

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

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The Hamilton Amateur

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday October 18th, the meeting will feature a one-hour video about the VP8GEO Micro-Lite DXpedition to South Georgia Island in 2002. The video shows John Sluymer, VE3EJ, and the rest of the DX group aboard the Braveheart as they visit another remote island on their quest to provide rare DX for radio Amateurs. Beautiful scenery and a look at the remains of an antarctic whaling station are highlights of the video. Footage shot by a professional film maker traveling with the DXpedition provides a rare and breathtaking look at this remote part of the world. A personal tip of the hat to Bernie Granby, VE3XJ, who has obtained the video and is making it available this night for our enjoyment.

Photographed from Earth

by Mardy, VE3QEE

I subscribe to a free internet news bulletin at <spaceweather.com>. Every so often there is a link to a site where someone has posted an interesting story or photograph. On September 17th, there was a photograph, shot by an amateur astronomer, showing the ISS, International Space Station, and the Shuttle Atlantis as the Shuttle was detaching itself and inspecting the ISS just before the Shuttle returned to Earth from its recent mission. The photograph was taken when the Shuttle and ISS were passing in front of the Sun, so the background seen in the picture is actually the surface of

Seen below, the International Space Station being inspected by the Shuttle Atlantis on a recent mission to install solar panels. Background is the surface of the Sun.



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.

the Sun. You and I cannot look directly at the sun, even for a brief moment, without doing permanent damage to our vision, but with special photographic equipment a picture like this can be taken. Imagine the precise timing required in order to catch the ISS with its companion Shuttle just at the moment when they pass in front of the Sun because everything is moving across the sky. Note the new appearance of the ISS. On the most recent mission, the Shuttle added large solar panels which can be seen at the lower part of the image.

Anderson Power Pole Connectors

by Mardy, VE3QEE

At the London Flea Market I picked up a package of Anderson Power Pole connectors. In the package I found contacts which can be crimped or soldered and some red and black covers into which the contacts snap. Single finished connectors can be fitted together in numerous ways to make duplex or more complex connectors. The package of parts was supplied with no information about how to assemble the parts to make a finished connector. Fortunately, a very detailed four-page set of assembly instructions and product specifications is available from the manufacturer, in PDF form, on the Web at http://www.andersonpower.com/products/pdf/stdpp_assy.pdf.

You might remember that Steve Parsons from Radioworld demonstrated these connectors when he came to talk to us last year. Since then, I have spoken to a couple of people using Anderson Power Pole connectors and have received favourable reports. The Power Pole connectors can be assembled individually then snapped together in groups resembling Molex connectors. Drop me an e-mail if you have been using them.
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HARC 2006-2007 Executive

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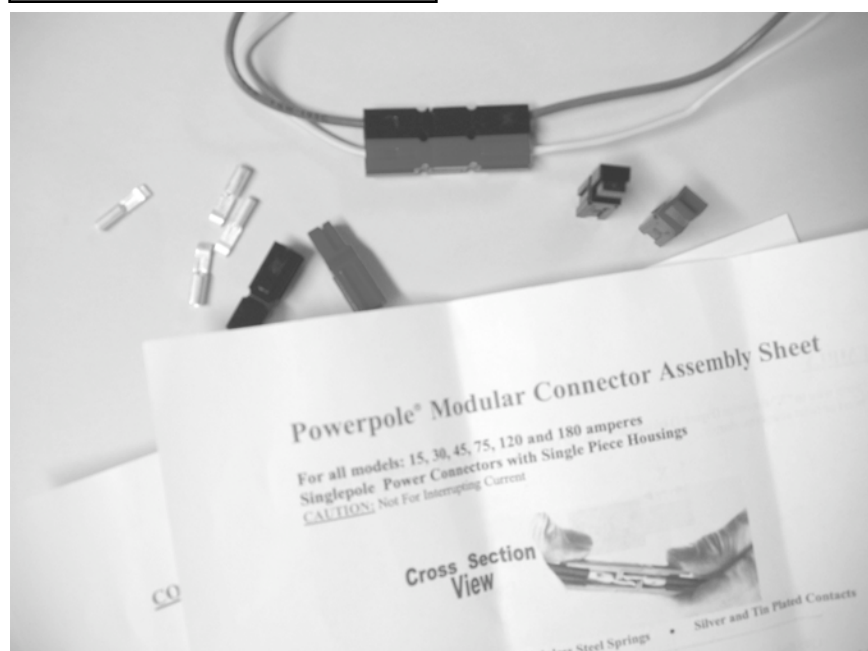
Minutes of the September 20, 2006 General Meeting

by Secretary, Roger, VE3UFZ

The meeting was convened at 8:00pm by president Mardy VE3QEE. There were several members at the meeting that we haven't seen for a while. Two visitors were welcomed to our meeting: David Malar and John David (candidate taking the basic course). We hope to see David and John at future meetings.

Our guest speaker, David Wilson, was introduced. David's presentation was on his project to honour the first radio transmission by Marconi. David brought along his home brew Spark Gap Transmitter. To this correspondent, the transmitter looked like something that Mary Shelly (author of Frankenstein the novel) would have created for a really good horror movie.

David told us that he has been interested in spark for a very long time. Marconi performed his historic act in 1901, and David decided that in honour of the first trans-Atlantic transmission, that he would build from scratch a similar spark generator. This required special



permission from the Federal Government to go on the air in 2001, 100 years after the historic event. When David was ready to test the rig, a government inspector took field strength and interference readings from some distance away from the antenna. His initial judgment was that the rig was transmitting a signal that was "dirty from DC to Daylight" and the rig could not be put on the air. After some negotiation, the inspector was convinced to take some readings from a greater distance, like about 2 concessions away (David lives on quite a few acres). After a period of time, during which David must have been wondering if the Inspector was lost, he returned with a positive report. The transmitter was relatively clean at distance from the antenna, and permission was granted to go on the air. Industry Canada granted permission to David to go on the air for 1 hour on December the 12th, 2001. Marconi's signal, the Morse letter S, was to be sent at once a minute intervals. The signal was actually transmitted twice a minute. Signal reports were received from St. Louis Missouri and western Alberta. The Alberta signal report was in serious doubt, but the Missouri report was genuine because the HAM reported that there were two transmissions per minute, not one as advertised. The change to two per minute was not advertised, therefore, the report had to be genuine. Great news for David, eight hundred miles on 3.550 MHz, the CW portion of the 80M band. David credits modern receivers for the quality and distance of the received signal. David requested permission to transmit below the commercial AM broadcast band, but permission was not granted due to Industry Canada's fear of BCI.

David then went into an explanation of communications down through the millennia. Man's first communications were simply grunts and groans, a form of communication that today we reserve for our spouses. Hand waving was used for short distance communication, then smoke signals, signal fires, semaphore flags, each step in the evolution in

long distance improving the quality and accuracy of the message. Telegraphy was the first instantaneous long distance communication technology. All that was left was to develop a method of eliminating the thousands of miles of hard drawn copper wire that followed all of the railway lines and highways. Not to mention the possibility of communicating with ships at sea.

In 1901, spark was the first method of communicating over distances of 1000 miles, without copper wire (except for the antenna). Spark required a lot of voltage to operate, in the order of 12,000V to 30,000V. The antenna was the heart of the system, with the choice of a vertical antenna due to the low frequency. At extremely low frequencies such as the frequency used in initial spark gap tests, extremely long antennas would have been necessary. Length was not so much a critical element, but the height above ground would have required "sky hooks" to get the required elevation. A quarter wave vertical with a capacitive "top hat" was used in David's experiment instead, as was used by Marconi.

David then went on to describe the construction of a spark gap, a device which not only permits the creation of a steady spark, but also provides a practical method to quench the spark without the consumption of the materials forming the gap. This involved some clever machine shop work and experimentation to come up with a working model. There were two types of quench spark devices. One was a closed system (not unlike the idea of a spark plug in a car cylinder) and the other was an open system. The latter produces ozone, which really makes the spark gap experience a challenge to the senses; sight, sound and smell. Spark gaps were traditionally cooled with a blast of air, or in later developments, hydrogen gas was used. The latter may sound pretty dangerous, but the hydrogen was used in an oxygen depleted environment so combustion was not a risk (so they say). The capacitors used by Marconi were

HARC 2006-2007 Chairs

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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>

actually multiple steel plates suspended 5" parallel to each other from the rafters of a barn type structure. This worked well until a wind started the plates swinging causing shorts and varying capacitance (could be the original variable capacitor). Transmission would then have to be curtailed until the swinging plates could be stopped.

David demonstrated his spark gap generator, but not before giving us all a real fright. When he plugged in the transformer for the rig, he didn't

know that the "key" was locked closed and the generator started up with a sudden roar of sound.

Ed: After my heart slowed down to normal pace (and after I checked my shorts) I was able to continue my note taking.

David described some of the early models of crystal detectors used to receive not only spark gap signals, but later AM mode transmissions.



Guest Speaker, Dave Wilson, VE3BBN keying the spark gap transmitter. Look at the spark (two bright spots on either side of spinning wheel). Thrill at the sound of the snap, and smell of the ozone too.

David's presentation was one of the most informative, entertaining and exciting presentations we have heard at our club. Thank you David for your love of the hobby and sharing your time with us.

Business Meeting

The Business meeting was started shortly after 9:00pm by Mardy. Refreshments were prepared by Bernie Granby and as usual they were outstanding.

Committee reports were requested.

Flea Market is coming up soon, and if you receive a phone call from our phone committee, please give the request for help your serious consideration. Security of the doors at Maritt Hall is of top priority and we need volunteers to stand at the doors to ensure that goods do not "walk away". The minutes of our May meeting were published in the news letter. Mike Krebs made a motion that they be accepted as published, seconded and approved. Doug VE3NBL commented that the article about the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum was correct as far as Doug could day. There were only a few club member names used in the article, and Doug was concerned that there may be other members of the CWHM were not mentioned.

Treasurers Report: An audit was performed on our books, and all of our accounts balance. Fred submitted a written report to the secretary. Moved by Mardy that the treasurer's report be accepted as read. Motion seconded by Mike VA3WXS and carried.

Education Report: Mardy reported that we have a temporary room at Mohawk College for courses. It is reportedly a good room, larger than our previous room. There are currently x students for Basic Amateur Radio. There were 10

people canvassed, and 2 people showed up. Two more people inquired at the meeting, so a future Basic course may be in order. There are currently no candidates for the Advanced Ham course. Two members indicated an interest in the advanced course.

Health and Welfare: Mary reported that cards were sent out to members who were reported ill.

Contest: Casey was called forward by Rick VE3BK to receive a number of awards from previous contests. CQ World Wide DX Contest 2001; CW 2001, CW2003, 2002 Ontario QSO Party, 2003 Ontario QSO Party, 1992 Ontario QSO Party. Rick went over the rules for the October 28/29. Mardy was presented with some QSO cards that represented his efforts at the Lighthouse event.



Repeater: John reported that the 4 bay antenna has been installed. He also has a radio and computer for the UHF portion of our repeater. Work is still in progress but should be finished soon. We hope that we will be able to set up a link for IRLP soon.

A.R.E.S: Lorraine VE3NZ reported that someone is using the call sign VE3ZYD which belongs to Jason, who lives in downtown Hamilton. This person has a Spanish accent and is not a HAM. This is basically an act of identity theft. Anyone hearing this call sign and the voice having a Spanish accent, let Jason know right away. Jason had no idea that this was going on. The illegal activity is occurring in the evenings on 20M in the American portion of the band.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm on motion by Mardy, seconded by Mike VA3WXS.

CQ Magazine World Wide DX Contest

By Rick Danby, VE3BK, Contest Group

Time to start thinking about the CQWW 2006 contest we usually participate in. This is the fun contest that we work the world. This is the one that Mardy enjoyed so much one year and couldn't get over all the DX that we could work.

Anyway, we are running M2 again, that's Multi operator, 2 transmitters. That gives us a chance to work 2 stations at a time, and with only 2 radios, we are not spread to thin so we can concentrate on having fun working DX.

Think about whether you want to run a station or when you can come and help out at least. Let me know if you can come. This is a fun contest, but even in this one, running M2, we have been able to get some certificates hi hi.

This contest is a 48hr contest that starts 0:00 GMT on Saturday Oct. 28, 2006 to 24:00 GMT Sunday Oct. 29, 2006.....that means 8pm Friday night October 27, 2006 local time to 7pm Sunday night October 29, 2006 local time. (Daylight Savings Time ends at 2am Sunday October 29, 2006 so that means we turn the clocks back and that accounts for the 7pm end time on the Sunday.

Here is the web address to go get you own copy of the rules. Please read the part about M2 so that you know exactly what is involved. Let me know if you are coming. <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqwwhome.html>>

73 es cu there Rick VE3BK

QST...Free Towers

Thanking Fred VE3GCP for bringing this matter to our attention.

I have been advised by 2 home owners that they have towers at their homes they would like to get rid of. These people are not Amateurs. One is a TV and the other is a Delhi self-support. All you have to do, is take them down. If you call me I will tell you how to get hold of the person and you can take it from there. Contact Fred VE3GCP at 905- 575-5197

How We Were Brought Up

Article submitted by Rick VE3BK

My Mom used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread Mayo on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

My Mom used to defrost hamburger on the counter AND I used to eat it raw sometimes, too. Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember getting e.coli.

Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), no beach closures then.

The term cell phone would have conjured up a phone in a jail cell, and a pager was the school PA system.

We all took gym, not PE..And risked permanent injury with a pair of high top Ked's (only worn in gym) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

Flunking gym was not an option... even for stupid kids! I guess PE must be much harder than gym.

THE AMATEUR'S CODE Paul M. Segal W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...

never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...

offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...

with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...

slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...

radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

PATRIOTIC...

station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Speaking of school, we all said prayers and sang the national anthem, and staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention.

We must have had horribly damaged psyches. What an archaic health system we had then. Remember school nurses? Ours wore a hat and everything.

I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself.

I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station,

Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital TV cable stations.

Oh yeah... and where was the Benadryl and sterilization kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played 'king of the hill' on piles of gravel left on vacant construction sites, and when we got hurt, Mom pulled out the 48-cent bottle of Mercurochrome (kids liked it better because it didn't sting like iodine did) and then we got our butt spanked.

Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of a \$49 bottle of antibiotics, and then Mom calls the attorney to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

We didn't act up at the neighbor's house either because if we did, we got our butt spanked there and then we got butt spanked again when we got home.

I recall Donny Reynolds from next door coming over and doing his tricks on the front stoop, just before he fell off. Little did his Mom know that she could have owned our house. Instead, she picked him up and swatted him for being such a goof. It was a neighborhood run amuck.

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family. How could we possibly have known that?

We needed to get into group therapy and anger management classes? We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac! How did we ever survive?

Love to all of us who shared this era; and to all who didn't, sorry for what you missed. I wouldn't trade it for anything!

HARC Annual Christmas Party

Information from Fred, VE3GCP

We have just received word that our room is booked for the HARC Annual Christmas Party. The party is being held once again at the **Royal Hamilton Yacht Club on Wednesday December 13th.** (that's the second Wednesday in December). Arrangements are similar to last year. **Reception and social hour at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner served at 7:00.** The price is still \$30.00 per person.



Join us at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club for another HARC Annual Christmas Party

Over the past several years this party has been well attended and quite favourably received. This annual Christmas social is open to all HAMS and their friends so plan to attend and enjoy good company in the comfortable surroundings of the Yacht Club. Please circle the date on your calendar and pass the word. Fred or any member of the executive will be taking reservations so give us a call and have a spot reserved in your name.

Emsley, VE3JAI and Fred, VE3GCP



Contest Group Bar-B-Q

This Fall the contest group held its annual Bar-B-Q at the home Dan Martinak, VA3DJ.

The weather was great and the surroundings beautiful. A good time was had by all. We got to see a demonstration of radio controlled boats on the pond at Dan's place. we also got a tour the farm and met the Horses.

Thanks to Dan's Mom and Dad for their gracious hospitality. Also, thanks to Rick, VE3BK, for sending in the pictures. (continued on the next page).

Dan's radio controlled yacht.





Joe VE3OCQ, Patricia Danby, Mary VE3OGQ



Mary VE3OGQ, Irene Martinak, Mark VE3RYI, David VE3DQJ



Joe Martinak, Dan VA3DJ, Emsley VE3JAI



The whole gang - Renzo VE3NYX, Mary, Mark, David, Joe, Dan, Emsley, and with his back to us Fred

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