



The Hamilton Amateur

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

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
 President's Message----- 1
 Minutes of Sept. 17th--- 2
 HARC Executive----- 2
 hamiltonarc.ca----- 2
 Canadians Can Use Special
 Event Prefix----- 3
 Contest Corner----- 3
 HARC Chairs----- 3
 Antenna Repair----- 4
 Important Points----- 4
 ARRL New Membership
 Benefit----- 5
 Original Holder of Call
 VE3DC----- 5
 Hamfest Winners----- 6

Next Meeting

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

Wednesday October 15th

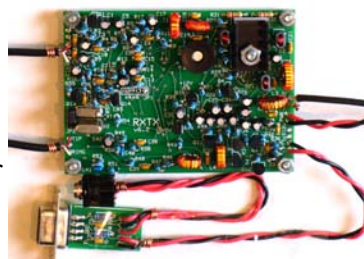
This month our guest speakers come from the Peel Amateur Radio Club. We are very pleased to be

welcoming Frank Roberts, VE3FAO and Peter Ayearst, VE3POA who will be giving us a look at the developing technology known as "Software Defined Radio".

At present there is a tremendous amount of experimentation taking place by groups of volunteer radio amateurs. What these groups have already achieved promises to completely change the appearance and operation of amateur radio equipment from now on. There are at least five different groups working to develop technologies which share 'open source' information, and any radio amateur can get in on the fun by building the equipment and experimenting with it on the air. Believe me, we are seeing the next step in amateur radio's progression from (1) radios made of coils and condensers, (2) those using transformers and tubes, to (3) those using diodes and transistors and (4) modern integrated circuits. Now we are on the verge of (5) an era where much of the work done by physical components can now be done by software alone.

The presentation that Peter and Frank are giving explains and demonstrates how this amazing technology works.

Mardy, VE3QEE, watched their presentation at a Peel Club meeting and asked Frank and Peter if they would come and talk to HARC.



Example of a software defined radio. The rest takes place in your computer.

This presentation is going to be one you will enjoy seeing, so circle the 15th on your calendar and join us. Visitors are welcome.

President's Message

by David Bruton
 VE3DWJ



This year the Fleamarket came early, before our October meeting. That fact was a concern to us. Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to help. The work was done successfully and the Fleamarket went well. People had good comments about the day.

Fred's talk on antennas was well received by many in attendance at last month's meeting. Many basic principals were reviewed. There was lots of stimulating talk at coffee break about our own problems in the past and present. Well done Fred.

Next meeting visitors, Frank VE3FAO and Peter VE3POA will show how the soundcard in your computer can be used to process signals on the HF bands. Please bring guests with you. I would to see a good turn out of members. Also get your membership renewed as the draw for next year's membership will take place after the coffee break.

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

Minutes of the September 17, 2008 General Meeting

by David Bruton VE3DWJ

The president, VE3DWJ, opened the meeting at 7:35 P.M. and asked members to adopt the minutes from the June meeting as written in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Lorraine VA3NZ spoke about a successful city emergency preparedness exercise on September 27th using the VE3WIK repeater.

The group congratulated Roger Pimm VE3UFZ on hearing that Roger's name has been added to Industry Canada's list of Designated Examiners.

David thanked the outgoing executive for doing a fine job and then introduced the new executive officers. (For a list of officers and contact information, see the sidebar, HARC 2008-2009 Executive).

David, VE3DWJ introduced the guest speaker, Fred Robinson, VE3GCP, and his topic Antenna Basics, or, how to be successful on field day with a dipole antenna. Fred offered his views on some of the often repeated, but perhaps misleading statements about antennas. Topics covered included the formula for a dipole, SWR readings, physical length versus electrical length, height above ground, balanced versus unbalanced lines, and impedance matching. Fred's views, the result of many years' experience, held some 'gems' for everyone. The interest level was high and many questions were asked and answered.

At 8:55 P.M. refreshments were ready.

Business Meeting.

Our new banner was shown. It is very similar to the old banner but the new banner additionally displays the Club web address:

<<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>> The members expressed thanks to Fred for getting the new banner ready.

Health and Welfare. Mary, VE3OGQ, reported:

Art, VA3ART, was sent a card in June. He returned home later in the summer, and has now moved to St. Elizabeth's Village.

Mike, VA3WXS, had surgery in July, and has since recovered.

Stanley, VE3GFE, has not been well. He is at St. Peters.

A sympathy card was sent to Dan, VA3DJ, who recently lost his Mom.

Contest Manager Rick, VE3BK, handed out certificates to the club and presented copies to individual participants. The next contest is on October 24th. It is the CQ WW DX Contest and VE3DC will be running two stations staffed by multiple operators. Starting time will be Friday at 8:00 P.M. and the contest runs for 48 hours, until Sunday at 8:00 P.M.

Awards chair Casey, VE3CVP, received from Rick, VE3BK, two certificates. The first was for working 100 countries, (actually 117), and the second was for working 50 states. Congratulations Casey.

Casey also outlined the rules for nominating a candidate to receive the Art Ferguson Award and declared nominations were open.

Repeater Chair, John, VE3DVV, explained that the phone patch is currently not working due to problems with the modem not hearing weak signals. Corrective measures are being investigated.

Membership Chair, Sherry Goeller, VE3ZQV, reported that we have 45 paid up members at the time of the meeting. These people qualify to have their names entered in the renewal incentive draw being drawn at the October meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Fred, VE3GCP, reported a reasonable cost for having the banner made. Fred also announced that at the flea market we will be awarding gift certificates from our commercial vendors, one for \$500., and four for \$100 each.

Hospitality Chair. The position of hospitality chair is open following the death of Bernie Granby VE3EKY. The

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

job involves making coffee once a month at the meeting. This position is open for one or two persons to take over. If you can do this job, speak to the executive.

All reports were accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

<hamiltonarc.ca>

Anita keeps the Club website current with the latest information. Leading up to the flea market she posted information about the prize package and latitude and longitude of Marritt Hall. You can help by logging on and contributing information.

Canadians Can Use Special Event Prefix To Mark British Columbia's 150th

Sent in by Tom Haavisto VE3CX, member of the Contest Club of Ontario (CCO).

Looks like all Canadian hams can use a special prefix starting this month.

Details given at <http://www.hambc150.info/> in an article titled: *HAM RADIO during BC 150*. For more info follow the links on the website.

From October 1st through to November 30, 2008 all Radio Amateurs in Canada are welcome to use the following Special Event Prefixs.

CK, CJ, CY, CZ.

The prefix commemorates the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858.

For radio amateurs in Canada VEs use CK then your suffix VAs use CJ then your suffix VOs use CY then your suffix VYs use CZ then your suffix For example, VE7DAO would become CK7DAO and VA7DAO would become CJ7DAO.

During this special prefix period Radio Amateurs in Canada are encouraged to use the new callsign. In the future this website will provide the ability to post your contacts and logs. Non-hams may join as well and enter into contests for prizes provided by our sponsors.

In cooperation with BCARCC and Ham Radio clubs in BC this website is looking to provide generic QSL cards that interested amateurs can order for their own use for contacts made during the October / November prefix period. Check the link on the web site to see a sample QSL card using the official logo.

Contest Corner

by Rick Danby VE3BK

Hi Everyone. Plan for the next Contest the end of October 2008. It is the CQ Magazine's World Wide DX Contest. Plan for it now if you are interested in helping out or just coming to have a look.



VE3DC will be on the air again working DX from as many stations as we can. This is a fun contest where everyone in the world seems to be on the air.

The contest is a 48 hour contest beginning at 00:00 GMT October 25 Saturday to Sunday 24:00 GMT October 26, 2007. This means that we will be setting up before supper on the Friday afternoon to be on the air for 8pm October 24 and the Contest runs till 8pm on Sunday night October 26, 2008. This used to be the weekend that the clocks went back, which usually meant that we went home for 7pm local time but now the clock change will be on November 2.

Rules for the contest are available on line at:

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqwwhome.html>

Let me know if you want to run a station or plan on coming out to operate, help or observe.

This is a fun contest if you like working all the zones of the world.

73 Rick 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>



Antenna Repair for Upcoming Contest

by Rick VE3BK

Jack VE3WBT, Our President Dave VE3DWJ, Dan VA3DJ and myself went out to our contest site on Sept. 25, 2008 and did some antenna repairs for our upcoming contest. The game plan was to get the 4 element tribander back in shape.

Jack did the climbing, Dave Dan and Rick did pull-up and turning of the rotator. The main reflector element had fallen off and needed to be put back up, plus things were not rotating freely. As you can see by the pictures, every thing went back together successfully. Thanks to a great team effort by Jack VE3WBT, Dave VE3DWJ, Dan VA3DJ and Rick VE3BK.

73 es gud DX to come Rick VE3BK



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>

ARRL PRESENTS NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Announcement in ARRL e-mail bulletin with introduction by Mardy VE3QEE.

I know that a few members of HARC are also members of the American Radio Relay League, ARRL, (in addition to being members of Radio Amateurs of Canada, RAC). This ARRL membership which is \$39.00 US per year includes a subscription to 12 issues of QST Magazine. Now, a new free membership benefit has been added, the ability to search for and copy any article from any past issue of QST since December 1915. I have tried it. It works great. Here's how the announcement reads.

With just a mouse click or two, ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html>>. This new benefit -- a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/>> -- provides PDF copies of all QST articles from December 1915 through December 2004, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project and more.

For many years, the TIS has provided members with assistance researching ARRL periodicals and publications, as well as providing members and non-members with article reprints for a small fee. Access to the new online digital QST archive is free for ARRL members, and is for their personal use only -- material in the archive may not be freely distributed or copied. "Having access to every issue of QST through 2004 is absolutely incredible!" said ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. "The best of the best of QST from every era is now at the fingertips of every ARRL member with a keyboard and an Internet connection. Members can research articles on any subject that interests them, or just browse the past issues. This will be a popular membership benefit that will be of special value to new and long-time hams alike. This

valuable content will help radio amateurs who use QST as a technical resource -- for projects, equipment 'hints and kinks' -- and for other research contributing to the advancement of the radio art. We know many hams will simply enjoy perusing these pages of history, too."

The ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search lists every article for QST from 1915 to the present, QEX from 1981 to the present, Ham Radio from 1968 to 1990 and NCJ from 1973 to the present (please note that beginning in 1998, each issue of QEX covers two months).

Only ARRL members will be able to download and print copies of the QST articles. QST magazine is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is \$39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/join>>.

Original Holder of The Call VE3DC

It is interesting how pieces come together. Here is another fact about our Club's heritage from Rick VE3BK.

On Sept. 22, 2008 the Club received a QSL card via the Bureau. It was from G3OHC Graham Badger, Fairview, Wistow Road, Selby YO8 3LZ, North Yorkshire, England. Several years ago we had worked Graham and received a QSL card and a note following the CQWW SSB contest in October 2002. He must have heard us on the air, again, last year, because he sent another card and note for our 75th Anniversary in 2007.

He wrote on his card: "Congratulations on 75 years! VE3DC was my Father-in-law's old Call....Dolphus Chene until 1939, when all his gear was confiscated by the Government due to the War. He never reclaimed it after and came to live in the UK."

PSE QSL 73 Graham hope to work you again soon."

Dolphus Chene at age 85 shortly before his death in 2005.



Dolphus Chene in his RCAF uniform in 1943, holder of the original call VE3DC until 1939.



HAMFEST 2008 Grand Prize Winners

Reported by Emsley VA3QJ, ~VE3JAI.

1 Ronald Amburn VA3UC \$500.00
Radio World Grey Bruce ARC
Walkerton, Ontario

2 Andrew Jancik VE3HJ \$100.00
Durham Radio Waterford Ontario *

3 Ken Johnson VE3ZRO \$100.00
Maple Leaf Communications
Hamilton ON **

4 Gordon Murray VE3JSJ \$100.00
Durham Radio Hamilton ARC

5 Kevin Gabris VA3KPG \$100.00
Radio World

*Mailed to P.O. Box 885
Waterford, ON, N0E 1Y0

** Received by Jerry Johnson VE3JCJ
Father of the winner

Below, Jack VE3WBT and Rick
VE3BK manning a table at the
HARC Hamfest 2008, held for the
final time in Marritt Hall where
we have been since 1983.

