

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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The Hamilton Amateur

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

Field Day

Written by Jack VE3WBT. Field Day coordinator for 2009

Well folks, Field Day started off a little rocky this year.

Through a lack of communication on our part the grass in the front of rock chapel failed to get cut "again". But with a lot of can do spirit, individuals came to the rescue. I would like to take this time to thank loe (VE3DI's father) for bringing out his lawn mower and clipping the waste high grass for the 20 meter section, also early bird helper, with the "let's just get it done spirit" Murray Thompson VE3ZPV for suggesting and procuring a weed wacker from a local rental. It took me all of a half hour to clip enough area so the 160 meter and 40 meter bands were covered. Rain struck us, and made it a little miserable on Sunday, but we persevered and made a bad day good.

We chose to go 4A this year and as the time of writing this, scores have not been released, but we feel we did OK, Total Bonus Points 870: Total Points 1029; Claimed Score 2,058.

As in many of the monthly meetings leading up to field day, I requested participation from club members, to either directly participate or indirectly, when no one nibbled, I

must admit I became very discouraged. Well my discouragement was unfounded. Thank you for making this club what it is and what it could be, Rick VE3BK, put us on the ARRL website for a google map location, after field day he and I submitted our tallies along with pictures

(http://www.arrl.org/contests/ soapbox/index.html? con id=176&call=VE3DC&bbycall=1)

A few months prior to field day, I was reading the rules, and trying to find methods on gaining points.... more points the better our chances, when I read about getting a elected official or local media to visit our site we gain points. I'm not well versed in the Hamilton area nor do I know of anyone in the local media. So I reached out to a club member and asked through his social network if he could assist, he said to leave it with him. Well let me say Thank you Fred for coming through, cable 14 not only showed up and interviewed, they aired it on cable 14 twice in one week.

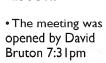
Fred VE3GCP. Marty VE3OEE, and Adam VE3BAU worked the 80 meter band. As years in the past these fine gentleman never let us down, their score was quite high (professional amateurs at their finest Hi Hi). Rick VE3BK as well as Dan VE3DJ handled 20 meters with equal gusto. Sherry VE3DCU never fails to impress us, last year her tent was a closed in mansion with air conditioning, and this year she opted for an open concept to attract visitors. Her open concept tent was equally impressive

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.

from last year's tent and of course she worked 40 meters like no tomorrow.VHF had a fantastic year this year by surpassing the score from 10 contacts last year to 18 contacts this year, thank you Dave VE3DWJ, Kevin VE3HNGand Ron VE3DF your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Minutes for the Annual Meeting June 17th, 2009

By Anita VA3ANI standing in for secretary Ron Ouwehand VE3OUW.





- The club welcomed guests:VE3WIP Christopher Walker,VE3FRZ Fred Raminelli,VA3TA Larry Langs, and VA3LY Marlene Langs
- Joe Urbanski was called on to start the election proceedings at 7:34pm
- Nominations accepted:
- O John Hudak VE3CXB
- o lack Gauthier VE3WBT
- Mike Krebs VA3WXS
- Bob Zimmerman VE3RKZ

These four directors are elected by acclaimation and they form a quorum along with a fifth ex officio director, David Bruton VE3DWJ who automatically becomes Past President.

- · Nomitations, declined
- Mardy Eedson VE3QEE
- John Vandenberg VE3DVV
- Anita Thomas VA3ANI
- Casey VanBroekhoven, VE3CVP
- O Adam Mitchell VE3BAU

- Rick Danby VE3BK
- O Al Macpherson VA3AM
- Lorraine Macpherson VA3NZ
- Jack Gautier moved that the remaining two positions be filled in September. Rick Danby seconded the motion.
- David Burton chaired a discussion on Bill 118 at 7:47 to 8:04
- Mardy Eedson announced to club that Fred Robinson and Ron Ouwehand are sailing on Lake Superior and said they are trying to contact local amateurs on Barry's IRLP link 147.585 simplex with tone 136.5. It also has echolink and people can contact them that way at 8pm and 9pm. using the Thunder Bay repeater VE3LU node #2000
- John Vandenberg reports that he just got the repeater back from repairs, he's continuing testing and tuning now and thinks maybe it'll be a couple of weeks before getting it on the air.
- Mary Urbanski welcomed Lorraine back after her illness, and reported that we sent her a card.
- Jack Gautier Field day report: all is going well, generators ready for pickup Friday, all band captains from last year are ready to go. This may be the last year for using the Rock Chapel site.

We'll be scouting for a new location for 2010. Field day takes place 27 - 28thh July 2009 from 2 PM Saturday until 2 PM Sunday (local time)..

Looking for antenna volunteers at 8am.

- Al Macpherson suggested for next year Christie, or Binbrook which is on a hill in Niagara region. You can have a fire it and has washrooms, 50 Point is also good
- Rick Danby reports RAC Canada Day contest is in the May/June issue which has the rules listed there, or can go to their site for the rules. It starts Tuesday from 0 Zulu to 2300

HARC 2008-2009 Executive

President

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

Past President

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

First Vice President

John Hudak,VE3CXB 905-383-9808 ve3cxb@hamiltonarc.ca

Second Vice President

Jack Gauthier, VE3WBT < ve3wbt@hamiltonarc.ca>

Secretary

Bob Zimmerman, VE3RKZ < ve3rkz@hamiltonarc.ca>

Treasurer

Director

Brian Bowie, VE3BMB <ve3bmb@hamiltonarc.ca>

Zulu July 1, all special events stations are listed in rules

- This will be the 142nd birthday of Canada
- Lighthouse event is still up in the air. Anyone who wants to be involved in that event should contact Mike, VA3WXS or Rick VE3BK.
- Mardy, THA Editor, stated that the next issue of the newsletter is September. The deadline for submissions is the end of August and that anyone wishing to contribute should forward copy and/or pictures to Mardy by email.

- Anita Thomas reported that the web site has a new log/QSL section on site
- Fred not here to give a financial report, because he is sailing with Ron on Lake Superior.
- Mike Krebs motioned to end meeting, Casey VanBroekhoven seconded the motion, all in favor,

Adjournment 8:28 P.M.

Next Meeting

Wednesday September 16th is the first meeting of the 2009/2010 season, our Club's 77th year of operation.

Guest speaker for the evening is Jerry Osborn, VE3JSO, ARES coordinator for the Hamilton Wentworth region. Jerry will be speaking about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and talking to members about a training course that is available to persons interested in emergency response situations.

Visitors welcome. Please join us in welcoming Jerry and hearing the latest on ARES in our area.

The business meeting will be chaired by incoming president Mike Krebbs, VA3WXS. Mike will introduce the new executive and their plans for the coming year. Committee reports will be heard following that and new business will considered after the committee reports.

Plans for Hamfest 2009 will be brought up as one of the committee reports. This year we are moving to a new location at the south west corner of Highways 53 (Garner Road) and 52 (Trinity Road) several kilometers west of our former location for the past 25 years. This location is at the new Ancaster Fair Grounds. We will be in a building called the Concession Building, and the facilities there are splendid. Since the Hamfest is the major fund raising activity of our club, responsible for contributing roughly 50% of our annual income, it is important that the Hamfest be a success. We are

counting on members to volunteer time that day to help out. More information about the Hamfest will be presented at the September meeting. In the meantime, please mark the calendar with the Hamfest date, October 17th, the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

Since our October meeting follows the Hamfest date this upcoming meeting will be the last meeting before the Hamfest..

This will be an important meeting. Hope to see you there.

New CanWarn Hamilton Web Site

For those of you interested in weather spotting, CanWarn Hamilton launched a new Web site in June at www.canwarnhamilton.ca

The site is built with the goal to have available the required tools and information a CanWarn spotter may need during active weather. Features include live feeds of the Environment Canada weather map, weather warning statements issued by Environment Canada, radar, current weather conditions, as well as other tools.

Basic spotter information is also available including explanations of the different CanWarn net alert conditions, operating frequencies, net protocols, what to look for while spotting, cloud identifications, safety precautions, and some interesting Ontario storm facts.

Be sure to visit in the early spring for the next CanWarn Training session announcements.

Hamilton's CanWarn group is the most active next to CanWarn Toronto and the men and women who volunteer for the Hamilton group are what make it such a success. Although this year's season is almost through, it can be a useful resource throughout the year.

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

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

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>

The Local Club Resource

From the ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 33 August 21, 2009

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, shares his views on how clubs play an important role in Amateur Radio. Fusaro is Assistant Manager of the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs

Department. He is also the ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Supervisor.

I am very fortunate to be in a position at ARRL which allows me significant interaction with our members. It is very fulfilling to be able to put a smile on someone's face by helping them find a solution to their problem, regardless of the complexity. Sometimes it is not possible to be as helpful over the telephone or with e-mail, so I will try to direct the individual to a local club where they may be able to get some side-by-side coaching. The local radio club is without a doubt the place where most of us received our ham radio education. The club is where we learned the jargon and techno-speak used on the air and where we met folks to emulate and folks whom we swore we would never be like. Everything that we know about ham radio that didn't come from a book was probably learned at club meetings or late night Field Day chats over burnt coffee. Personally, I have made many longtime friendships from my involvement in local radio clubs and I am sure many others can say this as well.

Clubs, by definition, are groups of like-minded people who share a common interest. In reality a club is an eclectic assembly of individuals, each with a unique perspective of their activity. The dynamic of a club is no different than that of a large family. Think of your last family gettogether and then take a look at your radio club. If everybody was the same, life would be very boring. In every club, there is the usual cast of characters who add their distinctive flavors to the stew and make things

interesting. It is diversity that makes a club work well. I have seen that no matter how varied the personalities are in a club, most of these personalities are also eager to help. Helping each other is characteristic of radio amateurs.

How often have you experienced something like this? Two hams will be in QSO -- perhaps discussing an antenna installation or radio repair -when another radio operator will break in with a helpful suggestion. This situation may have happened to you, or you may have even been the breaking station. The same thing happens (or should happen) at club meetings. If you need help with something, the closest resource is your local club. On the surface, the club may appear to be dysfunctional, but once you are involved, you will find that it is actually very productive.

The Pareto principle, commonly known as the 80-20 rule is a simple expression that 80 percent of the effects come from 20 percent of the causes. As applied in the business world, this would be 80 percent of the sales are driven by 20 percent of the customers. In a club, the percentages may be slightly different, but the fact remains that a small percentage of the membership is responsible for making things happen.

This is not to suggest that 80 percent of the members do not participate, but without a "sparkplug," some things would never get started. These people are the doers. The doers don't take no for an answer and are always willing to take on more responsibility. But where is the fun in jump-starting a project without someone telling you it would never work? Of course, it would be much more fun without the negative comments, but that goes against human nature. Ever since man tried to open a coconut with a rock, someone was right beside him offering a thousand excuses why it won't work: "You'll smash your thumb." "The rock will break." "You should invent a wheel and roll it over the coconut." "Let's just eat the bananas." The cynics of the world are an essential part of society -- and of

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. Email submissions to Editor, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE,

<ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca>

our clubs. They challenge us and make us work harder to prove them wrong. Learn to accept these people but never let them distract you from moving forward.

You only get as much from a club as you put into it. A majority of the club bashers tend to be long time hams with a "been there, done that" attitude, asking what a club has to offer them for them. To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "ask what you can do for your club." Of course, we took more than we had to offer when we were younger and inexperienced. But over the years, we have gathered knowledge that we can share with the newcomers. Based upon my countless interactions with hams of all levels of experience, the novice has much to offer the oldtimer, even if it is just reliving the joy of discovery. The local radio club has something for everybody who is willing to get involved.

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend 2009 Aug. 15 & 16, 2009

by Rick Danby VE3BK

We activated the Burlington Canal Main Light CA0015 for the ILLW event or CAN-063 North American Lighthouse designator for the 151 anniversary of the new stone structure that is at the Canal.

Saturday, Dan VA3DJ, Sherry VE3DCU, Mike VA3WXS, and Dave VE3DWJ showed up by 9:30 and put up Bob Zimmerman's VE3RKZ vertical 20 meter antenna up in the tree. Dan's computer was put in service again for logging and Sherry's IC-746 made the contacts.

Mike VE3XMS, who is just getting back involved with the hobby, dropped by to give his support. After lunch, Rick VE3BK showed up and ended up working a few stations that were in the North American QSO Party. Paul VE3XPS showed up to take some pictures and stop by for a

visit. We ended up working stations until about 5pm when we decided to pack it in for the Saturday.

Sunday morning, Mardy VE3QEE and myself (Rick VE3BK) showed up around 8am to set up a long wire. We put a 210' longwire up between 3 trees and put in 4 66' ground wires. We had this up just in time for the arrival of Mike VA3WXS and Sherry VE3DCU. We were soon on the air announcing where we were on the ONTARS Net. We had been to the Lighthouse operating site a couple of times, trying out Mardy's new "spud". This is a metal weight with six coats of plastic to give tear-drop shaped weight to throw (David and Goliath slingshot style), over the trees to get a line up to support antennas in the trees. What a nifty little tool to do the job. It worked great and allowed us to do the job safely with the public going by. We still ended up putting up 2 more strings with this new tool, but the work that we had done before, helped us get up the longwire in record time.

The longwire worked great, but at noon we decided to try another one. Mardy and I put up an 80m dipole with Mardy's fiberglass pole as a middle support. It worked great and compared to the longwire, did not need a tuner and was very broadband. The 20m backpack antenna went back up too, so we had good coverage for the rest of the day. Part of the fun of the whole event was experimenting with antennas and using the "spud" to make the job easier.

Mike VE3XMS, Sherry VE3DCU and Mike VA3WXS were back on the Sunday and Fred VE3GCP dropped in to do some radio operating. Visitors on the Sunday were Gary VE3TTO and his wife, Barry VE3ISX and his wife, plus many of the public that showed an interest in Ham Radio and what we were doing. It was a very warm day and part of the day was overcast, but there was a great turnout of operators and the general public. All in all, a very successful International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend where we worked some other Lighthouses as well as many

hams. Maybe next year you can get involved with this event. We were even going to have a separate station on 2m SSB, but we can plan that again for more fun and experimenting with antennas next year. This was another great exercise to see how quick we can put a station on the air anywhere. Hope to see you next year.

MFJ Acquires Cushcraft:

This item comes from the ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 31 (Friday, August 8, 2009)

On August 7, MFJ Enterprises http://www.mfjenterprises.com/ announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies http://www.lairdtech.com/ effective July 31.

According to MFJ, Cushcraft -- makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community -- will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire.

"We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices.

Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source."

MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000 the company also owns Ameritron, Mirage and Vectronics. Jue said that the Cushcraft line will bring more than 50 new products to MFJ's Amateur Radio product line. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas name long into the future. Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product customers will appreciate the

continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue.

The 120 page 2010 MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line. MFJ has set up a special customer support line -- 662-323-5803 -- to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services.

Driving While Distracted

Here is a good website containing information and comment about the **Driving While Distracted** legislation as it relates to amateur radio.

Rick Danby has been following posts regarding Bill C118 and sends along a link to the excellent Weblog of VA3QV, Bob Sharp of Ottawa who comments on the latest news. Check it out at http://va3qv.wordpress.com/2009/07/29/driving-while-distracted-an-update/ Incidentally, Bob's weblog is an excellent source of amateur related news. If you browse the internet, his weblog would be a worthwhile site to bookmark.

While others are wading in on this item here are a few thoughts of my own [editor]. Most of the time when I have been providing volunteer communication for an event using a mobile transceiver, I am not driving. The car is parked. When a group of us are driving to a flea market a fellow passenger has manned the radio. When driving alone to a flea market I have been adequately guided simply by listening to the directions others were getting from the talk-in operator. My point is this; there are still ways to use amateur radio equipment in the car without compromising safe driving. If you feel the legislation poses a threat to amateur radio, consider this; a single driving accident could end one's involvement in amateur radio a lot quicker.

2009 RAC Canada Day Contest

by Rick Danby VE3BK

This year's Canada Day we had a great turnout and increased our score by 52% over last year's. The rain held off on the Tuesday when Jack VE3WBT and Rick VE3BK showed up to set up. We were soon joined by Dan VA3DJ and were able to get set up in time. In the evening it came down like cats and dogs, but we were all set up and had our network working flawlessly.

We worked the US and DX as well as our fellow Canadians. Jim VE3EEZ brought his son Jesse, so we had youth involved as well. Jesse is an excellent contester who also participated in Field Day. I think he is learning his CW with his Dad and will probably be a new ham soon. The bands were pretty good, worked some 15m and 160m as well as the bread and butter bands of 20, 40 and 80m. We had fun as usual with some surprise visitors making it an enjoyable event. This is one of the contests that we enjoy doing, working our fellow Canadians and anyone else we can. Thanks to all that worked us.

Operators this time: Dan VA3DJ, Rick VE3BK, Adam VE3BAU, Sherry VE3CDU, John VE3CXB, Jim VE3EEZ & his son JESSE, Renzo VE3NYX, Mardy VE3QEE, Mark VE3RYI, and Jack VE3WBT. The operators took turns, some were there part time and some were there for the whole contest. We also had some visitors: YL Sue (Mark's friend), Tom VA3TVW, Kevin VE3WKG, Steve VE3OZO, and Jerry VE3ACA who came out to see our operation and do some ragchewing. Needless to say, we had fun in a relaxed Canada Day environment, celebrating Canada's 142nd Birthday.

We hope to do it again next year, some of us moving from the Field Day site almost directly to the Canada Day contest site. Next year there will be more of a break for us between Field Day and Canada Day.

Field Day has always been a great contesting type warmup for Canada Day so come out and have fun with us next year.

News About Town

by Mardy VE3QEE

This is just a short column with two items. The first is from Don Grisenthwaite, VE3DDQ who has been doing a lot of work behind the scenes for VA3CWM for a number of years.

Don would like to make club members aware that VA3CWM has a website that was created by VE3DDQ in 2002. There you can find some of the eQSL cards the station has received as well as other information.

The URL is: http://home.cogeco.ca/~va3cwm/

Thank you to Don - VE3DDQ for setting up and maintaining this fine web site and for creating eQSL responses for all those hams who have contacted VA3CWM.

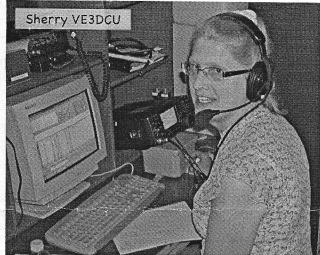
The second item relates to our weekly Swap Net at 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday evenings on the 2 meter band at 146.760, VE3NCF. Which has been run by Don for some time.

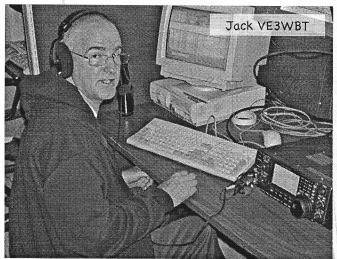
Don is unable to continue running the swap net for an unavoidable reason. Discontinuation of this long standing presence on the air will be an obvious concern for the club. Don said he hopes to carry-on until about September 8. Opinions on this will likely be varied from "cancel it" to finding a replacement if possible. It does seem that the activity on the talk-in and swap net has been less through time for whatever reason.

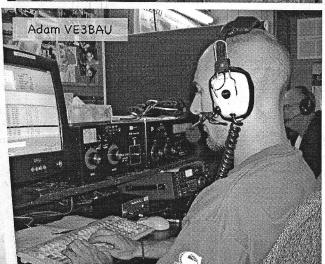
Perhaps you, the club membership, will have an opinion. Now is the time to speak up and let your views be known. If this presence on the air is still worthwhile there is an opportunity for someone to step up and continue the tradition. or change things to suit present needs.

CANADA DAY at the contest site July 1st 2009



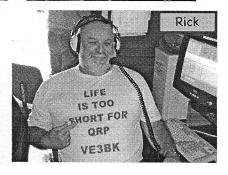


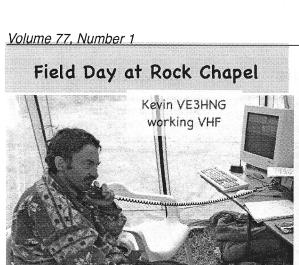


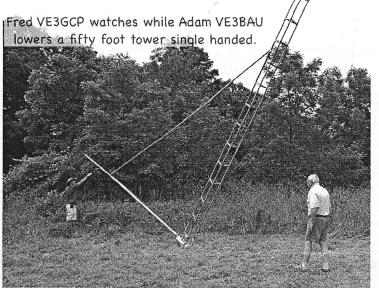












Sept 2009

