



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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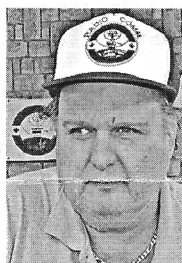
The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter – 77 Years of Amateur Radio 1932 - 2009

President's Remarks

By President, Mike
Krebs, VA3WXS

I recognize, perhaps more than others, the value of teamwork. When you see me at a meeting or hear me on the air it has been the result of teamwork. I thank my special helpers, Roger, and Emsley and John. Even those who put my thoughts on paper. Teamwork makes



it happen. And it was teamwork that made it happen at the flea market.

We had a great flea market. I was there doing the talk-in and I could hear the many comments about what a fine event it was. We had financial success. The people who came had a good time, and the sellers liked the new room and liked how easy everything was for them. The food was good too. The flea market was the result of massive teamwork. We can all be proud of how well our individual contributions added up to success.



HARC Christmas Party

Planning is currently underway for the H.A.R.C. Annual Christmas party to be held on Wednesday December 9th, (second Wednesday in December).

This year we will again be celebrating at the Warplane Heritage Museum, however it will be in The Dofasco Dome, not the hangar. For those who wish to have a visit with the plane exhibits, they are free to do so and can also take advantage of the tour guides who will be at our disposal.

Cost will be \$35.00 a plate for traditional turkey dinner and all the fixings. Social hour with cash bar begins at 6:00 P.M. with the buffet dinner at 7:00 P.M. Prizes will be drawn for throughout the evening. If the ladies ask tell them "dressy casual". Family and friends are welcome.

We need to firm up numbers in advance, so if you can attend, please mail a cheque out by November 22nd to the club address (under the crest on page 1), or bring it to the November 18th meeting and meet with Anita. If you miss both of these opportunities, please contact Anita VA3ANI va3ani@hamiltonarc.ca ASAP to make other arrangements.

Please go to www.hamiltonarc.ca for more information.

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.

We had a good meeting in October. Everyone had something to add to the quiz and it turned out to be a lot of fun. Seeing new members join the club is a good sign.

Gradually we are filling the gaps in the organization. I am happy to announce that we have a new Second Vice President, Mike Christmas, VE3XMS who has accepted an appointment to that position. We are still looking for someone to do coffee at the meetings, and, of course, we are still looking for someone to be treasurer in the new year.

Plans for the Christmas party are well underway, thanks to Anita. We have a date, Wednesday December 9th, the second Wednesday in December. We have a location, the Warplane Heritage Museum, in the

room called the Dofasco Dome; and this year they are promising more heat. All we need now is people to sign up and get a ticket.

I am trying to get more people to give us a check-in on VE3NCF Tuesday evenings. We need more beans for the pot, as it were. Hi hi. We are thinking of keeping attendance and maybe offering a prize for the most check-ins during the year.

No doubt, there is a lot of work still to be done, but I know that good things will happen when people step in and help.

73, from your president
Mike Krebs, VA3VXS

Crowded Bands. This panadapter picture below shows the huge amount of activity on the 20 meter band around 14.230 MHz on Saturday October 24th in the midst of the CQ World Wide DX Contest for Phone in which VE3DC operators participated. The upper portion of the display (scope) shows the instantaneous amplitude of signals in the crowded band, the lower portion (waterfall) shows the bandwidth of the phone signals and their duration in time. Can you find a spot where VE3DC might pop in a QRL? You might have luck in the narrow unoccupied spot at 14.143. Displays like this will be a luxury on future radios. Right now they are a main feature of SDR (software defined radio) transceivers.

HARC 2009-2010 Executive

President

Mike Krebs VA3VXS
<va3vxs@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

Mike Christmas, VE3XMS
<ve3xms@hamiltonarc.ca>

Secretary

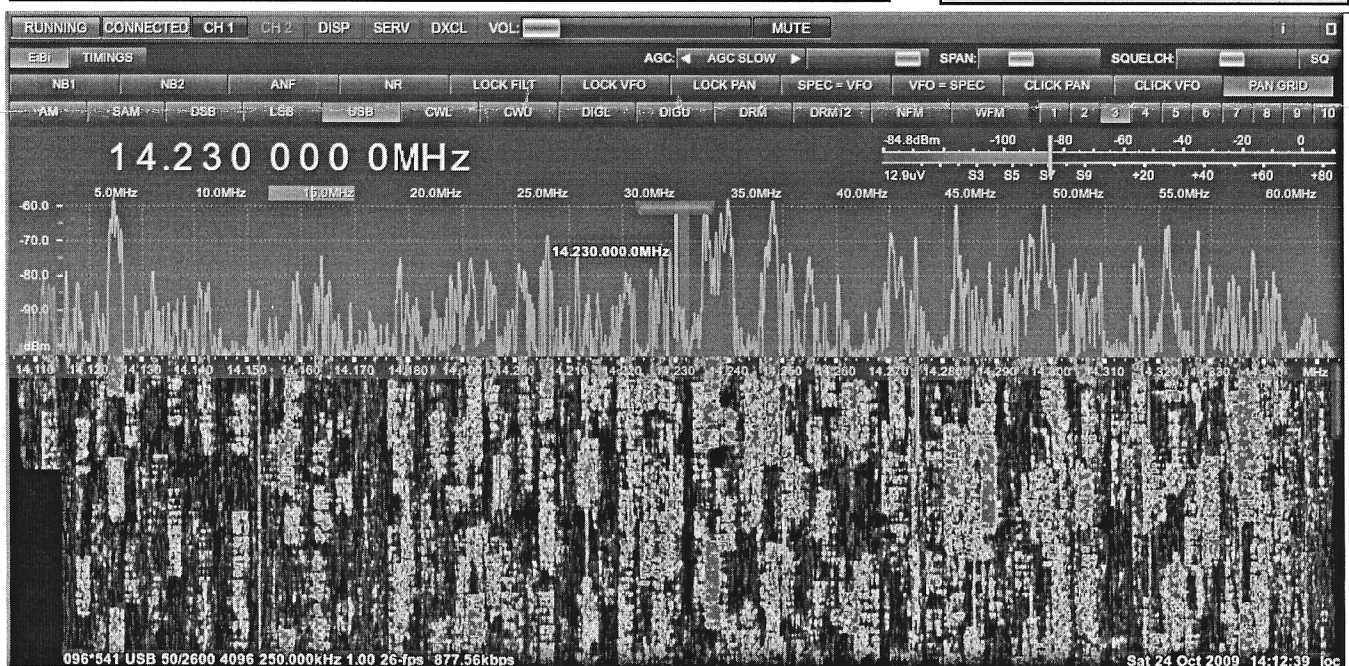
Bob Zimmerman, VE3RKZ
<ve3rkz@hamiltonarc.ca>

Interim Treasurer

Fred Robinson, VE3GCP
<ve3gcp@hamiltonarc.ca>

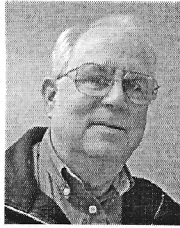
Director

Brian Bowie, VA3BMB
<ve3bmb@hamiltonarc.ca>



Minutes of the General Meeting, 21 October, 2009

by Mardy Eedson,
VE3QEE



President Mike Krebs VA3WXS opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Mike introduced visitors to the group welcoming Doug Hansen, VE3DGH and Vince D'Eon VE6LKV/VE3. There was no guest speaker for this meeting, instead members were divided into three groups and each group was handed a sheet of 20 questions for a quiz. The quiz resulted in spirited competition between the groups and a lot of follow-up explanation as the questions drew on many varied aspects of amateur radio. No single ham can be expected to be up on everything. It was fun. Following the quiz, in the absence of a volunteer to provide refreshments we took a short recess before the start of the business meeting.

The business meeting began at 8:51 P.M.

Mardy, VE3QEE, moved that the minutes be adopted as published in the newsletter. Rick VE3BK pointed out, on page 2 of the newsletter, second column paragraph 6, that it was Jack, VE3WBT rather than himself that stated Field Day was a complete success. With that change, the minutes were adopted.

Rick, VE3BK, brought in a couple of "show and tell" items. First was an old EIMAC 4X-150-D ceramic tube made by the Eitel McCullough company of San Bruno, California. Rick found this tube in his collection after reading an article in the October issue of The Hamilton Amateur about the history of EIMAC. Rick passed around the 1930s vintage tube for members to see. Second was a voltage balun 1:1 transformer which had been disassembled to reveal the inside. The transformer showed burn marks on

two adjacent turns where the insulation had been burned off and the metal had changed colour when too much power had been applied. Rick passed the balun around for members to see.

Contest awards were presented by Contest Chair Rick, VE3BK. Dan VA3DJ, received the Ontario QSO Party, and the CQ WW DX Phone Contest awards. Adam VE3BAU, Sherry VE3DCU, Vince VE6LKV/VE3, and Jack VE3WBT, received the CQ WW DX award. Tom VE3TBW and Jim VE3EEZ will get this award at a future time.

Sherry VE3DCU, Membership Chair reported our paid up membership stands at 51 primary members and 4 family members. Sherry will compose a membership reminder to be included in the next newsletter. A draw for the Early Membership Renewal Incentive Program was conducted and the name of John Hudak, VE3CXB was drawn. Congratulations, John, you have a complimentary membership for the 2010-2011 club year.

John VE3DDV, Repeater Chair, was pleased to report that we have another member helping with the repeater. John introduced Mike Christmas, VE3XMS, who has volunteered his services. The repeater is now back, for the second time, from the manufacturer. It is currently on air while John and Mike are in the process of trying out different service modes.

Mardy VE3QEE, Hamfest Chair, congratulated everyone on the "total team effort" that made our Hamfest a complete success. While the move to a new location held the potential for things coming unraveled, that did not happen. Thanks to everyone doing a superlative job the Hamfest took place smoothly, and participants, both vendors and patrons, had a good time. More than any other year, we have been getting unsolicited e-mails of congratulations as well as comments from individual hams who felt things really went well. It appears our club has built up some public good will as a result of the enjoyable

HARC 2009-2010 Chairs

Awards Chairman

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

Contesting Manager/Property

Rick Danby VE3BK
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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 <ve3wbt@hamiltonarc.ca>

Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVB 905-692-3802
<ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca>

Health & Welfare Chairperson

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ 905-388-8383

Hospitality

Membership Chair Sherry Goeller
VE3DCU, <ve3dcu@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>

nature of the Hamfest, so all the helpers should feel congratulated for how well they made the day a big success. Special thanks was given to Mark VE3RYI, who made nine huge laminated signs and got up at 5:00 A.M. to put them around at strategic locations to guide the vendors and patrons to our new location. These signs can be reused next year. (One of Mark's signs was brought to the meeting for members to see.)

Fred VE3GCP, Interim Treasurer, gave a preliminary Hamfest report. One of Fred's areas of responsibility was major commercial vendors and the Feature Draw program. This year we had \$1,200 in gift certificates for 12 draw winners. Certificates were purchased at a discount from Radio World, \$500 x 1, and \$100 x 5; Maple Leaf Communications, \$50 x 2; Durham Radio, \$25 x 3; and Armitron Power Connectors, \$25 x 1. The club also purchased a number of door prizes for the green ticket stub draws. This combined program produced a small net gain for the club thanks to the efforts of Adam VE3BAU, who sold tickets from the floor; and Sherry VE3DCU, who managed the prize table. Sherry produced a list of Feature Draw winners and the prize donors are to be thanked and informed about who won their certificates. Fred reported that the net proceeds are within \$100 of the amount we have earned over the past four Hamfests and this year's proceeds were up by a small margin over last year. Every month at the executive meeting the secretary receives a printed financial statement from the treasurer.

Anita VA3ANI, asked members if they wanted the Christmas Party at the Airport again this year. The warplane people were very accommodating and their contract was quite "group friendly". Some members objected to the cold last conditions encountered last year. In response, the Warplane Heritage people explained that the heating automatically reduces at night in the hangar, but this control can be overridden and the hangar brought up to a comfortable temperature for a gathering. They can ensure that the building is warm enough for us this

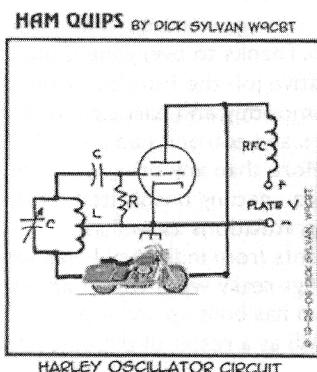
year. Anita volunteered to organize the Christmas party if we are going to the Warplane Heritage venue. After some discussion members reached a consensus that Anita should go ahead with plans for the second Wednesday of December, i.e. December 9th and plan a party along the same lines as last year. Anita will need help from some of us to do jobs related to the Christmas Party.

Casey VE3CVP, Awards Chair received approval from the group to proceed with proposed engraving of an award.

Fred agreed to function as Interim Treasurer until the end of 2009 to receive money from the Membership Chair and the Christmas Party committee because a replacement for Fred as Treasurer has not been found. Fred did so with the understanding that a suitable replacement will be found by the end of the calendar year.

John Paulowich VE3EVI, donated six boxes of amateur radio equipment, including a working FT101 transceiver, from his father's estate, the late John Paulowich formerly VE3EVI, to the Club for sale at the Hamfest. To date, the club received \$345 from the sale of much of this equipment. A few remaining items will be taken to the St. Catharines flea market in February. Fred VE3GCP made a motion to record in the minutes our thanks to John for his kind support of our club by making this generous donation. The motion was carried and followed with a round of applause from members. Thank you John.

Adjournment 9:43 P.M.



Important Points

Executive Meetings

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August. Members are invited to attend. 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 + using tone 131.8

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, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, <ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca>

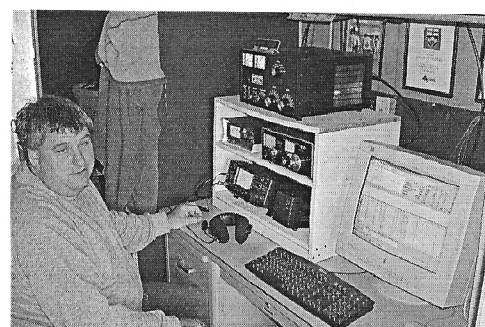
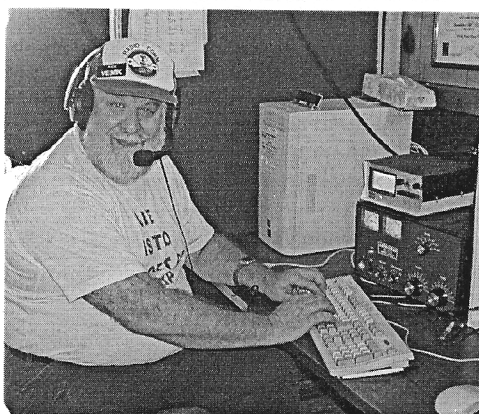
Contest Corner

by contest chair Rick Danby VE3BK

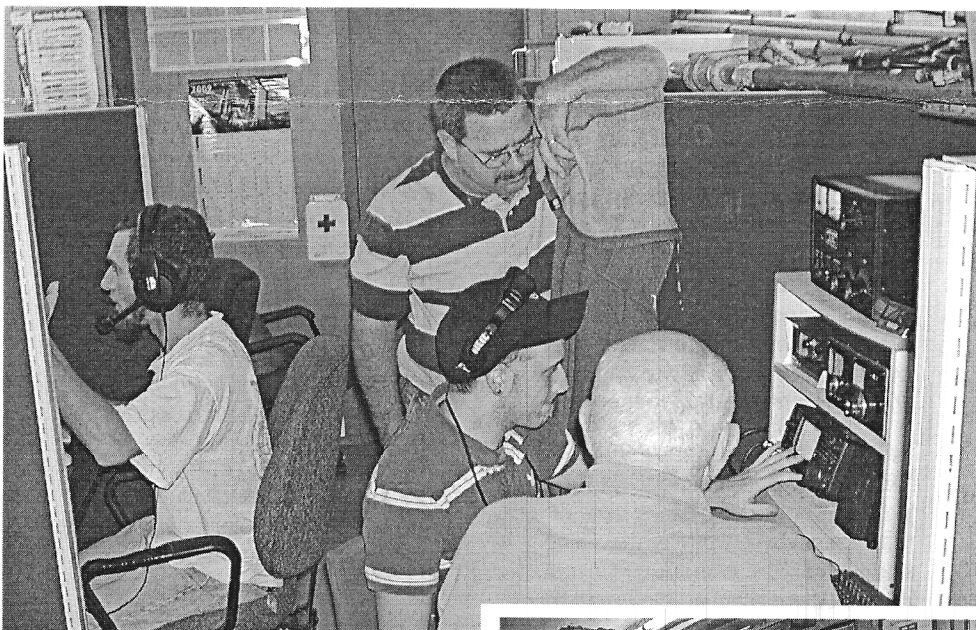
This year's CQ World-Wide DX contest was a great success. We operated two stations for 48 hours over the weekend with a good number of hams coming out for a shift. The following operators gave us a hand: VA3DJ, Dan; VE3BK, Rick; VE3WBT, Jack; VE3BAU, Adam; VE3DCU, Sherry; VE3GCP, Fred; VA3XMS, Andrew; and VE3QEE, Mardy. Mark, VE3RYI, came as a visitor.

What a great contest once again. Bands were better this year than last year. It seems our score increased over last year's score by many QSOs. This contest is becoming even more popular and we had fun working all that DX. I want to thank everyone who participated in this contest, you make it better, and especially the ones that worked VE3DC.

Participation was high indeed as one of our operators could not see a single clear spot on his 20 meter display to call CQ most of the time. It was great fun for all. Hope to see you again next year.

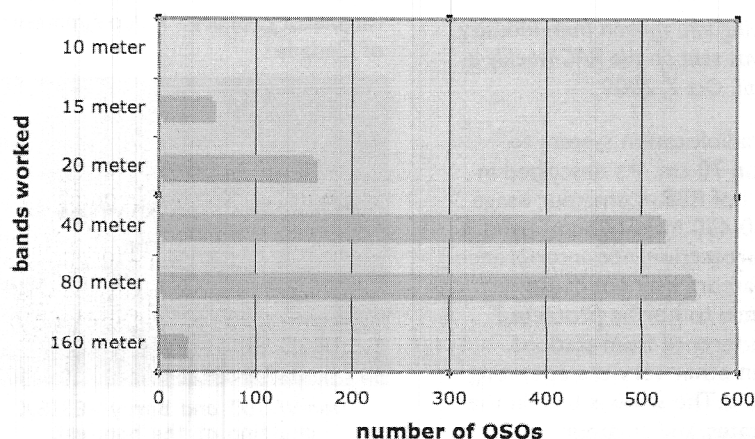


CQ World-Wide DX Contest on October 24th and 25th 2009



	QSOs	QSO points	Zones	Countries	Multipliers	Score
160m:	25	33	7	4		
80m:	552	1060	10	24		
40m:	519	1069	20	43		
20m:	159	393	20	45		
15m:	54	135	16	34		
10m:	0	0	0	0		
Totals:	1309	2690	73	150	223	599870

CQ World-Wide DX Contest



Fog Propagation and Tropospheric Ducting in the VHF Band

The material in fine print comes from the ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin 42 by Tad Cook, K7RA October 16, 2009

In the VHF band 30 MHz to 300 MHz which includes 6 meters, at the bottom end (the magic band) and 2 meters at the top end, normally the radio signals are above the MUF and pass right through the atmosphere and out into space. They are good for local communication but not good for anything beyond about 35 miles. However, under certain circumstances VHF signals propagate along a tropospheric duct and provide us with long distance communication. Here are some stories illustrating the phenomenon.

After recent items in the ARRL Propagation Bulletin about VHF propagation and fog banks, Len Halvorsen, WA2AMW wrote: "The comments from Alan, KI6HPO, reminded me of an article I read many years ago about a VHF/UHF Propagation Enthusiast in Hawaii, who would search for (Tropo?) Propagation Ducts to the mainland by driving up the side of the volcano (the access road to the observatory telescopes) and stopping at various altitudes to test for existing propagation conditions to the west coast. He would often find paths to the mainland that were open only from within a narrow band of altitude on the side of the volcano. Above and below that band the propagation corridor did not exist, nor was it accessible from his mobile/portable equipment".

Carson Haring, AC0BU of Corydon, Iowa says he was surprised to see VHF fog propagation a subject of discussion, because he assumed it was common knowledge. "Here in southern Iowa, where I work removing trees under the power lines from before the sun rises, I very often have assumed that fog influences

propagation on 2 meters. Many summer mornings from the time we get to the work site until the fog burns off, (maybe 9 or 10 am) I can reliably use 2 meters for long distance QSOs from my bucket truck mobile".

Also commenting on KI6HPO was Jug, WA6MBZ of Santa Barbara, California, who wrote, "Until he died, we had an American who had been an AT&T employee who retired the moved to San Quentin, Mexico, about 250 miles below the US-Mexican border".

"Every year for many years during the summer months etc, he would come on the Santa Barbara repeater on 146.790 MHz. He knew when the signal level was right and therefore when he could get into our repeater with a usable signal".

"Our repeater is located on a hill near the beach called the Mesa. It is at about 400 feet above sea level. He could not get into our other repeaters that were located up at about 4,000 feet".

"He was a very friendly guy and we used to talk to him for hours on end. I don't think any of our group ever asked him if he could get into other repeaters along the coast of Southern California".

Spread Spectrum Military Digital Signals Coming on the 70 cm Band

The following information from Industry Canada was sent on the RAC weekly e-mail bulletin Oct 7, 2009

Military radiolocation system to operate on 70 cm. As described in Schedule I of RBR-4, amateur usage of the 430-450 MHz (70 cm) band is on a no-protection, non-interference basis. Amateurs may not cause interference to nor be protected from interference from stations licensed in other services operating in that band. The same is true in the United States, and amateur

operations on this band in a number of areas of the United States have power limits imposed on them in order to avoid interference to radiolocation services operated by the US military.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that it has authorized the Department of National Defence to use a digital system called Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS) on these frequencies. The EPLRS system consists of mobile, fixed, transportable and airborne stations that use 5 MHz-wide spread spectrum channels to provide strategic telemetry information for military platforms. This authorization is on a no-protection, non-interference basis, which means that no new restrictions will be imposed on Canadian amateur operations in this band as a result.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that there is a slight potential for interference to amateur radio systems, typically in the form of a minor audible clicking noise. If Canadian amateurs encounter such interference, they are requested to report it to RAC at <regulatory@rac.ca>. The information reported should include the geographical location, date, time, frequency and mode being used by the amateur station, and a description of the interference.

Questions or concerns regarding the planned implementation of EPLRS may be sent to <regulatory@rac.ca>.

Richard Ferch, VE3KI, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs - Radio Amateurs of Canada

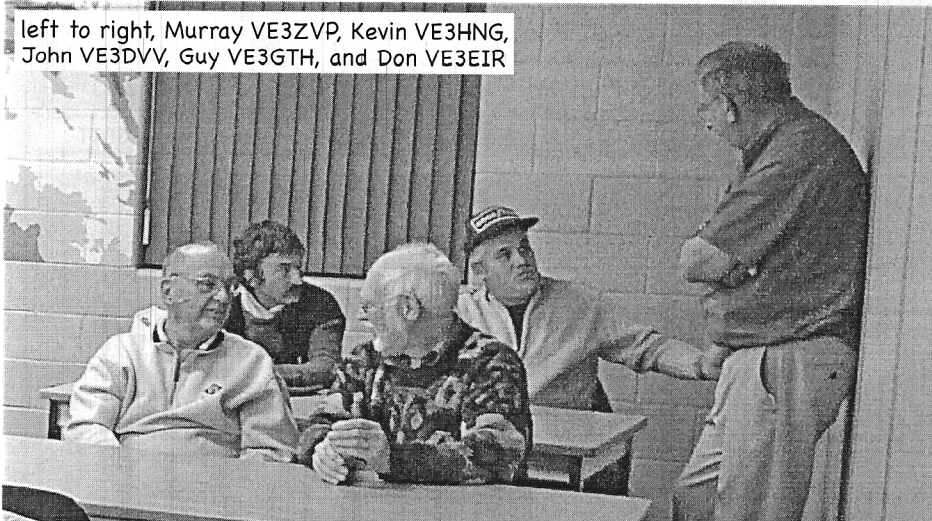


Dan VA3DJ and Barry VE3ISX chatting at the hamfest.

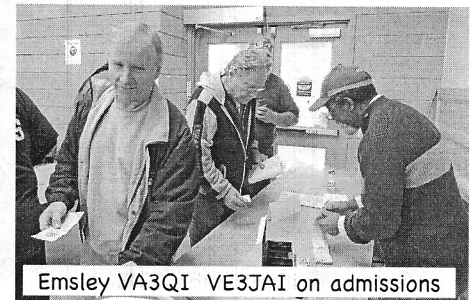
Pictorial



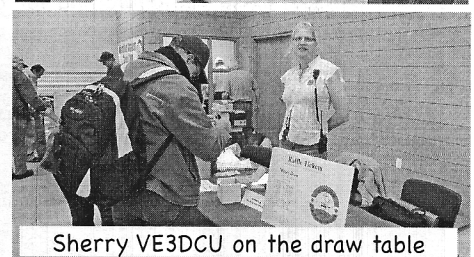
Members sharing ideas at the October 21st club meeting



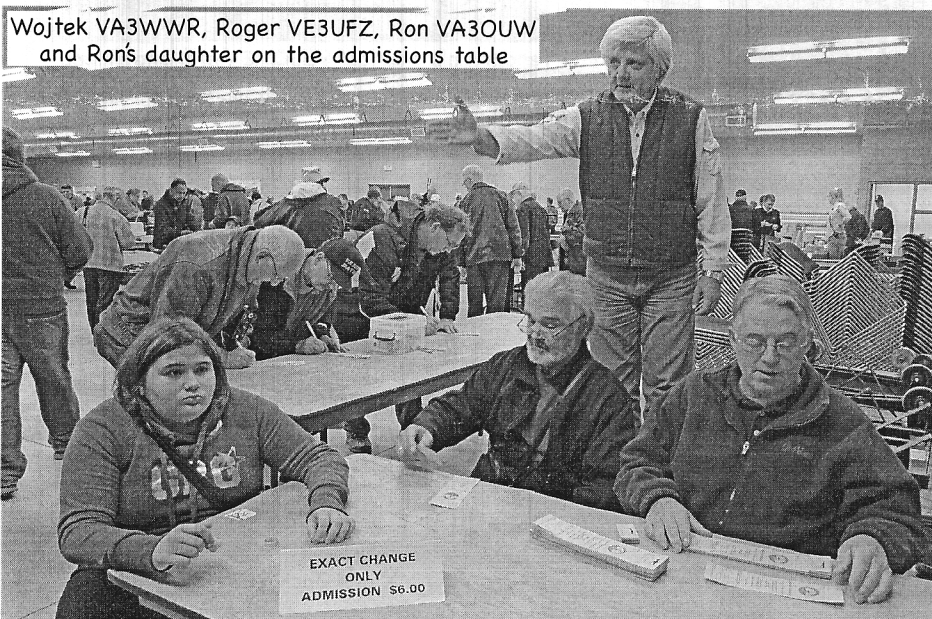
left to right, Murray VE3ZVP, Kevin VE3HNG, John VE3DVV, Guy VE3GTH, and Don VE3EIR



Emsley VA3QI VE3JAI on admissions



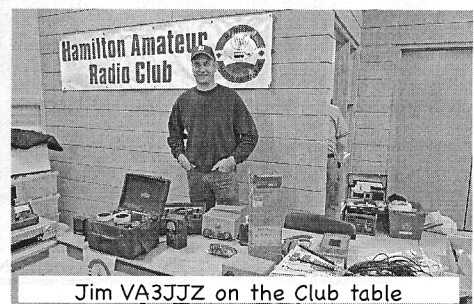
Sherry VE3DCU on the draw table



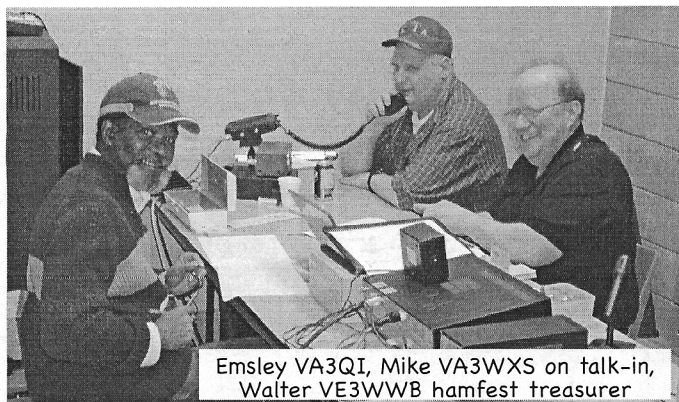
Wojtek VA3WWR, Roger VE3UFZ, Ron VA3OUW and Ron's daughter on the admissions table



Jim Traves VE3FMT and Mardy VE3QEE



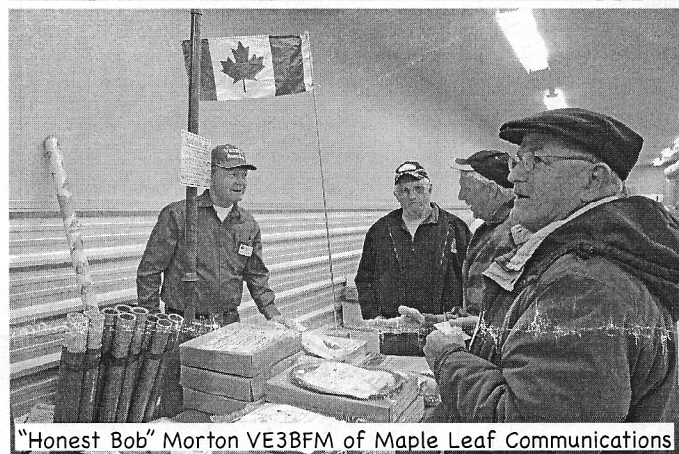
Jim VA3JJZ on the Club table



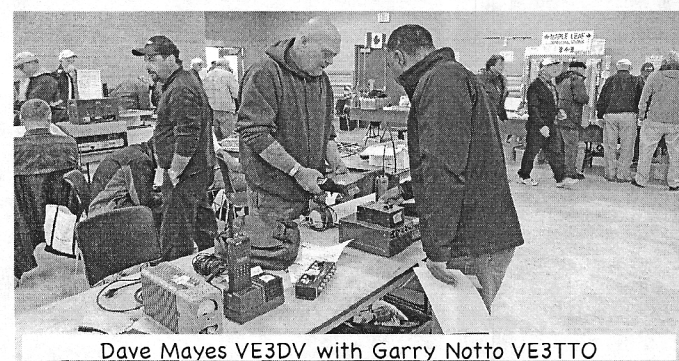
Emsley VA3QI, Mike VA3WXS on talk-in,
Walter VE3WWB hamfest treasurer



Larry Asp VE3RF waiting for customers



"Honest Bob" Morton VE3BFM of Maple Leaf Communications



Dave Mayes VE3DV with Garry Notto VE3TTO

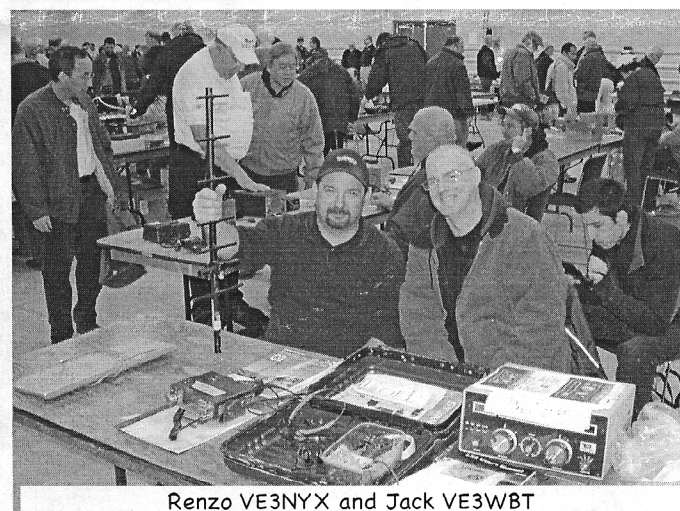
The HARC Hamfest Oct. 2009 in the Concession Building, at the new Ancaster Fair Grounds



Pat Lacey VE3DIT



First time vendor Lois Marlatt VE3CME (left) and friend



Renzo VE3NYX and Jack VE3WBT