

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

President's Remarks--1
 Minutes of the May 20th Meeting-----1
 Bill 118 Update-----2
 HARC Executive-----2
 HARC Chairs -----3
 Disaster Response----3
 Important Points-----4
 100 Years of Motorized Flight in Canada -----4
 Paris to Ancaster Bike Race -----5 and 6
 A Splendid Home Brew Evening -----7 and 8

The Hamilton Amateur

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

President's Remarks

by President David Bruton, VE3DWJ



I would like to recap this past year. In October, our Hamfest was a successful and well attended. Our Christmas Party at CWM in Mount Hope had many members and guests. The food was delicious and many went for seconds or added different choices of food to their plates. Our own members stepped up to the plate and helped to fill in for speakers when it was difficult to get guest speakers. We do have hams that can give a lecture at a moment's notice, e.g, basic antenna theory, and home made devices for radio operations, how to use software to run our rigs. Homebrew night, what a surprise. All projects were well done and varied in ideas. It was a shock to the executive to see such a response to the motion. To all volunteers, who devoted their time to make this year a success, thank you. To chairpersons thank you for doing your duties on time.

The June meeting is election night. Please think about running for office. All it takes is a member to nominate you and to accept. All executive positions are open. Joe Urbanski VE3OCD is election chairperson. this year.

Field day follows the last meeting on June 25/26, 2009. Saturday and Sunday. Time for operation is 2:00 PM

on Saturday and runs for 24 hours and ends on Sunday at 2:00 PM. Please come out with or without your friends to 318 Rock Chapel Road Dundas Ont.

Minutes for the Meeting of May 20th, 2009

By Fred Robinson VE3GCP standing in for secretary Ron Ouwehand VE3OUW.



The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by our president David Bruton VE3DWJ.

David began by announcing the judging of the Home Brew Contest. A short discussion followed and all those present were asked to be involved in the voting. There were 5 entries and each person was asked to give a short presentation about their project.

The first was Bob Zimmerman VE3RKZ who had 2 entries: the first was an RF Power Meter which was based on a laser diode and a photo cell which Bob had conceived and designed himself. His 2nd project was set of tunable capacitive end arrays for a 1/4 wave antenna. Bob advised that these had been field tested and work quite well in a small space antenna environment.

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.

The next presenter as Kevin Barker VE3HNG who built a portable 2 mtr 3 element Yagi style antenna. He conceived his own design and the antenna was constructed from materials available at hand. This item certainly adhered to the Amateur guideline of being low cost Hi... Hi..Good work Kevin.

John Hudak VE3CXB presented his replica of an early 1900s crystal receiver. This project was exceptional in its detail and quality of workand it worked. John explained how he made many of his own parts and took advantage of reference and sourcing information from the internet.

The last presenter was Mardy Eedson VE3QEE. Mardy had his new SDR (software defined radio) which he built from a kit. He had joined the Bronte ARC project group in order to do this project. He explained what a great learning experience it was and did a good job of explaining the SDR process to us....funny thing for a teacher to do.

Now we had our famous donuts and coffee break, which allowed everyone to closely scrutinize the projects and ask questions.

We resumed our meeting at 8:45 and the result of the judging was that John Hudak had won the honours and a club golf shirt.

The business portion of the meeting began with Jack Gauthier VE3WBT conducting a discussion on his plans and efforts thus far as Field Day Coordinator. We will be operating a 4A station this year at the usual location. On May 30 there will be a Band Captains' meeting to make the final tuning and Rick Danby will conduct a work shop on the use of the CT program which we use for logging.

Our Contest Chairman, Casey VanBroekhoven VE3CVP awarded John Hudak with the club building trophy which was returned by Adam Mitchell VE3BAU who was last years winner.

The treasurer, Fred Robinson VE3GCP advised that all of our accounts receivable and payable are current. He then brought 2 new items to the floor. First, he recommended that the club pay a \$70 donation to the E-QSL group which would make us a full member and therefore we would not be required to make further payments for the electronic QSL Bureau. The president conducted a vote and this was approved unanimously.

Second, Fred reminded the members of previous discussion about making a donation to DARF (Defense of Amateur Radio Fund) and suggested that we now proceed to do so. A discussion followed as to the member's wishes and a specific amount. Several opinions were heard and a motion was made to donate \$500. A vote was conducted by the president and this was approved.

Mary Urbanski VE3OQG our Health & Welfare Chairlady rose to advise the members of the passing of Kevin Barker's mother. A card was sent on behalf of the members and several club members did visit the funeral home in Dundas.

Rick Danby VE3BK spoke about the upcoming Canada Day Contest on July 1 & 2.

This is a Tuesday & Wednesday which is just after the Field Day Contest on June 27 & 28.

Under New Business Fred Robinson suggested that the OLD WEB-SITE be edited to remove dated or misleading information. There have been a couple of cases where persons have gone to the Hamilton Wentworth Site (the old site) and been confused about such items as the date of this years Flea Market. For example, the Flea Market dates on the old site are wrong but if you look closely you will note that it is the 2008 flyer on that site. There is an excellent flyer and flea market info on the club's new site at WWW.HamiltonARC.ca.....the exec will look into this.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35

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

Bill 118 Update

This note is from Peter West VE3HG who is Vice President for Public Relations at RAC. It was passed along by Rick VE3BK

Hi All:

Just to keep you up to date on Bill 118: This is the Bill that will make casual cell phone operation in moving vehicles illegal this fall. It could have negative impact on amateur radio use and could affect the use of mobile radios during contests.

Having said that, let me assure you that on behalf of Contest Club Ontario through my position as vp of

pr for Radio Amateurs of Canada I am closely involved in this situation. Today I presented our position to a large stakeholders meeting at the Ministry of Transportation. Details are available (and will be updated on a regular basis) on the RAC blog

<http://www.racblog.wordpress.com/>.

We should know within 60 days whether or not amateur radio (best scenario) or the use of two-way mobile radios (second best scenario) will be exempted. If no exemption is granted, I will be advocating further action. Until then, I'm counseling restraint. Please pass this information along to your clubs and other amateur radio associations and groups.

Disaster Response

Some thoughts by Mardy VE3QEE



I was listening to a Red Cross rep. talking about Disaster Response.. Something

requiring an emergency response occurs somewhere in North America almost every week. You watch them on the news or read about them in the ARRL bulletins. These disasters often result from the natural causes like, tornados, heavy rains and flooding, blizzards, fog, forest and brush fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions and landslides, but there are also other types of disasters, like industrial explosions and fires, plane crashes, train derailments, bridge collapses, and power outages and so on. Even with this large variety of events occurring, we are more likely to see something on the news or read about it than be directly affected by it.

The Red Cross rep. went on to mention another, more shocking type of event, perpetrated by persons intending to cause harm or disruption. Someone comes into a school with a gun. A firearm is discharged in a local mall. Someone

sabotages a gas pipeline. These are deliberate acts which affect everyday life and seem to be occurring with more regularity. A number of these deliberate acts create enough disruption to also require an emergency response.

To illustrate, a few weeks ago a deliberate act in southern California caused a serious disruption for the community there, and the story serves as an example of the Red Cross rep's observation.

The ARRL weekly e-mail bulletin reported, on Friday April 17th, that vandals in Southern California cut several underground fiber optic cables. The damage interrupted telephone service, internet connections, and the 911 emergency service to a widespread area in Santa Clara County, as well as parts of Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. Two local hospitals were left completely without telephone and internet communication. Police services too were left without telephone and internet communication. Some banks and local stores were forced to close. Some stores were able serve customers on a cash basis only.

As reported in the ARRL story, local hams were called upon to provide critical communication links primarily for the hospitals. Here is a excerpt from the ARRL report:

"While I was meeting with hospital department heads, Bob Wolbert, K6XX, had started our ARES Resource Net on the W6WLS/W6MOW linked repeaters," Pennell told the ARRL. "During the briefing, the hospital determined to implement HICS/SEMS for this emergency. There hadn't been telephones or Internet anywhere since about 2:30 AM. The hospital's phone system did work, but only within the hospital. Their internal computer local area network wasn't working either, so they were instantly on a 'paper system.'"

By 6:15, Pennell said they had established tactical radio links on the K6BJ/KI6EH linked repeaters

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 <ve3wbtj@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>

between the Dominican Hospital Emergency Operations Center in Santa Cruz and the Watsonville Community Hospital emergency room; Watsonville is about 15 miles south of Santa Cruz via the Pacific Coast Highway. "We established HEARNET 155.385 simplex between both hospital ERs and County 911; HEARNET is the Hospital Emergency Administrative Radio Network. Once HEARNET (ER staff) and K6BJ repeater (hams) were staffed and operating at both hospitals, I left the hospital to become our initial ham operator at the County Emergency Operations Center and operated as ARES/ACS shift supervisor from there for the rest of the day," Pennell reported.

Throughout the day, Pennell said that hams -- including some in Monterey County who had been working telephones -- helped dispatch ambulances, conferred with the Poison Center on a children's poisoning case, ordered replacement blood supplies for two hospitals from San Jose Red Cross, relayed a complex major "whole hospital" day's food order to the supplier out of county, tracked down various doctors for emergency consultations and shared status updates from our area. "We did all this while in unity with the County government, public safety agencies and California Emergency Management Agency's Coastal Region," he said. "Greg Smith of Cal-EMA <<http://www.calema.ca.gov/>> spent the day in the Santa Cruz EOC with us." All service was restored by 12:15 AM on Friday, April 10."

Could you help out? Emergency response is an increasingly appreciated function of the Amateur Radio Service especially here in Hamilton. There is a local group under the auspices of Jerry Osborne VE3JSO, Lorraine and Al Macperson VA3NZ and VA3AM who have established a working relationship with officials in the Hamilton area. There are protocols in place for disasters affecting the city and also for weather related events. These protocols are tested annually and are working well with involvement of the amateur radio community.

Lorraine, Al, and Jerry taught the basic course to a number of CERV members (Citizen Early Response Volunteers) who ultimately got their amateur radio certification and who have been attending HARC meetings this past year.

Jerry spoke at a recent meeting and offered to give ARES training to interested hams in our club. He reported there weren't many persons expressing an interest at that time. Recently, I spoke to Jerry and the offer is still open. A training session can be planned and run in the Fall if there is interest. This would be good material to have under your belt for whatever reason. A little knowledge is easily carried around. Speak to Jerry or to one of the executive if you would like to take this training. I think it wonderful that this offer is still on the table. Let's hope that no-one is affected by a disaster. But it would be comforting to know that there are people who have been trained in what to do, and who have equipment to help out. It would even be nicer to know that you helped others in a time of need.

100 Years of Motorized Flight in Canada

by Rick Danby
VE3BK

On May 2 & 3, 2009 at the Warplane Heritage there was the Annual Canadian Aviation Expo 2009. It was Canada's largest Aviation Trade Show and Fly-In. They advertised to "Come celebrate 100 Years of Flight in Canada". Some of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Members were there, manning the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum's radio station VA3CWM for the celebration.

Dan VA3DJ, Rick VE3BK and Jack VE3WBT were there on the Saturday May 2nd, operating the radio for the celebration. Doug VE3NBL was also



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 Tuesday 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>

there and talked on one of the nets, informing them. Also visitors that we know about were John VE3DVV and Mark VE3RYI, but don't think they actually operated the station. There were also some hams that visited the day before, when they were setting up, like John VE3FDK.

From John: "We had a Russian Mig 17 fly in from Toronto It was there for about a month...at their museum....It has Canadian Registration) for the big Airshow event planned for tomorrow. A lot of Distributors from Canada and The USA arrived for tomorrows event (May 2nd and 3rd, 2009) to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Flight in Canada."

We had many Air Cadets from Ayr, Ontario, vitsit us at the station and we were able to show them how we were talking around the world. More than one of them was interested in CW. One of their leaders told me that the one cadet was interested in CW to get his pilot's license. Quite a few of the Cadets took turns looking at the station and asking us questions about the ham radio and military radios that were there.

We also got to go look around at the displays and were surprised to see Icom Canada has a table set up for the aircraft radios. We met the Icom Rep. Eric Meth VE3EI who came to the station and said that any special event, he could probably get us an Icom radio for the event. Also we met one of the plane reps. George WFIYER (Flyer in the call) who has Cesna Executive Jets that came with Ham radio equipment in them. He had operated many times mobile from these jets. Another visitor to the VA3CWM station was John VE3JTP from the Toronto area, who told us he was more interested in CW and actually worked a station on CW for us. He thanked us before he left because he had fun making the contact.

One of the interesting things done by the volunteers at the Canadian Warplane Heritage, was the building of the replica of the first motorized flying machine "The Silver Dart". The volunteers actually had this machine

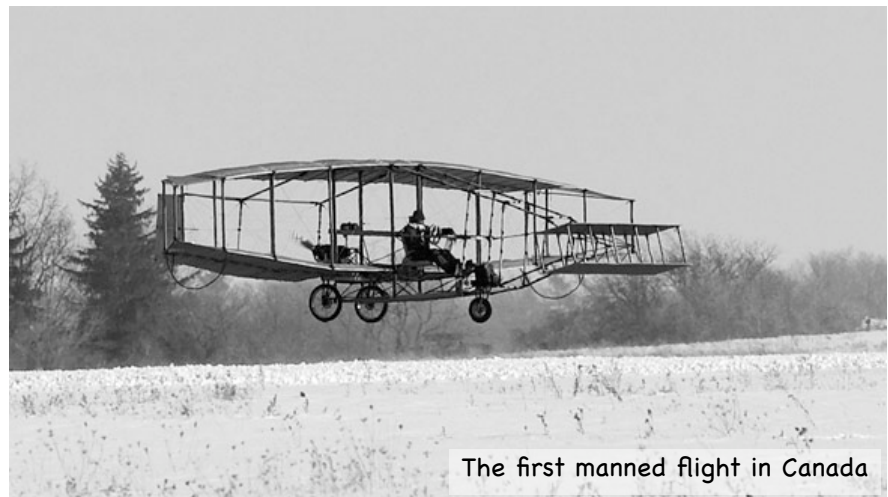
flying before it was disassembled and sent to a museum in Nova Scotia. Pictures of it are on the QSL card we designed and more information about the Silver Dart can be found on the web by doing a search for "Silver Dart" or more information about the VA3CWM station can be found by searching the callsign VA3CWM.

An electronic card for the event was designed between Don VE3DDQ and myself and put on eQSL for anybody that wanted a QSL confirmation. All in all the day I was there turned out to be very productive to promote Ham radio and the 100th Anniversary of Motorized Flight in Canada.

VA3CWM
 Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
 9280 Airport Rd. Mount Hope, Ontario
 Canada L0R 1W0
 Email: va3cwm@rac.ca

Celebrating 100 years of Motorized Flight in CANADA

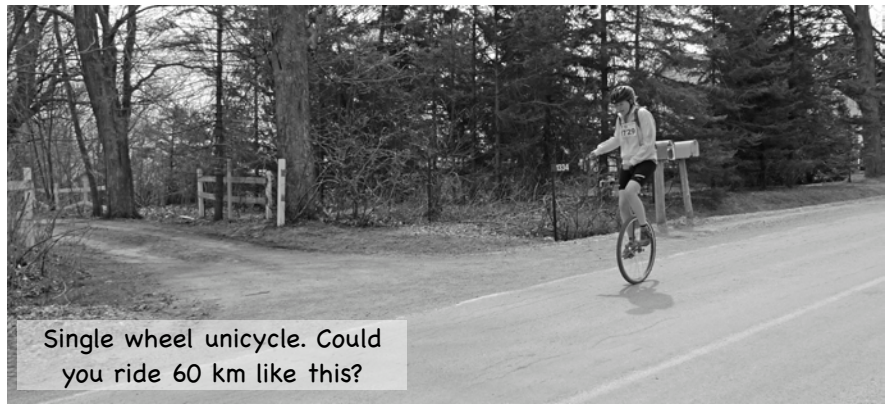
Commemorative QSL



Paris to Ancaster Bike Race

The Paris to Ancaster bike race was a success once again this year. Each year it seems to get bigger. I think there were about 1800 participants this year. Communication along the entire 60 km route was provided by volunteers from the Brantford and Hamilton areas organized by Gary Notto VE3TTO who got the volunteers, provided detailed maps of the route, assigned operating positions, and supervised the net control station at the finish line. Communication went smoothly thanks to the excellent organization.

This race is amazing to see. While most participants rode mountain bikes and road bikes there were tandem entries and several unicycles including a couple of "big wheels", unicycles with a single huge direct drive wheel over which the operator balanced for the whole 60 kilometers. At the end of the race there was a huge compound for storing bikes until the awards had been presented, and a cleaning corral for hosing down the bikes which finished the race spattered or caked with mud. Every participant was treated to food and beverages and some took advantage of the opportunity to shower and change using facilities inside the Firestone arena. Awards were handed out following the race to participants assembled on the floor of the arena.



Single wheel unicycle. Could you ride 60 km like this?



Corral for bike storage.



Awards presentation in Firestone Arena Ancaster



Volunteer staff

The race was very well organized and well staffed. Early in the season it is a popular event kicking off the



Gary VE3TTO

summer racing program and truly a spectacle of huge proportions.

For the hams who volunteered it was great weather and good fun.

Congratulations for a job well done. Hope we all have an opportunity to provide communication again next year.

Commendations For A Splendid Home-Brew Evening

Four entrants submitted five interesting home brew projects for the Crawford Trophy competition this May. The winner of the Crawford Trophy was John Hudak, VE3CXB with a beautifully constructed crystal radio set tuned to the AM broadcast band. John's reproduction was true to form in every detail down to an old fashioned and authentically reproduced label on one of the components. John's set was tuned with a slick variometer movement to give better performance than a tapped inductor. Some of the beautiful metal parts for this project were custom made on a lathe. Congratulations for a beautiful project that looked like it deserved a place in the Hammond Museum.

Two noteworthy and innovative projects were submitted by Bob Zimmerman VE3RKZ (NP4B). Both of Bob's inventions have been written up for submission to QEX magazine and details of their construction may soon be available in print. One of these projects was a 20 meter constant current, quarter wave dipole. Most dipoles must be a half-wave long but Bob has obtained similar performance using a quarter wave coaxial element terminated on either end with capacitance hats. (A top hat and a bottom hat if you like.) The device is portable because the capacitance hats are constructed of telescoping elements and the radiator is coaxial cable which can be coiled for transporting. An isolation trap at the antenna's feed point completes the project. Bob showed a 20 meter version for the competition, but he is now using a 40 meter version installed at his home station.

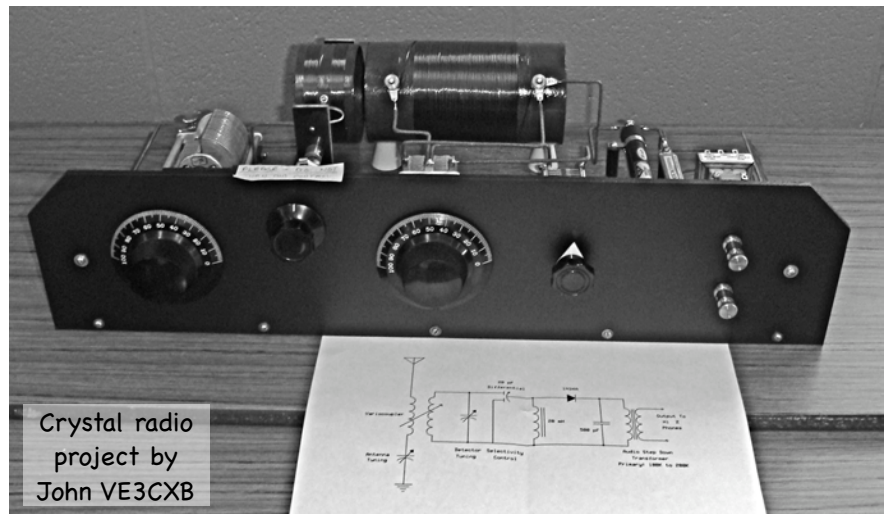
The second project was a clever power meter made from a laser diode glued to a photo resistor. The output of the diode is linear increasing with RF power from a transmitter. Values are read from a milliamp meter calibrated to show



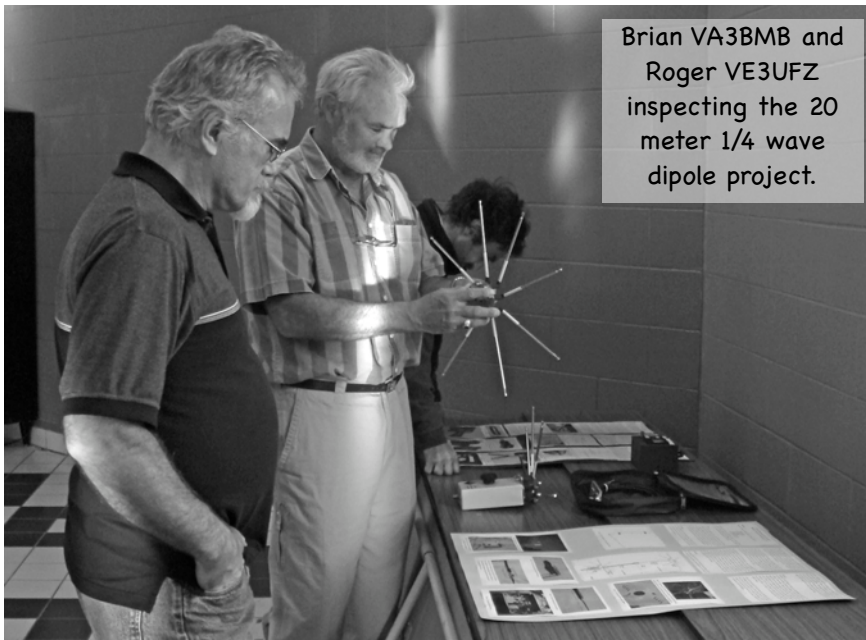
John VE3CXB accepting the Crawford Trophy from Casey VE3CVP, Awards Chairman

the output power of the transmitter. Parts for the project cost less than five dollars (except for the cost of

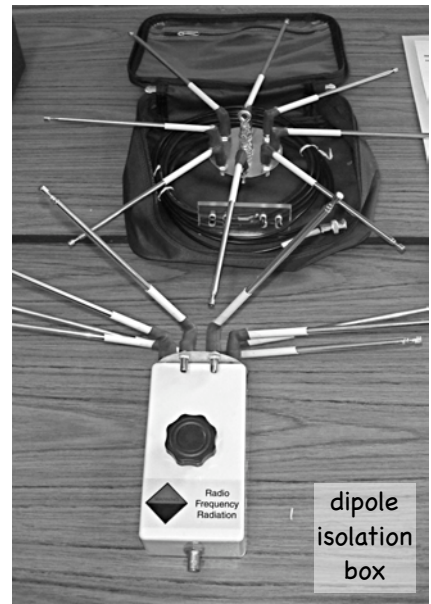
the meter which was a junk box item.)



Crystal radio project by John VE3CXB



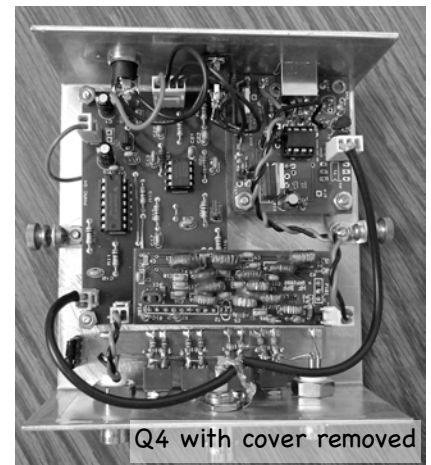
Brian VA3BMB and Roger VE3UFZ inspecting the 20 meter 1/4 wave dipole project.



dipole isolation box

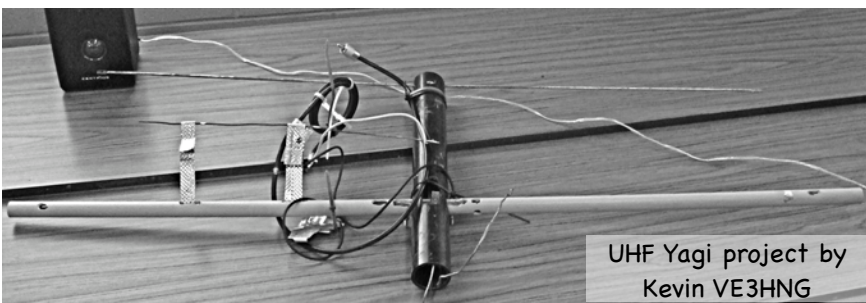


Q4 Software Defined Radio project receiving CW signals



Q4 with cover removed

bands. The SDR receiver copied a number of CW signals and several LSB and USB signals, all of which were quite clear and well above the noise floor. The receiver performance appeared to be equal to, if not better than, that of conventional rigs especially considering the limitations of a small indoor antenna.



UHF Yagi project by Kevin VE3HNG

Kevin, VE3HNG showed a low cost yagi antenna for the UHF band made entirely from recycled materials. This antenna was noteworthy for two reasons. It illustrates the tendency of amateurs to construct equipment for the least cost possible and it reflects society's desire to reuse and recycle materials wherever practical.

Mardy, VE3QEE, demonstrated a software defined radio receiver connected to a 20 meter End Fed wire antenna (by Parr Electronics).

While the demonstration was taking place members could hear and see the receiver pulling in signals on both 20 meter band and on 40 meter

Congratulations to the contestants. Seeing such a fine array of projects serves as an inspiration for us all.