



# The Hamilton Amateur

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

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<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>*

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## Minutes of the HARC November 17th Meeting



*Submitted by Secretary Jim Sawadski, VE3EEZ*

**Call to Order.** Dave Bruton VE3DWJ called to order the regular meeting of the

HARC at 19:38 on Nov 17 2010 at The Hamilton District Christian High School 92 Glancaster Road Ancaster.

**Sign In.** Attendance was conducted by the circulation of the members sign in sheet. No visitors recorded

**Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the October General meeting where approved as printed in the newsletter. Proposed by Mardy VE3QEE seconded by Rick VE3BK.

**Guest Speaker.** Mark Proctor VE3RYI gave a solo demonstration on PSK31 in the absence of Tom VanWort VA3TVW.

Mark demonstrated the hardware in use as a Computer with Ham Radio Deluxe software, HF radio with Rig Control, Rig blaster interface and a vertical portable antenna set up by Mardy VE3QEE. Mark was receiving on the 40 M band 7.035 mhz

Mark mentioned that a basic 386 or Pentium 2 computer would run the program.

John VE3DVV mentioned that the Flex 3000 software is also available for use. Other software is Digipan, True TTY, DX Lab suite.

PSK31 is acknowledged by club members VE3DVV, VE3RYI, VE3TVW, VE3RKZ, VE3QEE, who have experienced this mode of communications.

### New Business

Gary Notto VE3TTO announced a Sunday morning race Nov 21 2010 at which local radio amateurs would be providing a communications net.. Gary also announced the additional frequencies added to the VE3WIK repeater 53.110mhz tone 131.8 and 224.520 mhz tone 131.8

Refreshment Break – 20:34 – 20:52

New Business - continued

**Health & Welfare.** Mary VE3OGQ reported that Mike Krebbs VE3WXS was now at home and doing well.

**Membership.** Sherry VE3DCU reported paid memberships at 65 with 55 primary members. At present time 78 newsletters were being mailed out. Sherry VE3DCU and or Mardy VE3QEE will send reminder notices to news member recipients of any expired memberships and dues required.

**Education.** Nothing to report.

**Contest.** Rick once again called on all members to get creative in the design of a new QSL card for 2011 as the

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.

old card is dated and new cards are needed.

On display where some of the Girl Guide on the air QSL Cards created by and received from the gals contacted in the fall event of 2010.

Rick commented on the available calendar put out by WA7BNM <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> Rick mentioned and circulated the QST magazine where VE3DC was mentioned as taking 2nd place in Canada / 2nd place in Ontario running a class 4 alpha, less than 100 points from the 1rst place team VE3AIR in the same class, in the 2010 field day exercise.

Also mentioned was the TCA magazine where VE3DC is often a feature.

Rick VE3BK announced the upcoming contests:

The ARRL Sweepstakes Nov 20, 2100 –Nov 22nd 0259 Monday, UTC.

PSK31 YO International the 3rd Friday of each November 1600 – 2200 UTC

CQ WW DX at the end of the month.

24 hr RAC Canada Winter Contest beginning Dec 17 2010 – 24:00 UTC.

Treasures Report. All current treasurer reports will be issued in the latest news letters published monthly. For details consult your newsletter.

Repeater. The 2 meter station is reported as working well and the 440 mhz radio is now being interfaced. A comment / recommendation for consideration was made by Garry Notto VE3TTO to use a 9 pin DIN connector as he experienced it to work much better than the supplied cabling.

Adjournment. Dave Bruton VE3DWJ adjourned the meeting at 21:27

## Bob Zimmerman Returns to Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico

Bob Zimmerman returned on the 20th of December to the "Big Dish" in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. He hopes to spend between 6 and 8 months rebuilding a one million watt, 10 MHz transmitter obtained surplus from the Voice of America Bethany (Ohio) Relay Station. Bob spent several years working for the VOA at the Greenville (North Carolina) Relay Station, where he gained experience working on these huge tetrode based transmitters. The transmitter operates on a plate voltage of 20 kV at 50 amperes current. Plasma scientists at Arecibo would like to utilize this monster transmitter to create artificial radio aurora over the Observatory. If all goes well, the red aurora should be visible to ground based observers in northern Puerto Rico. Of course, as long as the aurora is pumped from the ground transmitter, HF propagation will be destroyed. However, thanks to the cost of turbine fuel for the power generating station, the aurora will only be pumped for about 2 hours at a time.

## HARC 2009-2010 Executive

### President

David Bruton VE3DWJ  
905-383-9808  
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### Past President

Mike Krebs VA3WXS  
905-523-9005  
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### First Vice President

Tom VanWort, VA3TVW  
905 308 7538  
<va3tvw@hamiltonarc.ca>

### Second Vice President

Mike Christmas, VE3XMS  
905 973 9040  
<ve3xms@hamiltonarc.ca>

### Secretary

Jim Sawadski, VE3EEZ  
905 664 3198  
<ve3eez@hamiltonarc.ca>

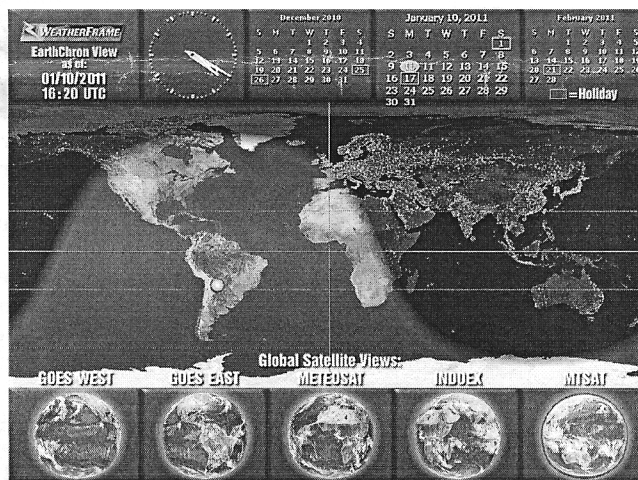
### Treasurer

Mark Proctor, VE3RYI  
<ve3ryi@hamiltonarc.ca>

### Director

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE  
905-648-0187  
<ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca>

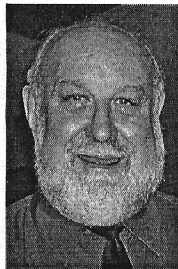
Bob has taken along his 50 watt TenTec SCOUT radio and will be available for SSB skeds on 20 meters as NP4B (No Problem for Bob) and his Canadian Call VE3RKZ. Contact Rick VE3BK or Mardy VE3QEE for current information on Bob. In remarks with Mardy before departure, Bob said he will sorely miss his good friends at HARC, and hopes we can all keep in touch.



Rick VE3BK sends along the web address for a site that provides up-to-date Gray Line location (above).  
Go to: [http://imagery.weatherframe.com/imagery/jamesbradley/earthchron\\_utc\\_800x600.jpg](http://imagery.weatherframe.com/imagery/jamesbradley/earthchron_utc_800x600.jpg)

## Canada Winter Contest 2010

Report by Contest  
Chair Rick Danby  
VE3BK



Another great contest by the group. Operators this time were: Dan VA3DJ, Tom VA3TVW, Rick VE3BK, Sherry VE3DCU, John VE3DVV, Jim VE3EEZ, Scott VE3QU and Andrew VE3RIA. Visitors to the site who did not operate at the site or log for us so are not listed as operators were: Mardy VE3QEE, Mark VE3RYI, and Mike VE3XMS.

Highlights of this Contest: We more than doubled our score from last year with 2 less operators. This tells me that the operators are getting better. Everyone's number of contacts doubled at the least and some did more than that, especially on 40m where Scott did a tremendous job of working the pileups. We worked many unique calls on that band, meaning we worked a lot of one contact people. Those are the ones that gave us 001 for our serial number and generally either only worked us on the RAC Winter Contest or just came to give us a contact. I have mentioned this before that a lot of our neighbours come to give us a contact (sometimes they say we are the strongest loudest on the band) because they like the way we operate and because VE3DC has become well known with hams all over the world. Other highlights: Sherry did a great job with 2 and 6m as they count extra points, Jim did very well on 20m but also did a great job doing double duty working many stations on 160m phone. We had less contacts on 160m phone this year (Sherry's female voice was not on there) but mostly because we had Andrew jump in there on CW and make us even more QSOs to make the overall 160m contacts higher. Andrew did a great job for us on the CW and really enjoyed going 32 wpm or better. He is an excellent CW

operator. Dan did very good on 80m with the highest number of QSO points (I think he worked more official RAC stations) and the 40m station had the most QSOs thanks to Scott and Tom. Tom came from work in the early morning and worked a pileup for us while we were sleeping. John VE3DVV came both days as a welcome relief operator. We all moved around to make the experience most enjoyable for all. Everyone doubled their QSOs plus we had a CW count on every band thanks to Andrew. We worked a total of 12 official RAC stations 33 times in all. Mardy VE3QEE worked us from home on 3 different bands. Mark VE3RYI worked us on 6 different bands and he even spotted us a few times from home on the DX Cluster. We were spotted 25 times for this contest. Mike VE3XMS was only able to work us on 20m with his indoor dipole and he used his new call VA3FS. He went home to work the contest from there. Also Don VE3DDQ our EQSL manager for VE3DC was able to work us on 40 and 80m. Renzo VE3NYX one of the contest group that wasn't able to make it out this time worked us on 3 bands. Jerry VE3ACA one our friends worked us on 3 bands as well. Even Hal VE3YYP a former Club member who is back in Ontario from Quebec was able to find us once.

We would have increased our score substantially with more Club members turning on their HF rigs and finding us. Note: we may be hard to find at certain times as some of the operators like to search and pounce (meaning working the loud ones they find turning the dial) but generally most of us call CQ and you will just have to wait till you get a chance to work us if there is a pileup. This was a Canadian contest and every Canadian on every band counted 10 points, compared to only 3 points for DX contacts and as a bonus the Official RAC Stations count 20 points.

Some of the calls and people we have become familiar with over the years of contesting: VE6RAC picked up by VE3JY who is a great contest station, worked us 7 times. VE3YAA another

### HARC 2010-2011 Chairs

Awards Chairman  
Casey VanBroekhoven VE3CVP  
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Repeater Chairman  
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<ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca>

Health & Welfare Chairperson  
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Membership Chair Sherry Goeller  
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905-523-9005  
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Web Master  
Anita Thomas VA3ANI,  
<va3ani@hamiltonarc.ca> and  
Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI / VA3QI  
<ve3jai@hamiltonarc.ca>

great contest station (sometimes our competition) on Stoney Creek mountain worked us 6 times on different bands and modes. Bob VE3KZ another great contester that used to write a Contesting article for The Canadian Amateur magazine was right in there giving us 3 contacts from Oakville. He is a member of Contest Club Ontario (CCO) just like VE3DC is a member, and so are most of the guys in the Contest Group. We also worked the official CCO station callsign VA3CCO run

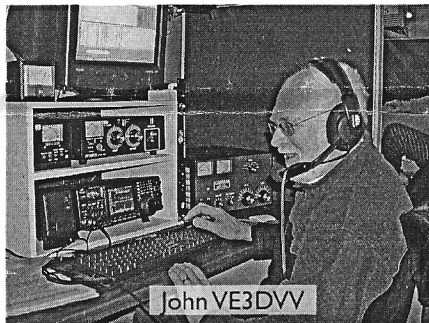
by Mike VA3MW another contester we have known for years.

Murphy only struck once with one of the network computers having to be changed out. Note on that, make sure the time is in sync with the rest when we have to do that hi hi. I only found one numeral zero used in a call instead of the letter O, we are getting better at our logging. Although the weather was cold we had no snow and there was plenty of heat in the shack with the amplifiers running. In fact, we had to turn the heat off a

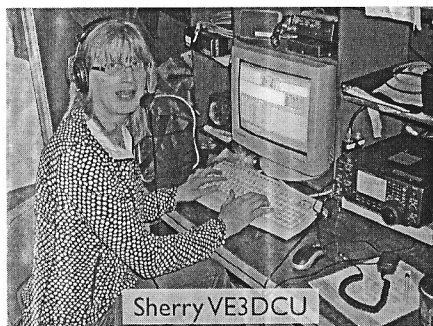


Canada Winter Contest Dec 2010

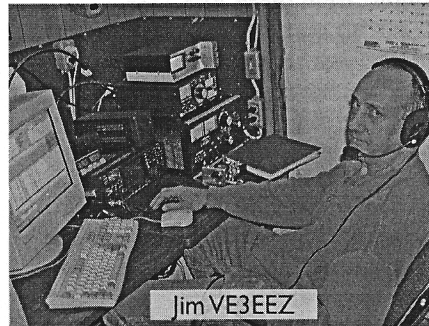
Four stations going strong.



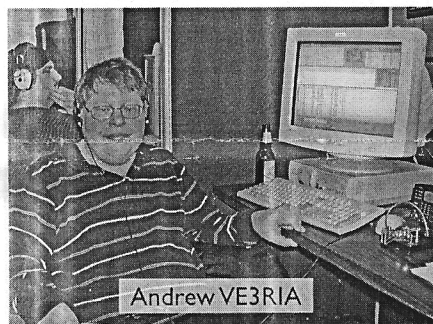
John VE3DVV



Sherry VE3DCU



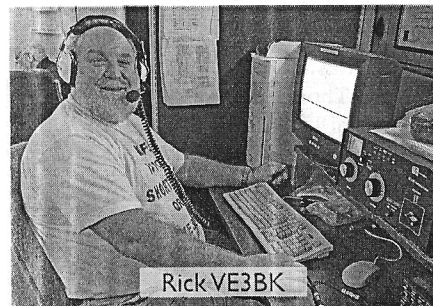
Jim VE3EEZ



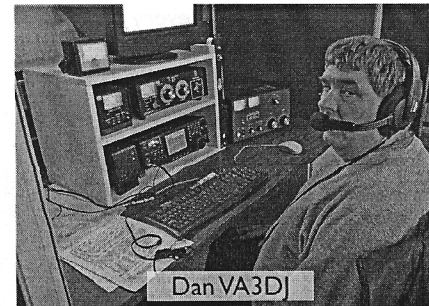
Andrew VE3RIA



Scott VE3QU



Rick VE3BK



Dan VA3DJ

## 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>

couple of times. Everything went great and we even packed up a little early on the Saturday night.

I want to thank everyone who participated this year in one way or another. A couple of operators were missed but like someone once said, sometimes less is more as we sure increased our score over last year. Thanks to all that worked us. Hope I didn't miss anyone that I could have mentioned. It would be nice if more Club members could have worked us for this Contest. This is one that the VE3DC Contest Group really enjoy. In this contest, we promote Canada to our southern neighbours and DX countries, plus we get to work as many Canadians as we can. It is really great to find out what the weather is like all over Canada and the USA. I think we are blessed being in Southern Ontario, little snow and more rain that doesn't need to be shoveled hi hi.

All the best to everyone in the New Year.

## VE3WIK Repeater Upgrade

On page 3 of the March 2008 issue of The Hamilton Amateur there was an article about The Escarpment Repeater Association (ERA) and the network of stations they maintain. Just the previous month, Jon Rorke VA3RQ spoke to our club and showed slides of the various repeater sites in the system.

One of those repeaters is VE3WIK located just West of Hamilton. Recently, Gary Notto VE3TTO helped complete construction of a new shack at VE3WIK and they installed a new 1 1/4 meter (220 MHz) repeater. For those of you with a 220 MHz capable transceiver the frequency is 224.520 with a 131.8 tone.

The picture at the right, shows the new shack which was built from scratch and the Escarpment Repeater Association members.

## New Information

*Two old photos were published on page 6 of the December newsletter. Thanks to feedback received from Ron Hands, VE3SP and Fred Robinson VE3GCP, we can now publish corrected information.*



The picture above shows Bill Crawford on the right and Bob Potter VE3TO on the left.



The group photo at the bottom of the page in the December newsletter was probably a photo of the Radio Society of Ontario but individuals in the photo and the occasion being celebrated remain unidentified.

## Paris to Ancaster Bike Race

Each year in the spring the Paris to Ancaster Bike Race takes place on a 60 kilometer route on back roads, trails and mud tracks starting in Paris and finishing in Ancaster. Typically the race has around 1,500 entrants. It begins at 10:00 A.M. and wraps up before 4:00 P.M. at Firestone Arena on Jerseyville Road in Ancaster.

The race is well organized with riders being electronically tagged in at the start line and out at the finish line. Medical, repair, and Police personnel patrol the route to keep riders safe. Amateur Radio operators provide communication, reporting emergencies requiring assistance and progress of the race.

This year's race takes place on Sunday April 17th. Ham volunteers meet for breakfast at 8:00 A.M. in the Egg and I Restaurant at Duff's Corners west of Ancaster where Wilson Street meets Garner Road (Hwys #2 and #53) Gary Notto VE3TTO is the volunteer coordinator. If you would like to volunteer please speak with Gary. Both Brantford and local Hams are involved..



## Canadian Declared Emergency Frequencies

*This message was circulated on the weekly RAC e-mail bulletin to members.*

The following frequencies and modes have been pre-determined for suggested use of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service during a declared emergency, or a disaster declared or otherwise, occurring anywhere in Canada. These frequencies have been registered with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) for its listings of Canadian national emergency frequencies in [IARU Region 2](#).

These are suggested frequencies and should not be construed as meaning that other HF frequencies may not be considered for Emergency operations.

No Amateur Radio operator or group has exclusive ownership of any particular frequency on any band and, while common sense and courtesy logically would dictate that other Radio Amateurs should keep clear of frequencies being used for emergency or disaster operations, the affected ARES Net Control Station (NCS) must be prepared to move up or down from the pre-determined frequency, as required, in order to conduct operations. Entering into an on-air argument must be avoided.

	Single Sideband		CW		Digital	
Band	Frequency	Tactical	Frequency	Tactical	Frequency	Tactical
80 M	3.675 MHz LSB	Alfa	3.535 MHz	Golf	3.596 MHz	Mike
40 M	7.135 MHz LSB	Bravo	7.035 MHz	Hotel	7.096 MHz	November
20 M	14.135 MHz USB	Charlie	14.035 MHz	India	14.096 MHz	Oscar
17 M	18.135 MHz USB	Delta	18.075 MHz	Juliet	18.096 MHz	Papa
15 M	21.235 MHz USB	Echo	21.035 MHz	Kilo	21.096 MHz	Quebec
10 M	28.235 MHz USB	Foxtrot	28.035 MHz	Lima	28.096 MHz	Romeo

The frequencies may also be used during a local ARES exercise or for RAC/ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) operations held annually each Fall, provided such operations do not interfere with those of higher priority.

Each frequency has been given a tactical designation to facilitate quick change to another pre-determined frequency and/or mode by simply indicating the designation. Use of the tactical designations, while optional, is encouraged.

In all cases, these frequencies must be considered as being "plus or minus" to allow for QRM or other conditions impeding useful communications.

Should two or more ARES units wish to use a frequency at the same time for a simulated emergency exercise, consideration should be given to making the exercise "joint" and to work together. Failing that, the frequency should go to the ARES group that first began operations there. Of course, if a real emergency should occur during the exercise and the frequency is required, the unit conducting the exercise is expected to cease transmissions immediately, relinquish the frequency and stand by in case assistance is requested.

Comments and suggestions concerning this list may be submitted, or for further information, please contact the RAC National Emergency Coordinator or the Vice President for Field Services.