

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

## In This Issue

- Future Meetings----- 1
- Another Tower Story--- 1
- HARC Executive----- 2
- Lighthouse On The Air- 3
- HARC Chairs-----3
- Important Points----- 4
- Passing the Gavel and a  
summary of club news- 5
- Hi from Neil----- 6
- Pictorial - the new  
executive, Field Day and  
Canada Day----- 7 & 8

## September Meeting

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

### September 19th

Our guest speaker will be Guenther Schweigl of i2S Technologies. talking about software used for tracking Radio Frequency Interference. You

# The Hamilton Amateur

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

may know Guenther if you have been frequenting fleamarkets where Guenther often has a display of innovative UHF and VHF antennas produced by Degen Designs. We look forward to Guenther's visit. Hope to see you in September.

## JUST Another Tower Story (updated)

by Fred Robinson,  
 VE3GCP

Our editor asked me for a bit of a story for this bulletin and since he is a retired school teacher, I thought he might be pleased if I wrote about the old "What I did this summer" theme. After all, it is back school time and story-writing is what we all had to do each September in English class when I was in school. Anyway this story gives me a chance to pass on some radio related tid-bits that some HAMs may find useful.



Actually my story started in the summer of 2006 when I decided it was time to get that new tower up with my good old beam on it. The antenna that I had been storing in the garage for a few years is a Telex/Hy-Gain, the Explorer 14 model which is about 12 years old I guess. It is a 3 band antenna (20, 15 & 10 meters) having been designed prior to the new WARC bands but it was in such good condition I did not want to let

it go. I had a line on a Trylon self-supporting tower and decided to go for 56 feet. The Trylon is somewhat more expensive but is a more substantial tower than some of the other familiar names. Recently I was asked what is the difference between a Dehi tower and some other brands. Well, the Trylon for example has heavier flat metal simply bent at about 55 degrees (I think) for the vertical columns and the cross pieces are 45 degree angle. The cross braces are each mounted separately and never intersect. The common Dehi tower has shaped vertical columns of a complex formed shape. The braces are a shallow "U" shape and cross in an "X" pattern. The Delhi sections are assembled with rivets while the Trylon uses nuts & bolts.

I did not want any concerns with the neighbours so I decided to do some home work before I did any spade work. I new that the "privilege" of installing a tower is embedded in the terms of my Amateur licence but thought I would make inquiries as to any recent changes. My first call was to Industry Canada and the "Spectrum Management" department. On the phone a nice lady informed me that there is now a set of guide-lines for Amateurs undertaking such a project. I was directed to a web-site as follows: [strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum) then from the menu select consumer info then antenna structures then client procedure circular 20-03 and finally land use consultation. The client procedure document is a bit daunting until you realize that not all of this applies to us as Amateurs. The Type 2

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.

– Amateur section is the part that applies to us because we are not commercial stations. Remember, the Act is written to cover many forms of spectrum users. If you do read this you will note that we are now referred to as “clients” as opposed to Amateurs or Hams. In conversation with the local manager it was made clear to me that Industry Canada will respect our privileges and tend to support antenna installations provided that we communicate with the local municipality and construct our antenna system to meet the manufactures specs. Next I went to the RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) web site in search of Documentation to Assist with the Installation of Radio Amateur Antennae and Supporting Structures. This document basically touts the wisdom of approaching your neighbours prior to bringing in the cement truck. The Spectrum Manager recommended that following the RAC guideline is a good idea and would enable them to help support your efforts if a concern did arise.

In my case I decided to hand deliver letters to the 40 closest properties around my home. It was a simple letter explaining what a Ham and Amateur Radio is and a short summary of my intention. It closed with an invitation to call me with any question or concern and I attached a one page letter about the HARC. Honestly I did this with some trepidation because of the school of thought why go looking for trouble?, but must admit that my faith in doing things the right way was up-held. I then took a multi-page letter to the municipality building department. The letter was headed Notification to the City of Hamilton C/O building Dept. Manager. The letter included a carefully worded explanation of my intention, a page explaining the privileges I enjoy as per the Radio Act, the spec sheets for my tower, beam, rotor and concrete base. Also: a detailed sketch of my property, location of the tower and all dimensions that showed the proximity of the antenna elements to property lines. I also

## 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

## Fred VE3GCP atop the 56 foot tower.

According to Fred it is a good idea not to install feed line for the first couple months when your tower first appears. That way the interference your neighbours start experiencing cannot be attributed to your new installation.



informed them of the letters I had taken to the neighbours and that after 2 weeks I had received no concerns. My notification was delivered to the service desk of the building department and I had a copy signed and stamped as received.

Somewhat to my surprise I did not received any negative responses to my neighbourhood letter and in-fact I got a few curiosity questions about Ham Radio and some people wished me good luck with my project. I have a large pie shape lot and share lot lines with 6 neighbours and it turned out that one of those neighbours has 3 relatives who are Hams in other cities. I know several other Hams who have rural properties and I guess they don't have the same degree of concern when putting up a



tower. Being in the city I feel that following the advice of Industry Canada and the RAC guidelines was the smart way to go. It's been a year now and I hope I am not tempting fate when I tell you that I have not had a single negative concern.

Two weeks ago we took the beam down for routine / preventative maintenance as I will be replacing the RG-213 feed line with half-inch hard line and putting it in underground conduit. I still enjoy going up the tower to do most of the routine stuff but thanks to 2 rotator-cuff

operations I am a little leery about lifting the beam on and off in case it gets away from me. Luckily I have a professional tower installer friend that I can hire for that. If you are planning to do a tower project, I recommend you considered the wisdom of these documents I mentioned. If you would be interested in seeing the letter and notification I used, please ask me.

Hope to see you at the club soon,  
73, Fred VE3GCP

## Lighthouse on the Air 2007

by Rick Danby, VE3BK

We activated CAN-063 Burlington Canal Main Light again this year on Sat. Aug. 11 and Sun. Aug. 12. We did it a week earlier so that some members could come and we didn't have to compete with the official International Lighthouse Day, put on by our friends the "British Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society", after all, the whole month of August is Lighthouse month.

On the first weekend of August is an actual contest for Lighthouses, and lightships all over the world. On the second weekend (the weekend we picked), there is nothing really happening except that you will find Lighthouses on the air like we were, maybe just practicing for the Lighthouse Weekend or doing a Special Event as we did. On the air we were offering "two cards for the price of one" as Mardy was telling someone, after all it is the 75th

### Lighthouse On The Air

Rear: Mark VE3RY1, Jim VE3EEZ, Front: Mike VA3WXS, Kevin VE3HNG, Rick VE3BK, Mardy VE3QEE. The club's VE3DC station was set up beneath the protective canopy of the city's Maintenance Depot and Beach Rescue Station.



### 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 905-648-0187  
<meedson@cogeco.ca>

#### Volunteer Examiners

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

#### Field Day Co-ordinator

David Bruton VE3DWJ  
905-383-9808 <am983@hwcn.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@hwcn.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  
Neil Galloway VE3VNG 905-383-6986

#### Swap Net Controller

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

#### Communication

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

#### Web Master

Anita Thomas VA3ANI,  
<hamiltonarc.ca>

## 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>

Anniversary of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club.

Friday, August 10th, 2007, Mardy VE3QEE, Mike VA3WXS and I [Rick VE3BK], went down to the beach site where we would be operating, using Mardy's Cushcraft R7 vertical, a multi-band half-wave design which does not require radials. When we were all set up I began checking the SWR on different bands. On 80 meters our match was a little high, about a 2.5 to 1, but that was OK for the radio, so I began to operate checking into the ONTARS NET on 3.755. The fellow in Port Colbourne reported trouble hearing me but Barry VE3ISX had no problem and did a relay for us, announcing that we would be having a Special Event Station for the Lighthouse and the Club's 75th Anniversary, from Saturday to Sunday. Mardy wasn't right there at the time, but when he came closer and found out I was on 80m, he told me that his antenna was only designed for 10-15-20 and 40m and also the WARC bands on 12-17-30 but not 80m. I couldn't believe that we got it to load up on 80m and actually worked someone.

Mardy's magnetic hook invention worked great for suspending our power cord on the overhead metal beam away from pedestrians and cyclists. He should patent that one.

Saturday, August 11, 2007 turned out to be a nice sunny day (hot later on), a good day at the beach and lots of interest in what we were doing. Roller bladers were going by and some actual swimmers were in Lake Ontario. Mark VE3RYI and myself showed up about 8am to see if we could get everything started and we were going to try an old 40-80m trapped dipole from Rolly's VA3RN's estate. Well the wire broke off at the trap and when we tried to loosen the brass screw, it stripped (Murphy present?), so we just added wire and tried it as an 80m dipole. It turned out to have too high of an SWR, because of: being too close to

ground, too close to a tree, and too close to the metal roof of the building protecting us. Mardy's antenna worked great, but band conditions were not that good, so we did a lot of educating the public on "Ham Radio" and about our club's anniversary.

Present on Saturday: Mark VE3RYI, Rick VE3BK, Mardy VE3QEE, Mike VA3WXS, Kevin VE3HNG, and Jim VE3EEZ and also we had a visit by Vic VE3HPD who took some pictures

Sunday, August 12th, 2007, we did it again, except I had checked Mark's coax for the 80m dipole and made a new 40-80m dipole, just for this event. We ended up with the exact same problem with it and turned it into a 40m only, which did tune with a tuner, but was still off resonance. I think we made only about 8-10 contacts on the dipole and gave up on it. Band conditions were better on Sunday and we ended up with many more in our log. It rained that day, plus the sand flies were feasting on us a bit, but we had more visitors from the public than the day before.

Present on Sunday were the same guys except Jim couldn't make it but Adam VE3BAU showed up and did a great job of operating for us. We had more ham visitors: Konrad VE3SCH and Ron VE3MWO. A lot of the visiting public seemed to know many hams and were very interested in what we were doing.

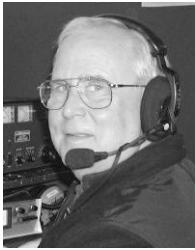
We had a great time. I hope that next year we can do it again and get some more of the people we had before. It seems that whatever weekend you pick, someone is going on vacation hi hi. It was fun and we even got to do some antenna experimenting in a public place.

We plan to operate there again, next year. Hope to see some more of you there.

73 Rick VE3BK



## Passing the Gavel



*Outgoing President, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, passes the gavel to incoming President Lorraine MacPherson, VA3NZ*

Recapping the Annual Meeting in June, the elections were duly held and from a slate of nine candidates six were elected to the Board of Directors. The Past President is always a seventh member of the Board. As a result of two executive meetings that were held since the June Annual Meeting several announcements can be made. **New Executive.** Your slate of officers for the coming year is:

LORRAINE MACPHERSON,  
VA3NZ, PRESIDENT

JOHN VANDENBERG, VE3DVV,  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT - REPEATER  
EMSLEY MITCHELL, VE3JAI, 2ND  
VICE PRESIDENT - MEMBERSHIP  
ROGER PIMM, VE3UFZ,  
SECRETARY

FRED ROBINSON, VE3GCP,  
TREASURER

ADAM MITCHELL, VE3BAU,  
DIRECTOR

MARDY EEDSON, VE3QEE, PAST  
PRESIDENT

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On June 27th. the executive received a presentation from Doug Last, VE3NBL, and Frank Love, VA3FWL, regarding the Warplane Heritage Museum. For the past 6 years members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club have been guests of the Warplane Heritage Museum's amateur radio station VA3CWM. Our members have been able to operate this station without having to pay the usual admission to the museum, and a number of members have been active in using and maintaining the station. The museum, has continually supported efforts to improve the

station, installing effective antennas bringing internet service to the shack and making numerous improvements over the 6 years of operation. A statement of the working relationship our members have with Warplane Heritage Museum station, VA3CWM, was printed in The Hamilton Amateur newsletter of September 2006 on page 2.

In concluding their presentation, Doug Last VE3NBL, and Frank Love, VA3FWL, on behalf of the Warplane Heritage Museum, made a formal request to the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club for a donation to the privately funded Warplane Heritage Museum.

After hearing the presentation and discussing the service provided to the community at large by the Warplane Heritage Museum and Amateur Station VA3CWM, and in consideration of the fact that the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club has not supported in a financial way the activities of the Museum or of Amateur Station VA3CWM, the executive considered and passed the following motion. Here is the motion as recorded in the Executive Minutes of June 27, 2007:

"Fred Robinson, VE3GCP, proposed a motion, seconded by Roger Pimm VE3UFZ, that, subject to ratification by the membership, *the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, make a donation of \$1000 to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, in recognition of the Museum's service to the community. The motion was approved unanimously.*"

At the September 19th meeting the members in attendance will be asked to ratify this motion by voting for or against the decision of the executive.

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During the first half of our 75th anniversary year it has been a pleasure serving the membership as your President. Our club has been active. The attendance at meetings has been growing. We are financially healthy. We have had a number of former members return and become

members once again. Several new members have joined the club. We have had visitors to our meetings from outlying areas as far away as Cambridge and St. Catharines. --All positive signs. When you look at what members do to help our Club, the picture is remarkable. Almost every member pitches in and does things to support Club activities. The involvement is huge, and this is what makes the Club what it has become. So congratulations to you all, and thank you for your contribution.

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As the gavel passes to the new president, Lorraine MacPherson, VA3NZ, here are a few lines of introduction. The executive is delighted to have Lorraine as our new President. She brings experience and close connections with the amateur and commercial radio communities. I know Lorraine to be a person who has ideas, who takes action and follows through and has a proven track record of leadership in matters regarding amateur radio.

Lorraine got her basic amateur licence in 1982 and got her advanced licence along with 15 wpm Morse code two years later. She also holds Marine and Land Mobile licences. Lorraine was employed for 16 years in the two-way radio business. She has also held a public relations position on the Western New York, South Ontario Repeater Council (WNYSORC).

In our club Lorraine has volunteered as awards chair for 14 years, and has also served as as Secretary and President of the club. Lorraine has been a volunteer examiner for Industry Canada for many years.

For the City of Hamilton Lorraine is a speaker for the CERV training program (a program training Hamilton's Citizen Emergency Response Volunteers). Lorraine has been involved in the City's Emergency Preparedness Day, since its inception, by organizing and staffing a display of HAM radio capability so both the public and city officials will have a heightened

awareness of Amateur Radio's unique capability. Lorraine currently holds a seat on the Mayor's Disaster Management Committee at City Hall and is called to City Hall when a disaster is declared.

For the community Lorraine helped organize Amateur participation in the Hamilton Air Show for 15 or more years, and did the same for the initial walks when the Great Ride and Stride for Cancer was taking place on the Linc. Lorraine was also an active contributor when the Band Plan was being developed in the '90s. Lorraine participated in the Y2K planning efforts with the City in 1999 and the subsequent watch as the year 2000 arrived. Lorraine is the current Hamilton CanWarn Coordinator. She graduated from Mohawk College with a certificate in Public Safety Communications.

In her own words, Lorraine wants to "promote this club as the instrument in keeping Amateur Radio alive".

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By the time you get this newsletter the Contest Group Barbeque will be history. For the first time the contest group extended a general invitation to members of HARC to come to Dan's parents' farm to join them for a pot luck barbeque. Because the decision was made in summer there was no opportunity to make an announcement at the Club meeting or print one in the newsletter. Hopefully pictures of the event and a description will be available for the October newsletter.

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Neil Galloway VE3VNG and his wife Peggy enjoy traveling. Home from a recent trip this summer he sent along some pictures.



Antennas at the Radio Canada International transmitter Sackville New Brunswick

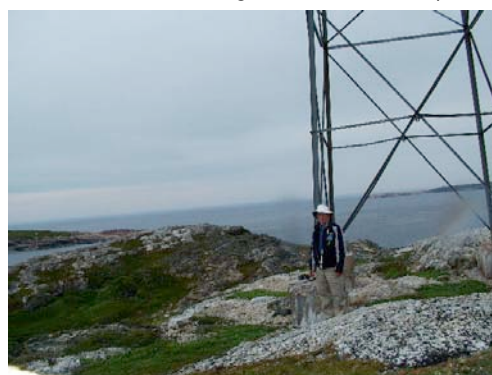


Battle Harbour and the Marconi antenna towers that could be used for a super contest site. I estimate the towers at 150 feet high and 500 feet apart.



Left -- Neil thought readers might like to reflect on this cool scene, especially in the middle of a hot summer day.

Right -- Neil Galloway, at the foot of one of the Marconi towers shown above. Just a shot to establish the scale of these massive structures.



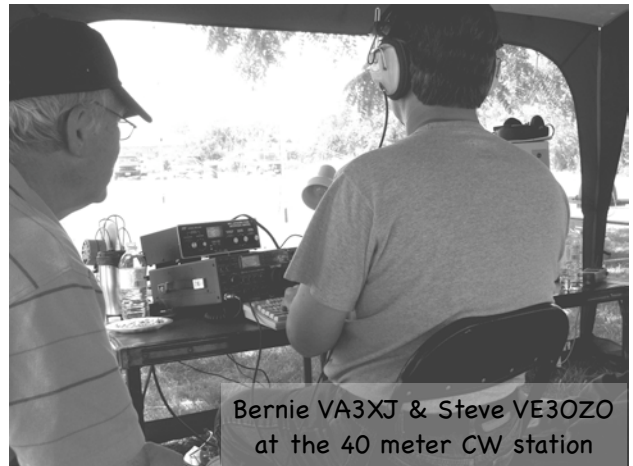
2007-8 Executive. Mardy VE3QEE, Roger VE3UFZ, Lorraine VA3NZ, Fred VE3GCP, Emsley VE3JAI, Adam VE3BAU



Below, pictures from Field Day at Rock Chapel.



Gerry VE3HLI & Ruth Goldberg visiting FD site



Bernie VA3XJ & Steve VE3OZO at the 40 meter CW station



Mary, Joe, Dan, Rick, Mardy and Steve



Bernie VA3XJ



Vic VE3VMO and Roger VE3UFZ



Bernie's Van at the 40 meter CW station



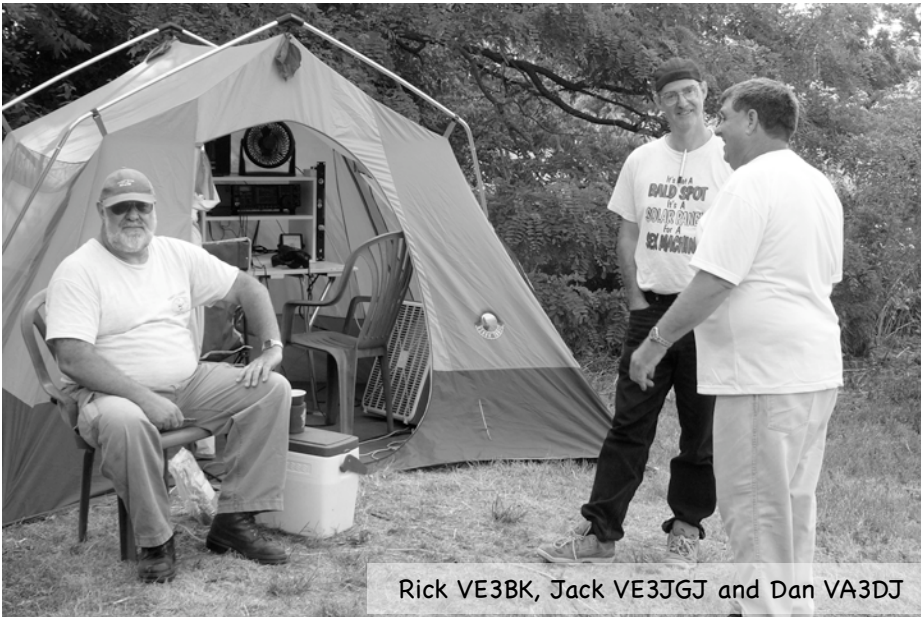
Joe VE3OCD and Mary VE3OGQ



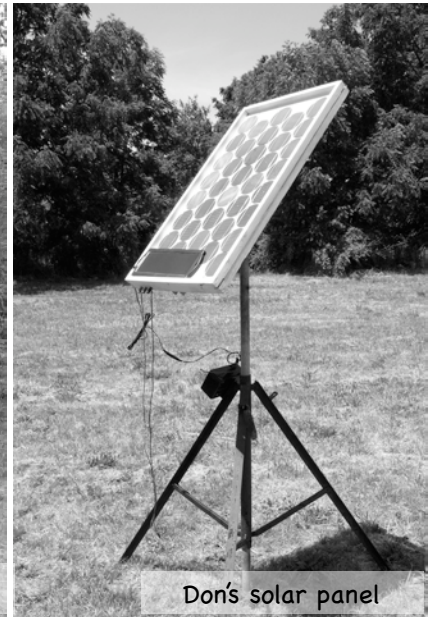
Don's VE3VZ solar UHF station



Kevin's VE3HNG VHF station



Rick VE3BK, Jack VE3JGJ and Dan VA3DJ

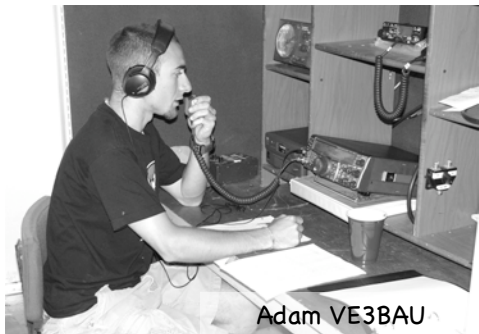


Don's solar panel

**Below, C A N A D A Day at the Contest Site**



Steve, VE3OZO



Adam VE3BAU



Rick VE3BK