



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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Count On It ...

Nothing supports QRP operation better than the contact using a multi-element beam on a high tower and a pre-amplified receiver with an array of filters. "We are receiving you 5 9 9 at this location, QSL?"

Future Meetings

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

June 20th is the HARC Annual Meeting and Election. Once again, Joe Urbanski has agreed to act as Elections Chairman, receiving nominations and conducting the election.

The affairs of the Cub shall be managed by a Board of seven Directors, each of whom, at the time of his election and throughout his term of office, shall be a Member of the Club. The Past President of the Club shall be ex-officio a Director and member of the Cub. Each of the remaining six directors shall be elected to hold office from the 1st day of September, of the year for which he is elected, or from the date of his election if he is elected during the year, until the 31st day of August of the following year, or until his successor shall have been elected or qualified. The whole Board shall be retired on August 31st in each year, but shall be eligible for re-election if otherwise qualified.

Refer to the next page for a list of the current directors.

Nominations for director made by a proposer and a seconder can be submitted before the June meeting and additional nominations will be received from the floor at the June meeting.

Experience shows that our Club gets a lot of good ideas from new members on the executive and those

new members become known by and get to know the rest of the group.

The directors meet some time following the election to divide up the work and decide who will act as President, Secretary, Treasurer etc. for the coming year. The new slate of officials will be published in the September Newsletter.

It is healthy to have a good turn-over on the executive so if you see someone who could serve, please encourage them to run for election, and support their nomination as a proposer or seconder.

Dayton At Last

by Marry, VE3QEE

The Dayton Hamvention is the biggest three day gathering of Radio Amateurs anywhere. All the manufacturers of equipment are there with booths displaying their entire line. Clubs and Associations are there too especially the ARRL with a huge area to advertise their services. There are workshops and presentations you can attend and products of all kinds to see. Outside the Hara Arena there is a huge flea market with hundreds of vendors. The fleamarket is so extensive, you might not see it all.

First timers, Fred VE3GCP and I, were guided by John Faber, VE3CNF and John Vandenberg VE3DVV who have been Dayton regulars for a number of years. We all stayed at a motel 20 minutes away drove in each day. We found ample parking near the arena.

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

Once inside, we chose a spot within the food court to meet one another every two hours, then we went exploring in pairs or singles.

I spent most time inside the arena and hardly saw the flea market at all. There were new products on display and people to question, in many cases you could talk to the people who actually designed and built the product. I also listened to a couple of the presentations. This had the added benefit of being able to sit down and get off your feet for an hour.

If I had to sum up the Dayton Hamvention in one word, that word would be VARIETY. I can't think of anything seen in a magazine like QST or CQ (that includes the little ads on the back pages) that was not available at the Hamvention. There was lots to see. If you did decide to buy something and worried about bringing it back into Canada keep in mind that for this year, HAMs who stayed 48 hours in the US could bring back duty-free up to \$400 worth of equipment.

All-in-all, we had a good time, and saw lots of stuff. I felt my first trip to Dayton was entirely worthwhile and could recommend the experience to any ham.

Inside HARA Arena at the Dayton Hamvention.



HARC 2006-2007 Executive

President

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE
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First Vice President

Brian Bowie VA3BMB
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Second Vice President

Mike Hewitt VE3MHX
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Secretary & Past President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ
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Treasurer

Fred Robinson VE3GCP
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Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV
905-692-3802
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Director

Paul Selvey, VE3XPS
pselvey@cogeco.ca

Dis & Dat

by Bernie Granby, VE3EKY, VA3XJ



Been there done that, again. Ruth and I took our van and headed on down to Dayton, the holy grail the Mecca of Ham radio. It's a must do for every ham. It was huge as usual.

I wish I had counted the number of vendors outside. They were laid out in endless rows. Dare I say thousands of them. Inside the arena (<Hara Arena> in three connected buildings all the dealers were represented. Icom seemed to have the biggest presence. I wore my legs down to my knees trying to see everything. At least 5 –people from H.A.R.C. were there, but our paths never crossed, that's a measure of how big it was and is.

What did I buy? Nothing to speak of. I bought a T-shirt at a Waffle house at breakfast. I was looking for a few things, but did not find them. It was just an adventure, an outing with the Van because I'm "THE RAMVAN MAN" Parking was free on the Mill Sreet Mall. The shuttle buses ran often and were fast and economical. Unfortunately we were told not to stay the night on the lot. They are passing regs to forbid companies such as Wall Mart and others from allowing us to park overnight. We were sent to a recommended KOA park which charged us \$ 80.00 for an ordinary parking spot and \$9.00 USD for the shuttle bus. Live and learn. What can you do? Next time I would only stay for one day and go down the road to another KOA, better cheaper. We went down through Detroit, which was horrendous. We came back through Buffalo, which was OK. There were huge and dangerous constuction detours everywhere on both sides of the lake. The gas prices were really high. I think the gas in Ohio was higher than here in Canada. Hard to tell though without doing the math.

I finally got my Icom 745 on the air yesterday. The bands may be dead but for me the thrill is still there. About 8:00 edt I heard UX1QQ calling CQ. I was running 70 W out. No one else answered him so I gave him a quick answer. He heard me and the QSO was good although my fist is a little shaky. He was in the Ukraine in a city just North of the Black Sea . Zaporozhye. In an old geography book we found him, there he was in the U.S.S.R. Remember that place where once we were forbidden to contact? I used to tell my students ' think of it with less power than a 100W light bulb we found our weak sigs that passed a few billion people who were not even aware of them and we conversed. For me that's the magic of Hamming'. Try it you'll like it.

This is field day month < JUNE 23-24 > The action starts at 1800z 2 o'clock EDT time .We set up in the morning and there always is room for a few more hands to help put up the antennae. Won't YOU help. In past years I have said I wouldn't beg. I lied please come out. 40 CW always needs ops. No experience needed although typists can be a great help. YOU CAN BE LISTED AS AN OPERATOR BY OPERATING THE KEYBOARD. Its so simple you can learn it in about a minute seriously. Of course RAC's Canada day comes up about a week later. Rick would like some more ops too. Even if you can't get up to the site at least go on the air and give our group a few contact points. If you intend to come out for either of these events as an op don't get on and give out contacts with VE3DC as that disqualifies you. Final arrangements will be announced at the June meeting.

We have been on a roll as a club. The meetings have been really good. We could use a few more members I guess. Our finances are well looked after and the insurance problem sounds like its under control at last Consider joining RAC the advantages are self evident. How can we increase our numbers as a hobby? Do you have any ideas? Think about it. .

That's all the musings for now. More dis about dat later. I Hope !

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
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Field Day Co-ordinator

David Bruton VE3DWJ
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Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV
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Health & Welfare Chairperson

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ
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Hospitality

Bernie Granby VA3XJ
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Membership Chair/Web Page

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI
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Newsletter Editor

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Public Liaison Co-Chair

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

Swap Net Controller

Don Grisenthwaite VE3DDQ
905-388-1365 <ve3ddq1947@cogeco.ca>

Communication

Michael Kerbs VA3WXS
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Minutes of the General Meeting May 16, 2007

by Secretary, Roger Pimm VE3UFZ

The meeting was called to order by President Mardy VE3QEE at 7:30pm with the introduction of our guest prospective HAM and sailor David Jenkins. David has studied on his own and is interested in writing his Basic examination soon.

This meeting was our annual Home Brew night. There were several entries for this year's event:

Roger VE3UFZ presented his half size G5RV constructed for use on his boat Paw Prince.

Kevin VE3HNG presented two VHF antennas. One was a J Pole type design for 2M. This antenna was approximately 12 ft. long and Kevin indicated that it was able to resonate at 440 MHz. A second antenna was presented that Kevin called a triple omni i.e.: it consisted of three vertical elements connected together, connected in parallel. John VE3DVV presented his home made 2M/73cm Yagi that was used in his demonstration of the IRLP facility on our club repeater. John used a section of PVC pipe for the boom and 1/2" copper pipe for the driven and director elements.

John VE3CNF presented a show and tell project which consisted of a full legal power, automated tuner for both balanced and unbalanced antenna feeds. This tuner represented the epitome of HAM building. Most of the parts, including gear drives, stepper motor controls, coils and all mechanical appurtenances were hand made to professional standards. John certainly utilized all of his machine shop experience and electronic knowledge to make this tuner. Congratulations John on your achievement. Rick VE3BK presented a show and tell project which was a home made battery replacement pack for his rather antique Radio Shack VHF HT.

The fact that these units are out of production makes it really difficult to find rechargeable battery packs and Rick wasn't ready to give up his HT.

The winner of the Home Brew contest was Roger VE3UFZ.

Note: As secretary I should report events at our meetings as they occur, without embellishment. However, at this time I would like to say that my submitted home brew project wasn't truly worthy of any kind of award. It was dead simple and required little or no originality. It did fulfill a need at the time it was built, but to receive the Crawford Trophy for a few pieces of copper cobbled together into an already proven antenna design diminishes the value of the esteemed Crawford Trophy. Perhaps it is time to revisit the rules and procedure for our annual Home Brew meeting?

An announcement was made that Ron Ouwehand VA3OUW is now up in Thunder Bay preparing for his cruise around Lake Superior. Ron has both his VHF/UHF and HF rig on board and is planning to use IRLP to call our club repeater on a regular schedule. Ron has set up a Web Site WWW.OLDHAND.COM. The site has a running log as well as lots of great picture. Ron will be using his HF to access Email and has a place on his web site where you can compose brief messages to him. A few members are attempting to set up a schedule with Ron on 20M or 40M. For the time being try 7.135Mhz or alternately 7.153Mhz at 8:30pm (local time) nightly.

Rick VE3BK has put together a design for Anniversary "T" shirts. There are also pin-on Anniversary buttons, mouse pads and drink coasters available. Give Rick a call if you are interested. Rick has samples at the meeting and the quality of these products is excellent.

The minutes of the April General Meeting were read. Moved by Lorraine VE3NZ and seconded by Mardy VE3QEE that the minutes be adopted as published in the club newsletter. Carried.

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>

Treasurer: Fred VE3GCP reported that we have secured our meeting room from the school for the 2007/2008 club year.

Secretary: RAC has requested an additional \$50 for our insurance. This additional premium is a result of club members not renewing their RAC membership. Our premium rate depends on the percentage of our club membership which is paid up RAC members. The lower the percentage RAC membership, the higher the premium.

Health and Welfare: Mary VE3OGQ reported a SK, John Parr VE3ITC. A condolence card was sent to the family.

Contest: Rick VE3BK presented two certificates to our awards chairman Casey VE3CVP. The contest group got first in multi/multi in Ontario for the Canada Day contest 2005. The 2007 Canada Day is approaching fast. If you are interested in participating, contact Rick.

ARES: Lorraine VE3NZ and Mardy VE3QEE participated in this year's gathering. It was a very successful event with 30 stations worked during the day. Most of the contacts were from Russia. A battery operated portable rig was used for these contacts. Check out the ARES web site at WWW.ARES-HAM.CA.

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum: John VE3DVV reported that the beam antenna at the museum has been repaired and is now operational.

Moved by Casey VE3CVP and seconded by Rick VE3BK that the meeting be adjourned at 9:33pm. Carried.





News from the Sailing Vessel Old Hand

by Ron Ouwehand VA3OUW

Hello me 'ardies!

Greetings from the "Old Hand" in Lake Superior! It's been a week since I've began this sailing expedition on the boat. For those that are not familiar with the location you can get an idea about Lake Superior by going on the internet and typing the name of the lake on www.wikipedia.org. My dream that I'm living is spending time sailing around Lake Superior. I have planned for this trip and worked towards this for the last six years. Having sailed for many years I have some experience on this lake. I have a cousin that lives here in Thunder Bay. I have visited here many times in the last six years, sailing with my cousin on his boat "Tango" to the many islands and anchorages in the vast wilderness that is the "North Shore".

My boat is a 29 foot sailing vessel named the Old Hand. The name of the boat is an English translation of my last name. My family tree traces back to 1503AD in Holland to a fishing village on the coast. So you see it's in our genes to go sail or travel. As part of this plan several

years ago I took a winter training course in Ham radio and was able to obtain my license VA3OUW. I expanded my options and increased my license qualifications by studying the Morse code. I spent many months of using the "Koch" program supplied free by G4FON. After driving my family nuts I finally went to write my 5 words per minute and passed the test. This gave me privileges on the lower frequencies that I would need for long range communications in my future plans. I need to thank Mardy Eedson for his encouragement and other members in the club for their support as well.

The plan was to have my boat trucked up here by a trucking company and than start my circumnavigation of the lake from

Thunder Bay. This would give me a base for supplies, my boat cradle would be here at the end of the trip, and my cousin could help with monitoring the boat over the coming winter of 2007/2008. I would than come back up next year and sail the boat back down to Lake Ontario and back to my home port of 50 Point in Grimsby. At this writing the boat is not here yet but should be here soon after the long weekend. When the boat arrives I will need to spend some time doing the final prep work for living and sailing aboard. I will need to reassemble the canvas dodger and other items that needed to be stored for the trip on the highway. After a final cleaning and antifouling paint the boat will be launched.

This time up here has given me an opportunity to get familiar with the local repeaters and meet some of the local Ham operators. There are several repeaters in Thunder Bay. One of the repeaters has the IRLP system incorporated and it's call is VA3LU, node number 2000. The second repeater used extensively by the local amateurs is VE3YQT. I have set up a schedule to contact Hamilton amateurs on the VE3NCF repeater daily at 2130 hours. This will only be possible as long as I'm in the Thunder Bay area. Once under sail and out of range you will be able to follow my journey by going to my web site. www.svoldhand.com There you will find links to pictures, a daily trip log, and contact information.



Satellite photo from Google Maps showing the location of S.V. Old Hand at anchor by an island in Lake Superior.

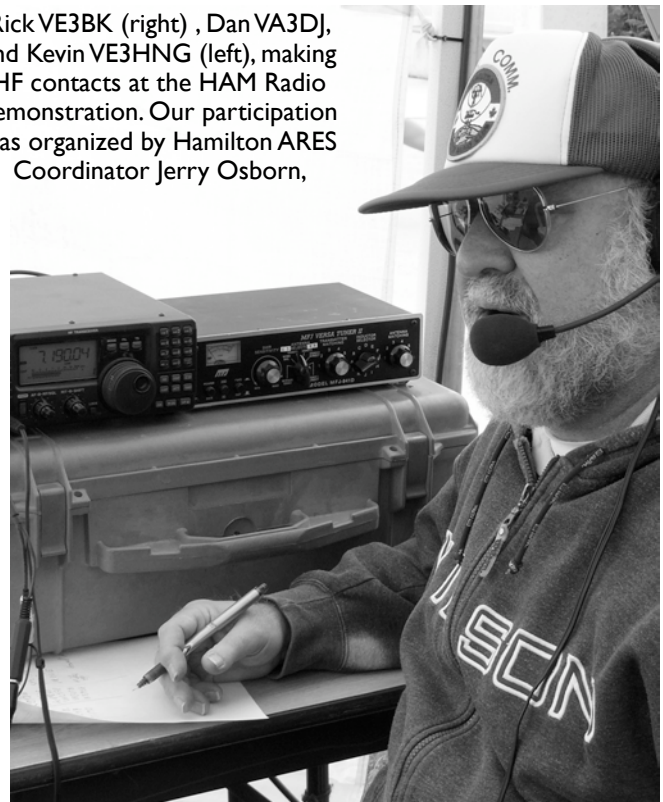
Progress of the voyage can be followed on a link from the [<svoldhand>](http://svoldhand.com) web page.

HAMs Showcase Amateur Radio in the Community.

In keeping with our theme for the 75th anniversary year, which is to raise public awareness of Amateur Radio in the community, local amateurs participated in a couple of public service events. On May 12th HAMs staffed a display at the City of Hamilton Emergency Preparedness Day. The event took place at the Bayfront Park in great weather. It was well attended by the public.



Rick VE3BK (right), Dan VA3DJ, and Kevin VE3HNG (left), making HF contacts at the HAM Radio demonstration. Our participation was organized by Hamilton ARES Coordinator Jerry Osborn,

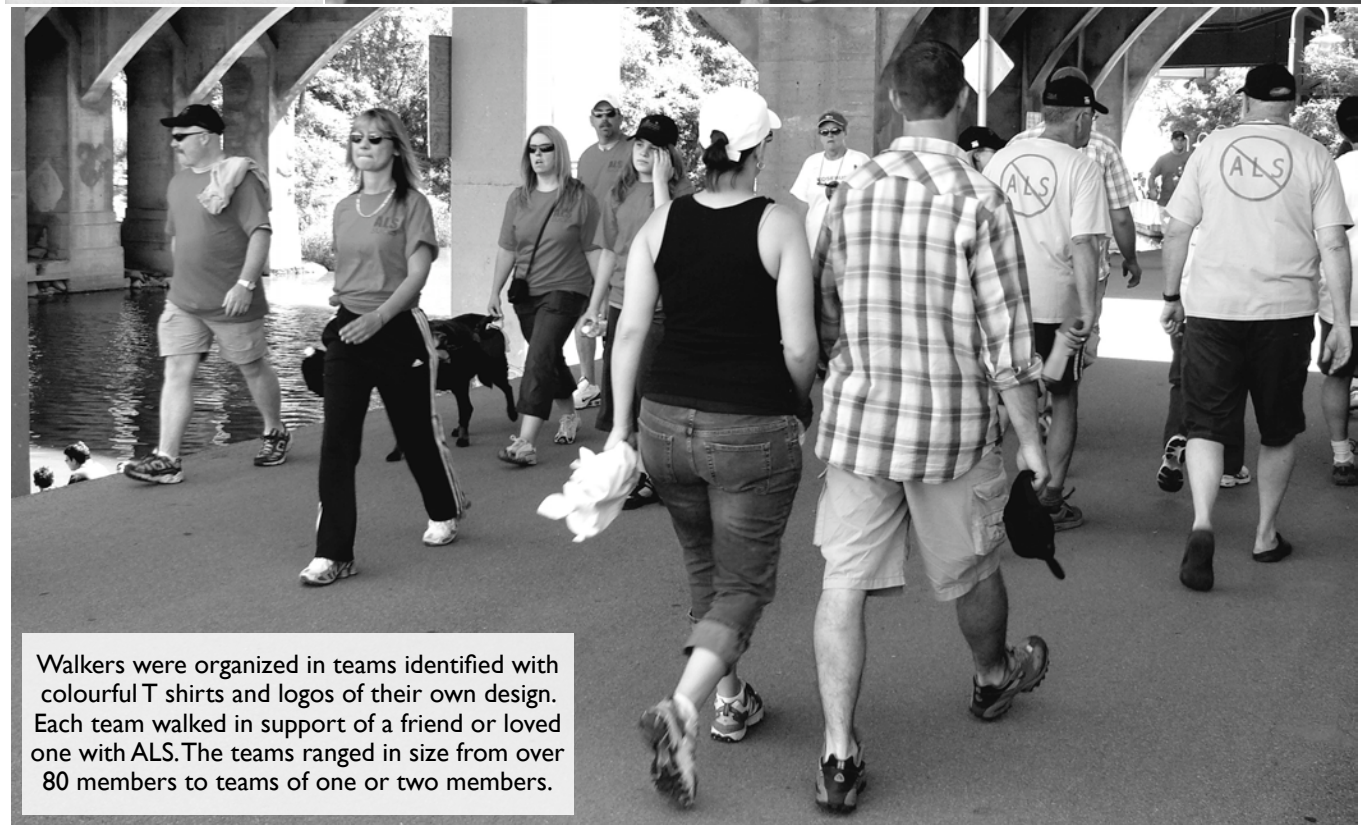


Firemen remove the roof of a car with the Jaws of Life to rescue an injured occupant. This popular demonstration taking place opposite the HAM radio display.



HAMs Showcase Amateur Radio in the Community —continued—

On June 9th HAMs manned a base station and check points at the ALS Walkathon, starting at Bayfront Park and going along the trail to Princess Point. Jerry Osborn, VE3JSO was net control. The weather was perfect and the turnout excellent. The event was a big success with over \$100,000 raised. Thanks to all the radio amateur volunteers who helped out.



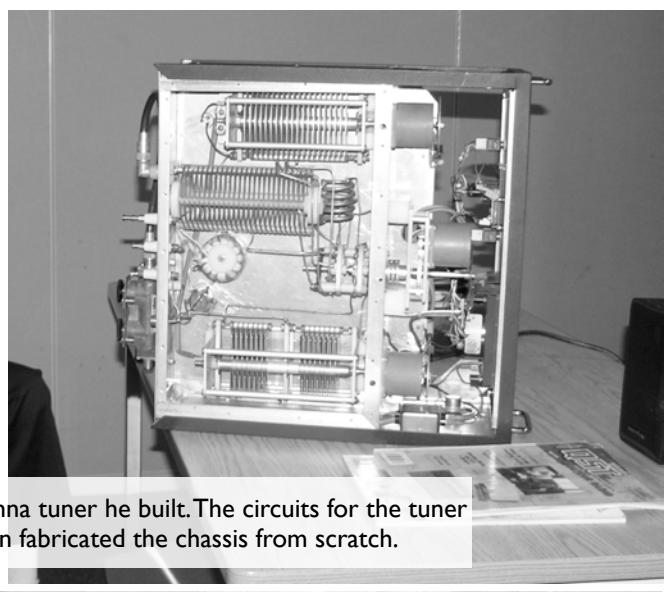
Walkers were organized in teams identified with colourful T shirts and logos of their own design. Each team walked in support of a friend or loved one with ALS. The teams ranged in size from over 80 members to teams of one or two members.



Members at the May meeting taking in the Home Brew and Show & Tell presentations



John Faber VE3CNF with an automatic antenna tuner he built. The circuits for the tuner were published in QST magazine. John fabricated the chassis from scratch.





H.A.R.C.
HAMILTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

VE3DC

HAMILTON ONTARIO.

PO BOX 253

TO.....TNX FOR QSO OF.....195..

AT.....E.S.T. UR.....MCS. CW~FONE SIGS

RST.....POWER.....WATTS ANT.....

73'S.....OPR.

PERPETUATING THE CALL OF W.R."DOC" JAFFRAY, M.D.

ONE OF OUR FOUNDERS



<p>VE3DRW</p> <p>2M REPEATER HAMILTON</p>	<p>VE3DC</p> <p>ONTARIO</p>	<p>VE3RCB</p> <p>EMERGENCY RED CROSS CANADA</p>
CONFIRM QSO	73	FREQ.....
WITH.....	HAMILTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	MODE.....
DATE.....	BOX 253	POWER.....
TIME.....	HAMILTON	RIG.....
EVENT.....	ONTARIO	ANT.....
RST.....	LSN 3CB	OPER.....
QTH.....		CALL.....

As a personal anniversary project some of our long standing members are going back through the memorabilia, including old photos and QSL cards. Here are a couple of HARC QSLs from the past. The first one features green ink on a white card. Close examination reveals it dated from the 1950s. No sign of a repeater at that time or a mailing address. The second card predates VE3NCF. It is patterned after the (then) new Canadian Flag, and has blue lettering over the red and white flag image. We had a club mailing address then, but it was different than the current one. You'll notice that the repeater was the old VE3DRW. Thanks to Bernie Granby for this glimpse of the past.

