



The Hamilton Amateur

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

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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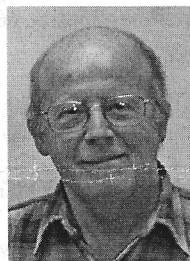
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President's Remarks

by David Bruton, VE3DWJ



There was a good turn out for the March meeting which had to be postponed until Monday April 4th because of a snowstorm on the regular meeting date which closed the school where we meet. The guest speaker David Ward, VE3BIP, from Belleville showed us some special equipment used for fox hunting and gave tips on how to use the equipment effectively. See Jim's minutes for details.

The executive has been working on program for future meetings. We have speakers lined up until next November and if the Christmas party takes the place of our December meeting, we are planned ahead until the end of the calendar year.

For the April 20th meeting we have guest speaker, David Shilling VE3XDS, from the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club (MARC). Again, see the minutes for details. This will be an interesting topic that you won't want to miss.

Don't forget that the May meeting will feature our home brew night where members show their latest home built gadgets. In order for the executive to plan for the meeting we need to have an idea about how many projects will be presented at the meeting. Please let Casey know if

you will be bringing in a project for home brew night.

Dan has just informed members of the executive that Field Day will take place at the Devil's Punch Bowl on the edge of the escarpment above Stoney Creek. This is welcome news because our use of the site at Bruce Park, where we were last year, was opposed by the alderman and some residents of that area who complained that noise was a problem. The new location has trees to support antennas and good elevation for getting our signals out. Band captains should have a look at the area to see where their station could be located for best results.

Lastly, the election takes place at the annual general meeting in June. Nominations are open starting now . Please encourage people to stand for election and take steps to propose and second the candidates of your choice.

Minutes of the April 4th Meeting

by secretary Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ



Call to order. Dave Bruton VE3DWJ called to order the regular meeting of the HARC at 19:32 on April 04, 2011 at The Hamilton District Christian High School 92 Glancaster Road Ancaster.

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.

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 – Gus Mitropoulos VA3GKM (Megabyte Hi-Tech Services, Hamilton); Helen Szenek visiting from Barrie On.; David Ward VE3BIP guest speaker from-Bellville On.

Approval of minutes. Motion to accept the meeting minutes of Feb 23 2011 proposed by Sherry VE3DCU, seconded by Rick VE3BK, carried by the members.

Speaker. David Bruton, VE3DWJ, introduced our guest speaker, David Ward VE3BIP from the Quinte Amateur Radio Club.

David Ward VE3BIP gave a talk on Fox Hunting / Hidden Transmitters. David spoke of the tools used by the hunters as well as direction finding tricks used in the challenge. David brought a variety of antennas used by hunters and explained the advantages and disadvantages of the various designs. David talked of and showed the members a sniffer that can be obtained from VK3YNG. To see a video on the sniffer's use go to the web site at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0a8gWUJ0NA>. David Ward showed the members attenuators and explained their use as well as described the attenuation values needed. Some safe tips were also provided by David.

May 7th is the Quinte club's "Tour of the County" hunt, which is a 3 hr hunt for 3 transmitters, averaging a 10 mile radius in which the hunters must win the hunt by finding all the transmitters while travelling the shortest distance by vehicles. David welcomed members to join them in the hunt on May 7. The hunt takes place in Prince Edward County south of Belleville. (On a road map Prince Edward County is the area of land that sticks out into Lake Ontario).

David mentioned the web site <http://www.homingin.com/> by Joe Moell for all those interested in finding out more on Hidden Transmitter Hunting.

A very informative talk by our visitor. Tom VA3TVW presented David with a token of appreciation for his time and effort taken to travel and present this topic of interest to our club from such a far distance.

Health & Welfare. Mary reported every thing was ok this month.

Membership. Sherry VE3DCU reported no change in paid memberships at 66 with 55 primary members.

Contest. Rick VE3BK announced the upcoming Ontario QSO Party contest taking place April 16-17. Rick pointed to the March /April TCA magazine in which VE3DC was spotted on pg 53 with recognition for 1st place South Western Ontario for the 2010 QSO Party contest. Rick also made the list for his involvement in the ARRL International DX contest and the Florida QSO Party contest. Rick pointed out that for his 40 contacts he managed to get some bragging rights in the magazine which goes to show that anyone can do well, while having some fun and making contacts.

Rick announced that the Hamilton ARC has sponsored a plaque, as we have in the past, for Single Operator, Low Power.

Rick reminded the members who are interested in contesting to keep an eye on the ARRL Calendar for upcoming contests.

Field Day. Dan VA3DJ mentioned that plans for field are under way and contacts with the city have been made. Bruce Park, the sought after location, has been turned down this year as local residence had complained of the noise. Dan is actively searching for alternative locations and will advise the members when a location becomes available.

Repeater as reported by John VE3DVV. John mentioned that the 440 station is running. Right now it is putting out quite a bit of power. Testing and adjustments are continuing but the repeater has been

HARC 2009-2010 Executive

President

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

Past President

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

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>

installed and can be used by members.

Education. Mardy VE3QEE has been teaching the Basic Amateur Qualification course taking place at the East End Police station Community Room, King Street Stoney Creek. Although 8 people initially signed up for the course, there are 3 that are rigorously pursuing their Basic licence. Mardy explained that students who purchase Edition 8 of the Study Guide are admitted to a web site <http://www.coaxpublications.ca> which has a link to "student success pages" that the students in the course are finding quite helpful.

Treasure's Report. All current treasurer reports are being published in the monthly newsletter. For details consult your newsletter.

WEBSITE. Anita VA3ANI commented on her work adding Digital Back Office to the Hamilton ARC she manages. This program will give the sitting executives and their successors a place to work, share, and store files that should stay with the club. This is a "work in progress" that will eventually be rolled out to all "committee chairs" as well, so that information is open and accessible. Awesome job Anita!

New Business. Mark VE3RYI had taken up the task of packaging a number of resistors that the club had acquired, with the intent to sell them at an upcoming flea market. While soliciting volunteers to sell the items, our visitor, Gus, VA3GKM graciously offered to purchase the box that Mark had with him, as monies received are going to the club. His offer was accepted. Thank you Gus.

CERVA. Volunteers are needed to join the Hamilton ARC table at CERVA (Community Emergency Response Volunteers Association) Sunday May 1st to showcase the use of amateur radio in response to Emergency Preparedness Day between 10am – 2pm. Contact our Club Executive for further information.

CanWarn. Anita VA3ANI announced again as a reminder to those interested in CanWarn that a training session will be Saturday, April 16 at Chedoke Hospital.

The session will be held from 9 a.m.-noon in the Nash auditorium in the Wilcox building at Chedoke Hospital on Sanatorium Road. Admittance and parking are free. Doors open at 8 a.m.

Each year Environment Canada trains ham radio operators and other interested parties to spot and report severe weather. At the sessions, the operators learn about the structure of storms, types of clouds, types of reportable weather events to watch

for and what the department's severe weather watches and warnings mean.

Home brew. Submissions for homebrew. If you will be bringing a project to Home Brew Night please tell Casey VE3CVP. The executive needs to know how many projects are being presented at the May 2011 general meeting.

Mobility Cup 2011. Murray Thompson VE3ZPV announced that the Rotary Clubs of Burlington, are organizing the Mobility Cup to be held at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club Aug 29-Sept 2 2011. This event is a sailing race for 85-90 sailors with disabilities, from all over the world. Classes are both Olympic and International qualifiers. A link for information about this event will be posted on our hamiltonarc.ca web site.

Volunteers are needed to assist these sailors, and the organizers with the event tasks.

Murray suggested the club could sport a communications table at the event to promote amateur radio. Members quickly were orchestrating a possibility of a "Special Event Station". A follow-up proposal should be sent to Laurel Thompson, committee member, outlining what our club would be prepared to do. Ham participation at the event would assist in advertising the event in the ham community and promoting HARC activities.

Fox Hunt. Mark VE3RYI surveyed the members in attendance and announced an upcoming Fox Hunt could take place Saturday May 14, 2011. Due to complications with that date we may need to move it. The new date will be announced on an upcoming Sunday night net as well as at the April 20 General meeting.

Next meeting April 20, 2011. Guest Speaker Dave Shilling VE3XDS of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club. Dave will do a Presentation/ Demonstration on Remote Controlled Stations.

Adjournment. Dave Bruton VE3DWJ adjourned the meeting at 21:41.

HARC 2010-2011 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
905-648-0187
<ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca>

Volunteer Examiners
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>

Membership Chair Sherry Goeller
VE3DCU, <ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca>

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

Communication
Michael Krebs VA3WXS
905-523-9005
<va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca>

Web Master
Anita Thomas VA3ANI,
<va3ani@hamiltonarc.ca>

Greetings from Bob NP4B / VE3RKZ

Hello My Friends, Here is a photo of my house. I live on the lower level. If you look carefully, you can see my dipole for 7 MHz. Bob



Dan and Mardy were in contact with Bob recently on a Saturday night at 8:00 p.m. on 7.070 MHz using PSK31. Bob keeps in

contact from his home Puerto Rico by internet, by telephone and on the air when the band opens.

Financial Report

by Treasurer Mark Proctor VE3RYI



Carry over Feb 28 /2011

\$ 7,285.89

Withdraws Deposits

Property Sale	
Bank Charg \$	4.95
Member ships	
BELL CANA \$	23.92
Petty Cash	
Xmas Party	
New Letter	
Refreshments	
Hamfest	
Feald Day	
Repeater	
Repeater Site	
QSL Cards \$	89.89
Web Page \$	92.00

TOTAL \$ 210.76 \$ - \$ (210.76)

Bank Account \$ 7,075.13
 GIC. Accounts
 CLOSING BANK BALANCE \$ 7,075.13

Report done, March 31 / 2011

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>

Dealing With Those Unused Pins of an IC

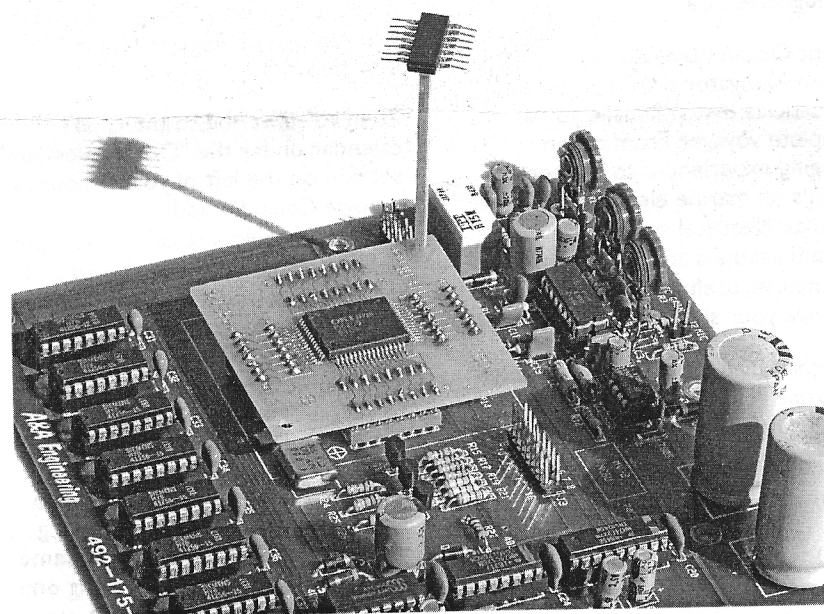
reported by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE



Kissimmee Florida, 1 April 2011. Two members of NON (National Operators Network), Seymore E. Northway, and Simon Edwards, have discovered that the unused pins of a dual in-line package (DIP) IC, emit radiation. The discovery was made by accident while the two were employing "dead bug" construction methods at a QRP buildathon. In the "dead bug" style of construction DIP ICs are mounted upside down with the legs pointing straight up with other circuit components soldered directly to the legs. During the buildathon, experimenters Northway and Edwards were building a Gyrator circuit, a device for receiving VLF emissions. The Gyrator employs two OP Amps connected in such a way that they function as an inductor. The 74HC04 chips each contain 4 OP Amp sections, so two sections were not being used in the circuit. Northway discovered that while the unconnected legs remained in a vertical alignment the radiation was

hardly detectable because the radiation in one leg cancelled radiation in the opposing leg. A similar effect explains why unshielded ladder line does not produce detectable radiation along its length. However, when the legs were bent in a horizontal configuration, like the elements in a Yagi antenna, a radiation pattern could be detected off the end of the DIP IC, with a noticeable front to back ratio and a narrow aperture. It was found that the distributed capacitance of the IC and the inductance of the legs determined that the frequency of radiation, following the standard resonance formula, $f_r = 1 \div (2 \pi \sqrt{L \times C})$, was somewhere in the microwave band.

When two similar ICs were paired, one for transmitting and another for receiving it was found that emissions could be detected several tens of meters apart. Experiments are continuing. In the words of Northway, "You can tell thing works. It even looks like an antenna." Until more is learned about this effect, it is recommended that home brewers ground unused pins of an IC. Observers suggested naming the device using an acronym comprising the initials of the organization followed by the initials of the experimenters' names.

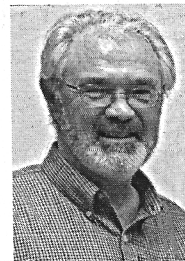


Experimenting with the Northway DIP-tenna concept.

Green Solder Blowback



by Fredrick Gary Hareland writing in Ocean Navigator magazine.



The following article was submitted by Roger Pimm VE3UFZ and reprinted with permission of the publisher. At the end of the article we have information about Ocean

Navigator magazine for the benefit of our HARC members who are offshore sailors.

Blowback is a CIA term that basically refers to "unintended consequences" as a result of some previous action! The motivation of said action may have been well intentioned, however the results can be anything but, depending on many and diverse factors. Contrary to popular opinion not all "blowback" is manifested by the United States Central Intelligence Agency. In fact several European agencies have caused some severe blowback in the realm of technical electronics that has potential to indirectly affect marine electronics.

I'm referring to the European Union's mandated Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Restrictions on Hazardous Substances (RoHS). One big unintended consequence of these laws is the plethora of problems with process and hand soldering brought on by the removal of lead in solder. For the past 60 years, reliable attachment of electronic components has mostly relied on a mixture of 60 percent tin and 40 percent lead alloyed solder. Not only has this proven to be an optimum solution to help ensure long and trouble-free operation of circuits, but it also made it easy for technicians to spot potential defective solder joints by simply eyeballing them. Good solder joints were smooth and shiny, while marginal solder joints were usually rough in texture and dull in

reflectivity. These improper solder attachments could be remedied by simply reheating them with a soldering iron during a touch-up operation. I can't count the number of times that I was able to repair broken electronic circuits by looking at the printed circuit board for bad looking solder joints and reheating them. But this technique is now no longer useful with lead-free connections.

Lead-free connections usually use solder that substitutes silver-copper or copper alloys for the lead, but this substitution comes with some added problems, some unintended consequences. First, the new solder alloys require higher temperatures which are the enemy of electronic components. Second, once the soldering is done the resulting connection appears dull and grainy which makes it hard to determine if it is a high-quality connection. Third, there is a real problem with tin whisker growth from solder alloys containing silver, and these whiskers can eventually short out components and circuits. So you see that there can be some serious potential problems being caused by lead-free solder.

It should be mentioned that military, aviation, and marine electronics were exempted from WEEE and RoHS, which brings us to the biggest unintended consequence of all: lead-free products unknowingly are being incorporated into these exempted categories of electronics. According to Kirk Armstrong of China Lake, Naval Air Warfare Center in California's high Mojave Desert, this has been happening in military electronics since 2007. GPS data from a telemeter was lost during a captive carry flight over China Lake test ranges. Failure analysis identified the source of the problem as a printed circuit board embedded in an assembly fabricated by a vendor in Ireland. The sub-assembly vendor who supplied the GPS system was surprised by the discovery that the board was fabricated using lead-free solder alloys in accordance with EU RoHS regulations. I was surprised to find out that lead-

free soldering is even incorporated into marine safety equipment such as EPIRBs and PLBs. I think that this is happening for basically two reasons; everyone these days wants to jump on the green bandwagon and also due to logistical concerns. Just find a current electronic component catalog and see how hard it is to find standard components and solder. And if you can find them, they cost more. Another reason was mentioned in our defective GPS example, sub-contractors and commercial off-the-shelf equipment. Knowledge and information is always a valuable resource that can come in handy at critical and inopportune times. If you happen to suffer from a future electronic failure when everything else seems good then it could be due to lead-free soldering!

About the author ...

Fredrick Gary Hareland holds an AAS degree in rescue and survival operations and in avionic systems technology and is a certified marine electronics technician and NARTE certified telecommunications technician. He has served in the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, the Military Sealift Command-Pacific and has worked for Maersk Line Limited and Norwegian Cruise Line. Hareland currently works at China Lake Naval Air Warfare Station as a microwave-communications technician. He lives in Ridgecrest, Calif.

About Ocean Navigator ...

Ocean Navigator provides stories and articles that will make you a complete voyager. From ocean voyaging experiences to in-depth articles on marine electronics, weather, electrical systems, communications and more, you'll find informative, useful editorial that will improve your skills and your voyages.

For information about Ocean Navigator magazine both electronic and print editions, including subscription information visit their web site at:

<http://www.oceannavigator.com>

Check < hamiltonarc.ca > for late breaking news.

Web Site News



from webmaster Anita Thomas VA3ANI

We've recently added an Events Calendar to our Web site. You can find it by clicking on the "Events

Calendar" button under the "Activities" menu on the left-side navigation panel.

There you will find events which are Club and Ham related. Everything from meeting dates, nets, and hamfests to radio courses. There really is a lot of handy information there now!

The great thing about this new addition is that it is actually being fed in from a Club-made Google Calendar. So, if you already have a Google Calendar of your own, you can subscribe to the Club's calendar, which will integrate the Club's events in with your own calendar.

You will then have the ability to set up reminders (popup, SMS, email) so you don't miss out on anything. When viewing your own calendar, you can also click a button to hide or show the Club's calendar.

If you don't have a Google Calendar, you can sign up for one free at Google's site.

Then to subscribe to the Club's calendar, under the "Other calendars" section on the left of your account's Google Calendar, add "admin@hamiltonarc.ca" to the input field, hit enter on the keyboard and the Club's calendar will now appear in the list below as "Club & Amateur Radio Events". To hide or show the Club's events, you click on this listing to toggle between the two view options.

Now that you've subscribed to the Club's events, they will be showing inside your calendar, but in the same colour as it is in that new listing on the left. These colours make it easy for you to differentiate between your

own calendar events and the events of other calendars.

You are also able to subscribe to other calendars, such as Canadian Holidays, religious holidays, etc.

If you don't want to sign up for a Google Calendar, you will still be able to see our calendar as it is displayed at our site. You just won't be able to set up reminders. Enjoy! ~~ Anita

Contest Corner

by Chairman Rick
Danby VE3BK



Announcing the
14th Annual
Ontario QSO Party
2011

The Ontario QSO Party is open to all amateur radio operators regardless of license class world-wide. Held on the third full weekend of April, this year it is 1800Z April 16 to 0500Z April 17. Locally 2pm Saturday to 1am Sunday, and 1200Z to 1800Z April 17, locally 8am Sunday to 2pm Sunday. The break allows operators to go home and get a good night's sleep.

This is a fun contest for the VE3DC gang. We won first place South Western Ontario as a Multi-multi last year, plus won our county as well. This contest is more relaxed and usually we chit-chat with the stations we work when time permits.

In this contest, stations outside Ontario make as many contacts with Ontario amateur radio stations as possible (that's us). Ontario stations contact as many amateur radio stations as possible both in Ontario and world-wide (looking for multipliers).

If you want to run a station or be an operator, email me at:
<ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca>
or call me at 905-544-3253

If you just want to have fun from home, give us a contact. We should

be on all the bands calling CQ, look for us.

Here is more information about the contest:

Rules: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm>

Who is going to be on the air: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/who.htm>

Counties in Ontario: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/OQPMultList.pdf>

County Maps: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/countymaps.htm>

Forms etc: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/index.htm>

A few tips to increase your score!

Don't just "search and pounce" on stations calling "CQ", find a good parking spot and call "CQ Ontario QSO Party" yourself. You'll be very surprised at the amount of activity you can generate on a seemingly "dead" band by putting out a "CQ"!

Don't forget the "easy" multipliers i.e. folks who are close to you that you can work on the VHF bands or via groundwave on the "higher" HF bands. Don't forget to make a quick call on the VHF frequencies at 15 minutes past the hour.

For Ontario stations, multis are also Canadian provinces/territories, U.S. states, and DXCC countries...so there are lots of multiplier points out there for you to collect. Also folks outside Ontario will be working the contest too. If the lower HF bands are "dead" try the higher HF bands and vice-versa.

U.S.A. stations close to the border should give a few shouts on VHF. Also try six meters for "E-skip" openings into Ontario.

Ontario stations should "listen up" in U.S. phone allocations for U.S. stations calling from time to time.

Don't forget to work to work CW. Even if your CW isn't very good

most folks will "slow down" or "QRS" to work you.

Listen extra hard for weak signals such as mobile and QRP stations.

Use a computer to do your log. All of the logging programs that support the Ontario QSO Party (except Write-log and NIMM) run in good old-fashioned MS-DOS so that junky old 386, 486 and in some cases even a 286 can be used. This will make calculating your score and checking for duplicate contacts a whole lot easier.

Other contests will be in progress at the same time as the Ontario QSO Party. Check out WA7BMN's excellent contest calendar to find out who else is going to be on the air!

Michigan QSO Party will be on during Saturday. They know about us, just give them the report they want (a serial number I think) and ask for the state abbreviation we need for our log.

That's about it. Hope you can participate one way or another. Just warm up the rig and get on the air. This one's all our own!

Also Happening This Weekend

The CANWARN Training Session sponsored by Environment Canada takes place this Saturday morning.

Each year Environment Canada trains ham radio operators and other interested parties to spot and report severe weather. They learn about the structure of storms, the types of clouds to watch for, and what the department's severe weather watches and warnings mean.

All CanWarn volunteers are encouraged to attend the training as a refresher. Everyone is welcome, you do not have to be a Ham.

The next CanWarn training session is scheduled for Saturday April 16th 2011, 09:00 until approximately 12:00 noon at the Nash Auditorium, Wilcox

Building, Chedoke Hospital, Sanatorium Road, Hamilton. Parking is free in the lot across the road. More information is available at www.canwarnhamilton.ca

The Paris to Ancaster Bike Race takes place on Sunday 17 Apr. 2011 (meet at the Egg & 1 in Ancaster - Garner & Hwy 2, at 08:00 a.m.) : Gary is still looking for trained amateur radio operators to help out : The event wraps up between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. All interested volunteer amateur radio operators should contact Gary at: ve3tto@gmail.com

Local Nets

information courtesy of Joan Nuxoll

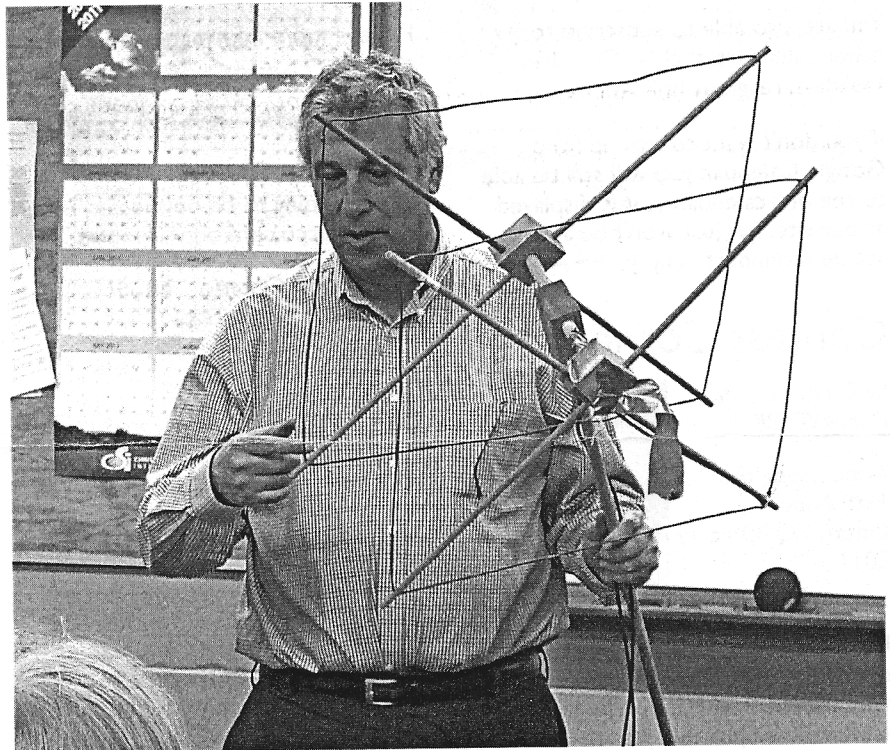
Friday Night Tech Net hosted out of Perth Australia (Echolink) 08:00-10:00 PM via VE3RFI repeater, all are welcome.

Procom Net, 8:00 PM via VE3WIK repeater 443.675 mhz 131.8 tone Weekly 8:00 PM Thursdays...covers much of Ontario linked via voip.

HARC "Check-In" net Sundays at 7:30pm on 2m, 146.760 (-), 131.8 tone. For more info visit <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>

Canwarn Hamilton, anytime during severe weather events usually between April and October thunderstorm and tornado alerts. VE3RFI 443.250 & VE3TVI 146.805 mhz 151.4 tone. (www.canwarnhamilton.ca) for much more information.

Pictures from the April 4th Fox Hunt Meeting



Guest speaker David Ward VE3BIP from Quinte ARC showing a 2m quad.



Anita VA3ANI & Ann VA3NOE with Tom VE3WBT & Alan VA3SAG looking on.

Pictures by Mardy VE3QEE

There was a good turn-out to hear about hidden transmitter hunting.

