

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.hamiltonarc.ca/>

In This Issue

- Next Meeting----- 1
- Minutes for the January
- 16th meeting.----- 1
- HARC Executive----- 2
- Web Site News-----2
- HARC Chairs-----3
- DXpedition to Battle
- Harbour NL-----3
- Cartoon----- 4
- Important Points----- 4
- Sunspot Cycle----- 5
- RAC Winter Contest-- 6
- Pictorial----- 7 & 8

Next Meeting

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

Wednesday February 20th

This month our guest speaker will be Jon Rorke, VA3RQ, talking about the WIK repeater system and its linking capabilities. VE3WIK is a privately

supported local repeater with good coverage in the Hamilton area which is part of an extended system of linked repeaters.

Jon will also share his knowledge about installing communication in helicopters. Helicopters are recognized as one of the more challenging environments for radio communication because of noise and vibration. We are delighted to be having John Rorke VA3RQ with us in February. Please join us and bring a friend.

Minutes of the January 16th General Meeting

by Secretary, Roger Pimm VE3UFZ



President Lorraine VA3NZ brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm with the introduction of our speaker for the evening Ron Ouwehand VA3OUV.

As some of you may know, Ron spent several weeks cruising the West end of Lake Superior on his sailboat "Old Hand". Along with the usual provisions and spare parts, Ron also took along his VHF and HF rigs. Using some sophisticated equipment add-ons he was able to access Email via HF. There was also the opportunity for Ron to test his new marine VHF which has the capability

of transmitting the vessel identity and position in Latitude and Longitude to receiving equipment equally equipped. Ron observed that the Canada Coast Guard equipment in Thunder Bay was experiencing some technical difficulty and was not able to receive all of the information being sent by the on board VHF.

The equipment that Ron used for sending Email via HF was an SES Pactor unit. Ron's HF radio is an ICOM Mark 2G. Rather than using a back stay antenna, which is the usual setup for off-shore cruising, Ron elected to use an inverted V dipole antenna. The apex of the inverted V was hauled up to almost masthead height using a halyard installed for this purpose, the masthead also being the feedpoint of the dipole. Ron didn't indicate it, but the height of the apex of the dipole, being at the top of the mast, would have been in the order of 35 ft. Each end of the inverted V was brought down to the boat deck proximity using Dacron lines. This type of antenna installation is quite sturdy, but for safety's sake, required disassembly before making passage. With this setup, Ron was able to check into the ONTARS net and Fred VE3GCP reported that he had no problem having QSO's with Ron throughout the summer.

At the meeting Ron shared part one of his presentation. There are more photographs and experiences to be told and Ron has been invited to share them with us at our March General Meeting.

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.



Guest speaker Ron Ouwehand VA3OUW

Business Meeting – After refreshments the business portion of the meeting convened at 8:30pm.

Secretary - Moved by Roger VE3UFZ and seconded by Mike VA3WXS that the minutes of the November 2007 General Meeting as published in the newsletter be adopted.

Treasurer – Fred VE3GCP reported that he issued cheques for the club liability insurance and renewal of our Post Office Box. We did better than expected at our Christmas Party largely due to the caterer holding the line on costs. Moved by Fred VE3GCP and seconded by John VE3CXB the report was accepted.

Education – Mardy VE3QEE reported that the basic course will be completed the second week in February.

Health & Welfare – Mary VE3OCQ reported two silent keys. Jim Walsh VE3SON at age 92 and Past President Erwin Shaw VE3HZA. .

Awards – Casey VE3CVP reminded us that he is looking for nominations for the CW Award and the Order of Merit. If you are not familiar with the requirements for these awards, check on the Club web page at <hamiltonarc.ca>

HARC 2007-2008 Executive

President

Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ
905-389-7653 va3nz@rac.ca

Past President

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

First Vice President

Emsley Mitchell VA3QI / VE3JAI
905-627-0333

Second Vice President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Director

Adam Mitchell, VE3BAU
ibis101@hotmail.com

Contest – Rick VE3BK talked about the annual RAC Winter Contest indicating that we got a slow start but built up steam as the contest progressed. The contest group got second in Canada for this event. Notice was given for the North American QSO Party. This is a phone contest and starts on January 19 @ 1:00pm and goes till January 20 @ 1:00pm. February 20, 2008 is the 160M CQ World Wide contest.

Membership – Emsley VE3JAI reported that we now have 74 club members, 66 full members plus 8 family members.

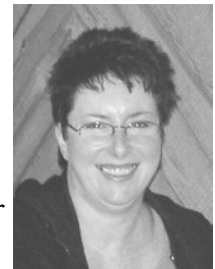
Trip to Dayton – Gerry Osborn presented the details of the proposed

Dayton Hamfest bus trip. The cutoff date for registration is the end of January, after which the travel agent will let us know if we have the required minimum participants

Adjournment – Moved by Mike VA3WXS and seconded by Mardy VE3QEE the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Web Site News

by developer Anita
Thomas VA3ANI



I've just added a new section to the club site. We now have the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Awards information online, as well as lists of past recipients for each of the awards.

Additionally, there are some new forms available to make it easier for members to submit information for an award...specifically, we now have a form available for submitting entry information for the HARC Order of the Gavel award, the CW Operating award, as well as a nomination form for the Art Ferguson award.

PS...I can't remember if we mentioned in the newsletter that we have information on line regarding the Student Bursary.

Another feature is available on the HARC website permitting members to make callsign lookups directly from the site. I know I mentioned this feature at a meeting, but I am not sure if that information was published in the newsletter.

The Club web site is found at <hamiltonarc.ca>. The next time you are using the computer, please pay us a visit.



DXpedition to Battle Harbour: An Unexploited Location

by Neil Galloway, VE3VNG

The DXpeditions you read about in Ham radio magazines are often in remote, difficult to reach locations. Yet, an ideal DXpedition site is not necessarily dangerously remote – and not necessarily in a foreign country – nor is it mandatory to require long flights or tedious ocean voyages, or to camp in freezing, leaky tents, on hard rocks.

Usually the DXpeditors carry all their equipment with them, including bulky antenna towers. Wouldn't it be nice to have a site where the transmission tower is all ready and waiting for you?

Right here in Canada there is a site begging for a few devoted, daring, adventurous Ham operators.

Battle Harbour NL is an island off the southeast shore of Labrador. It is a National Historic District operated by the Battle Harbour Historic Trust. On the island there is an abandoned Marconi radio station. The only remaining physical evidence of this station are the two steel towers.

Being an island, Battle Harbour is just right for island-seeking Hams. It is a

one hour long boat trip from the mainland. The more adventurous might like to take the route through Labrador City. This route requires a much longer drive on gravel roads and a longer ferry ride. If you prefer to sail your own boat, you can sail right to the dock.

Geographically speaking, Battle Harbour is located at 52° 15' 58.7" N, 55° 34' 43.4" W. For comparison, Moose Factory, ON is 51° N. Edmonton, AB is 53° N, and the Falkland Islands are 52° S.

Exotic? Perhaps. The island reeks with history. With your first step on the dock, you can feel the ghosts of the brave souls who worked the fishing grounds and braved the elements in sailing vessels to wrest a living from the cruel sea.

Remote? Not really, but there is no direct overland route. It is served by road and air to Mary's Harbour on the mainland.

The longest ferry ride is about 6½ hours from North Sydney NS to Port aux Basques NL.

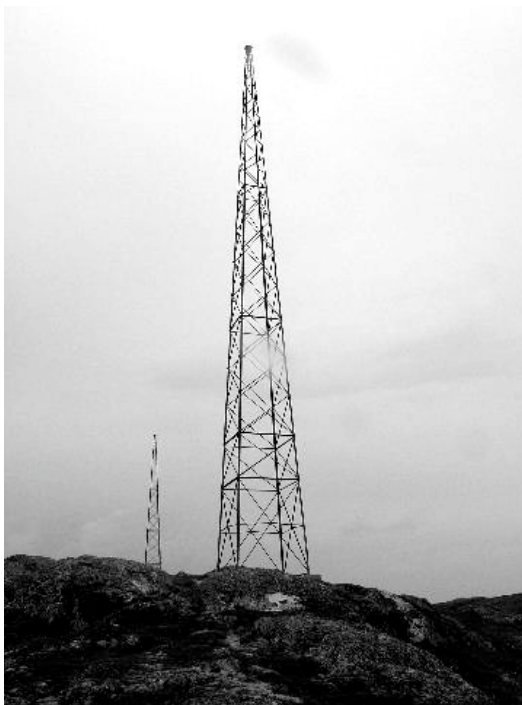
Dangerous? Nah. Just don't get too near the steep cliffs.

Primitive? Yes! No ensuite baths!

Food? Three hearty, delicious, family-style meals with fresh vegetables from a local organic garden are served every day in

the dining hall.

Luxuries? This is the site of a traditional outpost – the former Salt Fish Capital of Labrador. The Historic Trust tries to keep the site close to



The two giant towers Neil describes, just waiting for a dipole and some DX activity.

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@arrl.net>

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@hwcnc.org>

Field Day Co-ordinator

David Bruton VE3DWJ
905-383-9808 <am983@hwcnc.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@hwcnc.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 Krebs VA3WXS 905-523-9005
<mkrebs@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 Wednesday following the club General Meeting each month. Ask an executive member for the location.

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.

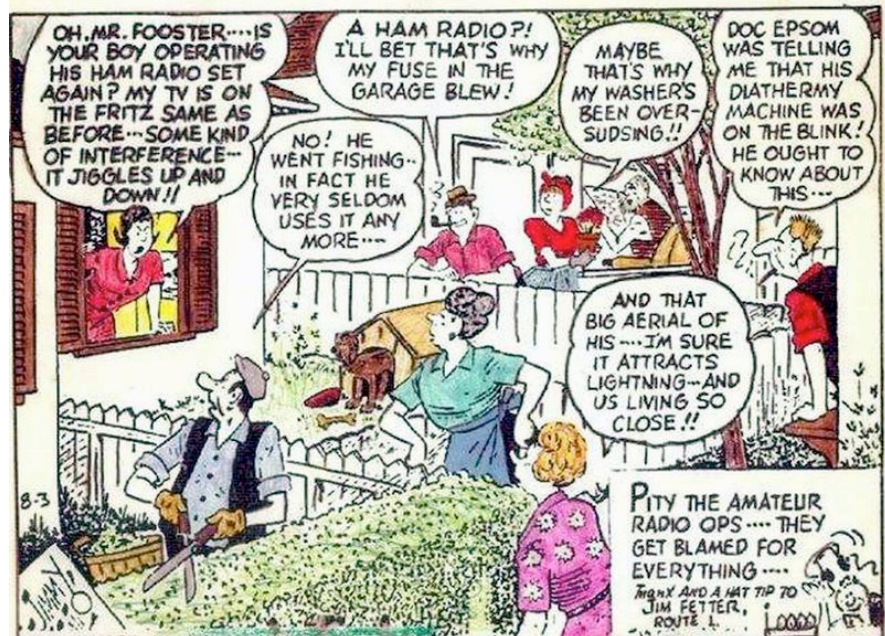
Membership Information

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>

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME :-:- :-:- :-:- by Hatlo



Rick VE3BK e-mailed this cartoon. Although many years old, it still relates.

its origins. Thus, the General Store sells basic necessities as well as a selection of fine wines and beer.

Accommodations? By some DXpedition standards, luxurious. All the comforts of home (with shared bathrooms), hot showers, regular beds, and three meals a day. Or you can opt for more rustic accommodations, such as a self-catering cottage.

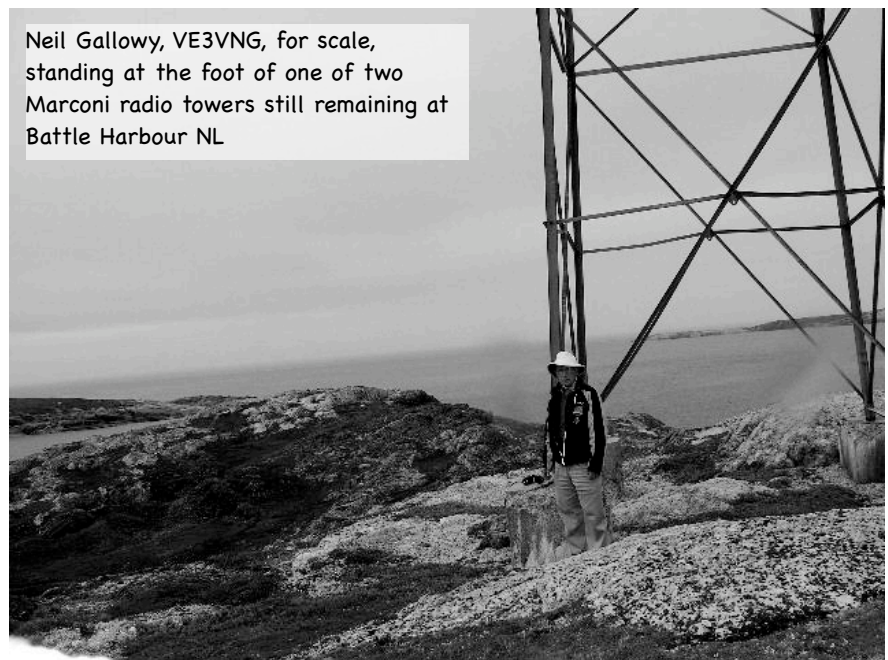
Wild life? That depends on how hard you want to party.

Nature? You can't get much closer. Birds, bergs, and humpback whales.

Pollution? Non. Nil. Nada. Zero. Zilch. No TV. No cell phones.

Advantages over other DXpedition sites:

Neil Gallowy, VE3VNG, for scale, standing at the foot of one of two Marconi radio towers still remaining at Battle Harbour NL



1. Two tall radio towers oriented North-South about 400 feet apart. The local maritime navigation chart indicates that they are 60 and 62 metres high.

2. Historical interest. Battle Harbour is the site of a restored salt fish plantation, dating from the 18th century. The private homes of some of the hardworking fishermen who fought the angry seas have been restored and are sometimes occupied by their descendants.

3. The towers have not been used since the 1950s. Only one other Ham radio DXpedition has been there – and the two Hams who communicated from the site did not use the towers.

4. The site is operated by a friendly, devoted staff, who go to great lengths to make your stay fun and comfortable.

If you have more questions, E-mail me at ve3vng@rac.ca You can also visit the Battle Harbour web site at www.battleharbour.com

centered on February 1. We may see sunspots return January 28 through February 3. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions January 18-19 and quiet conditions January 20-24. Sunspot numbers for January 10 through 16 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 75.7, 76, 75.7, 75.3, 75.6, 73.7 and 72.9 with a mean of 75. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 9, 11, 16, 8 and 11 with a mean of 8.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 4, 9, 14, 7 and 9, with a mean of 6.7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the WIAW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/>>

It appears that we have finally reached to bottom of the cycle.

I think being at the bottom of the cycle helped us at field day this year.

For several years running, Fred, VE3GCP and I, VE3QEE, have been operating the 80 meter station. Three years ago, in 2005 and two years ago in 2006 the 80 meter band didn't open until late in the afternoon and died in the early morning so no more contacts could be made after about 8:00 a.m. Both years we began operating quite late in the day and tore down the station early. Last year, 2007 we were able to begin fairly soon after setting up and successfully operated much later on Sunday before tearing down the station. As a result last year's 80 meter score was better than the scores made on the two previous years of operation. I attribute the difference to a weaker D layer because of lower solar flux at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. The bottom of the cycle appears to have been good for extending the operating period on the 80 meter band.

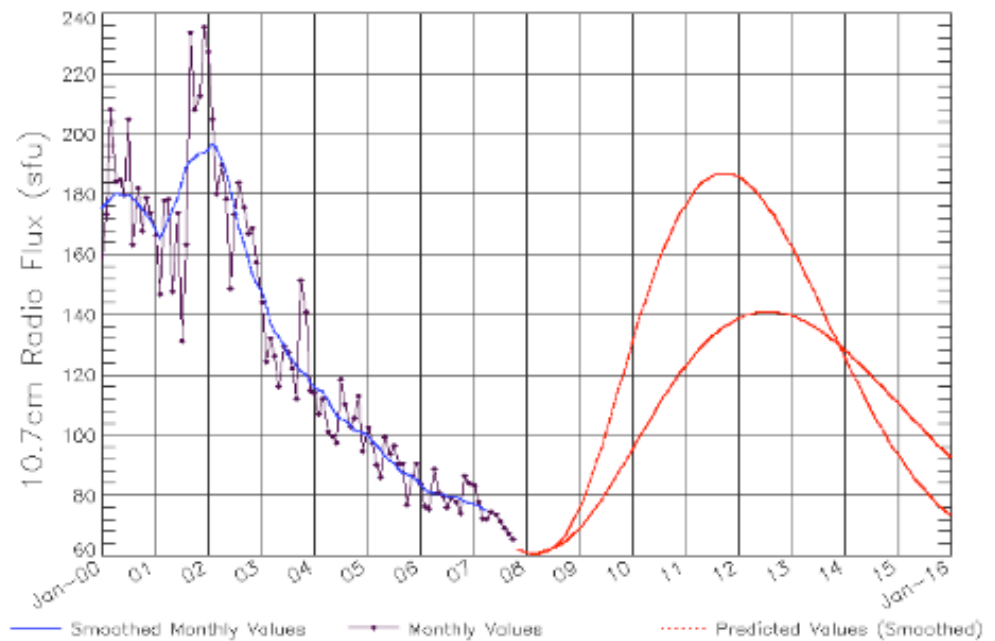
Here is a chart showing the end of cycle #23 and the predicted start of cycle #24 produced by NOAA, the National Oceanographic and Aeronautical Administration. Let the new cycle begin and lets hope its a good one.

Sunspot Cycle Transition

The following report about sunspots and the solar cycle was taken from the ARRL electronic bulletin to members.

Tad "Give Me the Splendid Silent Sun with All His Beams Full-dazzling" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We've seen another seven days with no sunspots. After observing the first sunspot of Solar Cycle 24, we hope to see more and more of these, signaling the beginning of the next sunspot cycle and the end of Solar Cycle 23. So what do conditions look like over the next week? Expect quiet geomagnetic conditions through the end of this month, with the next geomagnetic disturbance

ISES Solar Cycle F10.7cm Radio Flux Progression
Data Through 31 Oct 07



Updated 2007 Nov 21

NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

2007 RAC Canada Winter Contest

by contest chairman
Rick Danby VE3BK



At the contest site the VE3DC station competed in the RAC Winter Contest with the following participants either

logging and/or operating. VA3DJ Dave, VA3SOF Ian, VE3BK Rick, VE3BAU Adam, SWL, Cassandra, VE3CXB John, VE3GCP Fred, VE3OCD Joe, VE3OZO Steve, VE3QEE Mardy, VE3RYI Mark, VE3ZQV Sherry.

Our station was classed as “multi-op” from the classifications available.

- Single Operator All Bands
- Single Operator Low Power
- Single Operator QRP
- Single Operator Single Band
- Multioperator

Here is the summary of our results:

BAND/Mode	QSOs	Points	Multiplier
160 cw	42	230	5
80 cw	166	758	8
40 cw	74	384	10
20 cw	82	358	8
15 cw	10	94	3
10 cw	1	10	1
6 cw	0	0	0
2 cw	0	0	0
160 phone	38	228	4
80 phone	356	2408	10
40 phone	57	438	9
20 phone	80	502	9
15 phone	8	56	2
10 phone	1	10	1
6 phone	0	0	0
2 phone	0	0	0

Soapbox Comments: Murphy struck us early this contest. We had trouble with our Writelog network, updating everyone’s computer to the new version and making them all talk to

each other, but we still had fun and had a better score than last year. Two of our antennas were not working properly. The 80m dipole coax was full of water as it ended up with the splice being in the creek. The SWR was still not bad, but the station on 80 was splattering all over. I could hear 80 meter signals on every band. The 40m dipole turned out to have a wet feedpoint and would not tune. I had left my rig on 40m while I worked on everyone’s computers and when I went back to do 40m, I had no transmit and very

low receive. All in all, even though I was busy and off the air for a long period of time everyone had a good time and made many contacts with people we know and everyone else in the Contest.

Thanks to everyone that worked us and hope to work you on the next contest. Of course, for those of you who were at the site and those of you that couldn’t make but wished you were there, hope to see you again next year.
73 Rick VE3BK



Steve, VE3OZO trying to fix what Murphy undid. Sounds like “The RAC Winter Contest Blues”.



The contest site presents a lonely scene at night in the dead of winter.

RAC Winter Contest, December 2007



Dan, VE3DJ and Rick VE3BK with Sherry in the background working stations late at night.



Fred VE3GCP and Cassandra taking a break in the lunch room at the Contest Site.



Adam VE3BAU and Sherry VE3ZQV working stations through the noise. Contacts on this band were hard.



Steve, VE3OZO, and Mark VE3RYI enjoying a break for a bite to eat.



In case you were wondering, Murphy strikes in other places besides the ham shack. Best to keep your eyes open and both hands on the wheel. Cheers! Pictures circulating on the internet.





Members gathered to hear Ron Ouwehand VA3OUW speak at the January meeting.

