

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

Wednesday September 20th, will be first meeting of our 2006-2007 year. With the new executive in place we are looking forward to an exciting and interesting year. I am pleased to announce that our speaker for the September meeting is Mr. Dave Wilson VE3BBN from the St Catharines area, or more correctly from the Saint David's area, who will be talking about the early days of amateur radio, and demonstrating a home brew spark gap transmitter.

Dave is a familiar face if you have attended flea markets in the area. He has given his presentation to a number of local clubs, so we are looking forward with enthusiasm to his visit with us. Please join us at the September meeting and if you haven't been a member for a while, consider renewing your membership for the coming 75th anniversary year.

HARC 75th Anniversary

By John Hudak, VE3CXB

If you'll look at a copy of the club's newsletter, underneath "The Hamilton Amateur" you will see that our club was founded in 1932. What this means of course is that next year in 2007 it will be the club's 75th anniversary. This is pretty significant when you think of it as this club has had to weather many events such as the Great Depression and World War 2. These are the sorts of things

that put a lot of pressure on the membership and which have caused other clubs to fold. Also many clubs have fallen due to lack of interest and apathy. The fact that the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club has survived this long speaks to the strength and determination of those of those who have been part of this club over the years. As such it is fitting that we do something next year to celebrate this event.

I've been asked to investigate our options as to what we can do for this event. I've looked at what other clubs have done for their special events and have come up with some ideas:

An article for the The Canadian Amateur (RAC publication). Promotion in the media like an article in the local newspaper or a story on our local TV station. A dinner (complete with birthday cake?). A special event station. Special call sign (s). Special QSL card. Special logo. A special booklet.

This is only a start. It would be good if some of our long time members could come up with some information or anecdotes about the club's past and early history.

Also, I would like to get a few others involved to form a committee, perhaps two or three others. Or if you have an ideas you'd like to contribute I would like to hear them. Thanks. Contact me, John Hudak, VE3CXB, at: 905-627-4684 <hudakjm@mcmaster.ca>

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.

Our Agreement with Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

Some time has passed since the inauguration of VA3CWM, a HAM station at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. In response to a request made by recent President, Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, two members of the Museum, Doug Last VE3NBL, and Frank Love VA3FWL provided the following note to outline the relationship of our Club with the station and the responsibilities of club members who visit the station. Your executive feel it is appropriate to publish this note for the benefit of HARC members.

“The policy regarding the access to the Radio Room at the Museum by members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club is outlined as follows:

The Museum, in recognition of the contribution the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club has made in establishing and operating a radio station at the Museum, has granted free entry of any bona fide member of the H.A.R.C., and one guest, to the Museum at any time.

Any member of the H.A.R.C. entering the Museum is required to sign in at the Main Reception Desk and obtain the key to the Radio Room. It is the member’s responsibility to return the key and sign out when leaving the Museum.

It is also the responsibility of the member of the H.A.R.C., upon opening the door to the Radio

HARC 2006-2007 Executive

President

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Second Vice President

Mike Hewitt VE3MHX
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Secretary & Past President

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Treasurer

Fred Robinson VE3GCP
905-575-5197
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Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV
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Director

Paul Selvey, VE3XPS
pselvey@cogeco.ca

Room, to take the necessary steps to see that the Radio Room is presentable to the public by sweeping the floor and performing any other maintenance chores to make the Radio Room presentable to the public.

It is also necessary to be a certified licensed operator before operating any of the Radio Room equipment.

We welcome any members of the H.A.R.C. [and invite them] to visit the Radio Room on a Thursday afternoon if they would like to be briefed on all of the equipment in the Radio Room as this is the day of the week we have chosen to operate the station.

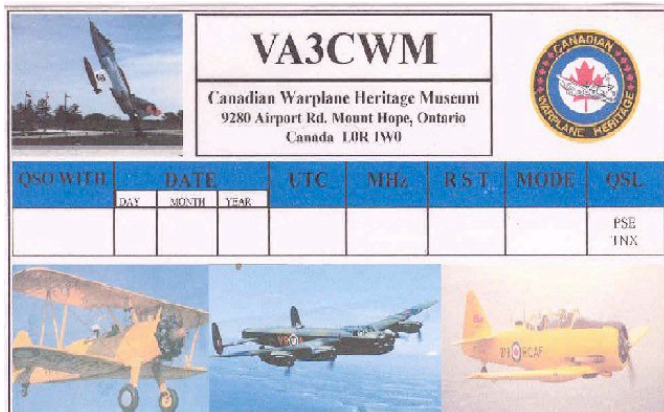
Basically this is the policy regarding the use of the station by members of the H.A.R.C. But, there are occasions when members of the Museum who are also licensed Amateur Radio operators may be operating the station.

The point I am making, Roger, is that the station is owned by the Museum. Members of the H.A.R.C. are guests of the Museum unless they are also members of the C.W.H.M. Frank Love VA3FWL and myself VE3NBL are the only two members of both.

I hope this clarifies the policy regarding the use of the Radio Room at the C.W.H.M. by members of the H.A.R.C.

You may want to put this in the next club newsletter. I have cleared it with Frank and we both agree it should clear up any misunderstandings regarding the Radio Room at the Museum.

Doug, VE3NBL.”



QSL card issued by the VA3CWM station (left)

Entrance to the Museum HAM radio station, (right)



Membership Renewal Incentive Draw

Once again the executive is offering this popular program.

The new club year has begun, Sept 1 2006 through Aug 31 2007. It is time to renew your membership. The cost is still only \$25.00 per year for a primary member and \$1.00 each for an associate member; that is a family member living in the same residence.

You can bring your membership to the September meeting or mail a cheque payable to the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, and addressed to us at:

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

If your payment is received at or before the end of the General Meeting in September, your name will go in a draw for a year's free membership. There is a bigger chance of winning this draw than the chances on any other draw you are likely to enter, so its worth it to get your membership renewal in before the end of the September meeting.

Field Day 2006

A summary of FD results by David Bruton VE3DWJ, Field Day coordinator.

Well, another successful event. The weather was warm and with a cool breeze. The Club went to Rock Chapel, again, this year. We go there for coverage and being in a public place for showing people about amateur radio.

Prior to Friday a little grass cutting had to be done. The front was well groomed by the RBG, Royal Botanical Gardens, but the remaining areas needed dressing up. On Friday Ron VE3DF and David VE3DWJ went to the site to cut grass. Uncle Murray [Murphy?] also came along and made

HARC 2006-2007 Chairs

Awards Chairman

Casey VanBroekhoven VE3CVP
905-385-8724 <ve3cvp@gmail.com>

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Rick Danby VE3BK
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Education Chair /Flea Market

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE
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Volunteer Examiners

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Repeater Chairman

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Michael Kerbs VA3WXS
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things difficult for us. Lawn mower did not like cutting tall grass and blew a valve. The weed eater refused to load the cutting string. On Saturday, with help from Kevin VE3HNG, and his unusual *Fly Mow*, a mower without wheels, areas around the tents were cut.

The results for operating were as follows: 80 meters phone 300 contacts; 20 meters phone 447 contacts; 2 meters FM 10 contacts; 50 meters 6 contacts; 40 meters CW 295 contacts. Total score submitted was 3532 points. The 20 meter station had more contacts but multipliers put 40 meter CW score ahead of them. Thanks to VA3MFM, Bob, for demonstrating a mobile A.P.R.S. station (automatic position reporting system) at his van.

Operators were: VE3HNG, Kevin; VE3DVV, John; VA3DJ, Dan; VE3BK, Rick; VE3JAI, Emsley; VE3LT, Tom; VA3XJ, Bernie; VE3EKX, Scott; VE3GCP, Fred; VE3QEE, Mardy; VE3??? Terry.

Hospitality was provided by VE3OCD, Joe; and VE3OGQ, Mary.

Visitors to the site included: VE3RYI, Mark; VE3TTO, Gary; VA3WXS, Mike; VE3VMO, Vic; VA3ANI, Anita; VA3PMI, Patrick; VE3UFZ, Roger; VA3MFM, Bob; ; also Larry Higgins; Ocean Wallace; and Lucas Thomas.

Thanks to all who helped and came to Field Day 2006.

Field Day Co-ordinator,
VE3DWJ, David



Roger VE3UFZ cutting the grass.

Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

(DIS was composed in the aftermath of FD while we had our two weeks of summer and it was very hot and humid.)

HooHA HUM enuf summer already....bring on the fall, Field Day has come and gone. OK it was good, more on that later. My radio gear is spread everywhere. More on that later too

How about this! For some time even years, I have been getting QSL cards from all over the world to VE3EKY/2. Why the /2? I looked for them in my logs and they are not there; I always thought there was a pirate out there using my call sign. Last month I got two from Italy. One was for CW and the other was for a RTTY QSO. I have never worked RTTY. I got thinking about that "/2". I looked up VE2EKY on Buckmasters web site and there he was..Voila! And get this his name is Bernard and of course he lives in Quebec and I bet he has trouble with the number three. But wait for this he lives in GRANBY QUEBEC.....I kid you not. I'll have to send him an QSL card through the bureau and offer to send him at least the last two cards.

The WX was perfect for FD. VE3BK Rick tells me the SSB stns had a good day. VE3GCP Fred and all, even scored some CW points terrific EH!

40 CW struggled all day Saturday with all kinds of trouble. Steve VE3OZO fixed some of our equipment probs on the fly. One of the coils in the tuner was going open off and on and our pwr out was fluctuating from 35W to 100W. In the last part of the 24 hrs our sigs went raspy. We were testing a new configuration of our FD antenna. It was a 2 element beam consisting of 2 inverted vee dipoles. It (the ant) was put together and erected by Mardy VE3QEE from a design configured at my suggestion by Emails with David Conn VE3KL. David writes the antenna and feed lines column for

Important Points

Executive Meetings

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August. 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 at 7:30 p.m. HARC "swap net" follows at 8 p.m. All contacts are welcome.

Examinations

Amateur radio licence examinations are conducted the second Wednesday of each month, except July and August. Contact the voluntary examiners to make an appointment. There will be a fee for each examination.

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 KJuly 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 factual content. E-mail submissions to Editor, John Hudak VE3CXB, <hudakjm@mcmaster.ca>

TCA magazine. You know TCA is the magazine you get with your

membership in RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada). Alas with all our probs what with Murphy hanging around our tests were inconclusive. We were expecting to get less QRM. In fact we got more. Why? I don't know. Steve VE3OZO provided us with most of the points for the day before 12 noon on Sunday. We other ops John VE3DVV, Joe VE3OCD, and myself struggled for every point. Scott VE3EKX came along about noon Sunday and we finally got rolling. We were getting 2 per minute and sometimes 3 PMin. Our final score was 295 qsos. 70 of them came in the last hour. The problem was huge pileups of people calling us and it was tough working any of them. It was discouraging. Was our signal attracting too much attention. I think so. During the last hour we worked almost everyone who called us. Also we did it promptly. We thought we still had another hour to go when Rick came in and pulled the plug telling us the contest was over.

During the last half hour a lot of stns commented on our raspy signals. Not good; what the heck it was field day. Yesterday Rick VE3BK sent me a copy of a letter sent to him telling him how bad the 40M CW signal was. W8AWE Norm thought we would want to know. He was puzzled because he couldn't work us even though he was working lots of other VE3's. I wonder too.

Since FD Mardy and I ran tests on my rig and indeed the sigs leave a lot to be desired. (our sigs sucked). I guess after 19 years of faithful service my old faithful ICOM 745 has finally worn out. The lithium battery should have given up 14 yrs ago. I hope we can replace that without losing the operating system. In fact shortly after the tests 2 fuses blew shutting down for now.

I have been moving my station back down the cellar directly under my tower. (picture included I hope) When will this be finished? Quien sabe!

Well dats all about dis for DIS & DAT Sept 2006.....73 de VE3EKY Ben - Bernie

Group Tour To CFRB/CFRX Transmitter Site

by John Hudak, VE3CXB

At the last meeting before summer I announced that we were going to set up a tour to the CFRB/CFRX transmitter site. This came about as a result of one of our guest speakers, Steve Canney, VA3SC, graciously offering to set this up for us. It was tentatively to occur during the first week of August. At that last meeting I had taken down a list of interested persons with the intent of phoning them when plans were finalized. Unfortunately on the date we were to have our tour the engineering department of CFRB decided to do maintenance at the transmitter site, therefore precluding our tour. If you were anxiously awaiting my phone call <grin> this is why you did not hear from me. We will still have our tour, although it will now have to take place sometime in the fall. At least now we will hopefully be able to put a notice in this newsletter. I will retain the phone list of interested hams to make sure you will be notified. Our apologies for not being able to hold the tour at the time originally announced. We hope you will still take part in the tour later this year. Thanks for your interest.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, June 21, 2006

by secretary Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE.

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM.

Election.

Roger, VE3UFZ, called upon Joe, VE3OCD, election chair, to conduct the election. Joe listed the candidates on the board, and called for last minute nominations from the floor. The resulting slate of candidates, in alphabetic order is listed below:

Brian Bowie, VA3BMB, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, Mike Hewitt, VE3MHX, Mike Krebs, VA3WXS, Fred Robinson, VE3GCP, Paul Selvey, VE3XPS, John Vandenberg, VE3DVV,

The election was conducted by secret ballot, electors each voting for six candidates. Ballots were tallied and the following directors were declared elected for the 2006-2007 year.

Brian Bowie, VA3BMB, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, Mike Hewitt, VE3MHX, Fred Robinson, VE3GCP, Paul Selvey, VE3XPS, John Vandenberg, VE3DVV, Roger Pimm, Past President, remains an *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors.

Thanks to Joe, VE3OCD, for a fine job conducting the election.

Gord Barber Celebrates Milestone as a Radio Amateur

Roger VE3UFZ, led members in welcoming back Gord Barber, VE3AAH, following his recent illness. Members expressed delight to see Gord at the meeting. Roger invited Gord to share his recent achievement with the group, an award from the Quarter Century Wireless Association, to "distinguished member" #530, dated Feb. 24, 2006, celebrating Gord's 70th anniversary as a licenced Radio Amateur. Congratulations Gord.

Field Day

David, VE3DWJ, led a discussion to clarify Field Day arrangements about such things as arrival times, generators, unlocking the site and so on. We are looking forward to a successful field day at VE3DC with three HF transmitters, plus UHF/VHF capability, a mobile APRS demonstration, and a hospitality station. Good luck to all participants and may Murphy enjoy a holiday.

Fred, VE3GCP, announced that the participants at field day would have their names entered in a draw for a Club golf shirt.

Field Trip to CFRX Transmitter Site

John VE3CXB explained that arrangements to visit the site are dependent on the time available to

our host and the time the station operators can accommodate our group. If members are interested in touring CFRX, sign up with John, and you will be telephoned when arrangements have been finalized. Transportation will be by private car.

President's Report - Roger VE3UFZ
Roger saw his job this year as a facilitator, keeping the process flowing and making sure all the loose ends were tied up. The toughest part of the job was not working with people, but with arranging program - getting speakers and planning activities that would interest everyone. Roger recalled several presentations like the microwave demonstration, and the talk about etiquette on HF. In sum Roger felt it has been a good year and he is looking forward to the time when the next president takes over.

Newsletter - Mardy VE3QEE

Mardy thanked all the people this year who provided ideas and sent in articles and photographs to make the newsletter interesting and relevant. As a result the membership is being informed about what is going on, as well as getting technical advice from some articles, amusement from other articles, and awareness of issues that affect the hobby.

Education Report - Mardy VE3QEE

In the Education department we have had two successful basic courses this year. Over the years a number of candidates have joined the club following one of the courses. Recent examples include Paul Selvey VE3XPS, Patrick Maille VE3PMA, Anita Thomas VA3ANI, John Hudak VE3CXB, to name a few who are here tonight. Classes are planned for September 2006 although a venue has not been finalized at this time. Six or seven potential candidates have made inquiries. Mike Hewitt VE3MHX is planning to join Mardy in presenting the basic course material and may be taking over some of the educational duties along the way.

Treasurer's Report - Fred VE3GCP

Three years ago when Fred became treasurer our expenses were high

with mandatory insurance taking the biggest bite of funds. Also we were still sending out too many newsletters. Over three years, expenses have been brought under control. Thanks to a new RAC group policy, under which our Club qualifies for coverage at a reasonable cost, our insurance expense continues to fall. Incidentally, insurance is required for our Club to do things like use the repeater site, rent Marritt Hall, and use the Field Day site. We have reduced the number of bulletins [newsletters] we send out so that it is members who are getting bulletins not a lot of others. Our club has been selling equipment. Some of this equipment was older club property being stored. A lot of equipment was donated by the families of dear club members who have recently passed away. Some equipment was given by members like who wanted the club to get rid of it. Fred and Mardy, occasionally Emsley, have been going to flea markets and selling this equipment with the proceeds coming to the club. We are now in a much healthier position financially than three years ago. Looking ahead, we like the policy of zero-based budgeting, keeping expenses in line with what is coming in, at the same time, we are financially healthy again and more able to support activities the club would like to do.

Membership Report - Emsley VE3JAI
Last year we finished with 75 members and this year we have 70. These figures represent quite a decrease from when Emsley started some 14 years ago. We are not sure about the reasons for the decline but perhaps the new executive will find ways of attracting members to the club.

Repeater - John VE3DVV
There were a couple of outages on the repeater this year, one on the phone patch and one on the 440 machine. Both were looked after. We want to re-implement IRLP. For testing purposes we had a computer hooked up to a handheld for a while and it worked but not well enough to leave in service. At present we are looking for a suitable low power radio of 5 to 10 watts. The computer

part is set up and ready to use. The IRLP will be run from John's location. We are still planning to do maintenance mast and anchor work prior to installing the 4-bay antenna on the 2-meter repeater.

Contest Group - Rick VE3BK
Canada Day Contest. We will have 5 stations operating the Canada Day contest on the long July 1st weekend, starting 8:00 p.m. June 30th and going to 8:00 p.m. on July 1st. The objective is to contact as many Canadian stations as possible including special RAC stations in each province. This is OUR CANADIAN CONTEST. Anyone interested contact Rick.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Event.

On August 19th and 20th from about 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. we will be working the International Lighthouse and Lightship Event from the light at the Hamilton Beach Canal under the Skyway Bridge. This is a fun event, not a contest. The object is to make contact with anyone, anywhere, especially other lighthouse and lightship stations to raise awareness of Amateur Radio and Lighthouse preservation efforts. We have power and a roof over our heads for this event. This is a new event for the club. Again, if you can help out, contact Rick, <ve3bk@rac.ca>

Pro Com Net - Gary Notto VE3TTO
Gary invited members to check into the Procom net on Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. which takes place on a system of linked repeaters covering an area from London to Cobourg as far as Thunder Bay. Local access is through VE3WIK 146.715 (131.8 Hz), 443.675 (131.8Hz) Carlisle. The net is part of the Ontario Emergency Communications Organization. For complete details see the web page at <<http://www.oeco.ca/>>

Health and Welfare - Mary VE3OGQ
Mary reported that Allan Gammon is recovering from a recent illness and a card has been sent on behalf of the club.

Mary, sadly, informed members of the passing of the late Ed Charlesworth, VE3ZF SK and called upon Fred to

mention a few words in memory of Ed.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 PM.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

by Rick Danby VE3BK

On Saturday March 19 I arrived at 8:45am and got a good parking spot. The lot filled up with roller blade skaters. They ended up at the other table. Emsley, Mike and Jeff showed up at 9:05am and we proceeded to set-up. It took a while but we were done approx. 10:10am and the first contact was Oslo Norway.

Everyone had a turn operating except Mardy who was busy at the Club table. I think Mike did the most operating, even though the bands were not the best after it rained. Because of the rain stopping, we started packing up about 3:30pm and were home in plenty of time for supper.

Present on Saturday were: Rick VE3BK - Mike Krebs VA3WXS - Emsley Mitchel VE3JAI - Jeff Smallwood VE3NVY - Mardy Eedson VE3QEE didn't operate but did an excellent job on the Club Table - Dave Bruton VE3DWJ

We worked Ken VE3WN who said he couldn't find us but would probably be out tomorrow and also John VE3CXB who said he would come on Sunday. Jeff had family stuff for Sunday, also Mardy and Emsley wouldn't be out. Mike was having Roger Pimm VE3UFZ pick him up on Sunday and Dave Bruton said he would be there again. Everyone said we did good, considering the conditions were not the best, with rain and all. It was a fun day anyway, even though we only had a total of 20 contacts logged.

On Sunday March 20 I arrive at our location about 8:45am again to find Dan VA3DJ waiting for me to show

up. We assembled Mark's Butternut behind my vehicle. Dave VE3DWJ showed up and helped us. Next thing I know, Roger VE3UFZ and Mike VA3WXS were there too. We all pitched in and we were on the air in record time. Band conditions seemed to be worse than yesterday even though we made more contacts than yesterday. I think the difference was that we stayed in the portion of the bands that the Americans frequent more than trying to work DX. We even worked some local people again today.

The operators today did an excellent job, even though we had lousy band conditions. At times it seemed to be one way communications. We were being heard better

than we were hearing, plus we were hearing only one side of the conversation on many QSO's when we were doing the search and pounce routine. Today was colder and windier but at least no rain. We left a little early today again because of the band conditions and lack of paper in the washroom hi hi. Everone had fun again today and we were

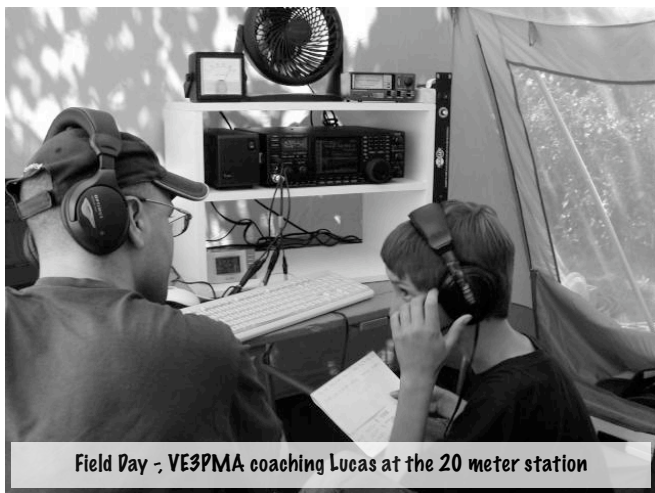
talking about a permanent colored QSL card for us to use every year.

Present on Sunday were: Rick VE3BK - Mike VA3WXS - Dave VE3DWJ.-.Dan Martinak VA3DJ.-.Roger Pimm VE3UFZ.-.John Hudak VE3CXB.-.and Ken Robinson VE3WN did find us for a visit. He filled us in a little about the activities and problems the Burlington Club had activating their light, plus we had a good chat with him.

Well that's the report for VE3DC on International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. Hopefully we will do it again next year. [If you are interested in seeing the log send Rick a request by e-mail.} 73 Rick Danby VE3BK



Field Day - John VE3DVV, Joe VE3OCQ, Mardy VE3QEE, Rick VE3BK, & Dan VE3DJ



Field Day - VE3PMA coaching Lucas at the 20 meter station



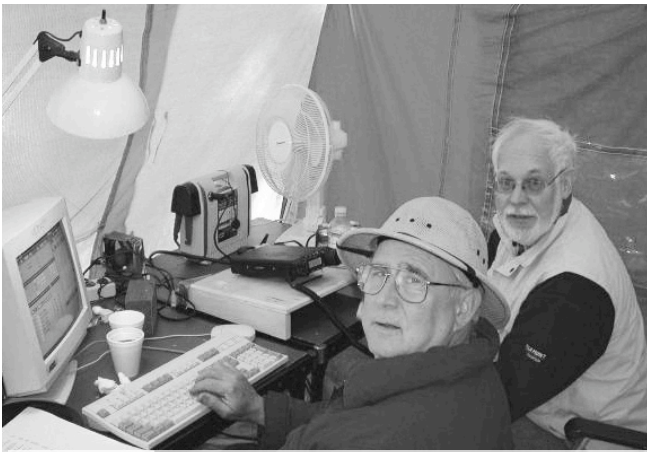
Field Day - Joe VE3OCQ, Kevin VE3HNC, Bernie VA3XJ, Ian VE3



Field Day -Fred VE3GCP coaching Ocean Wallace making her first contact.



Field Day - Dan VA3DJ operating the 20 meter phone station.



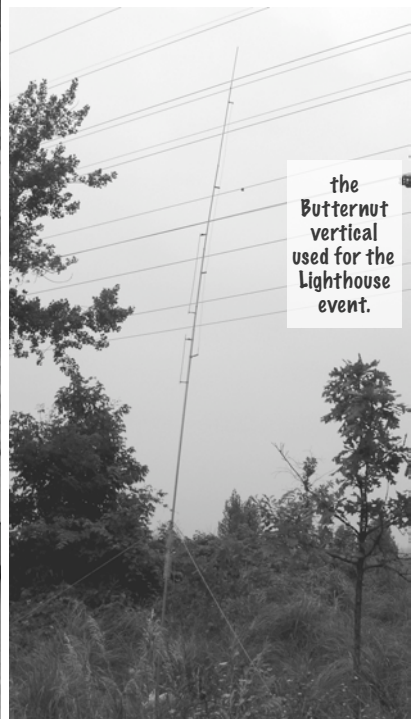
Field Day - Mardy VE3QEE logging for John VE3DVV - 80 meter station.



Field Day - Joe VE3OC7 & Mary VE306Q enjoying a well deserved break.



Mike VA3WXS
Rick VE3BK and
Emsley VE3JAI
manning a station
at the Lighthouse/
Lightship event in
August



the
Butternut
vertical
used for the
Lighthouse
event.



Dave VE3DWJ
and Jeff
VE3NVY at the
Club table
during the
Lighthouse
event.