

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club  
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 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956  
<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>

# The Hamilton Amateur

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

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## Next Meeting

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

### Wednesday March 19th

Once again we are pleased to welcome our own Ron Ouwehand, VA3OUW who is returning to present part two of the Lake Superior voyage of sailing vessel Old

Hand, during the summer of 2007. Ron will show his journey along the north shore of Superior where he had a planned rendezvous with Fred, VE3GCP, who was invited aboard to do an inspection and have a sail.



Ron Ouwehand,  
 VA3OUW

ways to have even more opportunity for exchanging ideas.

There have been changes during the year. One change saw Sherry Goeller, VE3ZQV, learn about, and eventually take over the membership duties from Emsley, VE3JAI. Keeping track of the membership on the computer is a specialized job and the transition from Emsley to Sherry seems to have taken place very smoothly. If you have any questions about membership put in a call to Sherry, or talk to her at the Club meeting.

There are some events coming up in which you might be interested.

1. CANWARN training is scheduled for April 12th. The venue for this training is currently unknown but we will announce it as soon as we hear details.

2. On May 10th the City of Hamilton will be holding its annual Emergency Preparedness Day. Amateur Radio plays an official part in the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan, and there will be a display of amateur radio capabilities at the event, during which time we talk to the public and to other emergency responder groups, hopefully raising the profile of amateur radio and establishing connections within the local community. For more information talk to me, or to Jerry Osborn VE3JSO, coordinator for ARES.

3. Coming up on March 30th 2008 is the Round the Bay Road Race. A number of years ago radio amateurs provided communication for the race organizers but we have not been involved in this aspect for

Please invite your sailing friends to join us, particularly if they use amateur radio while cruising.

## President's Message

by Lorraine  
 MacPherson, VA3NZ



This has been a busy year for me, with my day job, my duties as HARC President, and a bad bout with pneumonia which led to a stay in Henderson Hospital. I do not recommend the latter as a way of either avoiding work or taking a holiday.

My desire for the year was to have interesting speakers for Club meetings, to foster interest in Amateur Radio and to have the membership feel eager to come out to the meetings. The social mingling at coffee time has been a good for the group and a great way to meet fellow Amateurs and exchange ideas. The club executive is considering

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.

some time. However there is a general need for volunteers to help in other areas like staffing water stations etc. One of our members, Joan Nuxoll, VE3JNX, is entered in the the 5K race that day. This is not a radio exercise, but if you would like to help, let Bonnie McLaughlin, VE3BML know, or myself. Of course, during the event you could always stay in touch with other HAM volunteers using your HAM radio.

Please have a look at the Club web page at <hamiltonarc.ca> where we have posted information about awards. HARC has several awards which should be given out each year however we need the membership to submit a nomination in order to get the process rolling. For more information talk to Casey VE3CVP.

Hope to see you all at the March meeting.

## Minutes of the February 20th Meeting

by Secretary, Roger Pimm VE3UFZ



Guest speaker for the evening was Jon Roake VA3RQ. Jon is one of a small number of radio amateurs in a group known as the Escarpment Repeater Association, a group who established and maintain a chain of linked repeaters in South Ontario. In a Power Point presentation, Jon showed the repeater sites and the equipment, and explained how the network originated, how it operates today. Jon also shared the group's plans for the future. Jon invited us to take a look at the Escarpment Repeater Association web site for information on their system and other similar systems operating in our area. The web site is: <<http://www.eraradio.ca/>>

The Business Meeting was called to order after coffee break by President Lorraine. The minutes of the January

meeting were adopted as published in the January newsletter with a correction to the dates for The CQ World Wide contest which starts on February 22 and goes to February 24.

Membership: Emsley VCE3JAI reported that we now have 75 members, 8 of which are family members. One new member was added at the meeting bringing the total to 76 members.

Treasurer: Fred VE3GCP reported that nothing extraordinary occurred over the past month. In response to a member's request for some detail as to the amount and type of revenues and expenditures the club encounters in a year Fred produced what he calls a "Treasurers Outline of Typical Expenses". Fred presented a very detailed verbal report which more than answered any questions regarding how the executive steward the club financial resources. Details will not be published in the minutes although there was some discussion regarding the publishing of our financial status. It was reinforced that any member may approach an executive with a request for some information on our expenses or income. Moved by Rick VE3BK and seconded by Mary VE3OGQ the report was adopted as presented.

Education: Mardy VE3QEE reported that the last basic class was held on February 14. February 21 will be a "question and answer" session for the students and the examination will be conducted on February 28. An interest in CW training was expressed by Rick VE3BK on behalf of the contest group. Mardy suggested that the KOCH method of training has proved to be a most effective in learning code. The KOCH method was developed by G4FON and is readily available on the internet as a free download which will work on the Windows operating system.

Repeater: John VE3DVV reported that our long retired UHF repeater is now back in service at a healthy 10 watts. John is currently making the changes to put PL on the UHF and the availability of IRLP on VHF or

## 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

UHF will be discussed at the next executive meeting.

Contest: Rick VE3BK started his report by confessing that he has a bit of a hearing problem (or is that only when Pat wants a chore done). We can't help but wonder how Rick gets such great contest results? Maybe it's the headphones cranked up to "vibrate" level? Rick discussed three upcoming contests:

-CQ WW 160M contest. Starts Friday February 22 and goes till Sunday February 24.

-CQ WW WPX Contest. Starts Friday March 28 at 8:00pm and goes

48hours. This is an "around the world" contest.

Ontario QSO Party. Runs Saturday April 19 and Sunday April 20. The Saturday time slot is 2:00pm till 1:00am Sunday. Sunday time slot is 8:00am till 2:00pm. This schedule will allow for some shuteye for contesters.

New Business: Lorraine introduced a new award certificate that she created at the request of the club executive. The award is called the "Club Builder Award". The intent of this award is to recognize members that have given their time and effort to help out on various club tasks and events i.e.: Field Day, Flea Market, and Field Day. The event coordinator will provide the names to Awards Chairman Casey VE3CVP who will arrange to have the certificates prepared.

Gary VE3GTO asked for volunteers to participate in manning the 22 checkpoints for the Ancaster to Paris bicycle race. This year the race will be held on April 20, 2008. If you are interested in helping out at this event, please contact Gary at VE3GTO@RAC.CA. This would be a pleasant way to enjoy the spring weather and at the same time provide a valuable service to the community.

Moved by Rick VE3BKK and seconded by John VE3DVV the meeting was adjourned.

## Going to Australia?

*Notes for Amateurs Visiting Australia. I believe this came to us courtesy of the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet.*

According to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), Amateur Radio operators traveling to Australia who wish to operate in that country do not need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. This new policy, effective February 15, 2008, allows amateurs who hold a non-Australian Amateur Radio license to operate up to 90 days under a Class Licence. Licensees who will be in

Australia for more than 90 days will need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. -- Information provided by Roger Hickey, W6MSC. Here is a web site so you can check it out for yourself. <[http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC\\_1311](http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_1311) >

## Escarpment Repeater Association

by Mardy VE3QEE

As a follow up to the presentation given in February by our guest speaker, Jon Rorke VA3RQ, I checked out the web site provided by Jon and copied some information I thought would be of immediate interest to our members. At the end of this article is a table listing the seven repeater sites and listing *only* the 2 meter and 70 centimeter frequencies which are in the linked system established and maintained by the Escarpment Repeater Association ( ERA ). There are other frequencies available at several of the sites for example, 6 meter and 1.25 meter bands but I did not put them in the table.

For a complete list of the whole ERA system, and additional information about several *other* linked systems operating in Ontario, see the ERA web site at <<http://www.eraradio.ca/>>

It is a very informative web site. On the web site there is a map showing



Jon Rorke VA3RQ

### HARC 2006-2007 Chairs

Awards Chairman  
Casey VanBroekhoven VE3CVP  
905-385-8724 <[ve3cvp@gmail.com](mailto:ve3cvp@gmail.com)>

Contesting Manager / Property  
Rick Danby VE3BK  
905-544-3253 <[rdanby@arrl.net](mailto:rdanby@arrl.net)>

Education Chair / Flea Market  
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE 905-648-0187  
<[meedson@cogeco.ca](mailto:meedson@cogeco.ca)>

Volunteer Examiners  
Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ  
905-389-7653 <[va3nz@rac.ca](mailto:va3nz@rac.ca)> and  
Bernard Granby VA3XJ  
905-527-7175 <[berngran@hwcn.org](mailto:berngran@hwcn.org)>

Field Day Co-ordinator  
David Bruton VE3DWW  
905-383-9808 <[am983@hwcn.org](mailto:am983@hwcn.org)>

Repeater Chairman  
John Vandenberg VE3DVV 905-692-3802  
<[JVandenberg@mountaincable.net](mailto:JVandenberg@mountaincable.net)>

Health & Welfare Chairperson  
Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ 905-388-8383

Hospitality  
Bernie Granby VA3XJ 905-527-7175  
<[berngran@hwcn.org](mailto:berngran@hwcn.org)>

Membership Chair / Web Page  
Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI 905-627-0333  
<[eamitch@mcmaster.ca](mailto:eamitch@mcmaster.ca)>

Newsletter Editor  
John Hudak VE3CXB 905-627-9475  
<[judakjm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:judakjm@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](mailto:ve3ddq1947@cogeco.ca)>

Communication  
Michael Krebs VA3WXS 905-523-9005  
<[mkrebs@sympatico.ca](mailto:mkrebs@sympatico.ca)>

Web Master  
Anita Thomas VA3ANI,  
<[hamiltonarc.ca](mailto: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>

repeater locations and coverage, and a description of each installation. there are also photographs of the various locations including the equipment and control operators.

Thank you Jon, the presentation was very informative and a special thank you to the ERA group for dedicated service to the amateur radio community in establishing and maintaining this linked system.

Special thanks, also, to our own Gary Notto, VE3TTO, who works with the ERA and who introduced Jon at the

approaching any emergency vehicle, on the roadside, with lights flashing, you must enter the left lane. He then proceeded to ticket me, taking three demerits and issuing a fine of , wait for it, ... \$490! I realize I did not change lanes, but I do believe I was cautious. My message is, be careful. He said that they are cracking down hard on this because of three injured officers in the last ten days. I did not realize this was the law. Neither did any of my recently-licensed children. Or, evidently, not the 47 drivers (I counted) who broke the same law as

Repeater	Location	Frequency	Tone
VE3WIK	Carlisle	146.715	131.8
		443.675	131.8
VE3SNM	Balentrae	442.85	136.5
VA3WAJ	Niagara Falls	442.425	107.2
VE3SED	Baden	442	131.8
VE3MBR	Goering	147.105	156.7
		444.425	156.7
VA3WIK	Singhampton	444.9	156.7
VE3R XR	Little Current	145.31	156.7

meeting.

I sat waiting to receive my ticket!

## Passing Stopped Emergency Vehicles

*This anecdote was received by e-mail; as with most of this circulated stuff the origin is unknown.*

I was driving on the 417 West at Panmure at broad daylight at 2 p.m., when I came upon two police cruisers who had pulled over a third vehicle. I slowed down to be cautious, and was surprised when the second cruiser pulled out and pulled me over. Approaching on the passenger side, the officer asked if I knew why I had been pulled over. I honestly expressed that I had no idea. He informed me that Ontario law now states that when

Below is the the excerpt from the [Ontario Highway Traffic Act](#), relating to this offence. It is under section 159.1 (1), (2), (3),(4),(5).

Approaching stopped emergency vehicle

**159.1 (1)** Upon approaching an emergency vehicle with its lamp producing intermittent flashes of red light or red and blue light that is stopped on a highway, the driver of a vehicle travelling on the same side of the highway shall slow down and proceed with caution, having due regard for traffic on and the conditions of the highway and the weather, to ensure that the driver does not collide with the emergency vehicle or endanger any person

outside of the emergency vehicle. 2002, c. 21, s. 1; 2007, c. 13, s. 20.

Same

(2) Upon approaching an emergency vehicle with its lamp producing intermittent flashes of red light that is stopped on a highway with two or more lanes of traffic on the same side of the highway as the side on which the emergency vehicle is stopped, the driver of a vehicle travelling in the same lane that the emergency vehicle is stopped in or in a lane that is adjacent to the emergency vehicle, in addition to slowing down and proceeding with caution as required by subsection (1), shall move into another lane if the movement can be made in safety. 2002, c. 21, s. 1.

Same

(3) Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) prevents a driver from stopping his or her vehicle and not passing the stopped emergency vehicle if stopping can be done in safety and is not otherwise prohibited by law. 2002, c. 21, s. 1.

Offence

(4) Every person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable,

(a) for a first offence, to a fine of not less than \$400 and not more than \$2,000; and

(b) for each subsequent offence, to a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$4,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both. 2002, c. 21, s. 1.

Time limit for subsequent offence

(5) An offence referred to in subsection (4) committed more than five years after a previous conviction for an offence referred to in subsection (4) is not a subsequent offence for the purpose of clause (4) (b). 2002, c. 21, s. 1

While the foregoing information was not directly related to Amateur Radio, not being aware of it could seriously affect your hobby budget.

Hi Everyone. I just had a ball working DX world wide in the ARRL

International DX contest. I forgot to mention it at the last meeting, but this is the second year I had fun and gave out contacts. Last year I had 199 contacts and this year it was 234 QSO,s. Not bad for just having fun eh! My fun may not necessarily be everyone's hi hi. This was a 48hr contest, starting at 7pm on Friday Feb. 29th to 7pm Sunday Mar. 2. Of course I only worked it part time and did search and pounce only.....it was fun. This translates to 00:00 UTC or Zulu time Saturday Mar.1 to 23:59 or 24:00 Sunday

Mar.2,2008. The exchange was 59 and the power for the DX station to give you, and

59 and your Province (ON) for me to give the DX station. Points only for working DX.

## Contest Corner

by Rick Danby,  
VE3BK



The contest I mentioned at the meeting was the CQ World Wide WPX Contest that starts 0000 GMT, UTC, or Zulu Saturday March 29, 2008 to 23:59 GMT Sunday March 30, 2008. Can you figure out the local time? In this instance it is 8pm Friday night to 7pm on Sunday night. The reason why the contest is an hour later starting than it is finishing is the change to daylight savings time. The clocks go ahead 1hr on Mar.9, 2008.

This contest is scored in an interesting way. In the WPX, prefixes like VE3 or VA3. each count as a separate multiplier. Thus, your score increases for every prefix you work. There are many countries, states and provinces that have more than one prefix so the scores can go up pretty high. The exchange on this contest is different too. Each contact gets a report (59) and a sequential number called a serial number. Your first contact is 001 and the number keeps increasing to 999, or beyond if you

are a real contester or part of a contest group running multi-multi,

Anyway, the WPX is another fun contest you can run from home. So plan to make a few contacts from your home station at the end of March.

Ok, now the next contest the Contest Group is going to be involved in is the Ontario QSO Party, or OQP for short. Since last year this contest operates on a split schedule that allows participants to sleep at night.

The contest is now managed by the Contest Club Ontario, of which we are members. It is a truly Canadian Contest which we have been a part of since its inception in 1997. Our group has done very well over the years, winning this contest many times. You may see some of the group wearing the OQP logo T-shirts and buttons from years past. These were made by the same guy that made for us our Anniversary and Club T-shirts that many of you have now. The times are 18:00 Zulu Saturday April 19, 2008 to 05:00 Zulu Sunday morning April 20, 2008 and also 12:00 Zulu Sunday morning April 20, 2008 to 05:00 Zulu Sunday afternoon April 20, 2008. Can you figure out the local times? It is 2:00 P.M. Sat. April 19 to 1:00 A.M. Sun. April 20. Get some sleep and rest then be back at it again at 8:00 A.M. Sun. April 20 until the finish at 2:00 P.M. Sun. April 20.

This Ontario QSO Party is an all out Multi-multi effort for us. We really try on this one, because we have won it so many times, that we have a reputation to uphold, so think about running a station or being a logger, helper or observer for this contest. We may be out to get points but this is a relaxed Canadian contest where you ask the guy in BC or Newfoundland what his weather is like, and generally have a bit of a QSO with the guy, when it is not real busy.

Again, it's another fun contest.....ask any of the guys who have been in it. The rules for this contest and



Piotr Kubacki, VE3KUB

Warren Hyde, VE3AQU

Wojciech Guziolek, VE3ANK

detailed information are available at the Contest Club of Ontario Website: <<http://cco.ve3xd.com/oqp/index.htm>>

Please let me know if you can join us. You can get me at the address and phone printed in the Newsletter. Hope to see you there, 73, Rick VE3BK

## Three New Amateurs

by Basic Course Instructor Mardy Edson, VE3QEE

Please join me in welcoming three new Radio Amateurs to the hobby. Our Basic course which began in late September 2007 came to a close with testing on February 28th, 2008. I am delighted to report that three students enrolled in the course each earned their Basic + qualification by passing the exam with more than 80% thus gaining full band privileges. All three are yachting enthusiasts and plan to use Amateur equipment on the high seas. Congratulations to Piotr Kubacki, VE3KUB, from Campbellville, Wojciech Guziolek, VE3ANK, from Brampton, and Warren Hyde, VE3AQU, from Hamilton. If you see these HAMS at the club or hear them on the air,

please extend our best wishes for their enjoyment of the hobby. Picture above.

## Adventures of a New Canadian Amateur

Story relayed by Mardy, VE3QEE, antenna and adventure by Bob Zimmerman VE3RKZ

I first met Bob face to face in my back yard two years ago the day Bernie VE3EKY and I were testing a vertical Cushcraft R7 antenna for field day. Bernie had brought up his rig and the aluminium base for Ruth Granby's outdoor umbrella. We had mounted the Cushcraft on this umbrella base for stability and guyed the vertical in a temporary manner for the test. Everything seemed to load up OK on 40 meters with no SWR showing on the meter. Bernie said OK and tuned in the CW portion of 40 meters. Soon he was responding to a call from NP4B. Where could that be from? Tapping away some more, Bernie learned the call was from an operator named Bob, who was using a QRP rig. More tapping and Bernie sat back with a surprised look on his face. The call

had come from, of all places, Westdale, a few blocks from Bernie's home. It came from Bob Zimmerman, then using his NP4B call (no problem for Bob). Bernie and Bob continued to exchange information including my QTH and what we were doing that day. Soon Bob appeared at my side gate. He was invited in for introductions and to see what we were doing.

Since that time both Bernie and I have responded to Bob when he has tested equipment from time to time as Bob is often experimenting with one idea or another.

On February 28th Bob wrote the Canadian Basic test with the rest of the candidates Piotr, (Peter) Warren, and Wojciech, (Voitec). Bob was also successful earning a Canadian call with full privileges. Bob now has the call, VE3RKZ. In the meantime, Bob was doing what all HAMS do best, putting up an antenna to get on the air. I'll continue the story in Bob's own words as he e-mailed it to me.

"I forgot to tell you that last weekend (Feb.22) I put up a half-wave vertical on 40 meters, with the help of my wife Natalia and father-in-law. As we raised the mast, there was that point where it is going to go up or down - we exchanged a lot of Bulgarian

commands very quickly. Fortunately, the mast went up.

The mast is made of aluminum raingutter downspout and is very lightweight. I have it guyed at the 20 and 40 ft levels with high-test nylon string. It is fed from the bottom (a high impedance point = 650 ohms) with an L-network, consisting of a shunt capacitor (95 pF) and a series inductor (6 microHenries).

I have been enjoying this big antenna like when I was a young boy. With my 50 watts from the TenTec SCOUT, I can work anyone I hear! The other night I broke through a pileup and contacted OK IRI, Jere, in the Czech republic. Also, when the skip goes 'long' in the early evening, I have had several good QSO's with WP4G in San Juan, an old friend of mine from years ago.

I look forward to being VE3RKZ very soon. When I lived in the Marshall Islands I was V73BZ, which suited me well too. 73, Bob Zimmerman, ex-NP4B"

Well, it seems like Bob's antenna worked like gangbusters. I asked his permission to put this story in the newsletter and to get some pictures for illustration. I thought some of our newer



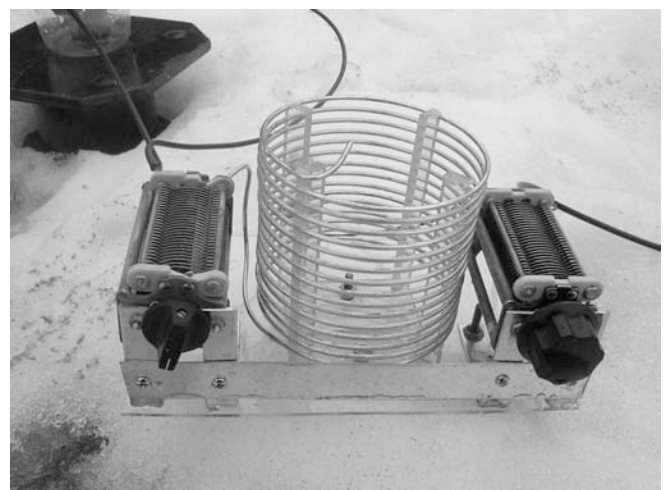
HAMs would be encouraged to throw up an antenna themselves if they could see how easily it might be done. The results are what you see on the page, but the adventure does not end there. A few days later I got part two of the story by e-mail as follows.

"Last night we had a severe wind & ice storm down here in the valley. My vertical failed, precisely where I thought it could fail... at the 30 ft splice that was unguyed. I exceeded the Euler Load! It was up for only 13 days. I could write up a note for the ham radio newsletter showing how it failed and why and the pitfalls of aluminum. (I'll get this to you in a few days). Last night before the failure I was watching the vertical oscillate up there and knew this would happen.

73, Bob

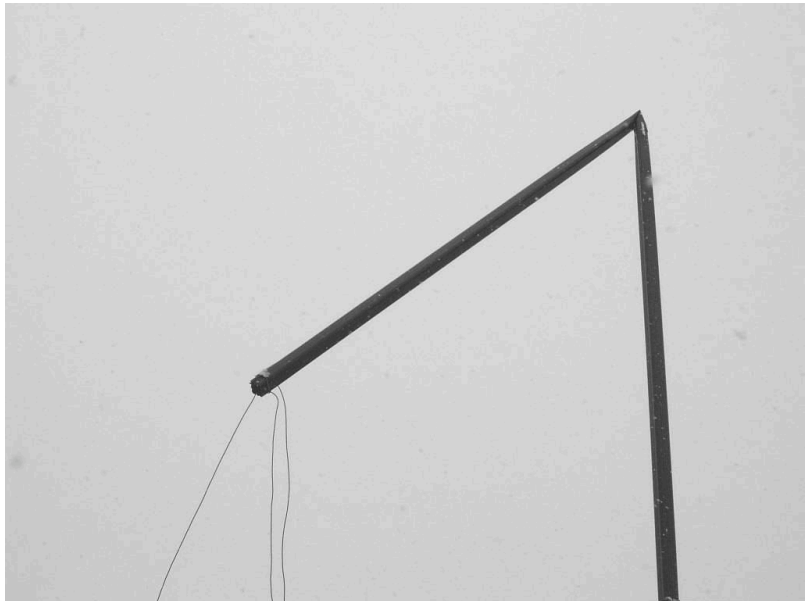
Unfortunately, many of us have experienced this too.. Thank you Bob for sharing your adventure and providing the pictures so we all could smile and enjoy the great fun that comes from Amateur Radio. Hi.

P.S. Just read the latest e-mail from Bob and the antenna is down for repairs. It will be going up again for more DX.





Bob Zimmerman VE3RKZ



Alas, failure of a great 40 meter end fed half-wave dipole.



Adam Mitchell VA3BAU working the CQ World Wide 160 meter sideband contest with Dave Mayes VE3BNF  
Last year's results for the same contest just came out and VE3DC placed first in Canada!



Members waiting for the February Club meeting to begin.



