



The Hamilton Amateur

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

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Est. 1932 Inc. 1956
<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>

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President's Remarks

by David Bruton,
VE3DWJ



The Christian High School will be closing for March Break on the third week of March. Because of this we have had to move our March Meeting to the following week. **THE MARCH MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO MARCH 23RD.** Please check the web site at Hamiltonarc.ca for any late breaking news.

Guest speaker for the March meeting will be David Ward (VE3BIP), from the Quinte Amateur Radio Club-Prince Edward Radio Club. David will be talking about Fox Hunting, and showing us the special techniques and direction finding equipment he uses to locate hidden transmitters. We are planning to host a future Fox Hunt activity so the meeting with David Ward will be particularly interesting.

Members who attended the February meeting saw a presentation about Ordinary and Extraordinary HF waves (O and X waves), and learned about reading digisonde images which show the height of the E, F1 and F2 layers. They also took home a package of 500 resistors for their parts "junk box", a bonus for their help packaging bulk resistors for sale at future flea markets. As well, the members saw another demonstration

of PSK 31 software running from computer to computer put on by Tom and Mark. It was a good meeting.

Hope to see everyone out for the March 23rd meeting, which promises to be a good one as well.

Minutes of the February 16th Meeting

by secretary Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ



Call to Order:
Dave Bruton VE3DWJ called to order the regular meeting of the HARC at 19:31 on Feb 16 2011 at The Hamilton District Christian High School 92 Glanaster Road Ancaster.

David began the session with some handout information on police screening & records search which is a new requirement for volunteers at VA3CWM. For information follow the links:

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cr-cj/vuhner/fag-eng.ham>

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cr-cj/vuhner/index-eng.htm>

<http://www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca/HPS/Services/Recorders/CriminalRecordsSearch.htm>

Club meetings – 3rd Wednesday each month – 7:30 pm (except July and August) at Hamilton District Christian High School, 92 Glanaster Road, Ancaster, L9G 3K9, corner of Rymal Road (Hwy. #53) and Glanaster Road. Parking on location. Complimentary refreshments.

Sign In. Attendance was conducted by the circulation of the members sign in sheet. The following persons were present: See attached list of attendees.

Visitors - Jack Gauthier VE3WBT

Approval of Minutes. Motion to accept the meeting minutes of Jan 2011 by Sherry VE3DCU. Seconded by John VE3DVV. Approved.

Guest Speaker. Mardy Eedson VE3QEE gave a Power Point presentation titled: Insights Concerning HF Propagation and How Radio Amateurs could benefit from this information. The talk was based on an article, "Ordinary & Extraordinary Waves" found in the Dec 2010 issue of QST Magazine.

Health & Welfare. No report this month.

Membership. Sherry VE3DCU reported paid memberships at 66 with 55 primary members.

Contest Report. Rick VE3BK announced the upcoming 48 hr CQWW160 phone contest taking place Feb 25-27. We are looking for relief operators. One radio with high power will be used in this contest. Rick distributed the CQWW contest certificates for 2010 participants. Those who participated at the contest site where, VA3DJ, VE3BK, VE3EEZ, VE3WBT, VE3BAU, VE3RYI, VE3GCP, VE3ATX, VE3DCU.

Field Day Dan VA3DJ mentioned that plans for Field Day are under way and contacts with the city are being made.

Repeater News. as reported by John VE3DVV. The 2 meter station is up and running and shortly, the 70m station will be worked on with an expectation that it will be up and running within the next month.

Education Mardy VE3QEE has begun a Basic Amateur Qualification course. Sessions are taking place at the East End Police station Community Room, King Street near Centennial Road on the border between Hamilton and Stoney Creek

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

New Business Mardy VE3QEE announced that some surplus electronic components have become available to the club. He requested that club members assist in sorting and bagging resistors for selling at future flea markets on behalf of the club. He also invited members take home a bag of resistors for their parts junk box. Members spent 20 minutes cutting, labeling and bagging resistors.

CERV Hans VA3HJJ announced that Sunday May 1st there will be approximately 28 groups of Emergency Response Teams who will showcase their efforts in how they relate to CERV (Community Emergency Response Volunteers). The demonstration will be to further develop Emergency Preparedness Day at a downtown location between 10am - 2pm. Contact Hans for further information.

Fox Hunt Mark VE3RYI announced an upcoming Fox Hunt being planned for an April / May date 2011 and to prepare members to get their equipment out.

David Ward of Belleville will be the next Guest speaker in the March General meeting to talk of his experiences with Fox Hunts and entertain the group with some planning "tips".

Mark showcased an attenuator that he had built which generated some discussion on some club equipment that may be available. Look for David Ward next month.

PSK31 Mark VE3RYI & Tom VA3TVW attempted to show the members PSK 31 with the Ham Radio Delux software by demonstrating from computer to computer, although the demonstration had it's hiccups the presentation was understood as presented. Tom VA3TVW reminded members of the PSK31 contest on the Sat / Sun Feb 19-20.

HARC 2009-2010 Executive

President

David Bruton VE3DWJ
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Mardy Eedson VE3QEE
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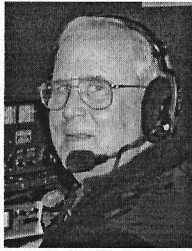
Monday night Check-ins A reminder to all amateurs regarding the Sunday night Check-in & Swap Net 7:30pm on VE3NCF repeater. All welcome and encouraged.

Paris to Ancaster Bike Race Gary Notto VE3TTO announced the upcoming event taking place April 17 2011. All interested parties are welcome and should meet at the Egg & I Restraunt, Rymal Road & Hwy 2 in Ancaster. For more information contact Gary.

Adjournment Dave Bruton VE3DWJ adjourned the meeting at 21:46. Motion moved by John VE3DVV Seconded by Tom VA3TVW

News About Town

by Mardy Eedson
VE3QEE



Solar activity continues to increase in cycle 24. In the ARRL weekly electronic newsletter of February 24th Tad Cook's column, "Solar Update" reports that:

"The outlook from NOAA/USAF shows a gradually rising solar flux, 85 on February 24-26, 88 on February 27 through March 3, 90 on March 4 and rising to 110 on March 10-15."

This has been a welcome change from the last couple of years when you could hear nothing on HF but noise. Several of our members have been making contacts on 17 meters so you know propagation is improving.

In that same ARRL newsletter it was sadly reported that Somali Pirates killed four American adventurers aboard the Sailing Vessel Quest a 58 foot yacht sailing in the Indian Ocean. Three of the four sailors were hams. You may recall Nancy Lefneski's presentation to our club following a circumnavigation of the globe by herself and her husband in a 39 foot boat. During that presentation Nancy showed photos of a pair of Somali pirate cigar boats that approached their yacht near the same location. Fortunately those pirates passed them by, perhaps in search of better prospects.

It was also reported in the ARRL news that two groups of Radio Amateurs have been assisting in New Zealand's response efforts following the February 22nd earthquake in the Christchurch area. Both groups are using emergency equipped vans to help rescue teams and civil defense staff keep in touch in areas where normal communications have been disrupted. Amateur radio still plays a vital role in situations where other forms of communication are unavailable or too expensive.

In our own RAC e-mail bulletin of February 25th, there has been a request for information about reported interference from plasma TV sets. Here is the item:

"According to members of the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, noise and signals originating from Plasma Screen digital television set are causing considerable interference to their HF activities and have asked RAC for help. Complaints of this nature require specific and detailed information before RAC can consider taking this matter to Industry Canada. To gather this information, RAC invites its members that own a Plasma Screen television to report their experiences of interference from such products. Specifically, reports should describe the make and model of TV, a description of their HF station and antenna system and the exact nature of the interference (what bands, what sound etc). Remedies should also be tried and reported such as using ferrite chokes on power lines cords and signal cables if interference is detected. Amateurs with advanced instrumentation such as spectrum analyzers and calibrated antennas should measure signal intensity levels at given distances; these measurements will add credibility to our investigation. We also want to know from amateurs that can attest that operation of their own plasma TV causes no noticeable interference to their amateur radio operations. All digital domestic equipment, including Plasma and LCD television sets must comply with Industry Canada standard ICES 003 (interference causing equipment standard for digital equipment) to be marketed in Canada. Alternately, TV sets with tuners may be certified under Industry Canada BETS 7 standard. Please indicate in any report submitted that a label on the TV or notation in the manual indicates it is indeed certificated and compliant under current issues of ICES 003 and/or the BETS 7 standards.

Send reports to Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, VP Industrial Liaison, ve3lc@rac.ca"

HARC 2010-2011 Chairs

Awards Chairman
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Web Master
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I know that I have been getting interference at my location, interference I cannot identify with any source in my own house. Perhaps I should be asking around to see if any neighbors have been enjoying a new Plasma TV set? In my home station I have used quite a few ferrite beads on power line, antenna cable and control cables in the shack. I think the beads have helped reduce background noise. I intend to install more suppression devices in the future. That is why you'll find me, at flea markets and hamfests, looking to find a supply of the recommended 43-mix ferrite snap-on chokes for sale at a good price.

Members of Radio Amateurs of Canada who subscribe to the RAC e-mail list just received their first issue of the RAC Report.

Financial Report

by Treasurer Mark Proctor VE3RYI

Carry over from Feb 1 /2011

	Withdraws	Deposits	
Property Sale		\$ 34.25	
Bank Charges	\$ 12.50		
Member ships		\$ 37.50	
BELL CANADA	\$ 23.95		
Petty Cash			
Xmas Party			
New Letter	\$ 65.57		
Refreshments		\$ 20.00	
Hamfest			
Feald Day			
Repeater	\$ 407.40		
Repeater Site	\$ 310.75		
TOTAL	\$ 820.17	\$ 91.75	\$ (728.42)

Bank Account	\$ 7,285.89
GIC. Accounts	
CLOSING BANK BALANCE	\$ 7,285.89

Report done, Feb. 28 / 2011

All Deposit slips, Back statements and account books have been compared and all monies accounted for.

Treasurer Mark Proctor,
VE3RYI



The RAC Report

A TCA supplement: February 2011

The RAC Report comes out every two months in between issues of The Canadian Amateur in is meant to fill in the gaps so you get news 12 times a year instead of just 6 times.

The first issue had articles on:
Maple Leaf Operators Membership
RAC Volunteer Appreciation Program
Update on Distracted Driving Law
The International Telecommunication Union
RAC Annual General Meeting
Update on The Canadian Amateur.

Receiving TCA and the RAC Report are privileges of membership in Radio Amateurs of Canada.



\$ 8,014.31

Important Points

Executive Meetings

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August, on the Wednesday following the club General Meeting. See the web page for details.

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

A HARC "check-in net" is held every Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. on the VE3NCF repeater, (see above). There is also an informal get-together every Monday night from 7:30 to 8:30 P.M. on 14.135 MHz in the 20 meter band. All contacts to both nets 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 your submissions to Editor, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, <ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca>

Standing Orders

Thanks to Fred VE3GCP for sending along the photographs and information.

So.....you think you know a bit about message handling eh? Well how about this one.....look at it closely and see if you can find the standard

methods and format. Read what the message says and see if you would recognize what it is.

What you see below is a copy of an actual 93-year-old World War One signals form for recording messages sent by Morse code. This original form has been kept since the War

because it contains orders for ending the First World War. The original piece of paper had been placed in a stack of magazines that wound up in a consignment of stuff for sale which was delivered to the Mountain Bookstore on Concession Street owned by Betty Toplack.

When Betty was going through the magazines she discovered the message form and read it. Realizing the document's historical importance, Betty contacted the family who brought in the consignment, to let them know the lost signals form had been found and would be kept safe until they could pick it up.

The complete story, along with a picture of Betty and George Mallory, grandson of the signalman who copied the original message, appeared in the Mountain News recently.

Information recorded on the message form shows that the message was sent to the 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade, part of the Second Canadian Division which was located near Mons at the time when hostilities ceased on November 11, 1918.

You can see how each word in the message was formally recorded in its own separate column on each line. Every once-in-a-while you can see the letters "aaa". Could it be, that this means dit-dah dit-dah dit-dah, which is Morse code for a period. It is probable that the original message was indeed copied from a Morse code transmission. Morse code played a huge part in our history, and it is still practiced today by radio amateurs who recognize its unique ability to cut through the noise and provide effective communication when conditions are less than perfect.

A copy of the Mountain News article will be available at the March meeting for those interested in reading more details.

"O" FORM.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C 1123
(In books of 100.)

Prefix.....Code.....Words..... No. of Message.....

Received.....	Sent, or sent out.....	Office Stamp.....
From.....	At.....m.	
By.....	To.....	
By.....		

Charges to Collect.....

Service Instructions
UOP CYP

Handed in at..... Office.....m. Received.....m.

TO
6th C. I. B. Adv.

* Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
G 217	11		AAA
Hostilities	will	cease	at
1100	Nov	11	troops
will	stand	fast	on
the	line	reached	at
that	hour	which	will
be	reported	to	Dunk
HQ	immediately	aaa	Defence
Precautions	will	be	maintained
aaa	There	will	be
no	intercourse	of	any
description	with	the	enemy
aaa	Further	instructions	will
follow			

FROM
PLACE & TIME

* This line should be erased if not required.

(19629) W1528/M1970, 300,000 Pads. 4/17 M.C. & Co., Ltd. (E1213)

Contest Corner

by Chairman Rick Danby VE3BK

The CQ World Wide 160 Meter Phone Contest ran for 48 hours from Friday night through Saturday until late Sunday. You may recall Friday there was a snowstorm but we made it to the contest site to be setup and have supper by 5pm local time. We were on the air on time and had a great start. Everyone seemed to show up the first night to operate and we had great fun. Seems like the weather didn't keep anyone away from our site. We even had Jack, VE3WBT come and visit for a while.

We kept operating until about 7am locally Saturday morning because 160 meters is a night-time band. The hour was probably a little too early to stop but we needed the sleep. Later on Saturday we began again. The second night, (Sunday) relief operator, VE3QEE, arrived in the dark and was on the air for us from 3am until 6am. This gave me a much needed break for a few hours sleep so I could work again later in the morning.

All in all it was a great contest, even with more snow falling on us for Sunday morning. Thanks for another great contest and every one that worked us, especially those that stayed with us when we had trouble hearing with all the congestion on the band.

We ran single station multi-op high power. In total 6 people helped: Dan, VA3DJ; Mike Panopolous, VE3ATX; Rick, VE3BK; Sherry, VE3DCU; Mardy, VE3QEE; and Mark, VE3RYI.

We had 629 QSOs with 62 multipliers for a claimed score of 184,450 points. The station used was an Icom 756 Pro II and an Ameriton 572 amplifier. The antennas were a 160 meter dipole and a 160 meter Windom.

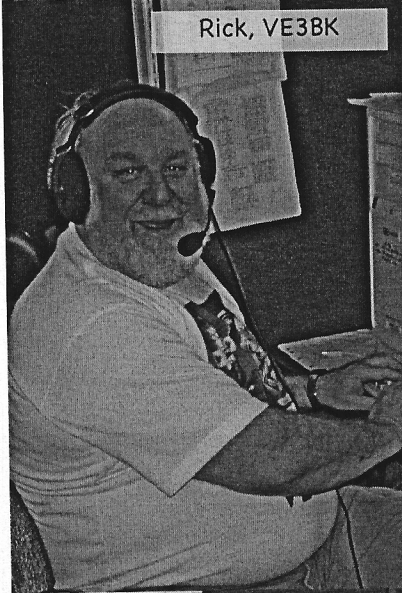
Thanks to all the people who helped out despite the snowy weather. We had a few less operators this time but we made almost the same number of contacts and had more multipliers. Photos by Rick Danby VE3BK



Sherry, VE3DCU



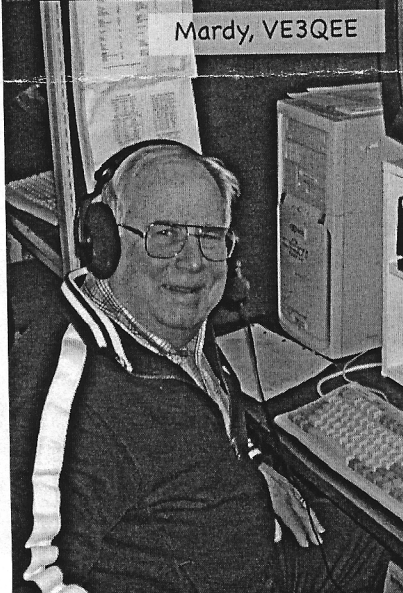
Mike, VE3ATX



Rick, VE3BK



Mark, VE3RYI



Mardy, VE3QEE



Dan, VA3DJ