

The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter – 75 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2007

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

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A Good Web Site

Check out the web site of K0BG at <http://www.k0bg.com/>. The site contains tips for the amateur particularly about installing mobile HF equipment. Lots of information, clearly written and well illustrated with links to other sites.

Future Meetings

Meeting room opens at 7:00 p.m.
 Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

April 18th, Spectrum Management Officers from Industry Canada will be speaking to us on the subject of radiocommunication interference. Lorraine, VA3NZ has advised us that we are now expecting two Spectrum Management interference locator vans on site for the meeting. These vans equipped with the latest RDF instrumentation will be open so you can see the equipment and have your questions answered. We are hoping for good weather and a full turn-out.

May 16th is the HARC annual Home Brew / Show and Tell night. Bring in something you have constructed and completed in the past year for use in Amateur Radio and explain or demonstrate the device. These items qualify for the

Crawford Trophy competition. Following the home brew demonstrations, while the judges are deliberating, the floor will be open for members who would like to share an idea or show a piece of equipment useful in the shack, (not necessarily anything you have built). It is a meeting where members can learn from each other and appreciate what other radio amateurs are doing in the hobby. Please plan to attend and organize now your home brew entry or show and tell contribution.

Special Event Station at the Erland Lee Museum

On Saturday March 24th the HARC operated a HAM station at the Erland Lee Museum, birthplace of the Women's Institute, during the museum's annual Maple Syrup Event.



Club meetings – 3rd Wednesday each month – 7:30 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.

They expected 250 visitors but from what I saw, they probably had many more than that, even though the weather was wet and rainy. Our station was on the air from about 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon local time, so if you were lucky enough to find us (we did more of a demonstration than actually a lot of operating) you will receive an anniversary QSL card on receipt of your card.

Dan VA3DJ had told Mike, the curator, that we could give them a display on Amateur Radio. Dan's mother has done volunteer work at the Women's Institute and knew the curator. He accepted Dan's offer and things were set up for us to go. I was there to help set up the computer logging for Dan. Mardy and Fred put up Mardy's G5RV antenna over the parking lot the week before. Dan and I showed up first to set up the radio gear. Fred ran the antenna coax into the building for us, and set up the power cord and power bar. Fred VE3GCP, Mardy VE3QEE, Roger VE3UFZ, Dan VA3DJ, Ann VE3NOE and Mary VE3OGQ were the operating team. Ocean, Mary's grand-daughter, did some logging on the computer, but was too shy to make contacts like she did with Fred on Field Day.

The 2007 CQ World-Wide WPX Contest was on the same weekend, so the bands were busy.

Visitors that I know of included Patrick VA3PMA, Anita VA3ANI and son Lucas. Also visiting was John VE3DVV, his wife Joanne, and his brother Joe Vandenberg, up from Florida. We all enjoyed the Maple Syrup Event's breakfast of pancakes, maple syrup, and Piller's sausages - ummm. Joe was also telling Dan and I of an interesting happening in his life. Apparently in 1941 at the age of 9, the German Luftwaffe came flying into his home town in Holland. They flew so low that the planes were going under bridges. Joe and another one of his boyhood friends, threw stones at the planes. Later on they discovered that one of their neighbours had gotten bombed out, but the Vandenberg house was

HARC 2006-2007 Executive

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untouched. Certainly an interesting story from a past childhood (hi hi).

The operators were on 80m first, then tried 40m, and ended up on 20m, working some of the stations in the contest. Sorry if you missed them, but like I said before, this was basically a public demonstration of amateur radio. They were more interested in showing the public than in working many stations. We will have other special event stations in the future for our 75th birthday, so stay tuned for an announcement. Then you too can get one of our special QSL's.

The delicious breakfast was put on by the Stoney Creek Battlefield Optimist Club. They did an excellent job and accommodated everyone till the 12 p.m. closing. Mardy, Fred and Dan packed up and took the antenna down. It turned out to be a great morning, with lots of public interest, and many hams I didn't mention, showing up for a tour of the museum, the amateur radio display and a good breakfast. We also expect to get some QSL cards from some of the hams that worked us and our anniversary card will be sent out to them to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club in 2007. Who knows? This could become an annual event to display our hobby.

73 Rick VE3BK

Contest Corner

Ontario QSO Party Contest - Coming Up Soon!

Our intrepid contest organizer Rick Danby VE3BK would like to remind everyone that the Ontario QSO Party contest is coming up soon and that our club will once again be taking part. Any ham, new or experienced, (or a budding ham or guest) wishing to have a go at contesting is welcome to come out and give a hand. This is a good time for some of our newer hams to experience the contesting aspect of amateur radio. You can come out and watch and learn, take a turn at logging, or even get on the air and work up some points for the club.

Contest times this year are:
April 21, 1800Z -to- April 22, 0500Z
- and -
April 22, 1200Z -to- April 22, 1800Z

Converting to our local time:
Sat. April 21, 2 p.m. -to-
Sun. April 22, 1 a.m. (Local Time)
and
Sun. April 22, 8 a.m. -to-
Sun. April 22, 2 p.m. (Local Time)

Please note that this contest is split up into two operating periods over the two days. There is no overnight operating period this year. Bands in

use will be 160m to 10m, plus 6m and 2m, but not including the WARC bands .

If you're planning on coming out, especially for our newer hams, you don't have to stay the full time period of the contest, but come on out for a few hours if you can and give a hand.

This contest is now run by the "Contest Club Ontario". For more info please go to: <<http://cco.ve3xd.com/oqp/>>

Also please let Rick VE3BK know if you plan to come out. Contact him at: rdanby@sympatico.ca or catch him at the next meeting.

Please note that the CANWARN training session is also running on Sat. April 21 but there should be no conflict as the CANWARN training session runs in the morning and the contest starts at 2 p.m. that afternoon.

Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ

Enough of this winter WX. Its supposed to be Spring. At least I got to use my snow blower once. In case you missed me I was in Florida.. The WX down there was weird but mostly nice.

Its sad so sad., according to TCA (remember the mag distributed to all members of RAC) this month March 24 07 the FCC for Amateur Radio issued a notice on this date they will no longer test for CW

Just a word about a couple of members who went SK in the last little while. Bernie Gelber was one of my students back a ways. In the same class I had two very young boys and their mothers. The mothers were cousins by marriage as I recall . They all got their licences, but what I want to tell you about dear readers is something I noticed in class. Bernie who was in his sxties , I think was having trouble with some of the electronics we were studying and I

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noticed the younger of the boys and Bernie with their heads together and the twelve year old was explaining it to Bernie. They were great pals all through the course. The two boys and their mothers had their pictures published in TCA after the class was finished. The other SK Joseph Bienkeiwicz VE3BWZ (See also Rick VE3BK's tribute to Joe in October 2006 THE HAMILTON AMATEUR) Joe was a very old guy like most of us. He had a very hard time getting the concepts. I told him he could repeat the course for free (as I told all my students) . I forget how many times Joseph took the course. I really missed him when he finally got his licence and he was no longer there to help me. At that time we were holding the classes at the Red Cross on the second floor. The door was always locked you couldn't get in so someone always had to wait downstairs for the latecomers. Joseph quickly volunteered and became my right hand man. Later when he got his licence he was a regular helping set up for our fleamarket in Ancaster. I guess Joseph was in a nursing home in Oakville. I think its sad to send people away . Where no one knows them. Ah Joe I often wondered where you got to. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Harvey Powell VE3GKP SK According to his obit in the Spec he was a real hero of the air war. He did two tours of duty in bombers. I think he was a wireless airgunner and lived to die in bed. R.I.P. guys.

Wonder of wonders, I finally got my station back together again. It has been two years since I pulled it apart and took it to two Field Days without ever putting it back together. I have moved downstairs and adapted an old liquor cabinet to hold my gear. (See photo on page 5.) The station is located directly under my tower so my feedlines and ground are much shorter. I was hoping to put in new coax but that seemed like too much trouble and expense so I just shortened the lines and put them in. This was easy as all the lines were in sections. The big problem was how to get them into the house. I had to pull down panels and drill holes through the walls. I had it figured out

all wrong but with more than a little luck it worked out. The good part is I used all the materials that I started with. Sweat and tears are all that it cost. I'm using a battery for my power supply as my internal supply in the Icom 745 died last field day. I Can't tell you how many contacts told us we had a lousy signal. One American ham sent me a very friendly letter about it. He thought I would want to know. If only he knew ; he was only one of many. He al so complained that he couldn't crack the pile-up to work us. We were using double inverted vee dipoles. This proved to be a mixed blessing because we had to try to sort these calls out. Too much is too much I guess. The last hour the calls spread out a little so Scott VE3EKX and I really started to work them with our crappy signal. Rick VE3BK had to come over to tell us we were running overtime the contest was over. We thought we had another hour to go. The funny part was all these guys were still working us. Rick had to cut our score back a little.

John VE3DVV's presentation about IRLP was great. I haven't tried it yet have you ? I took my handheld to the meeting. It was not programmed properly. I would like to thank the ham who set up my radio so John could try it on the air. Correct me if I'm wrong but I understand you need the tone only on transmit for IRLP.

This is the time of the year when you need to mark Field Day on your calendar. If you don't reserve it now something else will come up and you won't make it. As usual we are going to need operators and helpers. In the CW tent we need keyboarders as well as operators. Can you type? I can use you. It's a great weekend. Won't you come out and help ? Think about it anyway.

Have you noticed one of our members had his surname on the cover of TCA two issues in a row ? The last two. I got to love that picture. Who is it? One of his calls is VA3MCM in a manner of speaking.

That's all folks enough dis about dat....73.....Bernie VE3EKY

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 license 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.

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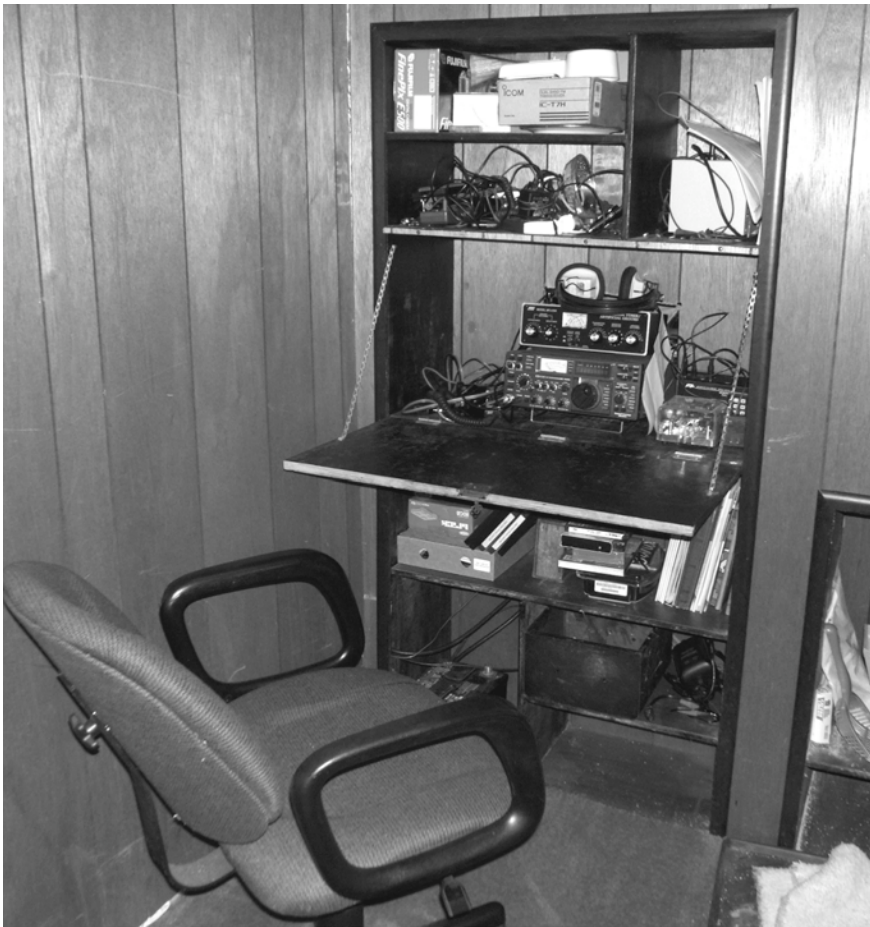
The Hamilton Amateur is published ten times each year (not in July or August). Deadline for article submission is the last Saturday of the month for the next month's issue. Preferred format is .txt file. Articles will be checked for spelling and grammar, but the author is responsible for factual content. E-mail submissions to Editor, John Hudak VE3CXB, <hudakjm@mcmaster.ca>

Suggestions for DX Pile-Ups

For newer members, the term DX refers to any long distance contact regardless of whether it is a casual contact, a contest, or a "DXpedition." A pile-up is when a large number of stations are all trying to contact a single DX station. ed.

The following suggestions are provided courtesy of QRZ DX and The DX Magazine, at <<http://www.dxpup.com/>>

1. The DX station operators are in charge of any pile-up
2. The DX station should make and adhere to their operating rules quietly and respectfully.
3. The DX station should use, when appropriate, call areas and areas of the world for better accuracy, rate and order. For example: "Any callsign with the number 5 come now".
4. The DX station should use split operation and not crowd out nearby stations.
5. The DX station should give their call sign at least every 10 minutes and maintain a pattern especially when ending a QSO.
6. The DX station should create a rhythm or timing which maintains a good rate and allows the pile-up to call at the right time.
7. The operators in the pile-up, if not sure of a QSO, should dupe and the DX operator continue not wasting time commenting.
8. The DX station should work those who will create the fastest rate, at least first, then make an effort to work the weaker stations.
9. No one should lecture on the air.
10. Everyone should always require and give full calls.
11. Know and practice the gray line.



Picture of Bernie's new station in the basement near the base of his tower. Coax and ground feeds go directly through the wall for efficiency. He's been on the air from this location. Listen to the group Mondays at 7:00 p.m. on 20 meters at 14.135 MHz.

12. Know the equipment being operated such as the split button, audio levels, keying wave form, etc.
13. NEVER be a "KC Cop".
14. Operators giving spots on a DX Cluster should ensure their accuracy!
15. Keep away from personal, political, and religious comment any time on the air and/or the DX Cluster. Keep all comments in the true spirit of ham radio whereby ALL ARE EQUAL.
16. Don't rush when giving your call when the DX station is standing by, especially on CW. Time will be lost trying to obtain the entire call sign if it is given too fast.
17. Don't call the DX station constantly. Get in the rhythm.

18. Let the last station complete his QSO.
19. Use only the power it takes to make a clear contact!
20. Figure out the DX operator's operating practice for greater success.

Words to live by when trying for that rare one...

submitted by: Rick Danby VE3BK

CANWARN Training

Geoff Coulson, *Warning Preparedness Meteorologist with Environment Canada*, is hosting a CANWARN training session this month. Here are the details.

On Saturday, April 21st at 9 AM - in the Nash Auditorium, Wilcox Building,

Chedoke Hospital, (2 Sanatorium Road, Hamilton), there will be a two-hour training session open to all interested parties. The session will explain the CANWARN system, and show weather observers what to look for and what to report in the event of severe weather. You don't have to be a radio amateur to be a CANWARN spotter. In a recent e-mail Geoff explained:

"I invite those of you who have attended a training session recently to come out again and encourage those of you who haven't attended recently or have never been to a session, to come out to a session convenient to you this Spring and help us celebrate CANWARN's 20th anniversary in Ontario."

I have attended one of the recent sessions and can tell you it was very informative and interesting. I would encourage others to go.

If you can't attend the local session, similar training is being offered at other locations throughout the province. If you would like details, send me a request by e-mail and I will forward the information from Environment Canada

Hope to see you there.
73 Mardy, VE3QEE

News From the President's Desk

by Mardy, VE3QEE

What used to be billed as The Great Ride And Stride To Beat Cancer On The Linc, held annually on the last Sunday in May, will no longer be taking place on the Linc because of problems created by closing the expressway. Instead, the event will take place at the Bayfront Park. I received a note from Constable Robert McKinlay confirming this fact, and informing us that, because of the change in venue, organizers will not require the assistance of the Amateur Radio community this year. I know that many of us looked forward to participating each year, and our club valued the opportunity to

demonstrate Amateur Radio in public. I have informed Constable Robert McKinlay that our offer to help still stands and should our services be required in future we will be ready to put together a team to help.

On the same theme, members of HARC did set up and operate a demonstration station at a new venue, the Erland Lee Museum on the brow overlooking Stoney Creek. On March 25th the Museum hosted their annual Pancake Breakfast and the event was well attended. HARC was there with a demonstration station to raise public awareness of Amateur Radio in the community and to celebrate our 75th anniversary as a club. Here is part of the note from Michael Gemmell, Curator of the Erland Lee Museum thanking us for our participation,

“On behalf of the Erland Lee Museum Committee and the chair, Regina Wagter, I would like to thank you for the club’s contributions to the heritage site’s Maple Syrup Event and Pancake Breakfast last weekend. Having the club present to demonstrate amateur radio provided the event with a different look than in previous years, and one that was well received by volunteers and visitors. Thank you to the volunteers (particularly Fred Robinson) who donated their time to set up the antenna the week before and the equipment on the day of the event. I regret I did not get the name of the radio men who came to set up on Saturday but please also extend my appreciation to them. The museum netted approximately \$1100 from the weekend, with more than 200 visitors despite poor weather. We were very pleased overall. Your support in helping the museum network with a larger community in Hamilton and the area is greatly appreciated by everyone here. Proceeds from the event help us continue the legacy of the Women’s Institutes and sustain the museum’s heritage research, so that future generations will learn about Stoney Creek’s history.”

There are four events involving radio amateurs all occurring soon on the same weekend in April. On Saturday April 21st in the morning there is a

CANWARN training session at Nash Auditorium, open to anyone. The same morning the Durham Hamfest takes place in Whitby, and also, the same day in the afternoon the Ontario QSO Party begins and HARC will operate VE3DC from the Contest Site. The next day, Sunday April 22nd, the Paris to Ancaster Bike Race takes place, and Gary Notto, VE3TTO, is looking after amateur radio volunteer communication for that event as he has done for a number of years. Also the Ontario QSO Party continues. Both the CANWARN session and the Ontario QSO Party are mentioned elsewhere in this issue. It will be a busy weekend. Hope you get a chance to participate in one or more of these events.

The HARC Website is being given a new look by Anita Thomas, VA3ANI, a professional Web Developer and member of our club. You can now connect using our own domain name <<http://www.hamiltonARC.ca>>. This shorter name should make it easier to access the site. While the updating process continues you will see the appearance of the web page changing. When the new site is up, members will be able to register on the site for extra privileges. At that time, register using your Call Sign as the user name. Thanks to Anita for offering to take on this project and for her infinite patience waiting while some of our users struggle to improve their computer skills (myself included). Stay tuned.

Membership renewal time will be arriving shortly because the Club year runs from September 1st through August 31st annually. The Executive voted to continue the Early Registration Incentive Program this coming year, which means that all registrations received before the October club meeting will be entered in a draw, and the winner will receive the following year’s membership free, a \$25.00 value.

There are no official minutes for the March meeting in this newsletter because the business meeting was very brief and informal. At the March meeting John Vandenberg made a well

received presentation demonstrating the procedure for accessing IRLP using our repeater. After the coffee break members tried calling up the IRLP node using their own hand-held radios. At the end John demonstrated a process for checking your own transmissions using the IRLP system. Thank you John for a very well presented and informative session.

The insurance premium HARC pays each year to have the club insured on the RAC insurance policy is reduced by the number of HARC members who are also members of Radio Amateurs of Canada. The more members we have, the lower the cost of Club insurance. In order to submit this number each year it would help if we knew your RAC identification number. This number can be found on the TCA address label in the upper left corner. The same number is also printed on the Tru Cash Rewards card sent to you from RAC. We will have a spot on this year’s membership renewal form for you to tell us your RAC membership number.

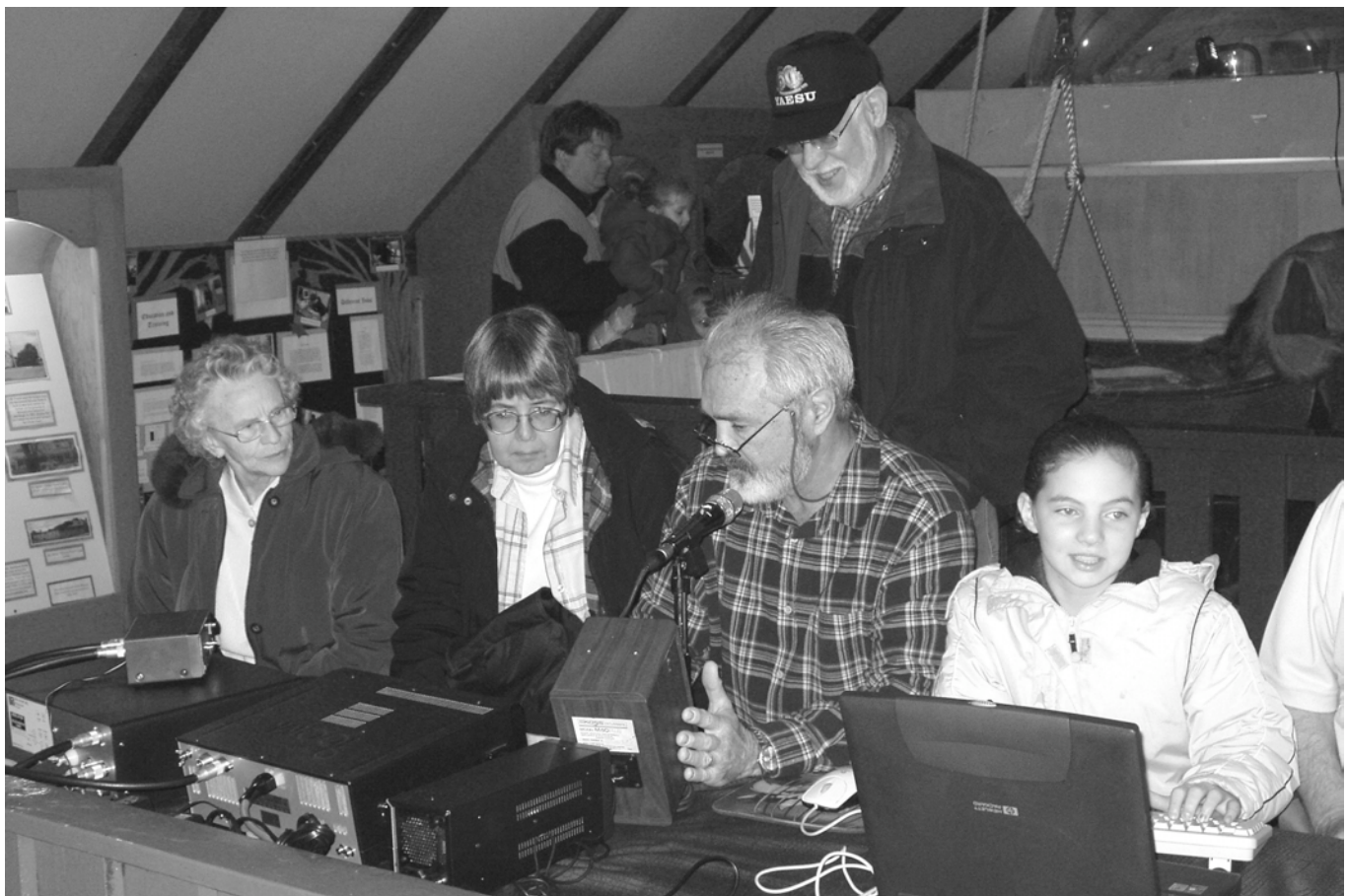
Just a reminder when you pick up the April issue of your favourite radio magazine from the news stand there may well be an April Fools’ article among the legitimate offerings. I can remember a few from the past. There was the Milktron PA tube made from an evacuated Milk bottle, it even had a picture of the tube in the article. There was the article about improved propagation using airplane condensation trails as additional elements in line with your beam antenna. There was the article about a new light emitting diode device which produced so much unwanted light they had difficulty shielding the box to keep the unwanted light from escaping. Keep your eyes open. Did you know that the word gullible does not appear in the Wikipedia electronic encyclopedia at <en.wikipedia.org>?



John VE3DVV explaining how the Internet Radio Linking Project, (IRLP) system operates, and demonstrating the system at the March club meeting.



Members brought their radios so they could practice making a contact on IRLP going through VE3NCF.



John Vandenberg, VE3DVV, watching as operators, Mary VE3OGQ, Ann VA3NOE, Roger VE3UFZ and Mary's Granddaughter Ocean, (a veteran logger with Field Day experience), work the station and answer questions posed by visitors. There was a good turn-out and we got a number of people asking questions about Amateur Radio and the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club.



Pancake Breakfast at the Erland Lee Museum Stoney Creek

Above, pancake makers, the Stoney Creek Optimist Club kept the Pillers sausages and pancakes moving despite the cool rainy day.



Anita, VA3ANI, Patrick, VA3PMA, and Lucas enjoying real Maple syrup pancakes, sausages and good fellowship at the breakfast.



We had a real good turn-out in support of this event.

Above, John VE3DVV and wife JoAnne, enjoying breakfast with Dan VA3DJ.

Right, Ann VA3NOE with Roger VE3UFZ, getting a lesson from Fred VE3GCP about operating Dan's rig, an Icom 756 Pro II

It was hard to hear contacts above the noise from the dining room below.



