

# The Hamilton Amateur

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

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club  
 PO Box 91215, Effort Square PO  
 Hamilton, ON L8N 4G4  
 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956  
<http://www.hwcn.org/link/harc/>

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## Count On It ...

If there are only two TV programs worth watching, they will be on at the same time.

When your hands are covered with grease and the pot on the stove is boiling over, the phone will ring.

## Future Meetings

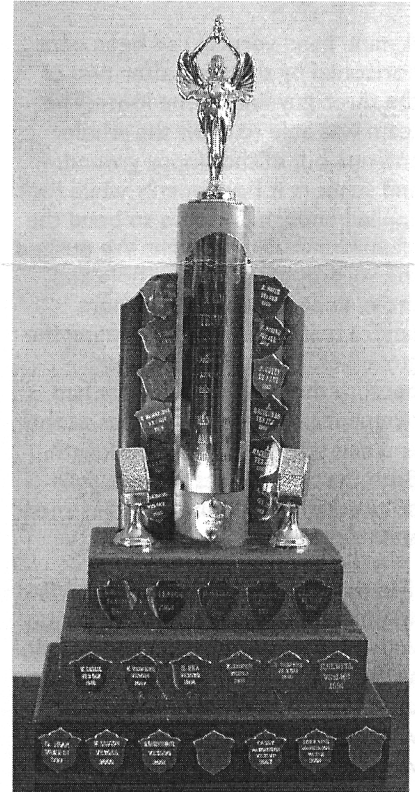
Meeting room opens at 7:00 p.m.  
 Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

**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.

## Maintenance Party

From time to time Rick organizes a work party to tune up the contest site. In the time since our last contest a few things had crossed the threshold from looking good to not working. If you are a newer HAM lucky enough to go on one of these work parties you can pick up a lot of practical ideas helping the old pro's do repairs. A number of our members have worked in the field for years in connection with their employment. You learn a lot from

*the Crawford Trophy*



*The Crawford Trophy, pictured above, is awarded annually for the best home brew project for use in Amateur Radio that was completed by a member within the past year.*

them about handling tools and arriving equipped to do the job. You also see the way a job is done with effective techniques and maintainable parts.

One of the wire antennas, a Windom antenna that had been up for several years, broke and came down. That was fixed with a Western Union

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.

Joint, a little solder and insulating tape. Back in the field, where the break occurred there is no electricity so soldering has to be done using a propane soldering torch tipped with a copper soldering fixture, and six pair of hands, literally, to take strain off the joint, apply torch and solder to the wire, and position the job within a cut-away 50 gallon drum to reduce wind and lessen heat loss.

A multi band vertical had been bent horizontal by the wind after two of the three guy lines came loose. The team was able to draw the whole antenna out of the sloppy ground, and support it horizontally while Rick applied enough pressure to bend the aluminium tubing straight. We pushed the vertical back into the hole and drove in new T- bar guy anchors before reattaching and tightening the guy wires. This task was easier because the original guy wires had been put up using turnbuckles at the end and split bolts to adjust length. Both the turnbuckles and the split bolts could be undone for adjustment and re-tightened.

The third problem was harder to find and fix because it involved corrosion within a PL-259 / SO-238 connection at the end of a feed line. The outside of the fixture looked bright and shiny when the tape was removed, but within, the center pin was corroded

*Rick VE3BK, performing field service on the Windom.*



## HARC 2006-2007 Executive

### President

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

### First Vice President

Brian Bowie VA3BMB  
905-521-5729

### Second Vice President

Mike Hewitt VE3MHX  
n8tdd@netscape.net

### Secretary & Past President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ  
905-560-2628  
rpimm@cogeco.ca

### Treasurer

Fred Robinson VE3GCP  
905-575-5197  
FredRobinson@MountainCable.net

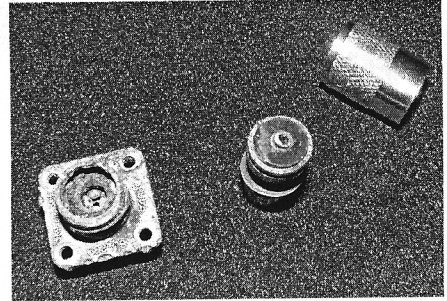
### Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV  
905-692-3802  
JVandenberg@mountaincable.net

### Director

Paul Selvey, VE3XPS  
pselvey@cogeco.ca

right off, and the whole interior was pitted and discolored with oxidized material. No wonder we got high SWR readings. Replacing those connectors was another job for the torch and soldering iron.



*Connector destroyed by corrosion.*

Well, we got stuff back up and operating in time for, the Ontario QSO party which was well attended.

## Minutes of the April 18th Meeting

*by Secretary, Roger Pimm VE3UFZ*

The meeting was convened at 7:30 pm. There was a much larger attendance at this meeting than what we are usually accustomed to with 49 people signing the register. Perhaps the guest presenters from Industry Canada, had something to do with the large attendance.

Mardy, VE3QEE, welcomed some new faces to our meeting: VA3MPL Michael and VE3IYV Doug, visiting from the Cambridge Club. Also, some faces not seen for some time: VA3SV Mike and VE3CNF John.

Good to see some of those familiar faces again.

While waiting for Industry Canada to set up their equipment, Mardy called on Rick VE3BK to present a certificate to Casey VE3CVP for the club's participation in the 2006 Ontario QSO Party. Rick was happy to report that VE3DC achieved 1st place in the county of Haldiman/ Norfolk, 2nd place in Ontario and 5th place overall. Well done contest group!

Guest speakers, Laura Flatt and Denis Beaulieu from Industry Canada, spoke

about the services provided by Industry Canada charged with administering the RF spectrum. They mentioned various administrative tasks like providing authorization, ensuring compliance, solving interference that arises in a cluttered spectrum, and partnering with users to train personnel and develop systems. They explained the function of the MIRS vans (Mobile Integrated Remote System) and the equipment they contain.

After the explanation by Laura and Denis, members were invited to come out in small groups to tour the two MIRS vans and see the equipment which is used to track and pinpoint the source of a transmission. The vans contain receiving and direction finding equipment which can be operated "virtually" from a console beside the driver, or directly from the rear of the van. In addition, the vans have remote capability so the operator can call up the IC frequency assignment database, also connect with and operate fixed monitoring sites throughout the Canada.

See photos of the MIRS vans in the pictorial section.

**Business Meeting.** The rather brief minutes of the February General Meeting were read. Moved by VE3VXS, seconded by Bill VE3KYC that the minutes be adopted as published in the club newsletter. Carried.

#### Reports

**Membership:** We currently have 68 members. Renewals are already coming in for the 2007/2008 club year. Signing up before the end of the September meeting will qualify members for a draw to get another years membership free.

**Treasurer:** Fred delivered a financial report showing our finances are in good order and outstanding bills paid. Moved by Mardy VE3QEE, seconded by Mary VE3OGQ, that the report be accepted as delivered, ...carried.

### HARC 2006-2007 Chairs

#### Awards Chairman

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

#### Contesting Manager/Property

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

#### Education Chair /Flea Market

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE  
<meedson@cogeco.ca>

#### Volunteer Examiners

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

#### Field Day Co-ordinator

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

#### Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV  
905-692-3802  
<JVandenberg@mountaincable.net>

#### Health & Welfare Chairperson

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ  
905-388-8383

#### Hospitality

Bernie Granby VA3XJ  
905-527-7175 <berngran@hwcen.org>

#### Membership Chair/Web Page

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI  
905-627-0333 <eamitch@mcmaster.ca>

#### Newsletter Editor

John Hudak VE3CXB  
905-627-9475 <hudakjm@mcmaster.ca>

#### Public Liaison Co-Chair

Stanley Bolibruch VE3GFE  
905-528-4002 and  
Neil Galloway VE3VNG  
905-383-6986

#### Swap Net Controller

Don Grisenhwaite VE3DDQ  
905-388-1365 <ve3dddq1947@cogeco.ca>

#### Communication

Michael Kerbs VA3WXS  
905-523-9005  
<mkrebs@sympatico.ca>

**Health and Welfare:** Mary VE3OGQ reported a silent key, Harvey James Powell, VE3GKP who passed away March 26th. One of our contest group Steve Bergevin VE3OZO lost his father, Marcel on April 9th. Several club members who know Steve from the contest group paid their respects at the funeral home.

**Repeater:** John VE3DVV reported that there is nothing new going on at the repeater but some members have been experimenting with IRLP since his presentation at the March General Meeting. John addressed the problem some operators are having when trying to use the 2M side of the repeater for IRLP. A problem arises within the repeater passing the 131.8 KHz tone from the 2M side to the 440cm side. It seems that the tone lies slightly beyond the passband of the 2 meter repeater. In some cases, with a strong signal, the tone gets passed through. In other cases the tone fails to kick in the IRLP. It is best for operators to use the 440cm repeater for IRLP. Also, make sure that your transceiver has the 131.8 KHz tone set up when attempting to use IRLP or the link will not open.

**Education:** There are a number of people interested in the advanced course. Mardy and Mike VE3MHX are looking at setting it up for Saturday mornings this fall.

**CANWARN/ARES:** Lorraine VE3NZ informed the group about the CANWARN training session which will be held on Saturday morning, April 21 at Nash Auditorium. Paul VE3XPS noted the ARES web site: ares.ham.ca.

**AWARDS:** Casey VE3CVP reported that there will not be a CW Operating award or an Order of Merit award this year. Not because there isn't someone in the club worthy of these awards, simply because there were no nominations for these awards. Don't forget the Crawford Award for home brew. Bring your home brew projects to the May meeting and let us see your handiwork. Show and tell projects are also welcome.

## New Business

HARC will be involved again this year in the Lighthouse event. This year we would like to operate earlier in the event and hopefully get more contacts.

David VE3DWJ requested volunteers to be band captains for Field Day June 23/24, 2007. Anyone interested in helping with setup for Field Day is encouraged to contact David. His number is in the newsletter.

Doug VE3NBL and Frank VA3FWL reported that the 80M antenna at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum station, VA3CWM, has been restored. The antenna was damaged in the ice storm we had this past winter. Doug VE3NBL requested that if members are planning to go up to the museum to operate the HF equipment, to please contact one of the CWHM hams to arrange a session. The ham shack at the museum is not always manned.

Moved by Mike VE3WXS seconded by Brian VE3BMB that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30pm. Carried.

## Family Emergency Preparedness Day at Latter Day Saints Church.

Reported by Lorraine VA3NZ

On April 14/07 local radio amateurs, were asked to have a display at Family Preparedness Day at the Latter Day Saints Church. This event was very well run and had abundance of information. They displays were food for folks with allergies, freeze drying food, heating, lighting, safety and communications for the family.

The Amateur radio display generated a large amount of interest. Cards with information regarding the Basic Qualification were handed out until we ran out of them and had to write the information on RAC brochures.

## 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

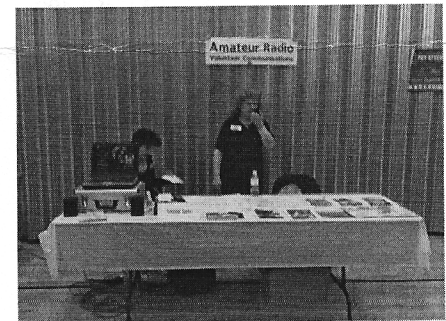
Club membership, including all privileges, is \$25 per person, per year, Sept 1 to Aug 31. Additional membership, for immediate family living in the same home, is \$1 per person. One newsletter sent to each address.

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

Our display consisted of photos, a radio opened for anyone who would like to see the insides and a computer playing a variety of video clips including the one where 'Jay Leno' hosted a Morse Code vs Text Messaging contest. The Family Preparedness Day is going to be a yearly event as it did so well. There were approximately 500 people who attended the event.

Volunteers included Jerri Osborn VE3JSO, Joan Nuxoll VE3JNX and Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ, with help from Bonnie McLaughlin VA3BML.



Lorraine and Joan at the Amateur Radio display, one of many displays at the Church's EP Day event.

## Interference from Amateur Repeaters on the 70 cm Band

This recent report is from the ARRL weekly e-bulletin to members. In both Canada and the USA many amateurs use UHF radio equipment, but on the 70 cm band Amateurs are secondary users. We are permitted to use the band as long as we don't interfere with the primary users, in this case, the US Air Force. Here is the report:

The ARRL has been working with the US Department of Defense to develop a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to military radar systems on both coasts. Amateur Radio is secondary to government users from 420 to 450 MHz and must not interfere with primary users. Citing an increasing number of interference

complaints, the US Air Force has asked the FCC to order dozens of repeater systems to either mitigate interference to the "PAVE PAWS" radars or shut down. The Commission has not yet responded. The situation affects 15 repeaters in the vicinity of Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and more than 100 repeaters within some 140 miles of Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, California. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, stresses that the Defense Department acknowledges Amateur Radio's value in disasters and emergencies and is being extremely cooperative — and a wholesale shutdown of US 70 cm Amateur Radio activity is not in the offing.

## Canada Day Contest

by Rick Danby VE3BK

Hi Everyone. Not too early to think about the Canada Day Contest. We will be operating the contest from the contest site again this year, multi-multi operation. This usually means more radio's and stations than we have at Field Day. Field Day to me is a warm-up for Canada Day. I personally enjoy both.

The time again is 0:00 Zulu to 23:59 Zulu or UTC on July 1st, 2007. This translates into 8pm Saturday June 30th to 8pm Sunday July 1st, 2007. I know that some of you would either do just Field Day or Canada Day, but I personally do both, as long as the wife doesn't complain hi hi. (Field Day this year is 2pm Saturday June 23 to Sunday 2pm June 24, 2007 this year, one week before Canada Day.)

Contest rules for this year and full contest results for last year are on this webpage: <http://www.rac.ca/service/infocont.htm>

So give it some thought on what bands you would like to run or whether you can come out and give us a hand as an operator. It is a lot of fun being the station that everyone is looking for and working your fellow Canadians on Canada's Birthday. 73 and see you there.

## Boat Anchors

*Some tongue-in-cheek thoughts and advice from Rick.*

The general category of boat anchors is met by something big and heavy enough to literally be used as an anchor for a small boat.

The true determination is generally made by your spouse. If you can walk in the front door with it, without your spouse asking "and what are you planning to do with that?", it is not a boat anchor. Boat anchors have to be snuck in during the night or on long weekends.

My triumph in a lifetime of packratting was to bring home 14,000 tubes and hide them in the basement and barn so that it was 3 weeks before my wife realized there was more stuff in the house.

Acquiring boat anchors is an art form. Being on eBay helps. When you sell something on eBay (preferably a small item that you do not need), proclaim to your wife that you have sold something! On the other hand, say nothing when you acquire things and be sure to pick the right time to sneak it in.

It is always a good thing to justify the existence of your giant ham shack and storage area. You need to demonstrate the benefit of keeping all those parts and tools. When the family TV goes out, treat that event as an opportunity. Take the TV out to the shack and tell your wife you are going to work on it. If you do have to get the TV fixed by a qualified technician, sneak the TV out of the shack and put it directly in the trunk of your car. Give the TV repair man your cell phone number so they don't call the house when it is ready. When the TV is repaired sneak it

back into the shack. Later, in full view of your wife, bring it into the house and proclaim that it has now been fixed and it is a good thing you have so much knowledge and equipment

The perfect boat anchor collector could have been Lamont Cranston (aka The Shadow), for he could cloud the minds of men, presumably spouses too, so that they could not see all the piles and piles of boat anchors. At times, I am convinced I have achieved that level, but then my wife exclaims "how come more and more stuff keeps accumulating in all the rooms?" But, by quickly changing the subject, the mind control works again.

I cannot tell you all my secrets, but I can still get one or two boxes a week into the house without more than a mutter from my wife. It is based upon years of practice and honing my skill to a fine art.

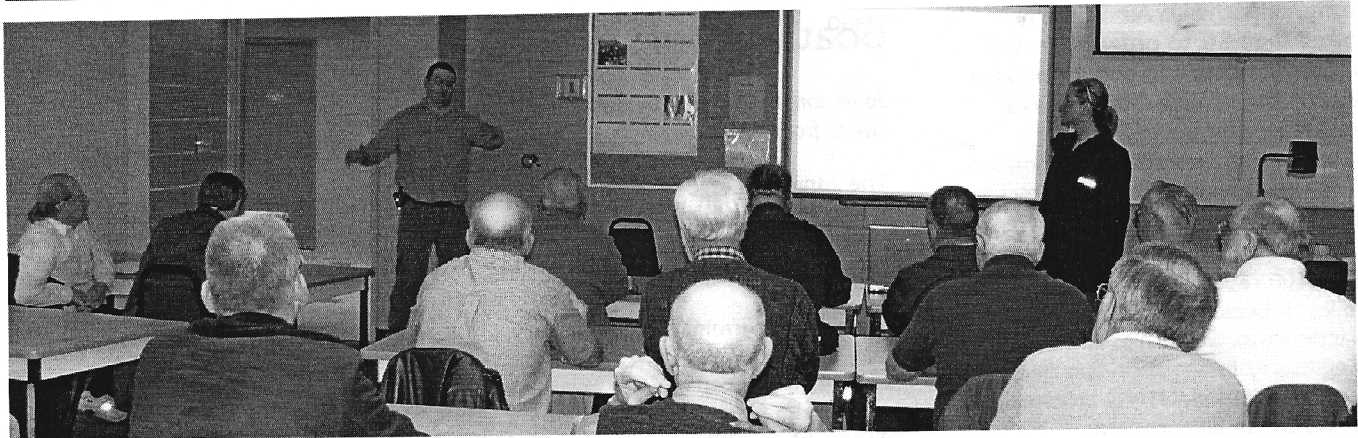


## Coming Events

by Mardy VE3QEE

By the time you get this newsletter the City's annual Emergency Preparedness Day at Bayfront Park will have taken place. Once again, the Amateur Radio community is being represented thanks to the efforts of Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Jerri Osborn, VE3JSO, the CERV group and, of course, Al and Lorraine MacPherson, VA3AM and VA3NZ.

On Saturday June 9th, the ALS Society (Lou Gehrig's Disease) will hold a walk-a-thon at Bayfront Park. They are seeking amateur Radio volunteers to provide a simplex communication net. If you are available, contact Mardy VE3QEE. Note that this event coincides with the Ontario Hamfest at Fergus.



Above, Laura Flatt and Denis Beaulieu from Industry Canada explaining aspects of spectrum management.



Below, Mary VE3OGQ gets a closer look at the custom layout inside the van. The console permits complete access to all controls from the operator's position and preserves room for a passenger as well.

Left, Mary VE3OGQ and John VE3DVV getting a look inside one of the Mobile Integrated Remote System vans while Denis explains how he operates equipment "virtually" from the touch screen computer terminal in the front.



Above, a look inside the back of the MIRS van which is packed with specialized equipment including a spectrum monitor, power supply, multimode receiver, radio direction finding receiver, and land mobile communication transceiver. Nice stuff!



Casey VE3CVP receives on behalf of the Club a certificate for the 2006 Ontario QSO Party presented by Contest Chairman Rick VE3BK. Congratulations contesters, 1st in Haldimand/Norfolk, 2nd in Ontario, and 5th overall.

