



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

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President's Message

by David Bruton VE3DWJ

Welcome to another season of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. September 17 is the first meeting. I am looking forward to see all members returning for another year

The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter 76 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2008

of guest speakers and club activities. Membership fees are due now. This will help pay for expenses occurring at the beginning each year. Please come about 15 minutes earlier so that membership chairperson can assist in getting membership cards completed before the evening closes. Do not forget that there is an early membership incentive draw for free membership the next year, for those who renew early.

Time is short for our Hamfest in October. The date is October 4th, which means this event will be over before our next meeting in October. So let Mardy know who will help out the club to make it another success. Volunteers are needed to help set up tables, labels on tables, security at doors and helpers to assist vendors. Please help out your club on Saturday morning as set up time is very short.

Your new executive officers for 2008/2009 are as follows:
 President VE3DWJ David,
 1st Vice President VA3WXS Mike,
 2nd Vice President VE3BAU Adam,
 Treasurer VE3GCP Fred,
 Secretary VE3JNX Joan,
 director VA3OUW Ron
 Past President VA3NZ Lorraine.



I am looking forward to your support and participation in 2008/2009.

Your president,
 David Bruton,
 VE3DWJ

Minutes of the June 18, 2008 General Meeting

by secretary Roger Pimm VE3UFZ



The June general meeting is our annual elections meeting. Our president Lorraine VA3NZ opened the meeting at 7:40pm. Many members showed up early, at 7:00pm, to participate in discussion of a diversity of HAM subjects. This portion of our general meetings seems to be becoming more popular as people catch on to our new general meeting start time.

The minutes of the May general meeting were adopted as published in the June club newsletter. Moved by Roger VE3UFZ and seconded by Mike VA3WXS.

Sherry VE3ZQV reported that membership renewal is already well underway. John VE3DVV reported that our club repeater is operating as expected. Our Treasurer, Fred VE3GCP, reported that our club coffers are in excellent shape.

Mardy, VE3QEE, delivered a sensitive eulogy in remembrance of our one and only Bernie Granby. Mardy had prepared a presentation in pictures and music of just some of Bernie's happy moments at field days, club meetings, and education classes. A

Club meetings – 3rd Wednesday each month – 7:30 pm (except July and August) at Hamilton District Christian High School, 92 Glanaster Road, Ancaster, L9G 3K9, corner of Rymal Road (Hwy. #53) and Glanaster Road. Parking on location. Complimentary refreshments.

moment of silent remembrance was held opening with a message in CW: (AR DEVE3EKY CL) and closed by another message in CW: (73 SK).

Nominations were opened for the offices of executive for the coming club year 2008-2009.

Nominee; moved by; seconded by.

Fred VE3GCP; Roger VE3FUZ; Mardy VE3QEE

Adam VE3BAU; Fred VE3GCP; Roger VE3UFZ

Sherry VE3ZQV; Declined

Roger VE3UFZ; Declined

Joan VE3JNX; Mary VE3OGQ; Mike VA3WXS

Dave VE3DWJ; Mardy VE3QEE; Roger VE3UFZ

Ron VE3OUW; Lorraine VA3NZ; Mardy VE3QEE

Rick VE3BK; Declined

Gary VE3TTO; Declined

Leif VE3KFE; Declined

Mike VA3WXS; Rick VE3BK; Mardy VE3QEE

Allan VA3SAG; Mardy VE3QEE; Mike VA3WXS

VA3WXS

Larry VE3GLH; Declined

Nominations were closed at 8:00pm.

After a secret ballot the election results and our newly elected executive were presented as follows; Fred VE3GCP, Adam VE3BAU, Joan VE3JNX, Dave VE3DWJ, Ron VE3OUW, Mike VA3WXS. Individual offices were not selected at the general meeting but will be made at the June Executive Meeting.

Health and Welfare – Mary VE3OGQ announced that she has sent a get well card to Boris Augusta VE3ITY. A beautiful arrangement of flowers was sent to the funeral home for the family of Bernie Granby VA3XJ. Stan Bolibruch VE3GFE has had a setback due to an infection. Fred VE3GCP will get the mailing address for Stan for the June newsletter. Art VA3ART has moved to St Elizabeth's Village. Mary has sent a get well card to Art to cheer him up.

Contest – Rick VE3BK brought us up to date on some of our contest results. The 2008 QSO Party saw VE3DC getting first place in

South West Ontario, first place in Haldiman County and second place in Ontario. Total points were 159,761 multi-operators, multi transmitter (fixed).

The International Lighthouse event will be held on August 16 and 17 at our usual location on the Hamilton Beach Strip. This event isn't a contest but a fun event where HAM clubs around the world set up at or near Lighthouses or Lightships and attempt contacts with other Lighthouses and Lightships.

Moved by Mike VA3WXS, seconded by Roger VE3UFZ, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

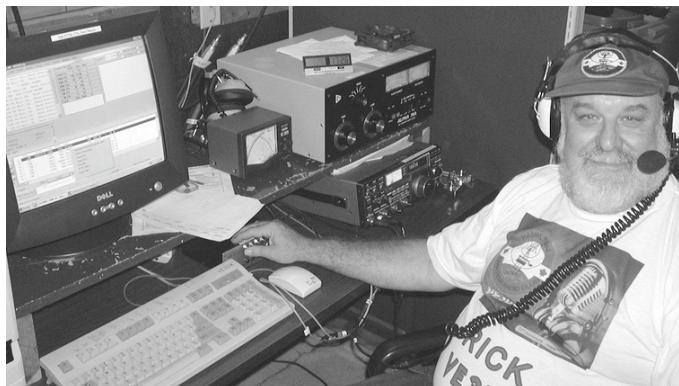
Note: As this is my final set of minutes for the club newsletter, I will use my privilege as Secretary Elect to bid you all 73 and a productive summer season of QSO'ing. Over the last several years I have enjoyed my terms in office as President and Secretary but now need a respite from my executive duties. I look forward to General Meetings in the 2008-2009 club season and hope that at some future date you will again show your trust in again nominating me for office.

Roger VE3UFZ

Canada Day 2008

Official results by Rick Danby, VE3BK, introduction by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Each year, on July 1st, there is a fun contest (no pressure) where Canadian HAMs talk to other Canadian HAMs. It is called the Canada Day Contest. This year's



HARC 2008-2009 Executive

President

David Bruton VE3DWJ
905-383-9808
ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca

Past President

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

First Vice President

Mike Krebs VA3WXS
va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca
905-523-9005

Second Vice President

Adam Mitchell VE3BAU
ve3bau@hamiltonarc.ca

Secretary

Joan Nuxoll VE3JNX
ve3jnx@hamiltonarc.ca

Treasurer

Fred Robinson VE3GCP
905-575-5197
ve3gcp@hamiltonarc.ca

Director

Ron Ouwehand VA3OUW
va3ouw@hamiltonarc.ca

event took place so closely on the heels of Field Day that some of the radio equipment was still warm. Some eight participants and two visitors set up at the contest site.

Rick's official report follows, listing the participants and statistical details of their contacts. Refer to the Soapbox section for a report on condition of the bands and how the group felt about the contest.

Thanks to you Rick. You do a great job organizing these radio events for the benefit and participation of any club members, their children and

their friends who wish to join in. You also do a lot of work behind the scenes promoting the event and submitting scores, not to mention all the effort put into maintenance of

feedlines and antennas at the site, which is an ongoing job.

The box contains Rick's official report and some pictures follow

2008 RAC Canada Day Contest

Province ON

Call Used VE3DC

Call of operator if different from call used _____

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

If multioperator, list calls of all operators and loggers:

VA3DJ VE3BK VE3EEZ & son Jessie VE3DCU VE3OCD VE3OZO VE3RYI and visitors VA3TVW & VE3WKG

CW				Phone		
Band	QSOs	Points	Multipliers	QSOs	Points	Multipliers
160	0	0	0	3	22	1
80	1	10	1	180	1486	7
40	45	256	5	52	412	9
20	40	224	8	119	1058	11
15	2	4	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	2	20	1
6	0	0	0	4	32	1
2	0	0	0	8	80	1

3604 X 45 = 162180
points X multipliers = score

SOAPBOX: Bands conditions didn't seem to be as good this year for us. We were able to do a lot of ragchewing with the other members but there didn't seem to be many amateurs south of the border to give us contacts with July 1st being on a Tuesday. Sure was a busy time for those of us that did Field Day too. We had some of the newer hams out seeing how we operate and having a good visit so we all had fun doing the contest. Jessie especially enjoyed himself on 20m. I think he did more contacts than his dad hi hi. Thanks to all that worked us on Canada's Birthday and hope to see you in the next one.

73 es gud DX Rick VE3BK

"I have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations for Amateur Radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge."

Date : 07/28/08 Signature: R.W.Danby Call: VE3BK

HARC 2006-2007 Chairs

Awards Chairman

Casey VanBroekhoven VE3CVP
 905-385-8724 <ve3cvp@hamiltonarc.ca>

Contesting Manager/Property

Rick Danby VE3BK
 905-544-3253 <ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca>

Hamfest. Coordinator

Mardy Eedson
 <ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca>

Volunteer Examiner

Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ
 905-389-7653 <va3nz@hamiltonarc.ca>

Field Day Co-ordinator

David Bruton VE3DWJ
 905-383-9808 <ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca>

Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV 905-692-3802
 <ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca>

Health & Welfare Chairperson

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ 905-388-8383

Hospitality

Currently an open position seeking volunteers.

Membership Chair Sherry Goeller

VE3ZQV, <ve3zqv@hamiltonarc.ca>

Newsletter Editor

John Hudak VE3CXB 905-627-9475
 <ve3cxb@hamiltonarc.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 <ve3ddq@hamiltonarc.ca>

Communication

Michael Krebs VA3WXS 905-523-9005
 <va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca>

Web Master

Anita Thomas VA3ANI,
 <va3ani@hamiltonarc.ca> and
 Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI / VA3QI
 <ve3jai@hamiltonarc.ca>

Steve VE3OZO



Sherry VE3ZQV



Dan VA3DJ



Canada Day
July 1 2008

Jessie Sawadski



Visiting VA3TVW and VE3WKG



Joe, VE3OCD



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>

VE3DC 3A ON Field Day 2008

by Rick VE3BK

Field Day 2008 was on June 28 and June 29, 2008 this year. VE3DC ran 3A ON this year with a G.O.T.A. (Get On The Air) station with Ron VE3DF at the controls. He had a good helper in Jack VE3WBT who also helped Kevin VE3HNG operate the 2m Station at the front of the Rock Chapel site. Dave VE3DWJ (our Field Day Co-ordinator) also helped out at this station. This site is run by the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton and is all part of the Borer's Falls Conservation Area. The antenna for this location was a G5RV junior brought out by Sherry VE3DCU and strung up in a tree by Jack and myself (Rick VE3BK). We tried using Mark's VE3RYI fishing pole with weights to put it in the tree but I am not as good at casting as Mark and promptly lost his weights. We ended up using a fishing pole and weights with a slingshot to get the support lines in the trees. I lost some more weights of my own, but this is all part of Field Day. This was for the HF GOTA station. The 2m used a supported pole with a Ringo Ranger vertical and a 5 element 2m yagi that was made by Bob VE3RKZ and brought out by Sherry VE3DCU.

The 20m station that was not far from the GOTA and 2m station was operated by Dan VA3DJ and myself. The 20m dipole was put up in the same manner with one end put up with the slingshot and the other by Mark's great casting. It seemed to go up easy compared to the G5RV. Our setup on the 20m station was fast and simple, no support poles and no more than we needed (although we did have a fan to keep us cool hi hi). Dan and I believe in the KISS rule (keep it simple Simon).

The 40m station was operated by Sherry VE3DCU. She had a trailer and brought out a good size tent and 2 antennas. She

supported a 40m dipole that I had lent her between 2 telescopic army poles with cement blocks to hold them in place and also used another pole to support the apex of a 40m inverted "V". She did a great job putting up her big tent and heavy duty table. John VE3DVV helped her and gave us a demonstration of his Computer based radio as he made contacts on it. Thanks for the demo John. You guys did a great job. Now the only thing I was wondering is if the Air Conditioner in the tent was really needed hi hi. That's a first for me on Field Day. It definitely was hot enough back in the circle.

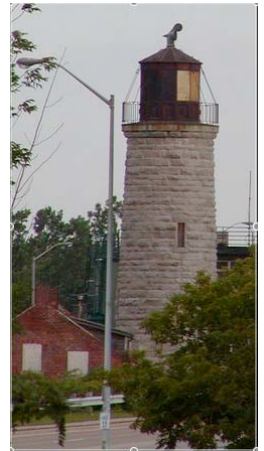
The 80m station was operated by Fred VE3GCP, Mardy VE3QEE, Adam VE3BAU and Steve VE3OZO was there to do some CW for them. Fred developed a great way to put up his high tower with a minimum of people. I think they said they did it with 3 people but it really only took 2. Not bad for a 60 foot tower, way to go Fred. His dipole worked well as that station gave us the majority of contacts. The 80m tower and dipole antenna was the largest we had.

Let's not forget the most important tent. Mary VE3OGQ and Joe VE3OCD did a great job with the Hospitality Tent. Mary, your perogies are scrumptious and I sure enjoy the fruit for breakfast. All the food was great and timing always seemed to be perfect. Mary was telling me that not only was there other hams visiting us but also some of the general public, some with their dogs, came by to see what we were doing. Thanks Mary and Joe for doing another fine job for us on Field Day. The smokey generator lasted long enough, the rain held off, we had a lot of visitors, a great demo of a new type radio and generally another great Field Day again this year in 2008. Maybe you could help out or run a station yourself next year. This year definitely proves that the more the merrier with a total of 41 participants and visitors making it one of the best attended. Hope to see you all again next year.

International Lighthouse Weekend

Report on the
Interational
Lighthouse and
Lightship
Weekend (ILLW)
by Rick Danby
VE3BK

Our Club
Station, VE3DC,
activated
CAN-063
Burlington
Canal Main
Light again this
year or



alternately it was given the designation CA0015 by the ILLW Group in Scotland. When we registered with them we were told the CAN-063 is only an Amateur Radio North American designator. We held our special event on the third weekend in August this year, the weekend when Amateurs from all over the world, get on the air for fun, see how many Lighthouses they can work, and promote Amateur Radio to the public that visit the transmitting site. August is offically Lighthouse month.

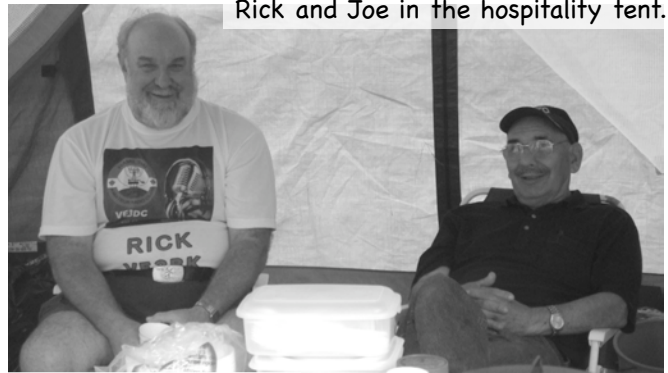
On the first weekend of August, there is an actual contest for Lighthouses worldwide. On the second weekend the North Americans seem to be on now too and you will find many Lighthouses on the air, doing a Special Event for Lighthouses. We have already received at least 2 QSLs that I know about from this event.

Saturday August 9th, 2008, Mark VE3RYI, and myself, went down to the beach, where we would be operating, to test the setup with Mark's vertical. We set up and tried the SWR on different bands. Our match was a little high on all the bands but with Mark making some adjustments, we were able to get it low enough so that the built in tuner in the IC756 would do the job. We checked into ONTARS and were heard by the guy up North although the controller in

The 20 meter tent and Sherry's trailer.



Rick and Joe in the hospitality tent.



Fred, left, and Adam, right, working 80 meters



Field Day 2008

John gives Adam a lesson on Software Defined Radio



Dan, Sherry and John on 20 meters.



Kevin VE3HNG and David VE3DWJ on VHF



Rick VE3BK on 40 meters



Toronto couldn't hear us even though we could see Toronto.....must have been the angle of radiation with a vertical. We had a chance to tell people what we were doing during this preliminary test and to promote Amateur Radio as a hobby.

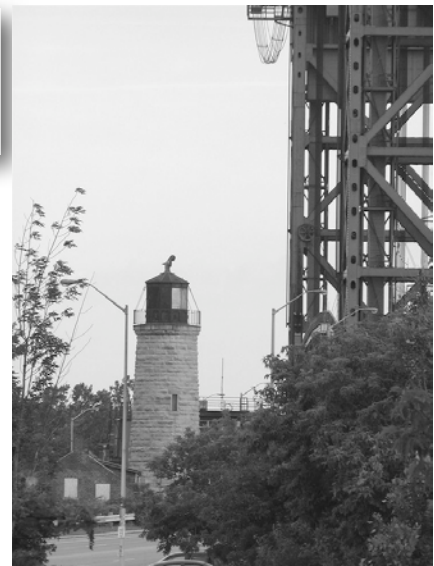
The following week on Saturday we set up the special event station at the same location. Present on Saturday: Mark VE3RYI, Rick VE3BK, Jack VE3WBT, Kevin VE3HNG, Ron VE3DF, Jim VE3EEZ and his son Jessie, also we had a visit by Vince VE3LKV.

Next day, on Sunday, August 17th, 2007, we did it again, except we started earlier. This time we had some more visitors: Roger VE3UFZ and his daughter Catherine, plus Ken VE3WN brought us a QSL card from the day before, Dave VE3DWJ and a surprise visit from Fred VE3GCP who dropped by after he and Ron VA3OUW had trouble getting away on their vacation in the sailboat. The band conditions we experienced this time were more conducive to promoting amateur radio than to making a great number of contacts.

Despite band conditions we had a great time and the weather was very co-operative this year. Thanks to all that worked us and everyone that operated. I hope that next year we can do it again. It was fun, and we able to showcase not only Amateur Radio but also the historic Lighthouse and the fact that we were able to contact other Lighthouses around the world. For those of you who couldn't make it this year, we hope to do it again next year. Put it on your calendar for the second weekend in August. See you there.



International Lighthouse Weekend



top left
Rick VE3BK David VE3DWJ
top center
Kevin VE3HNG Fred VE3GCP
middle left
Kevin VE3HNG Mark VE3RYI
Jacques VE3JGJ

New Band Plans Announced for Canadian Amateurs

Adapted from the RAC web page at
<<http://www.rac.ca>>

The new RAC MF/HF Band Plan covers the bands 160m to 10m. The current update is needed because of recent changes by the FCC, United States Federal Communications Commission, and changes to the IARU Region 2 Band Plan.

No plan can remain static in the face of changing regulations and technology. It is anticipated that more changes to the 40m plan will be needed when Short Wave Broadcasting is eliminated worldwide from that band shortly, between 7.100 to 7.200 MHz.

There are some unique features of the Canadian plan that need special attention.

On 40 metres, a phone DX window has been specified, something that the committee researched and has included as a first.

On 80 metres, the IARU has followed our lead in making a phone DX window from 3.775 to 3.800 MHz. As well as specifying some Emergency frequencies and DX windows, and some activity centres for such activities as IOTA operations, QRP operation, AM phone and others. The plan also includes an allocation for very narrow band modes within the existing digital band. Guides to preferred contest operating frequencies are included on many bands, as stated in the Region 2 Band Plan.

The format of the RAC plan consists of two parts, a General Summary Document, plus a more detailed explanation of each band including notes and centre frequencies for each special activity.

Here is the General Summary:

On 160 meters:
1800 - 1810 CW, Narrow band digital
1810 - 1840 CW
1840 - 1999 CW, Phone
1999 - 2000 Beacons

On 80 meters:
3500 - 3580 CW
3580 - 3600 CW, Wide band ,
Narrow band digital
3600 - 4000 CW, Phone

On 40 meters:
7000 - 7035 CW
7035 - 7040 CW, Narrow Band
Digital with other Regions
7040 - 7050 CW, Phone, Narrow
Band Digital with other Regions
7050 - 7080 CW, Phone
7080 - 7125 CW, Phone, Narrow
Band digital
7125 - 7165 CW, Phone
7165 - 7175 CW, SSTV, FAX, Phone
7175 - 7300 CW, Phone

On 30 meters:
10100-10130 CW
10130-10140 CW, Narrow band
digital
10140-10150 CW, Narrow band and
Wide band digital

On 20 meters:
14000 - 14070 CW
14070 - 14095 CW, Narrow band
digital
14095 - 14099.5 CW, Narrow band
and Wide band digital
14099.5 - 14100.5 Beacons
14100.5 - 14112 CW, Narrow band
and Wide band digital
14112 - 14350 CW, Phone

On 17 meters:
18068-18095 CW
18095-18105 CW, Narrow band
digital
18105-18109.5 CW, Narrow band
and Wide band digital
18109.5-18110.5 Beacons
18110.5-18168 CW, Phone

On 15 meters:
21000-21070 CW
21070-21090 CW, Narrow band
digital
21090-21125 CW, Narrow band and
Wide band digital
21125-21149.5 CW
21149.5-21150.5 Beacons

21150.5-21335 CW, Phone
21335-21345 CW, Phone, SSTV, FAX
21345-21450 CW, Phone

On 12 meters:
24890-24920 CW
24920-24925 CW, Narrow band
digital
24925-24929.5 CW, Narrow band
and Wide band digital
24929.5-24930.5 Beacons
24931-24940 CW, Narrow band and
Wide band digital
24940-24990 CW, Phone

On 10 meters:
28000-28070 CW
28070-28120 CW, Narrow band
digital
28120-28189.5 CW, Narrow band
and Wide band digital
28189.5-28199.5 Beacon Network
#2
28199.5-28200.5 Intra-regional
Beacons
28200.5-28225 CW, Beacons
28225-28300 CW, Phone, Beacons
28300-28320 CW, Narrow band and
Wide band digital
28320-28670 CW, Phone
28670-28690 CW, Phone, SSTV, FAX
28690-29300 CW, Phone
29300-29510 Satellites
29510-29520 Guard Band, no
transmissions allowed
29520-29590 FM repeater inputs
29600 FM simplex
29620-29690 FM repeater outputs

There is not enough space in this newsletter to report the specific details of each band plan. To get that information refer to the RAC web site at <<http://www.rac.ca>>.

Will Cycle 24 Begin?

NOAA, in April 2007, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012." We are now 6 months beyond March 2008. It seems like we've been at solar minimum forever. In fact, there have been several news releases hinting that this solar minimum period between Cycle 23 and 24 is unusual. Keep watch for more on this topic in a future newsletter.