



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

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# The Hamilton Amateur

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

## HARC Annual Christmas Party

*Announcement from the executive.*

There is no regular monthly club meeting held in the month of December. Instead, members join in celebrating the Christmas season by attending the annual Christmas Dinner party. This year's event takes place at the Warplane Heritage Museum on December 10th. We hope to see you there.

The next regular meeting takes place on January 21st 2009.

## Club Opportunities Available

We are looking for a volunteer who will look after providing refreshments for the break at our monthly club meetings. This job happens one day a month (nine times a year) so it involves a very specific commitment. This job probably does require the use of a car. If you could take on this job please talk to one of the executive members.

Right now we are looking for a volunteer to teach the basic course. Without new members coming into the hobby on a regular basis clubs such as ours shrink due to attrition. So it is a good idea to have an active course each year. Our club does have designated examiners but we need a person to organize and mentor people studying for the test. If you

would be interested in helping new candidates, please talk to one of the executive.

Acting Secretary Ron Ouwehand has agreed to take minutes at the business meetings, however, Ron has a prior commitment for several of the upcoming meetings and will not be in attendance. We are seeking a replacement on a temporary basis. If you could take minutes, even if it is in point form, please speak to one of the executive members.

This next appeal is not one for a *position* but rather an appeal for material. Every month we are looking for articles to put in the newsletter, and our members have been responding regularly throughout the year. In each issue I try to have a balanced presentation with some material of a technical nature, some news items, and some reports about local amateur activities, including photographs. On occasion we have also had reviews about a good book or a piece of equipment, or even a kit. Sometimes we have even been treated to a good story, a cartoon, or a regular column featuring opinion.

The end of each month becomes the point at which material is cobbled together into the familiar form before being printed, addressed, stuffed and mailed out.

Thank you to all those who contributed in 2008. You have made the newsletter what it is. And thank you to all of those who have read the newsletter. It is always nice to be told a fact, that was reported in our

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.

newsletter; -- proves you have been reading it!

And to everyone, if you come up with material please e-mail it to me at <meedson@hamiltonarc.ca> for all of us to enjoy.

## Minutes of the November 19th, General Meeting

by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Guest Speaker

Our speaker for the evening was, Larry Asp, VE3RF from Guelph, Larry gave an illustrated talk on vintage radios from the tube era, starting in the early 1930s and coming right up to the advent of solid state radios. Many of the fine old rigs that were illustrated and discussed Larry has owned or worked to restore. During the presentation you could hear the occasional sigh or comment from the audience when a rig fondly remembered was featured on the screen. The trip down vintage lane brought back many memories to those HAMS who go back a few years. Larry's presentation generated a lot of response during the coffee break as members talked about favorite rigs they have used and the enviable or annoying characteristics each rig had. Thanks, Larry. It was fun to reminisce.

Business Meeting

Vince d'Eon VE6LK expressed concern that proposed legislation, Bill 118, outlawing the use of electronic communication devices by drivers could impact our use of amateur radio equipment. Vince felt that members might effectively petition their Member of Parliament to seek an exemption for Amateur Radio. Vince can provide information giving details of the legislation and including a sample letter for amateurs to use in responding.

Adam VE3BAU announced the following change to the HARC Board of Directors. Following the

resignation of Joan Nuxoll VE3JNX, Allan Gammon VA3SAG accepted appointment to the Board of Directors. This change has been noted in the Executive sidebar of THA (The Hamilton Amateur).

Mary VE3OGQ reported the passing of Stanley Bolibruch VE3GFE. Many members of the amateur radio community attended the visitation for Stanley, an indication of how well known and well regarded Stanley was in the ham community. At Mary's suggestion we held a minute of silence in his memory. Fred VE3GCP, Stanley's very good friend, who's association with Stanley goes back to 1963 explained how essential the hobby of amateur radio is to a blind operator, virtually bringing to them the world through the medium of radio communication. He went on to explain how Stanley, ever mindful of this gift, made it his career to give back to amateur radio, and did so in many ways over the years. Fred also mentioned how the support of the amateurs who came to pay their respects was very much noticed and very much appreciated by the family.

Lorraine and Anita brought the group up to date on plans for the Christmas Party and were happy to report that a large number of members are attending and arrangements with the venue are well in hand. We look forward to an enjoyable celebration on Wednesday December 10th.

Rick Danby VE3BK could not attend this evening and Mardy VE3QEE brought a message from Rick regarding an upcoming contest. On Boxing Day, a Friday, starting at 7:00 P.M. local time, the RAC Winter contest takes place. It runs for 24 hours and features Canadians talking to other Canadians. This is always a fun contest because it is a little less formal. Often we engage other operators in conversation and pass seasonal greetings to one another. The RAC Winter Contest is an all band, all mode, contest. Our contest group would like to run 5 or 6 stations if we can find operators who can bring a station out to the site and operators who can take a turn manning the station in shifts during

## 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

Ron Ouwehand, VA3OUW  
va3ouw@hamiltonarc.ca

### Treasurer

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

### Director

Allan Gammon VE3ALZ  
905-574-0980  
ve3alz@hamiltonarc.ca

the 24 hour period. We need your support. This is a great opportunity to learn, and operate in a relaxed environment. Please plan to join the group and have some fun this holiday. Contact Rick VE3BK to make arrangements or get your questions answered.

Anita VA3ANI reports that the Club Web Site at <hamiltonarc.ca> is getting 1000 page views per day on average. According to Anita that is "pretty good" and shows a great deal of interest in the information posted there.

Adam VE3BAU adjourned the meeting at 9:23 P.M.

Melissa TD, B...

# Responding to Proposals in Bill 118

*a letter to the executive from Vince d'Eon*

Dear Executive,

Thank you for the opportunity to present at this evening's HARC meeting about Ontario Bill 118 currently in front of our MPPs.

This bill has the ability - in it's current wording - to impede Federally Licensed Radio Amateur's abilities to perform public service and to impede our ability to reasonably pursue our hobby activities while driving. Other provinces have implemented what I'll call "put down your phones and pay attention to driving" legislation but have exemptions granted for Ham Radio.

Yes, it is true that there is a member of the OPP that is a Ham and he is on the committee that is driving this bill through Queen's Park. Yes, he is trying to get these exemptions put in place. But, I FIRMLY believe that it is up to every taxpayer to write a letter to their MPP and to the Minister of Transportation (James Bradley) as we have power with our collective voices. We have seen our radio spectrum taken away in the past, let us not lose our ability to respond to the public when they need us the most in times of crisis. The letter that follows shows support for the bill and asks that the province follow the lead of the other provinces and grant exemptions for Ham Radio useage.

I am the author of this petition. I'm not a lawyer but feel something must be done to voice my opinion. I respectfully ask that the executive forward the note that follows out to the members of HARC and any other interested parties, just like the Norfolk Amateur Radio Club has done.

Feel free to modify the text that follows to suit your particular needs.

Please do not delay on this decision to get involved as the word on the street is they will push this legislation through Queens Park "any day now".

73 de VE6LK/3...Vince d'Eon

To view the bill and it's status see <[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2099](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2099)>

Now would be a good time to get involved. You can do so by writing an e-mail to your local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)

Here is a sample letter:

To: Hon (your own MPP) To get the name of your MPP look at: <<http://www.ontla.on.ca/>> and follow the link to current members.

Subject: Bill 118 - Petition for change

Dear Minister:

I am offering you support for Bill 118, demanding that drivers put down hand-held cellphones and stop sending text messages while driving. However, the legislation as proposed creates a problem.

I am a Federally Licensed Radio Amateur (sometimes called a Ham Radio Operator), equipped to provide communications as required, on designated frequency bands. Amateur radio is a self-funded hobby, but a federally regulated service under the Radiocommunication Regulations of Industry Canada. As a Ham, I maintain two-way radio equipment installed in my vehicle capable of providing communication service to the community as and when required. For events requiring an emergency response, Licensed

*See Page 4*

## 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 Examiners  
Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ  
905-389-7653 <va3nz@hamiltonarc.ca>  
Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, 905-560-2628  
<ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca>

Field Day Co-ordinator  
Jack Gauthier, VE3WBT  
905-979-7747 <ve3wbjtj@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  
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE, 905-648-0187  
<ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca>

Public Liaison  
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>

Radio Amateurs stand ready to augment existing communication networks, particularly when these "brittle" networks become overloaded or destroyed as was the case during the Quebec Ice Storm a few years ago. In times of need, Amateurs are used by various agencies such as city administrations, Environment Canada, the Salvation Army the Red Cross and police. There is an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group dedicated to this end. See the Ontario web site at: <<http://racaresontario.ca/public/index.php>>:

Here is the problem. The way it is currently written, Bill 118 fails to recognize or permit use of an amateur radio in mobile service. In contrast to Ontario's proposed legislation, other provinces (Nova Scotia, PEI, Quebec) have exemptions written into their bills to allow for licensed Amateur Radio use. I ask that you review the work done by other provinces and consider an exemption, in Bill 118, permitting the use of mobile radio by federally licensed Amateurs while operating a motor vehicle in Ontario.

With respect,  
Name  
Callsign  
Full Mailing address and postal code  
Phone number

## Hamilton ARES Web Site Amateur Radio Emergency Service

I checked out our Hamilton ARES web site doing research for this issue of The Hamilton Amateur. It is beautiful; easy to read, informative,

and useful. Best of all, it doesn't waste your time. The repeater frequencies and offset tones are listed so you can program your radio now, and be ready if there is an emergency. Thanks to all who put this effective web site together. It makes us look good!

<http://www.ares-ham.ca/>

## Value of the 1962 National NC303 Receiver in Today's Dollars.

*The following was an e-mail post sent by: Phil Covington, N8VB, manufacturer of the QuickSilver Software Defined Radio receiver, the QSIR*

Fri Dec 5, 2008 5:00 am (PST)

Hi all,

I saw a 1961 ad for the National NC303 receiver. It sold new for \$450 in 1962. Here's a web page containing some info and pics on the NC303: <http://www.qsl.net/ab0cw/nc303.htm>

In 2007, \$450.00 from 1962 is worth:  
\$3,083.41 using the Consumer Price Index  
\$2,499.45 using the GDP deflator.  
\$3,910.34 using the value of consumer bundle  
\$3,480.37 using the unskilled wage  
\$6,552.45 using the nominal GDP per capita  
\$10,610.27 using the relative share of GDP  
It makes modern day rigs seem really cheap!

I used to have a National NC300 which I paid about \$250.00 for in 2001. I sold it in 2003 for \$350.00 after doing some cleanup/repair on it.

73 Phil N8VB

To read about the QuickSilver SDR receiver, QSIR, check out Phil's web page at: <http://www.philcovington.com/QuickSilver/>

## 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, <[judakjm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:judakjm@mcmaster.ca)>



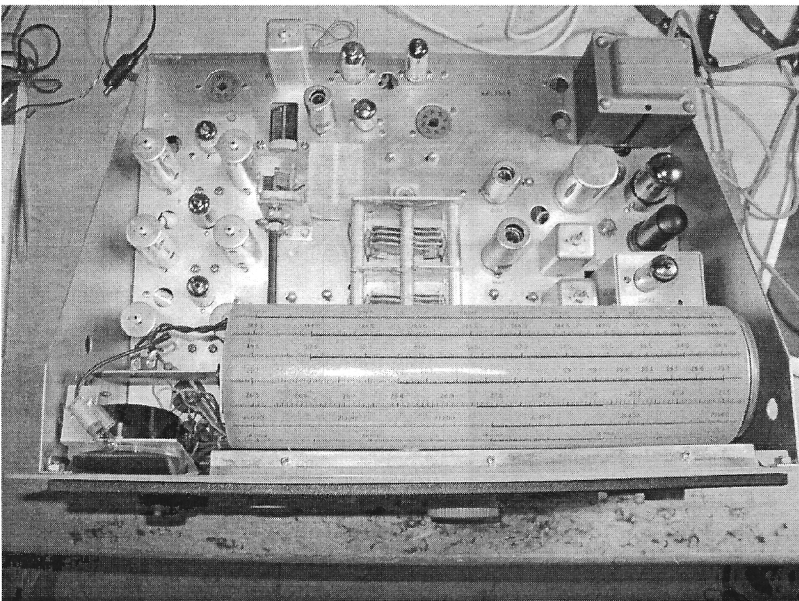
Top left picture shows the 1962 National NC303 Receiver front panel.

These receivers were manufactured between 1958 - 1962 and sold new for about \$450.

It is a seven band, ham-band only dual conversion receiver with a tunable HFO. The IFs are 2215 khz and 80 khz. For a filter, it uses an 80 khz L/C and a Q-multiplier. It has AM, CW, and Sideband mode selections. It has 15 tubes.

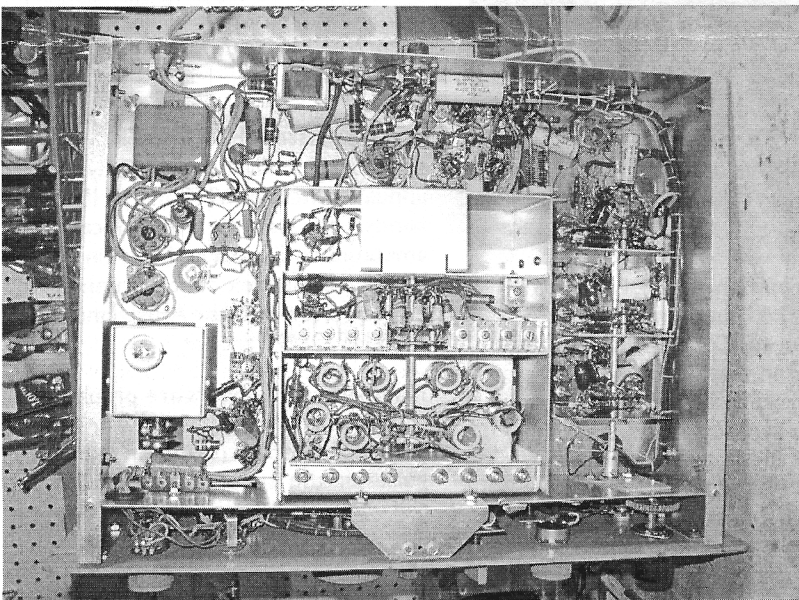
Middle left picture shows the NC303 with the top cover removed.

Tube lineup: 6BZ6 RF, 6BA7 mixer, 6AH6 HFO, 6BE6 mixer 2/ xco, 2 6BJ6 if, 6AL5 det/ANL, 6BE6 product detector/BFO, 6AL5 ssb-cw noise limiter, 12AT7 af1/meter amp, 12AX7 Q-multiplier, 6AQ5 af out, 4H4-C current regulator, 0B2 voltage regulator, 5Y3 rectifier. It produces 1 watt of audio into 8 ohms.



Lower left picture shows the NC303 from the underside.

This receiver required little in the way of restoration: General cleanup, switch contact cleaning, replacement of 4 "black-beauty" caps, and a full IF/RF alignment. This is really a fine radio.



Bottom right picture shows the 2008 QuickSilver 1 SDR Receiver. All the signal processing is done by mathematics. The unit attaches to your computer with a USB cable and is controlled using a software interface. Performance is noticeably better than traditional receivers. It sells for around \$1000.



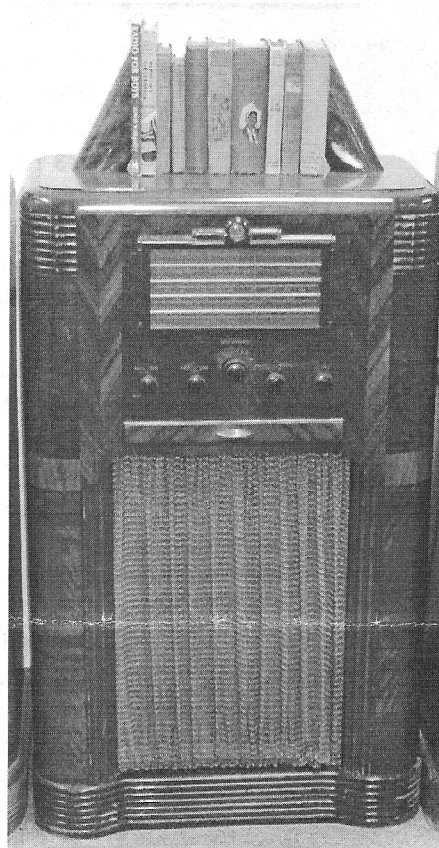
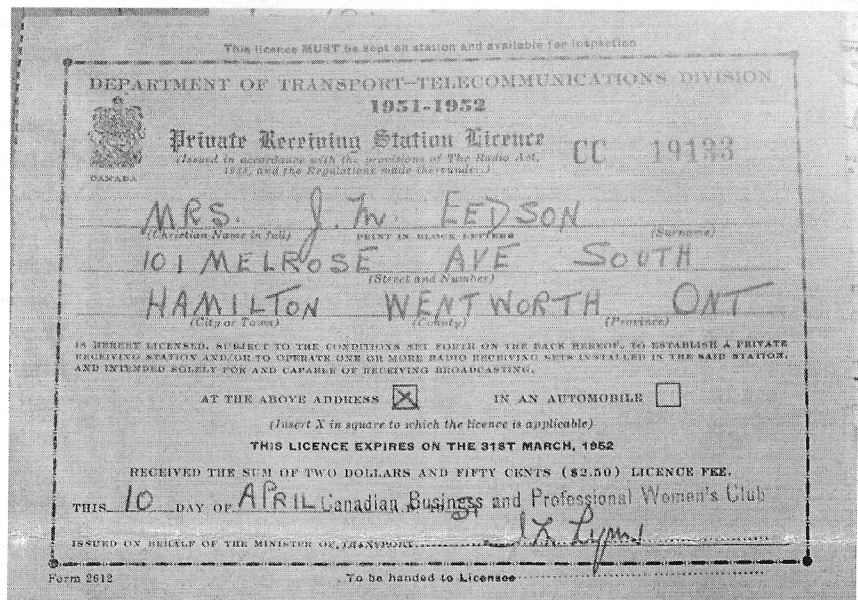
# Grandmother's Old Radio Still Lookin Good

By Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

As a child of six or seven years old when visiting Grandmother's house I was permitted to sit by the grand Westinghouse World Cruiser radio receiver, with the green tuning "eye" and the vernier action knob and seek out short wave broadcasts from far away places. The bands were not as crowded then and short wave broadcasts were like a window on the world in that time before television in every house. While the adults were talking, I would listen to signals that rose and faded. I am sure my interest in radio began there. In 1952 you still needed an annual Private Receiving Station Licence to operate a radio.. I notice from the manual this particular model could be operated on either 25cycle or 60cycle hydro electric power because Ontario was in the process of changing over the power supply grid around that time.

When Grandmother passed away, my Brother David, took the radio and kept it at his house for many years. Eventually when he no longer had room we agreed to donate the still working "Atlas of the Air" to the Fred Hammond Museum.

On my first visit to the museum as a Ham, and member of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, I wanted to see the radio and I asked the curator, Noreen, if it might be on display. Noreen was not sure if it was even on the floor or which one it might be because there were several large radios that looked similar. I picked out one radio that I felt pretty sure matched my memories of Grandmother's radio. Confirmation came from a place that only I knew about. There was a little drawer in the cabinet containing the instruction manual and a guide to the air waves. Here we found an original licence issued to my Grandmother in 1952. I am glad the radio is still around, all



shone up and on display. I am also glad that the Hammond Manufacturing Company houses the museum and that dedicated volunteers keep everything so clean and attractively displayed. Like the Warplane Heritage Museum, the Hammond Museum provides a wonderful connection with the past.

## Contest Corner

by Rick Danby VE3BK



See my report in the minutes for details on the RAC Winter Contest. It begins on boxing day at 7:00 P.M. and runs for 24 hours straight. We are looking for operators and stations to set up at the contest site for this event. If you can help let me know by e-mail radio or telephone. See contest rules at: <http://www.rac.ca/service/contesting/>

The Rochester VHF Group is sponsoring a new and hopefully annual contest on VHF and UHF bands. They want to involve local amateurs in Canada and USA in a VHF/UHF simplex contest running concurrently with the ARRL January 9th VHF QSO Party.

Many of our members are primarily active on VHF and this contest presents an opportunity for them to get in on the fun of contesting. See the web site: <http://www.rvhfg.org/>