NO AMITY

ELECTION RESULTS: - LIES; LET'S RECOUNT

SNOOZE ALARMS - ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S

A DECIMAL POINT - IM A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES - THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO - TWELVE PLUS ONE

And for the grand finale

MOTHER-IN-LAW - WOMAN HITLER (ouch!)

## Elections and HARC Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday June 20th the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club will hold its Annual General Meeting. At this meeting we will hear reports and hold the Election of Club Directors for the following year, September 2006 to April 31, 2007.

The way the process works, six directors are elected each year, and the current President becomes a 7th director automatically. In this way the Club preserves continuity. The elected directors then meet and decide among themselves based on their skills and experience who will fill each of the official positions in the coming year.

During the month preceding the meeting, the floor is open for nomination of candidates. Candidates

may also be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

There is a provision in the constitution for casting a vote by proxy and also a provision stating that only paid up members of the club for the current year may cast votes. The list of paid up members is the same as the official mailing list so if you got this newsletter you are eligible. Excepted are recipients of courtesy copies of the newsletter like the Hamilton Public Library etc.

If you are interested in running you should make your interest known to other members who can put your name up for nomination and obtain a seconder. Also, if you are interested in change, now is the time to start putting together a slate of candidates who are willing to run for office. There will be an opportunity in the June Newsletter to publish information on behalf of candidates who are running and the same opportunity will be available at the Annual Meeting

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club is a Non-Profit Corporation under the laws of Ontario and as such we are bound to follow procedures and report annually to the Province.

All this being said, the health of your club depends on how well the directors are able to bring forth good ideas and keep things rolling. Lets give the election process some thought and put together a group of directors who will obtain results in 2006-2007.

## Great Ride and Stride on the Linc.

*Appeal for one or two more communication volunteers.*

Sunday May 28th is the date of this year's Great Ride and Stride. We still have spots for a few radio amateur operators with vehicles equipped for mobile 2-meter operation. Ideally we like to have a car under each of the 12 bridges spanning the Linc. along the route. We meet in the south-west

corner of the Limeridge parking lot between 8:45 AM and 9:00 AM beside the Police Command Vehicle. After registering ham vehicles proceed onto the Linc. and park under an overpass for the entire event. We will not be released until 12:00 Noon or shortly after, when the Police have cleared the Linc. of all event participants and those casual users who venture onto the Linc when they see it is closed to traffic. Our eyes are needed to report this kind of activity.

I must caution volunteers that ham operators on the Linc will be away from comfort facilities for an extended period of time.

If you are interested in volunteering your services contact Mardy, VE3QEE at 905-648-0187, or <ve3qee@rac.ca>

## Moving Mountains

*A report by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE.*

Each year in May the Cancer Assistance Program a local charity "serving cancer patients and their families since 1994" holds a fund raiser walk/wheel/run for raising money to provide direct assistance free of charge to local cancer patients. This small home-grown organization "loans equipment provides transportation, arranges peer support, and friendly visiting, and provides items like dressings, diapers, wigs, turbans, temporary breast prosthesis and more. All services are available free of charge".

A number of local radio amateurs, some members and former members of HARC, gather to set up check points along the route and provide the communication net to keep organizers in touch with participants as the event takes place. Among the amateurs present were Linda Hardwick, VA3LJU, Bob Brown, VE3CYE, Bob Milburn, VA3MFM, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, David Near, VE3DNN.



This year Moving Mountains was held on May 7th. You may remember having seen the yellow signs posted on access roads to the Linc. advertising the event. You may also recall this event being mentioned in last month's THA.

The day was perfect, the event a success and the Hams had fun, once again, giving public service and playing radio at the same time.

**Linda Hardwick VA3LJU net control for Moving Mountains**



**Busy scene at the registration table inside Queensdale School**



**Committee Ladies getting ready to cut the ribbon at the start/finish line.**