

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, 117 - 350 King Street East, P.O. Box 75073, Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 4G6 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956 http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/

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The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter – 78 Years of Amateur Radio 1932 - 2010

Upcoming Events

Here are details of upcoming events listed in order of occurrence.

Ontario QSO Party

Saturday April 17th to Sunday April 18th at the contest site. See details in the Contest Corner section of this newsletter.

CANWARN

Saturday, April 17th, CANWARN training session sponsored by Environment Canada, Everyone, hams and non-hams alike, are welcome to attend this educational session about the CANWARN Volunteer Storm Watcher's Program. The time is 10:00 A.M. until Noon. The location is in the Nash Auditorium, in the Wilcox Building, of Chedoke Hospital on the West Mountain. The address is 565 Sanatorium Road, Hamilton, ON. Parking on the east side of Sanitorium Road, Nash Auditorium on the west side. Here is an excerpt from a letter of invitation sent by Geoff Coulson, who is the Warning Preparedness Meteorologist from Environment Canada.

"Folks...hope everyone has been enjoying the amazing start to the month of March.The warm, sunny weather is a prelude to what we will be seeing a lot more often by late April.The return of warm and humid weather in April will also herald the start of the spring/summer severe weather season in Ontario.This severe

weather will take the form of powerful thunderstorms capable of producing damaging winds, flooding rains, large hail and tornadoes. The 2009 season had a number of significant events. On July 9th three American tourists lost their lives in a fishing camp in Northwestern Ontario north of Dryden when a Fuiita Scale 2 tornado moved through the camp. On August 20th, 18 tornadoes were spawned from a series of supercell thunderstorms that moved over southcentral and eastern Ontario. These 18 tornadoes represented a new Canadian record for most tornadoes in one day. Yet another milestone will be reached this spring. May 31st, 2010 will be the 25th anniversary of the Barrie and Grand Valley tornadoes...the last confirmed Fujita Scale 4 tornadoes to occur in Ontario...that, between them, took 11 lives.

CANWARN volunteer storm spotters continue to play an integral role in Environment Canada's severe weather watch/warning program. I would encourage you to come out to a training session near you especially if you haven't been to one in a few years."

Paris to Ancaster Bike Race

Sunday April 18th, 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. the annual 60 kilometer Paris to Ancaster Bicycle Race. Hams, working with net control operator Gary Notto, VE3TTO, will man check points along the route between Paris Ontario and Firestone Arena on Jerseyville Road in Ancaster. Hams

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.

will meet in the Egg and I restaurant at Duff's Corners (Highway 2 and Highway 53) or Wilson Street and Garner Road in Ancaster. for breakfast and point duty assignments. The race starts at 10:00 A.M. and finishes by 4:00 P.M. If you are interested in volunteering contact Gary to get your name put on the list of volunteers, 905-387-1103

Communication is maintained by mobile or portable stations operating from fixed positions along the route.

HARC April Meeting

Wednesday, April 21st. HARC gereral meeting at Hamilton District Christian High School. 7:30 - 9:30 P.M. Visitors are welcome.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be, Nancy Lefneski, who took the HARC-sponsored basic amateur radio course in 2006 in preparation for a 3 1/2 year trip circumnavigating the globe with her husband Steve in a 39 foot sail boat. Details of their journey which began in 2006 are posted in a blog on Tobogganride.com.

Nancy said the Amateur Radio SSB HF rig they took on the trip was their best investment and she is happy to return to HARC to talk about the role technology plays in modern sailing and to share stories about their adventure.

HARC May Meeting

Wednesday May 19th is our annual HOMEBREW Night for the Crawford Trophy and a Show and Tell session for exchanging ideas.

See detail about Homebrew Night on page 5 of this issue.

The Crawford Trophy is awarded annually for the best home made device for use in amateur radio. The name "home brew" portrays the idea that the device was constructed in the home workshop; thereby requiring skill and patience in producing a product of quality. It also suggests that the device was made at home during leisure hours.

The purpose is to encourage Radio Amateurs to build their own equipment. The prime purpose for making a device would be for improved amateur radio communications. and/ or for testing of amateur radio equipment.

Please let the Awards and Contests Chairperson know if you are entering the Homebrew Competition at least two weeks before the meeting.

HARC Minutes, March 10th, 2010

Recorded by Secretary Bob Zimmerman, VE3RKZ

The general meeting was called to order by President Mike Krebs at 7:30 pm.

(7:35) Visitor Marlene Westfall was introduced. Marlene has been interested in amateur radio for over a year, and is particularly interested in emergency operations.

(7:38) John Hudak VE3CXB gave a very interesting talk on the 'Buddy Pole' antenna system, demonstrating before the group on how the system is assembled, the 'military quality' of the hardware, and some operating tips he has found by using the Buddy-

HARC 2009-2010 Executive

President

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

Past President

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

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Mike Christmas, VE3XMS ve3xms@hamiltonarc.ca

Secretary

Bob Zimmerman, VE3RKZ < ve3rkz@hamiltonarc.ca>

Interim Treasurer

Fred Robinson, VE3GCP < ve3gcp@hamiltonarc.ca>

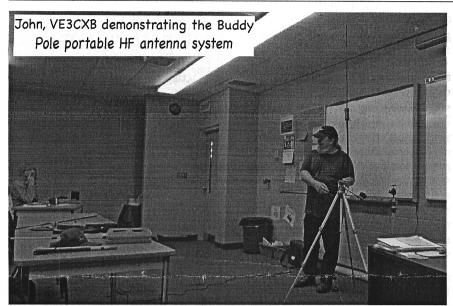
Director

Brian Bowie, VA3BMB < ve3bmb@hamiltonarc.ca>

Pole in various environments. The Buddy-Pole radiator requires the use of an auxillary wire at or above ground level to complete the resonant structure. There are several decibels gain in the direction of this auxillary wire.

(7:56) Following John's talk, Mardy Eedson continued a demonstration using two "Ham Sticks" mounted as a





dipole. These sticks are available for any single band, and consist of a threaded fiberglass rod (stick) with a radiating wire wrapped around the rod so as to shorten the physical length of the stick. The spiral radiator is ruggedly sealed to the fiberglass rod with a coating of fiberglass resin.

(8:30) Refreshment and social break

(8:56) The business meeting was called to order by Mike Krebs VA3WXS. The minutes from the February meeting were accepted, as circulated, moved by Adam VE3BAU and seconded by Mike Christmas VE3XMS. Mike continued with a report on the VHF repeater, which is now fully functional. Two-digit 'atuodial slots' are available on the repeater controller for rapid dialing of often used telephone numbers. Any member wishing to have a an autodial slot should be in contact with Mike. Also, members who do not use their autodial slots should be in contact with Mike so that these unused slots may be recycled.

At present, the repeater is only used daily by a group of 4 non-members. Mike encourages members to get active on their repeater.

There was a question about the possibility of an E-newsletter. This has been discussed before. One member stated that he has dial-up service and getting the newsletter by e-mail is

not practical. Some members do not have computers. There was general agreement that it is of great value to receive the printed newsletter in the mail.

Anita gave a status report on the Club website.

Sherry Goeller reported there are presently 61 primary club members and 8 family members.

Rick Danby made an announcement of upcoming contest activity. The Ontario QSO Party will be April 17-18. Any club member can operate from home and win a plaque.

Health and Welfare chair, Mary VE3OGQ reported that the brother of Walter Bayless VA3WWB recently passed away. Mary will be sending a sympathy card to the family on behalf of the club.

Fred and Mardy have visited the Royal Botanical Garden to see if it might still be possible to use Rock Chapel Park for our Field Day activities. Further inquiries with RBG will be necessary to obtain permission for this year's Field Day.

VE3DHY David Hood donated a dual band hand held transceiver to the Club and a box of tubes. These these items were listed on the Tuesday night swap. The radio was sold at the Burlington Hamfest for \$100 and the

HARC 2009-2010 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 Dan Martinak VA3DJ 905-979-7747 <va3dj@hamiltonarc.ca>

Repeater Chairman John Vandenberg VE3DVV 905-692-3802 <ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca>

Health & Welfare Chairperson Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ 905-388-8383 <ve3ogq@hamiltonarc.ca>

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>

box of tubes for \$12.00 for the benefit of the Club. Our thanks to VE3DHY for his generous donation.

The Club will host "Homebrew Night" at the general meeting in May.

Adjournment 9:20 P.M.

Contest Corner

An invitation by Rick Danby, VE3BK

The 13th Annual Ontario QSO Party 2010 will be held on the third full weekend of April 1800Z April



17 to 0500Z April 18, which translates to 2 PM on Saturday April 17 to 1 AM on Sunday, then sleep time (part of the new rules a couple of years ago so Rovers and Mobiles would have a proper sleep time for safety), and from 1200 Z to 1800 Z April 18, which translates from 8 AM to 2 PM on Sunday April 18.

Bob Chandler VE3SRE of DX Ontario started this contest is 1998 and we won it overall for many years. The OQP is one of our favourite Contests and it has became very popular with many Hams in Canada and the United States. Contest Club Ontario (CCO) now organizes the OQP since 2006 and have made it even better with some of the rule changes etc.

In this contest, we contact as many amateur radio stations as possible both in Ontario and world-wide, hoping to work all the counties for a Clean Sweep. Check out the webpages below for the Home Page, the rules, exchange, frequencies, modes and categories. You can even sign up for the OQP reflector to keep you up to date on who is going to be on etc.

Home Page: http://www.cco.ve3xd.com/oqp/index.htm

Rules: http://www.cco.ve3xd.com/oqp/rules.htm

OQP Reflector: Go to http:// groups.yahoo.com/group/oqp/ click sign up

Now for those in the Contest Group, we are running Multi-multi, so we need as many stations as possible. This means we need you to bring your whole station out. Please let me know who can bring a station, or just help out as an operator, everything helps us make this another successful year for VE3DC in the Ontario QSO Party. If you have not operated with us before, please send me an email or call me and we will get you scheduled in.

CQ World Wide 160 Meter SSB Contest February 26 to 28, 2010

The contest site can be a very bleak place in the dead of winter with a pending snow storm. Here is a story of this year's CQ WW 160 contest by Contest Chair Rick Danby VE3BK

Jack VE3WBT and Rick VE3BK had gone out early (about 1:30 pm) because of the pending snow storm and because of the start time being 5 pm on a Friday. Most people that work can't make that start time. There was about 5 " of snow on the ground, it was snowing, very wet snow. Looked like it could be a very bad storm, but we were hoping for the best.

We were soon joined by Dan VA3DJ and helped him set up his station and we were on the air with no problems at 5pm when the contest began. Dan took the first shift with 63 contacts in one hour.

I was next but didn't last as long with 42 contacts in 37 minutes. There were 7 or 8 stations at once sometimes. This is when you really have fun, when you are the pileup. Jack VE3WBT was next then Dan again, working the pileup until we had 223 in the log before Adam VE3BAU took over. He had a great run, working another 214 contacts in just

Important Points

Executive Meetings

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August. Members are invited to attend. The meetings are on the Wednesday following the club General Meeting each month. Ask an executive member for the location.

<u>VE3NCF 146.760 - & 444.075 +</u> 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. Email submissions to Editor, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, <ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca>

over 3 hours with Fred VE3GCP giving him support and helping him log. Adam and Fred went home about midnight, so the opening rush gave us around 437 contacts. Dan had another go at it before he went home and we had 462 in the log before Dan went home.

Jim showed up in the wee hours, with Rick helping (falling asleep with my headphones on), we kept it going till 6 am (when Jim woke me up) and we were up to 521 before lack got back on the radio until about 7:30 am. We were up to 533 the first night and morning. It is very slow when everyone is a dupe at that time of day on 160 meters. The most fun is at the start of the contest when everone you work in new in the log. Band conditions didn't seem to be quite as good as last year, I think good operating made the difference this time. Off to sleep we went when a lot of people were going to the Hamfest at the Burlington Legion Saturday morning.

During the day Saturday, we worked some DX for fun as the 160 meter contest is really a night time band and we were back on the air making contacts at 2013 UTC (just after 3 pm local) but never really got going again till after 4:30 pm local. This is when we started getting many dupes in our log. Dan came back during the daytime and then we had Sherry VE3DCU, Mark VE3RYI and Mike VE3ATX show up to help us log more in the evening. Contacts are always slow going after the initial rush. Everyone went home eventually, not sure of the time and that left Jack and I to operate till 7:30 am again on Sunday morning. Jack made the comment: "I can't believe we stay up all night."

Dan was back out later on Sunday to operate some more, then took his gear home as he could not stay to the end. It was Jack and I that finished up to 778 contacts in the log (including the dupes) with Jack's Icom 745 (a great radio) barefoot.

Contacts were few and far between at the end but we still ended up beating our score from last year with our DX contacts, even though our

number of contacts was actually down by about 20 from our last years results. The snow turned to rain and melted all our snow away, but we didn't have a flood like last year. Another great contest with ragchewing amongst ourselves, discussions on power consumption and other interesting topics. Thanks to all that worked us (thanks John VE3CXB, maybe next time you can join us) and hope that all our contests are as successful. The participants were Dan VA3DI Mike VE3ATX RickVE3BK Adam VE3BAU Sherry VE3DCU Jim VE3EEZ Fred VE3GCP Mark VE3RYI Jack VE3WBT We had fun and are going to go big guns with multi-multi at the Ontario QSO Party. Come and join us or look for us on the air April 17-18.

New Low Frequency Band for Canadian Amateur Service.

Until now Canadian amateurs had access to bands in the MF range 300 KHz to 3 MHz (160m), and the HF range 3 MHz to 30 MHz(80m 40m 30m 20m 17m 15m 12m 10m), as well as VHF 30 MHz to 300 MHz (6m 2m 1.25m), and UHF 300 MHz to 3 GHz (70cm), and experimental allocations above. Now as a result of the last WRC in 2007 we are being given limited access to a narrow band in the LF range, 30 KHz to 300 KHz. Here is the announcement as released by RAC.

"Industry Canada has approved access by Canadian radio amateurs to the Low Frequency (LF) band 135.7 - 137.8 kHz, subject to certain conditions. The Revised Canadian Table of Frequency Allocations, promulgated in December 2009 to incorporate changes arising from decisions taken at World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) 2007, permits amateur use on a Secondary basis subject to Footnote 5.67A.

The Footnote states: "Stations in the amateur service using frequencies in the band 135.7-137.8 kHz shall not exceed a maximum radiated power of

I W (EIRP) and shall not cause harmful interference to stations of the radionavigation service operating in countries listed in No. 5.67. (WRC-07)". Industry Canada has advised that Canadian radio amateurs may now use the band and that Schedule I of RBR-4 Standards for the Operation of Stations in the Amateur Radio Service will be amended in due course.

Richard Ferch VE3IAY/VE3KI

Vice President Regulatory Affairs Radio Amateurs of Canada''

This information was received by e-mail from RAC on March 10th 2010. It will be interesting to see what type of antenna could be recommended for use in this LF range.

Homebrew Night Coming Up In May

A reminder from Vice President John Hudak,VE3CXB.

Just a reminder that at this coming May meeting we will be having "Homebrew/ Show & Tell Night". If you've been working on a project bring it along and enter



it. The winner will receive not only the admiration of your fellow hams but also the Crawford Trophy. The only requirement is that this project must have been completed during the past year since the last Homebrew Night in May of 2009. Projects built from kits are acceptable as they are still considered homebrewed. Or just bring along your project to "Show & Tell" us what you've been working on. Include any documentation that may help explain your project. You can show or enter more than one project if you wish. The more the merrier. Don't be shy. Bring your goodies to the meeting and show us what you've been up to.

The Gotham Vertical

by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

I was leafing through an old ham magazine the other day when a lettersized piece of paper fell out from between the pages. It bore a copyright dated 1963 and



contained instructions for installing a Gotham vertical antenna. Obviously a previous owner of the old ham magazine I was reading had purchased a Gotham vertical and then left the instruction sheet between pages, possibly using it as a book mark. The instructions were pretty brief. Apparently the Gotham antenna was a 23 foot vertical made of aluminum pipe which was insulated from ground and terminated at the lower end by a coil which you shorted with an alligator clip on a lead for tuning. The lead of the alligator clip was connected to the center of 50 ohm coaxial feed line. The braid of the coaxial feed line was connected to a "good ground". The instructions stated that radials were not needed.

After reading this instruction sheet, I was curious. I had never heard of a Gotham Antenna but when I went to the Google page on my computer and typed in Gotham Antenna, up came a link for the Gotham Verticals: V-40, V-80, and V-160 along with a number of product reviews. There were quite a few reviews. It was interesting to read the reviews several of which actually rated this antenna zero out of five. The most praiseworthy aspect of this simple vertical was the fact that it was cheap. The worst complaint was that it didn't work and consensus favored that last opinion. All of the reviews were written in a nostalgic tone reflecting the common experience many hams had with Gotham antennas and with the advertiser's extraordinary claims about how well they would work. If you have time to read some stories and you don't mind cracking a smile, here is the link

Swapnet Listings

Ad# 96

Uniden Madison (03/05/10)

Stock base CB radio with matching extension speaker and microphone. Radio is in good condition. I would like to trade this for a dual band mobile. contact va3dru@rac.ca ...

Location: Simcoe/Ontario Price: -

More...

to the reviews which were on eHam.net: < http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/4094 >.

I think the key to success with verticals is the requirement for a good ground. Several years ago I inspected a homebrew antenna made like the Gotham vertical which was mounted on a two story fire escape and which used the metal fire escape as a ground. Like the Gotham, the homebrew vertical also used an alligator clip for shorting a coil to adjust the tuning. Technically the antenna had no radials, but it did have a good ground. The operator of that antenna reported satisfying results on a number of HF bands.

One reviewer of the Gotham Antenna summed up his experience by saying he wished he had a photo of his Gotham for a trip down memory lane, then added a second thought, that perhaps some memories are better left in the past.

Nuts and Bolts of Ham Radio

Different thoughts about different things by Rick VE3BK.

This article will not be of much of a technical nature but more in the way of tips for operating and logging in contests or at home.

Operating Tips: Some of this is from personal experience and some from errors we all make.

When logging a station, make sure you use a zero for the number and not the letter "O". Most calls have only one number. The rest are letters

in a 2 by 2 or 2 by 3 pattern. Examples would be VE3BK.....this is a 2 by 2 or VE3QEE 2 by 3. Of course there are exceptions. You might get a call like 6Y9V (worked him on the ARRL DX Contest) in lamaica with 2 numbers and 2 letters. Here's a good one: P40A in Aruba. This is papa fourty alpha.....not papa four letter o alpha. There is a big difference on your log between P40A & P4OA. The first call will count as a contact, the second one is not allowed and depending on the contest organizers, submitting that call may result in a penalty of one contact, something like when they marked the multiple choice exams, right minus wrong because you were guessing hi hi. This happens to us in the CQ contests.

Another problem I find when checking our logs occurs when the operator is in such a hurry (probably a pileup going on), that he doesn't take the time to make proper corrections. An example would be recording the call first as VE3BFO when the call was really VE3FBO then correcting the log improperly as VE3BFOFBO. When checking the log I have to deleted the call because I am not sure what the call really was. An easy way to make time for corrections is to ask the station his call again and tell him you want to make sure you have his call correct in the log. Most stations will wait for you because they may have had the same problem and understand. If it gets to be too much, you could always log the old way on paper hi hi.

Sometimes calls get logged that you heard but did not work (you hit enter by mistake but did not work the guy...it happens). In our multi-

multi logging software, we cannot erase that call. When we are contesting, the solution is to edit the call to be the same as the previous call so that it comes up as a dupe. Another method that we use on CT, is to put in the call as VE3DC and then I know to erase it later when the logs are done.

A point that even some experienced hams forget. When working HF, you must be on a band at the right time of day (or night). This especially applies to a single operator who may be operating a contest from home.

I used to think of 40 meters (the TP Net), and 80 meters (Ontars) as the old men's bands. The 160m band was included in this category too, as it is called the Gentlemen's Band and you usually hear nets with a bunch of old guys chatting during the day. It turns out that 40 meters is a great DX band, especially at night. The 80m band gets real quiet at night and you can work DX in the wee hours. If you are equipped with a good antenna for 160 meters, it is great for DX at night especially during contests. I worked some great DX in the wee hours in the ARRL DX SSB contest on the weekend of March 6 and 7th, 2010. Sometimes when you are contesting, you can sleep in the daytime because you are going to work more contacts in the middle of the night or early morning easier, after some of the other contesters go home. I did this myself on our recent CQ World Wide 160m SSB contest. You have to be there at the right time when it comes to HF. For me, this means letting everyone else operate when they are there, because I end up staying up all night (up till 7:30 am both mornings on this contest) operating when no one else is available. I never thought of it before but I guess a true contester has to be a night owl and dedicated to make a good showing in most contests. Jack VE3WBT has been with me overnight and on the last contest he said, "I can't believe we stayed up all night." We did have some sleep while some of the others were working pileups though, so that helped.

To prove this time approach, here are some of the contacts I made in the wee hours from home on the ARRL DX contest Mar. 6 & 7, 2010

VP9/W6PH Bermuda NP4A Puerto Rico KV4FZ U.S. Virgin Is AH7C Hawaii TI8M Costa Rica HKINK Colombia P40N Aruba YN2EA Nicaragua KH6LC Hawaii AM5B Spain KH7X Hawaii HQ9R Honduras

CE4CT Chile

TI8M

Usually 10, 15 & 20 meters are great in the daytime. Lately 10 meters has had sporadic openings.

Costa Rica

A problem can occur with logging times when QSL cards are written with local time. You must log all your contacts in Universal Time (UTC). In most logging programs you can specify an offset and the program will even do the Daylight Savings change for you. Getting the time correct is very important, especially if you QSL.

Another problem we have at the contest site is getting different computers to sync up the times so that we are all entering the correct UTC time on the Multi-multi log.

During the RAC Winter Contest one of the computers kept shutting down and when it was reloaded, the time was delayed by the amount of time it took to reboot the computer. This created a nightmare for me, correcting the logs. I had to make notes on the fly and correct it after, before I sent the log in.

You can check the time by tuning your radio on WWV, at 2.5, 5, 10, 15 MHz, on the General Receive or you can get the correct time on the Internet as well (Google it).

Many times I have been asked: "When is a good time for me to come" out to the contest site. This is a hobby and no one has to show up when they said they will but it is nice to have someone true to their word,

and shows up exactly when they said they would. This makes it is easier to make up a schedule so that everyone has their time at the radio and no one ends up operating alone for too many hours. This makes it fair for everyone. On the other hand, I usually have more operating time for myself and anyone else who stays for the whole contest. This is definitely fun for me, as I stated before, the best DX on the low bands is usually in the wee hours of the night. Try it yourself and have some fun.

So, if you ever have trouble sleeping or find yourself awake in the middle of the night......go check out the HF bands. You may just be surprised at how well your antennas work, the ones you thought were lousy, this is what propogation is all about........ another intensive topic for another time.

Well hope some of these tips are useful for you. Some of this is geared to contesting but many points are for anyone who logs contacts. Have fun on those HF bands and try getting on to give those contesters some contacts. One of them may be VE3DC or VE3BK.

GOTA, Guides On The Air

Report and pictures submitted by Tom VA3TVW

On Saturday Feb 20th 2010 VA3TVW-Tom and VA3CDU-Tracy hosted the 95th Brownie unit and on Sunday Feb 21st 2010 we also had the 95th Girl Guides to participate in the international Guides On The Air program. The girls learned about ham radios and what they can do. The girls also had a chance to make live contacts with a few people from different parts of the world including Hawaii, Australia, England, and Portugal. The girls had a blast doing it and so did the control operators, VA3TVW and VA3CDU. This was the 2nd year we have hosted the Guides and we hope to be able to continue the program again in the future.

Guides On The Air 2010



HARC DEC./80

WHERE DOES THE CLUB BULLETIN GO?

Have you, as a club member, ever wondered to where the Club Bulletin is mailed? The following list is a breakdown of approx. 220 Nov. 80 bulletins that were mailed out.

DESTINATION COPIES	<u>DESTINATION</u> <u>COPIES</u>	DESTINATION COPIES
Ancaster5	Freelton1	Ottawa2
Binbrook2	Fruitland1	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia1
Bradford1	Greensville2	Sackville, N.B1
Brantford2	Grimsby3	St. Catherines3
Buffalo, N.Y1	Guelph2	San Diego, Calif1
Burford1	Hannon4	Scarborough3
Caistor Centre1	Kitchener1	Smithville1
Burlington20	London1	Stoney Creek6
Caledonia4	Neaford1	Thorild, Alberta
Calgary, Alta2	Millgrove1	Toronto4
Carlisle1	Mississauga1	Waterdown4
Cayuga1	Montreal1	Waterloo3
Downsview1	Mount Hope2	West Flamboro1
Dundas13	Niagara-on-the-Lake1	Willowdale1
Dunnville3	North Bay1	Winona1 .
Fredericton, N.B1	Oai:ville3	Winnipeg, Man1

The distribution is approx: 100 in Hamilton and 120 out-of-town!

In the near future we will be contacting some clubs in each province so we can receive bulletins from across Canada. This will enable your editor (hopefully) to bring you more interesting articles in the future.

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David Bruton, VE3DWJ, found these statistics published in The Hamilton Amateur newsletter of December 1980, thirty years ago. Back issues of The Hamilton Amateur are archived at the Hamilton Public Library's main branch, upstairs with the Special Collections, where they are available for viewing by appointment.