



The Hamilton Amateur

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

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,
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Est. 1932 Inc. 1956
<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>

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thanks to contributors
**John Kassay,
Rick Danby, and
Tom Van Wort**

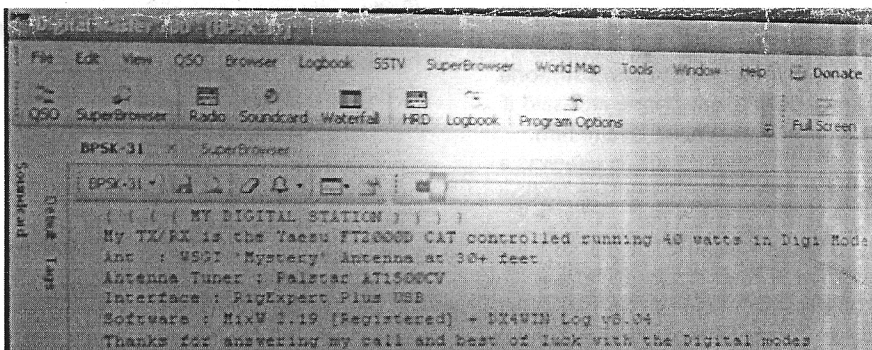
November Meeting

Story by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

Program is an important part of club meetings. When members gather once a month they want to take home an idea, something to try, something to learn more about. Often the program involves hearing a guest speaker who knows a lot about a topic, who is entertaining, and who gives us inspiration to try something new. The program for November was just like that. It was a good meeting.

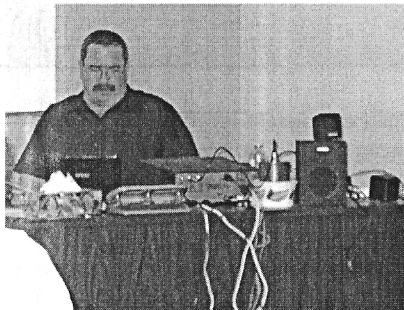
Originally, two people, Mark Proctor, VE3RYI, and Tom VanWort, VE3TVW, planned to demonstrate PSK-31, a digital mode, that they have been using. They were going to demonstrate PSK-31 live using two stations and two antennas set up so the stations would talk to one another with low power. As it turned out Tom got called to work for a meeting Wednesday night, leaving Mark to carry on with a single station and all the notes that Tom had prepared for his talk. What happened after that was a brilliant demonstration of the very features that make PSK-31 an awesome mode.

Before I explain let me give a little background. The characters PSK-31 stand for phase shift keying at a speed of 31 words per minute. Really good typers can hit speeds up to 60 words per minute but most of us are much slower than that. To do PSK-31 on a radio, all you need is three pieces of equipment, a transceiver, an interface, and a computer with a sound card. An old cast-off computer is just fine, because the speed and memory requirements of PSK-31 are not demanding. This digital mode, invented by Peter Martinez, G3PLX, in 1999, was designed to succeed using low power when conditions were terrible. It was also designed to be a person-to-person mode because it is not set up to run automatically. When Mark began with one transceiver and a small indoor hamstick antenna, he fired up the rig and tuned to the 40 meter band where PSK signals are supposed to be. Although we could hear nothing but noise, and see nothing but snow on the waterfall, soon a typed message appeared on the screen and we could all read a "brag file" describing the sender's station equipment and his antenna.



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.

Mark VE3RYI demonstrating PSK-31 digital mode. He used a computer, interface, transceiver and a 40 meter hamstick in the the room.



The explanation that Mark gave about PSK-31 and the live demonstration that worked so well truly showed why PSK is such a great mode. It pulls in signals from below the noise when necessary, and allows communication even though your antenna and equipment are marginal. As a bonus your hearing does not have to be good because everything is typed on the screen, and your memory can be spotty too because both sides of the conversation appear in print for reference.

Mark used a power-point projector to show us what he was seeing on the computer screen and we read the conversations that the radio was hearing. In fact a very funny thing happened as we listened in on two local hams having a QSO. One of the hams was telling the other he was a member of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. The call sign was up there on the screen so Sherry, our membership chairman, checked the list and said something like, no he's not, at least not right now. Someone else grabbed a cell phone and said if you know his number I'll call him. Seeing this digital mode in use was a lot of fun and a good demonstration of what PSK-31 can do.

Thanks Mark for an interesting evening. I look forward to finding out more about PSK-31 in the future, and maybe trying it out on the air.

To read about PSK-31 see the official web site found at:

<http://aintel.bi.ehu.es/psk31.html>

RAC Winter Contest A Week Before Christmas

Details by Chairman
Rick Danby VE3BK.

The Radio Amateurs of Canada are holding their R.A.C. Winter contest a week before Christmas this year.

December 18th, 2010 is really not that far away. Think about what station you would like to run for us in the 24 hour contest. This is the one we work as many fellow Canadians as we can plus all the official RAC stations.

This years RAC Winter Contest is on December 18th, 2010 starting at 00:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC on the Saturday. This translates (with the new time change) to starting at 7 pm on Friday December 17 to 7 pm on the Saturday. This is exactly one week before Christmas. This is good for us because usually they have it on the Saturday after Christmas before New Years. This year that would be on New Years Day so the early start is really better for us.

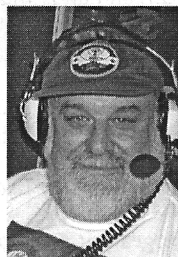
Let me know if you can run a station (the bands were really hopping on the CQWW) on your favorite band. We will need about 6 stations with extra operators to run a multi-multi effort. You can email me at ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca or call me, my number is in the bulletin. Plan for doing the contest now. See you there for a fun time.

Information about the 2010 RAC CANADA WINTER CONTEST

In December each year, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sponsors the Canada

Winter Contest. Amateurs all over the world are invited to participate.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC December 18, 2010.



HARC 2009-2010 Executive

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Next year the contest will be held on December 17, 2011.

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.)

Suggested Frequencies: CW – 25 kHz up from the band edge and for SSB – 1850,

3775, 7075, 7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS(T) and province or territory. VEØ's and

stations outside Canada send RS(T) and a serial number.

QSO's: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØ's are worth 10 points. Contacts with

stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are

worth 20 points. RAC official stations are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC,

VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC,

VY1RAC and VY2RAC. You may work any station once on each of the two modes, on

each of the eight contest bands.

It is prohibited to make CW contacts in the conventional phone sub-bands and phone

contacts in the conventional CW sub-bands. Contacts or soliciting QSOs through a

repeater during the contest period is not allowed.

Multipliers: Thirteen in total, Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Each

multiplier may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands. The

multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are: Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1,

VA1, CY9, CYØ); Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2); Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3); Manitoba [MB]

(VE4, VA4); Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5, VA5); Alberta [AB] (VE6, VA6); British Columbia

[BC] (VE7, VA7); Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8); New Brunswick [NB] (VE9);

Newfoundland and Labrador [NL] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NU] (VY0); Yukon [YT] (VY1);

and Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2). Certain special Canadian prefixes in use at the

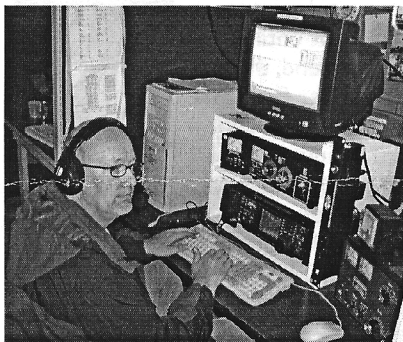
time of the contest may also apply; however there may be no more than 13 multipliers

on each band/mode. Please use the multiplier abbreviations, in square brackets, noted above.

Final Score: The total QSO points from all bands multiplied by the total number of

multipliers from all bands.

Mike Christmas VE3XMS operating one of the VE3DC contest radios



What Some Other Radio Amateurs Are Doing

I have often told candidates in the Basic Course that there are as many aspects of Amateur Radio as there are Radio Amateurs. The following story illustrates that statement. The story was reported in the RAC e-mail bulletin for November 23rd, 2010.

Lanark ARES Balloon Launch
2010-11-20

(Via: Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC - RACVP Industrial Liaison)

The Lanark Amateur Space Agency comprised of members of the Lanark North Leeds ARES Group launched an Amateur High Altitude Balloon from Perth Ontario on 20 November 2010. This launch undertaken by VA3ZKS, VE3ZBO, VA3KAI, VE3BSB and Zach McCracken the son of VA3ZKS was an attempt at the world height record for amateur balloons.

The flight was designated LASA 8 and transmitted as VE3REX-11 via APRS. VHF transmitted flight parameters including location, height, direction and

HARC 2010-2011 Chairs

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speed were picked up by the extensive network of APRS digipeaters and gated to the internet so that Amateurs could follow the flight in real time. Feed back indicates that the flight had a large following.

Following the launch, chase cars which included VA3ZKS, VA3ZBO, VE3BSB, VE3OAX, VE3ICF and VE3JGL tracked the flight on in car computers equipped with VHF receivers, tncs and the UIView tracking program.

VA3QV of Ottawa ARES organized a group of amateurs to provide down range communication support to assist the chase cars with additional tracking and recovery. Thanks to VA3NPL of Prescott-Russell ARES, VE3AFV of Seaway Valley ARES, VE3XID and VE3RMJ for their patient monitoring of the down range repeaters and the HF comms frequency.

The tracking transmitter package included a Garmin 18 LVC GPS an Argent Data Surface Mount Open Tracker and a 300 miliwatt MX 146 transmitter. Power was provided by 3 AA batteries outputting 5.4 volts at launch.

VE3REX-11 attained a record setting altitude of 39,899 meters or 130,903 feet before bursting and descending by parachute to land in Jay, Maine. The balloon reached speeds of 256 kilometres per hour and travelled a flight distance of 598 kilometres.

VA3ZKS and VA3ZBO located the flight package during the evening by picking up beacons directly from the flight package which had landed in a tree a few meters from the edge of a river. They returned in the daylight to retrieve the package and return to Perth.

The flight package contained a picture of John WI AKV who had assisted the Vermont recovery of LASA 7 launched 7 Nov 2009. John who was 90 and became a silent key 7 Nov 2010. The picture is being sent as a memorial to his friend KIXY in Vermont

Many thanks to all Amateurs and Clubs that have shown an interest in this aspect of Amateur Radio and have

provided financial support for the flight consumables.

73 Barrie VE3BSB

Financial Report

by treasurer Mark Proctor VE3RYI

Since the monthly financial reconciliation from the Club bank account does not come out until month's end, the November financial statement will appear in the January issue of THA. In the current issue of THA we are reporting the results of our recent Christmas Party.



Total income: \$1,428.50
including admission ticket sales, and receipts from the draw program

Expenses: \$1,203.51
including room rental, food, decorations, and entertainment

Additional expenses \$ 195.31
cost of items for the draw program

We are \$29.68 to the good (approximately 71¢ for each of the 42 people that attended).

I hope everyone liked the party and will pass on the good word for us.

Christmas Party

Summary by Mark Proctor VE3RYI on behalf of the Christmas Party committee.

Hi everyone. I would like to thank all that came to the Xmas/dinner party this year. This was my first time doing something like this and I have learned a lot. That's one thing I find with Amateur radio that there is a big window of opportunity to learn things and not always things to do with radio.

We did better in attendance this year. The food was hot and good and lots, even after some of us had a

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.

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>

second plate. And the parfait dessert was ice-cold and yummy. Fred VE3GCP had to stop the cooks from taking away the dessert of a little man that had been sitting between us. I don't know who the little man was but I do know that Fred looked after the desert.

Some of the door prizes were donated from Tom's VA3TVW family and from the club.

I would like to thank all of Tom's family for helping with the door prizes, doing the dinner, somehow the DJ and the Hall. I cannot forget to thank the one I love Laura as she helped me on the last day to put together door prizes.

The dinner started at 7:00pm and after dessert we did the door prizes draws. Once we started we ended up doing all draws and the silent auction for the boat cruise. There was a couple that was lucky and got 2 or 3 prizes and one draw helper that drew their own number. It looked like everyone was happy with their prize as they got to bid on the prizes which they wanted.

Anita VA3ANI won the \$50.00 Nutech prize and she is keeping it for herself.

We have to thank Murray VE3ZVP and Laurel Thomson for donating the boat cruise a value of \$175.00. It really helped the club out and was something new to do. I know how nice a trip it is, as I enjoy going around the Hamilton harbor with my boat. On that we have to thank Barry VE3ISX as he made the winning bid. I think he knows how nice the cruise will be and is looking forward on going. Thanks to all that put a bid on the boat cruise.

After all the prizes were gone the dancing started, some people went home early and some stayed to dance. I was one who stayed and Tom got me on video and posted it to the web. Thanks a lot Tom. It thinned out at about 10:30pm and came to a close. But some of us went downstairs to the carrie-oke bar. I did not sing but I heard some ladies.

Tom and I with the Executives would like to thank you all that came and hope to see you all next year .

73s & take care VE3RYI Mark Proctor

Important Reminder

No December Meeting

There is no meeting in the month of December this year because we had two meetings in November, the regular Club meeting and the Christmas party. The next meeting will be held on January 19th the third Wednesday as usual. Hope to see a good turn-out. Topic to be announced in the January issue of the newsletter.

New QSL Card Design

Please send in your design ideas for a VE3DC QSL card to replace the Anniversary card which is being retired. Deadline for submissions is the January meeting.

Then and Now

by Mardy Eedson
VE3QEE

Back in April 2009 the Club got a request from Kevin Leahy, for leads to gather information about George Crawford and his son Bill. At that time I suggested Kevin investigate back issues of The Hamilton Amateur newsletter which are kept in a special collection at the main branch of the Hamilton Public Library. Kevin did investigate, and turned up some material at that time, including some pictures. Since then I have been looking through some old Club papers and found an interesting article about the Crawfords and the early Club history. Unfortunately the date, the author, and the origin of the manuscript were not indicated. However we can assume the facts are as correct as the author's recollection so here is the article for those of us who are seeing it for the first time.



What Is The Crawford Trophy And Why Is It Called The Crawford Trophy?

George Crawford, VE3YR, was the founder of Crawford Radio at 119-121 John St. N. He and his son, Bill VE3JU brought radio to the City of Hamilton.

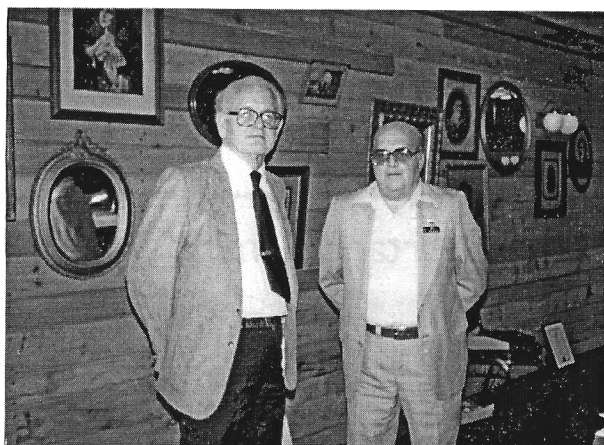
In the late 1920s it was big news that a new radio station KDKA Pittsburgh was coming on the air. George was asked by a local church to put on a demonstration of the event and capture the grand moment of the station's debut. Tickets were sold out. George worked all afternoon testing his home-built radio, at least as best he could with no other stations to listen to. In his exuberance, he put the B+ supply to the filaments of the tubes, and blew them all. He rushed back to his store for parts then rushed back to the church for some last minute repairs. The event was a success with the standing room only crowd cheering wildly at the magic of radio.

Once George decided to put loudspeakers outside his store to broadcast a heavyweight fight. Thousands lined John St. to listen. His competition in business, Wentworth Radio and Auto Supply, couldn't figure out how George got such static-free reception in downtown Hamilton. He had leased a telephone line from the Beach Strip and placed his receiver there!

Around that time a new school was being build in Hamilton - Westdale High School. George's brother-in-law, Perry Turner, was an electrical teacher at Hamilton Technical School on Wentworth Street. Money for education was in short supply then, so Perry enlisted the help of several volunteers to install the lathes and other equipment, and build the mock house for teaching wiring. These volunteers wanted to learn about radio, so George taught them the first radio course in Hamilton, teaching morse code and ham radio fundamentals.

One of these was "Wibbie" Clements VE3KM. Wibbie along with Elton French later, worked at George's store. Wibbie lived in the remote community of Bartonville (Kenilworth

to Strathearn, south of Main St. E.). In the Fall of 1932, Bill Crawford VE3JU, Wibbie Clements VE3KM, Elton French, VE3VJ, Walt Smith, VE3VZ, Bob Potter VE3TO, Mel Riddell VE3QU, Hep Richardson VE3HT, (now HQT), Clay Anguish, VE3LU, Art Ferguson, VE3HP, Jim Tassio, VE3TQ, Al Fletcher, VE3DO, Hen Harley, VE3QE, and Charlie Poole, VE3OJ, got together at Wibbie's place and formed the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club.



George Crawford and his son Bill

Through the years, the Club has met in the basement of Crawford Radio on John St. North, at Borden's Dairy on John Street, at the National Building on Hughson St., in the Chemistry Building at McMaster University, (John Morton, VE3ALK, was a chemistry professor and had the connections), at the Moose Hall on Vine St., and at the Connaught Hotel.

Experimentation was the order of the day then. Wibbie was known as "The Voice of Bartonville". His station equipment included a "pole pig" (a hydro pole transformer) rectified with mercury vapor rectifiers. The rectifiers were meant to be run at 700 Volts, so

Wib ran them at 2,000 Volts for his "211" tubes. A common piece of test equipment was a neon bulb. If you put the bulb near the circuit and it glowed, you knew something was working. Transformers were wound by hand.

Another home-brew component was the "salt-water bleeder" resistor. It consisted of two preserving jars filled with water, connected by a water-filled inverted U-tube. With the positive and negative terminals of the rectifier circuit submerged in the jars, you just added salt to the water until the mercury rectifier tubes glowed. One

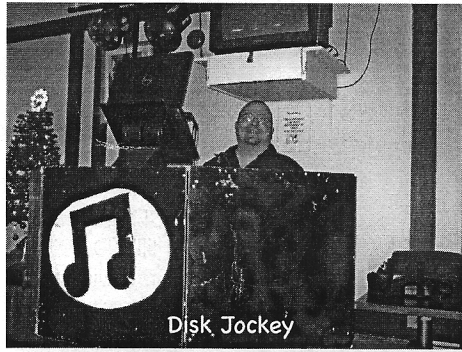
interesting side-effect of this arrangement is that hydrogen and oxygen gas are created. These might, of course, recombine in the U-tube. Sometimes explosively as Mel VE3QU found out.

Later Doc Jaffery VE3DCF who lived on "Hamilton Hill" (Dundas), one of the top skin specialists in the country, got a 99 year lease on "Signal Hill" (Hwy #5 just before the Brant Street dip) but VE3SG Stu Graves as secretary turned over the lease to someone. It was lost and the Ministry of Transport denies any knowledge. Noel Eaton VE3CJ, licensed in 1933, Jeff Legg VE3GLL, Dr. John Card VE3RW, (the Cards were Hamilton's first all ham family), Jack Lang VE3JP, from Grimsby, Watson VE3OF, Ray Callahan VE3ADF (A Damn Fool), Fred Neal VE3QU, Roy Carter VE3QD, (his radio had xtal control!) Don Cornele VE3NH, Les Walick VE3CC, And Norm Barrett, were all members of the Club.

Some sources: "thumbnail" sketches of VE3JU, and VE3CJ in bulletin #23, January 1950, VE3DC in bulletin #27 May 1950, call signs of members on cover of bulletin #11 January 1949.

If you recognize any hams in this picture we would like to know what event this is and who the people are.

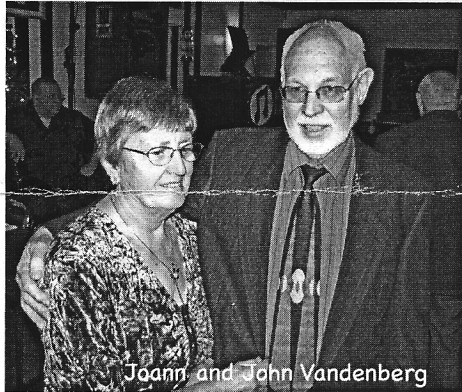




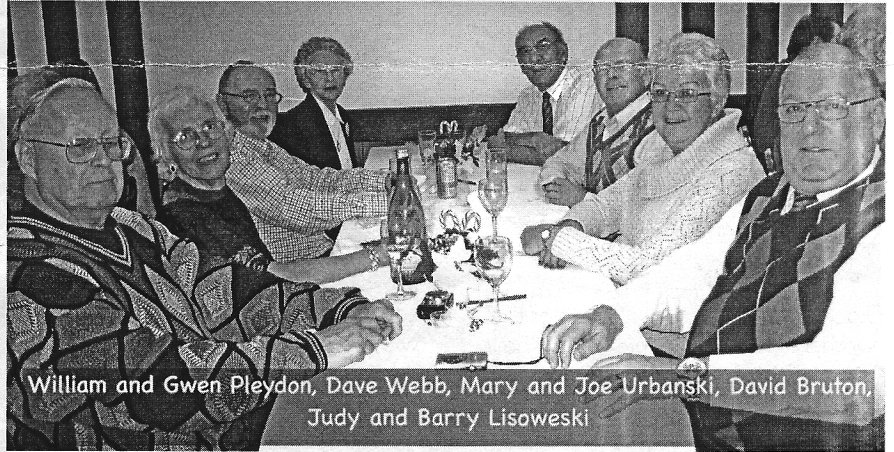
Disk Jockey



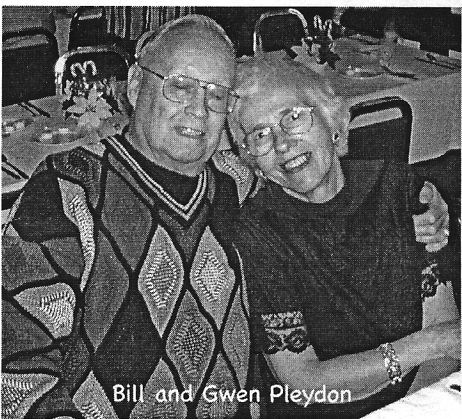
Anita Thomas, Laurel and Murray Thompson, Mardy Eedson John and Danny Kassay, Ron and Janet Ouwehand, Mike Christmas



Joann and John Vandenberg



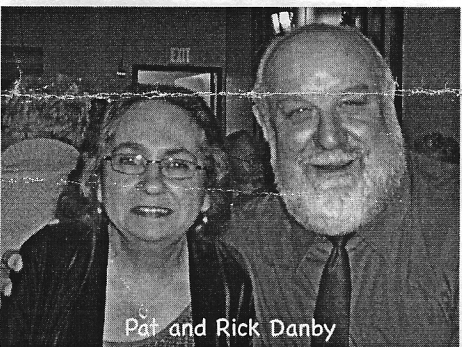
William and Gwen Pleydon, Dave Webb, Mary and Joe Urbanski, David Bruton, Judy and Barry Lisoweski



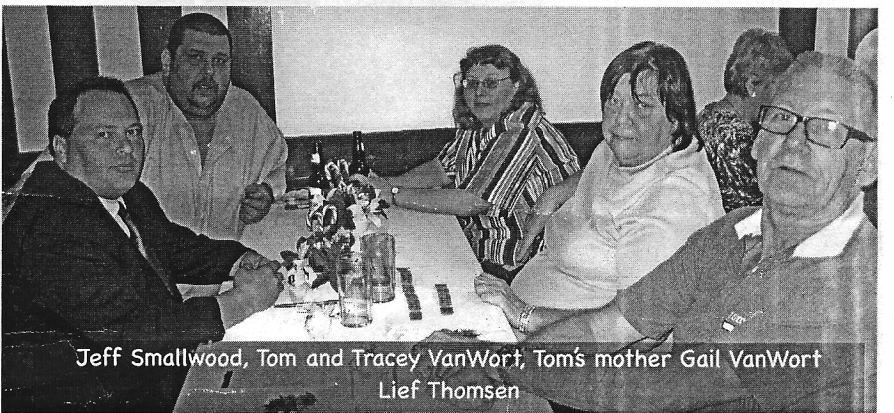
Bill and Gwen Pleydon



Mark Proctor, Fred Robinson, John Vandenberg, Thea and Casey VanBroekhoven, Laura Proctor, Mike Panopoulos



Pat and Rick Danby



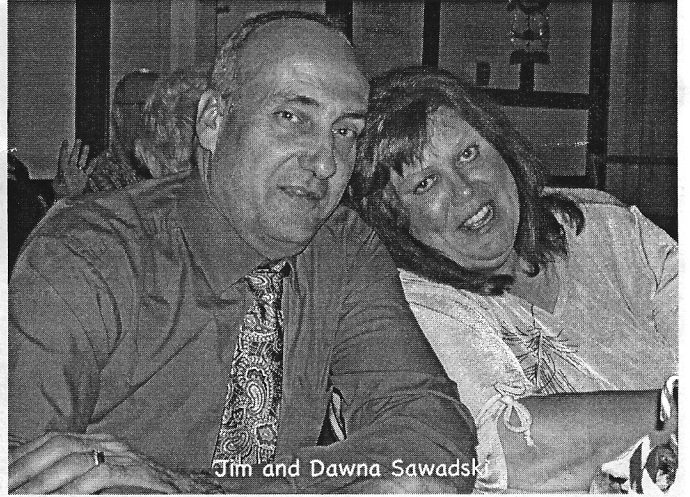
Jeff Smallwood, Tom and Tracey VanWort, Tom's mother Gail VanWort Lief Thomsen



welcome from the HARC Executive



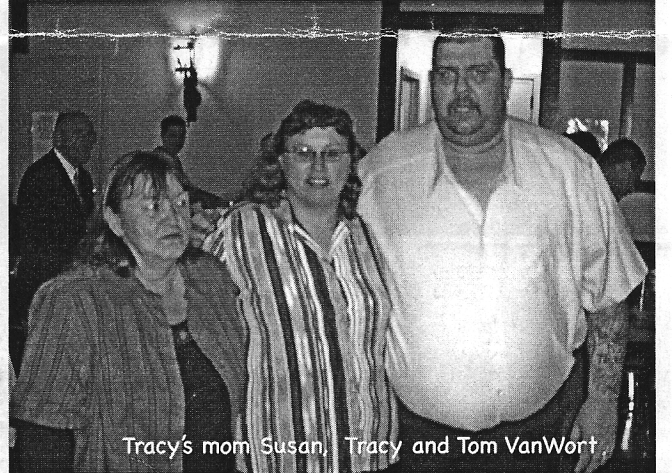
Daniella and Renzo Conz



Jim and Dawna Sawadski



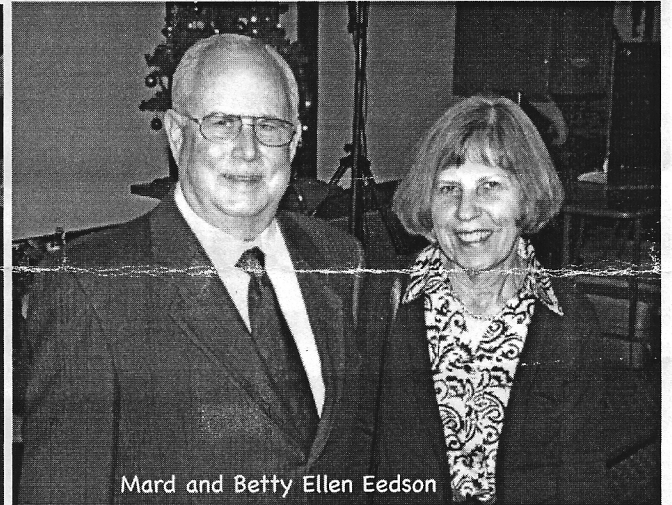
John and Danny Kassay



Tracy's mom Susan, Tracy and Tom VanWort



Judy and Barry Lisoweski



Mard and Betty Ellen Eedson

