



The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter - 79 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2011

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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President's Message

by Tom Van Wort
VA3TVW



Hello everyone. Last month we started meeting at the **Hamilton Mountain Seventh-Day Adventist Church**, at the top of the Jolley Cut. The address is 284 Concession Street; Hamilton, Ontario. Every bus coming up or going down the Jolley Cut stops at the corner of Upper Wellington and Concession where the Church is located. We had a good turn-out in September. Hope to see even more of you on Wednesday October 19th.

Guest speaker for the October Meeting is Gary Notto VE3TTO with an illustrated presentation about recent updates to the UHF/VHF repeater system sponsored by the ERA (Escarpment Repeater Association) See the ERA web site for more information., found at: <http://www.eraradio.ca/>

The location for the Christmas Party has been booked. Hear all the details at our October meeting.

We are looking for more check-ins Sunday night at 7:30 on VE3NCF 146.760 - (131.8 tone) and 444.075 + so give us a bean for the pot and hear the latest news. Radio is how HAMS keep in touch so use this opportunity to get on the air.

The executive meetings have been changed to the Tuesday or Wednesday before the Club meeting instead of the week following. The next executive meeting will be held on Tuesday October 11 at 7:00 PM in the community room of the East End Police Station 2825 King Street East just past Greenhill Avenue. This information is also on the club web site at: hamiltonarc.ca

On Saturday October 15th we hold our annual Hamfest and Flea Market. We are counting on your support to help spread the work load. More information later in this newsletter.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet this is a reminder that your dues are due. Fill out the application form on the last page and mail, fax, scan and e-mail or bring it in. The executive also needs this information for insurance for which there is a deadline that we are working against.

Minutes for the Sept. 21 Meeting

by secretary Jim
Sawadski VE3EEZ



I. Call to order

Tom Van Wort VA3TVW called to order the regular meeting of the **HARC at 19:32** on **Sept 21, 2011** at The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - Day Adventist

Club meetings - 3rd Wednesday each month - 7:30 pm (except July and August) at Hamilton Mountain Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 284 Concession Street; Hamilton, Ontario, L9C-7N7 ~~~ at the top of the Jolley Cut Bus stop nearby. Parking on location. Complimentary refreshments.

Church, 284 Concession St.,
Hamilton, ON,

II. Sign In

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

We had a large turn out this meeting. 33 amateurs in total counting our guest speaker VE3HNNH.

Approval of minutes

John Kassay noted the correction to Call Sign for Hamilton Warplane Museum. VA3CWM and not VE3CWM.

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 18, 2011 by Mike VE3WXS Seconded by Dave Bruton VE3DWJ, Carried by the members.

III. Speaker

Bob Miller VE3HNNH

Bob is a resident of the apartment bldg in St. Catharines, On. where Telcom Ltd was erecting a Cell Phone station for Rogers Telecommunications. Bob photographed the installation steps and explained the process as the installation proceeded. Club Members viewed the power point presentation as Bob described the photos.

Health & Welfare

There was nothing to report this month as per Mary VE3OGQ. A silent key was mentioned by Rick Danby via correspondence with Neil Galloway. Not enough information was available to report properly at this time.

IV. Contest

Rick VE3BK announced the upcoming CQWW Contest 8pm Saturday evening Oct 29, 2011 though to 8pm Sunday Oct 30 2011

Also of note was the Scandinavian Activity Contest the 3rd week on October.

Rick mentioned that on page 56 of the TCA magazine (Sept/Oct) that he was mentioned for a 3rd place standing in the High Power category of last years contest with 87 QSO's to his credit in the SAC.

Also of note was VE3DC in the 2010 RAC Canada Winter Contest where the contest group placed 5th in Canada and 2nd in Ontario. Operators where Va3DJ, Va3TVW, VE3BK, VE3DCU, VE3DVV, VE3EEZ, VE3QU, VE3RIA

V. Education

Mardy VE3QEE has expressed his desire to opt out of being the only instructor for the Hamilton ARC and is asking club members to step up and assist so that our club can grow. If you can help in any way please Email exec@hamiltonarc.ca Gary Notto VE3TTO mentioned the site of VE3KU which is a self help site for amateurs. See the following link. <http://www.emergencyradio.ca/training.html> Gary also mentioned that perhaps a fee should be charged to present the candidates a motivator to finish the class.

VI. Repeater

Our repeater chair, John VE3DVV, has reported that the clubs 440 repeater is back up running as well as the IRLP which has closed access, designated for club members.

John also cautioned members to review the operational procedure for using the repeaters and reflectors especially when using the IRLP. Be patient and listen...listen...listen before announcing your intentions on the linked node. Be conscience of the inherited system delays when using nodes.

A meeting of the Western New York Southern Ontario Repeater Council (WNYSORC) will take place in St. Catharines On. @ 294 Vine Street in St. Catharines ON. 418 Branch RC Legion. For more information see the "Events Calendar" hamiltonarc.ca

VII. Treasures Report

A detailed financial report was presented by Mark VE3RYI which explained the money coming in and going out of the clubs account. A hard or soft copy is available upon request. Please see Mark for details. Of note was that the HARC accepted property donations in the amount of \$1708. Break even point for the year ended with a marginal profit of \$1144.95. Not a lot of

HARC 2011-2012 Executive

President

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

Past President

David Bruton VE3DWJ
905-383-9808
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First Vice President

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

Second Vice President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Mark Proctor, VE3RYI
<ve3ryi@hamiltonarc.ca>

Director

Gail VanWort, (swl)
905 308 7538
Gail@hamiltonarc.ca

wiggle room in the budget. If it wasn't for the generous equipment donations that the club had received, the club would of lost money. Members are need. Members are encouraged to become active in their hobby.

A motion was put forward by Mark VE3RYI that a small token of gratitude be provided to the accountant that assisted Mark preparing the report. This motion was seconded by Tom VA3TVW carried by the members.

VIII. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported that membership dues are coming in continuously and that she will be

soon able to report when things settle down. Sherry reminded all present that the early bird draw for a free membership will take place at the October meeting. The new membership form can be found on line at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/pdfs/harcmembership-2011.04.28.pdf> please use the form to submit your 2011/2012 dues and please fill it out completely. Information that you provide will be used to update you on changes and club events that you do not want to miss out on.

IX. Club Net

Tracey reported 12 check-ins September 1st and announced that the 440 side of NCF was linked together for this hour. Tracey VE3CDU is your Sunday night Net Controller. Turn on your rig to the VE3NCF repeater Sundays @ 7:30 pm and say hello.

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club operates the VE3NCF repeater, 146.760- and 444.075+MHz, tone 131.8. It is open for use by all Hams

X. Field Day 2011

Dan VA3DJ commented on a successful field day exercise at the Devil's Punchbowl and his intentions to hold it there again in 2012, if permission is granted by the city.

XI. Webmaster

Hamilton ARC is looking for assistance with updating the web page as needed. John VE3DVV said he would contact Anita VA3ANI to see what he could do to lighten the load and learn something new.

XII. Awards

Casey VE3CVP awarded certificates to Mike Krebs VE3WXS and Dave Bruton VE3DWJ "The Order of the Gavel" for their previous positions of Presidency in 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively.

Casey reminded members of their obligation to vote for club members who they feel deserve recognition. See the awards section on the hamiltonarc.ca website and make your selection in a timely manner to someone who you feel deserves

recognition for the appropriate awards.

<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/index.php?module=htmlpages&func=display&pid=14#ferguson>

New Business

Sandi SWL reported that she was one of the participants at the lighthouse event this year on the Sunday. Sandi has pictures to offer. Contact her if anyone would like copies.

Also of mention was the Halton County Radial Railway Museum. A neat place to visit if you're looking for an adventure. http://www.hcry.org/ab_directions.html. The Mississauga Amateur Radio Club (VE3MIS) has held special events at this location to celebrate their anniversary years. Sandi mentioned the reminder to members present, of the London Amateur Radio Club Flea Market taking place 10/25/2011.

Dan VA3DJ commented on his trip to the east coast and urged members to visit the impressive turbines at the Bay of Fundy Power Generation Plant.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/energy/renewables/public-education/tidal.asp>
Roger Pimm VE3UFZ asked the members present if anyone could assist Maurice Sutton VE3SBS with an echolink connection. Dan VA3DJ accepted to call Maurice to see how he could assist him.

John VE3FDK informed the group present that the Ontario Swap Shop is no longer aired on Sundays. It is still available through the internet at <http://ontarioswapshop.com/>

Christmas Party 2011

A vote was taken on two proposals.

1) A return to RHLI 2) Royal Hamilton Yacht Club Membership in attendance overwhelmingly voted for RHYC.

Hamilton ARC Flea Market

Oct 15 2011 is our flea market date. Assistance is required from all members.

- 1) Need a ride?
- 2) Got a question?

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
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Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV
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<ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca>

Health & Welfare Chairperson

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ
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<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
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<va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca>

Web Master

Anita Thomas VA3ANI,
<va3ani@hamiltonarc.ca>

3) Want to know how you can assist?

Use the link below to contact us. Many hands make light work. There is a job for you. This is the one event that provides you with the majority of funding required to operate the Hamilton Amateur Radio club. Please offer some of your time. Set-up begins at 6am. The work is generally completed by 1pm. Please contact exec@hamiltonarc.ca to see how you can help out.

Financial Report

by Treasurer Mark Proctor VE3RYI

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Carry Over From | Aug 31 2011 | | \$ | 6,717.74 |
| | | Withdraws | Deposits | |
| Bank Charges | | | | |
| BELL CANADA | \$ | 23.94 | | |
| Field Day | | | | |
| Flea Market 2011 | | | \$ | 227.00 |
| Flea Market 2012 | | | | |
| GIC accounts | | | | |
| Internet webpage | | | | |
| Member ships | | | \$ | 500.00 |
| News Letter | | | | |
| Other | | | | |
| Petty Cash | | | | |
| PO. Box | | | | |
| Property Sale | | | | |
| Rac. | | | | |
| Refreshments | | | | |
| Repeater | | | | |
| Speaker | \$ | 35.00 | | |
| Supplies paper, ink | | | | |
| Xmas Party | | | | |
| | | | \$ | \$ |
| TOTAL | \$ | 58.94 | 727.00 | 668.06 |
| | | | \$ | |
| Bank Account | | | | 7,385.80 |
| GIC. Accounts | | | | |
| CLOSING BANK | | | \$ | |
| BALANCE | | | | 7,385.80 |
| Report done, Sept 26 | | | | |
| 2011 | | | | |

Next meeting

October 19, 2011 The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON.

Adjournment

Mardy Eedson motioned to adjourn the meeting at **21:55**
Motion seconded by Mike VE3WXS
Thanks all in attendance



Important Points

Executive Meetings

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August, on a Tuesday or Wednesday preceeding 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 \$30 per person, per year, Sept 1 to Aug 31. Additional membership, for immediate family living in the same home, is \$5 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, for the following month's issue, is the last Saturday of the current month. 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,

Hamfest 2011

by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Greetings everyone. We are asking again for all hands on deck on Saturday October 15th, the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

The HARC Hamfest is our big fundraiser for the year which brings in money to fund day-to-day operations of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. We earn over half our annual budget in 360 minutes, between 6:00 A.M. and 12:00 Noon on that day. It's a lot of work but we are counting on having many helping hands to distribute the load.

Setting up the room takes place first. We need to set up about 100 tables and 100 chairs between 6:00 and 6:30, then tape and number each table and place the tent cards showing vendors the spot they have rented.

At 7:00 A.M. the vendor door opens and we need assistants to help vendors find their location. General admission partons are not admitted until 9:00 A.M. Here's where we count on security volunteers to watch the doors.

When the main doors open at 9:00 A.M. we will need help on the door selling tickets and making sure everyone has paid to get in. During the hamfest we will need to keep watch on the doors directing people without a ticket to the general admission table.

When things wind down around noon the job becomes one of stacking tables and chairs like we found them, sweeping the floor and mopping up any messes that occurred. By the end of the day we put garbage bags in the bins and cardboard in the recycling. If everything is done well we will keep our damage deposit and apply it to our retainer for the room next year in 2012.

Of course, what you won't see is all the work done outside of the 360 minute time frame. Early that

morning Mark VE3RY and his crew will be putting up signs along the roadways leading to the fair grounds.

Outside the hall David VE3DWJ and his crew will be directing cars in the parking lot.

Several of us have been working for several months distributing flyers and getting vendors, also making tickets and organizing the hall rentals.

At the hamfest we will have a talk-in station and an 80 meter station along with antennas etc.

Our treasurer for the day will be signing out tickets and counting in money and giving a final tally and report.

We will have a master of ceremonies to man the PA system and call out the door prize winners.

The kitchen will again be administered by Danielle Coffey and her crew who have been doing this task for a few years now.

We will need eyes, and ears, and willing hands. There will be a job for everyone, so, please, if you can come and help us out we will value your assistance.

Two more things:

1. The Hamilton Home Show will be going on in Marritt Hall next to the Concession Building on Friday Saturday and Sunday that weekend.

2. We have set aside tables 1 and 2 as the HARC club table. You can donate items for the club table or you can have us sell an item on consignment. The consignment fee will be \$2.00 when you place the item on the table. The club will keep \$2.00 if your item sells and give back \$1.00 if it does not sell. Each item must have a card listing your name and call sign, the price of the item, the name of the item, whether it comes with a manual, and any additional information to help sell the item, like if it works. Mark Proctor has volunteered to staff the club table.

RAC Insurance Program for 2012

A package of information was circulated by RAC in an e-mail to members. Comments have been added by Treasurer, Mark Proctor, VE3RYI.

The Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to announce that the highly popular RAC Insurance Program will be available again in 2012, and with increased coverage's at no increase in rates. The Program provides several types of coverage including liability insurance for Club activities and its members, equipment loss/damage coverage for Affiliated Clubs and their RAC members, and new this year will be the availability of additional insurance coverage for a RAC member's house, car and travel health insurance, which will be of particular interest to Snowbirds. All of these coverage's are the best available in Canada and are offered at an extremely competitive rates. The RAC Insurance Program is provided as a benefit of membership for RAC Affiliated Clubs and their RAC members.

Highlights of the Program for 2012 include:

- Liability Insurance for Affiliated Clubs of \$10,000,000/\$5,000,000 per occurrence for 2012 at the lowest cost in Canada.
- Equipment loss/theft/damage coverage for only \$10/\$1000 of actual equipment value per year.
- RAC members of Affiliated Clubs in the program get liability coverage extended for their home stations at no charge.
- Liability coverage's for portable operation, advertising liability and personal injury.
- Home, Car and Travel Health coverage coming soon.

Complete details of the 2012 RAC Insurance Program and how to apply for or renew coverage can be found

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club

117-350 King St. East
P.O. Box 75073
Hamilton, ON, L8N 4G6



HARC MEMBERSHIP Registration Form

HARC.28.04.2011

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Name | | Call Sign | |
| Address | | | |
| City | Province | Postal Code | |
| Home Phone | | Work Phone | |
| Email Address: _____ | | Occasionally we take photos at club events, Please specify: | |
| Privacy policy: We do not publish private member contact information in the newsletter, or on the Web site. Your email address will be used as an alternative contact method to the telephone. <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive HARC E-News by email | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES I allow my photo to be published on the HARC Web site and newsletter. <input type="checkbox"/> NO I do not allow my photo to be published on the HARC Web site and newsletter. | |
| Amateur Class | | RAC Membership # ← | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | |
| My interests are: | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HF-SSB | <input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF | <input type="checkbox"/> ARES | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HF-CW | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeaters | <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite | <input type="checkbox"/> Require Mentoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HF-RTTY | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow Scan TV | <input type="checkbox"/> Kit Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HF-Digital Modes | <input type="checkbox"/> APRS | <input type="checkbox"/> Contesting | |
| Membership Type | Yearly Membership Fee | | Amount Paid |
| Single Membership | \$30.00 | | |
| Family Membership | \$30.00 plus \$5 for each additional member | | |
| | Family member name | Call Sign <input type="checkbox"/> SWL | |
| | Family member name | Call Sign <input type="checkbox"/> SWL | |
| | Family member name | Call Sign <input type="checkbox"/> SWL | |
| | Family member name | Call Sign <input type="checkbox"/> SWL | |
| 40 KM Discount | \$15.00 (For those who live 40KM from HARC mailing address) * | | |
| 2 New Members Deal | 1 year FREE (With the new sign-up of two ex-members) * | | |
| | Member name | Call Sign <input type="checkbox"/> SWL | |
| | Member name | Call Sign <input type="checkbox"/> SWL | |
| Total amount enclosed | | | |

* see site for details

Member Signature _____

Date _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca>

| Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Receipt for Dues | |
|--|-----------------|
| Member Name | Amount Received |
| Authorized Signature | Date |
| Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Total no. of family members: ___) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 New Ex-Members Deal <input type="checkbox"/> 40 KM Discount | |

on the RAC website at:
<http://www.rac.ca/insurance2012>.

Applications for 2012 are available on the RAC Website and must be received by the RAC Insurance Program Coordinator by November 15th for new applicants and December 1st for renewals.

The RAC Insurance Program is an extra cost service that is made available to RAC Affiliated clubs as a benefit of affiliation. It provides coverage to protect the club as a whole, for liability claims arising from normal club activities and at greatly reduced rates. These Clubs can also purchase equipment loss/damage insurance coverage at very attractive rates for Club radio equipment such as repeaters and club stations. To be eligible for the insurance, a radio club MUST be incorporated and affiliated with the Radio Amateurs of Canada.

[HARC is both incorporated and affiliated with RAC.] ed.

As a bonus, RAC members of an Affiliated Club that is insured under the RAC Club Insurance Program also receive the same liability coverage for their own personal amateur radio activities at no cost, as a benefit of their RAC membership.

They can also purchase equipment loss/damage insurance coverage at the same very attractive rates as the Affiliated Club of which they are a member. Due to Insurance company requirements, RAC members MUST be a member of an RAC Affiliated Club to be eligible for these insurance coverage's.

The fees for this liability and loss/damage insurance coverage are substantially below the cost of comparable insurance available on the open market. The cost of the liability program to the Radio Amateurs of Canada is based on the total number of people covered, whether they are RAC members or not, because the coverage applies to all Club members. **As this program is offered as a benefit of membership in the Radio Amateurs of Canada,**

there is a surcharge for members of an Affiliated Club who are not members of the RAC.

Annual Insurance Fee Calculation

Note 1: The insurance policy is based on the total number of people in the club, therefore all members of a club whether licensed, non-licensed, social, life, or family must be listed. Multiple memberships such as Club Family Memberships must be broken down and reported as the total number of people covered by each family membership and the number of them that are RAC members.

Note 2: As this is a program of the Radio Amateurs of Canada for the benefit of its membership, the cost for non RAC members is significantly higher.

Note 3: In a few instances, some Clubs with activities outside of the normal scope of the policy may incur a surcharge from AON Insurance, in addition to the fee calculated below.

Note 4: For club liability purposes only, Affiliated Club honorary (as of Dec. 31, 2010), youth (under 18 years) and student (under 25 years) members are exempt from the \$11 surcharge for NON-RAC club members.

Liability Insurance Fee Calculation:

Annual Fee = A + [# of Club members * B] + [# of Non RAC members * C] where:

A = Annual RAC Insurance Program Registration fee = \$150.00/yr.

B = Annual fee per club member = \$1.00/yr.

C = Surcharge per NON RAC club member = \$11.00/yr. It is the Club's responsibility to accurately report membership numbers.

HYPOTHETICAL CLUB EXAMPLE

84 members of which 64 are also members of the RAC

Therefore, the # of NON RAC members = 84 - 64 = 20

Fee = \$150 + [84*\$1.00] + [20*\$11.00] = \$388.00

HAMILTON CLUB EXAMPLE, if we have 74 Members of which only 15 are currently members of the RAC

Therefore, # of NON RAC members = 74 - 15 = 59

Fee = \$150 + [74*\$1.00 = \$74] + [59*\$11.00 = \$649] = \$873.00

This works out to be

\$3.02 per. Member of HARC & RAC and \$14.04 per. Member of HARC only

If we have 74 members and 50 of them are RAC members the club pays a much lower fee of \$488.00

Applications for 2012 must be received at RAC Insurance Program Coordinator by December 1st for renewals.

We need all Membership renewals in By November 1 2011. So we know what we have to pay.

Please fill in all of the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. Get the information to us by scanning and e-mailing the completed form or surface mailing the completed form to the club post office box address on page 1 of the newsletter or bring it to the next meeting at the new location and indicate if you are or if you are not a RAC member

Thanks, VE3RYI, Mark Proctor

Western New York Southern Ontario Repeater Council

a report by Rick Danby VE3BK
 representing VE3NCF

Mark Gibson VE3MWH and I attended the meeting of the WNYSORC in St. Catharines on Sunday Oct. 2, 2011. It was a very informative meeting and we were

able to get our coordination forms and pay our membership for the VE3NCF repeaters. Many of the repeater trustees were there to do the same thing.

Everyone introduced themselves. We had plenty of donuts, juices and coffee for anyone that wanted them. They started off by talking about the coordination of repeater pairs and how we could go to 25 mhz spacing and it would actually increase our numbers within the same band plan.

The chairman was stepping down and the secretary-treasurer was going to take his place by the next meeting which will be in Buffalo in April. They usually have two meetings a year but this is the first that I have attended. The chairman was telling us about someone that wouldn't use their coordination and was interfering with one of the coordinated repeaters in the States. Sounds like the F.C.C. will be shutting him down because of lack of compliance. This is the way it should be. They were saying that they had trouble with some hams not being qualified to run repeaters in the States where we seemed to have less of a problem with advanced amateurs being the only ones that can run a repeater in Canada.

D-star repeaters seem to be the up and coming thing in both the States and Canada. Our Icom D-star rep. Eric Meth VE3EI was there representing the VA3YYZ repeater group. I think we all turned in our coordination forms and paid our memberships.

The meeting was well run with a little humour from the outgoing Chairman. The new chairman is VA3TVK Tom Kennedy from Janetville, ON. Any amateur can join, go to their meetings and get a vote on what is done by the Repeater Council. These fellows are doing a wonderful job for

us all and keep in the background of Amateur Radio. If it wasn't for their coordination of the repeater pairs, we would have interference all over the VHF and UHF bands.

Just a note: there are still repeater pairs available as we are not utilizing them all. They try to keep repeaters on the same frequency pairs at least 40 miles apart, usually more like over 100 miles apart.

This was a very productive meeting for our club too as someone who had seen a photo of our hardline at several flea markets, decided to buy the hardline on the spot from us.

The meeting was very interesting, something everyone who is interested in repeaters or the coordination of them could attend. Their website is: www.wnysorc.org check out their good work.

Contest Corner

by Contest Chair, Rick Danby VE3BK

The CQWW DX SSB Contest is takes place 0000Z October 29 through 2359Z October 30 2011. Since Daylight Savings Time remains in effect until the first Sunday in November (6th) we will still be 4 hours different from GMT. In terms of local time the contest takes place from 8:00 PM October 28th until 8:00 PM October 30th.

We are looking for stations, operators, relief operators, and loggers for this contest. If you can help at the contest site, even for part of the time, please contact Rick.

On another related matter, it is very important to take the time to enter and verify each and every entry in the log. Our Contest Scores depend on everyone doing their best at logging. Slow down so you can speed up is a common saying I have. There are many time when I am fixing up the log, that I come across something so obvious that I know that the

operator was just going too fast and not making sure the log was correct.

What really did it was the final score we achieved in the CQ World Wide SSB contest we did last October 2010. The results are in: we did 5th in Canada and 3rd in Ontario which is pretty good. So you are wondering what the problem is then, well it was the final score. I put in a log with 850,725, down from the original after I had done some corrections which was 862,296. When we got the results back from CQ we had lost many points due to errors. This is just a summary of how we lost 22.3% of our score, down to 660,804 now. So even when we think we did alright, we could still have done better by taking our time to log correctly. CQ contests have always been bad for us. I think I have a complex about it now, that those guys are picking on us, but the truth is, they have very good software that goes through everyone's Cabrillo file created by the contest software, so that they can get very accurate results. CQ just happens to have this good software that not only erases the bad contacts but penalizes you more points because you had those ones wrong. Something like those multiple choice exams we did in high school.

Are we ever lucky this time. If you go to the CCO website and check our results for the CQ WW SSB 2010 contest: <http://www.va3cco.com/finalscores/2010cqwwssb.pdf> you will see that it didn't really matter this year because the other teams were so far ahead of us anyway and no one else was close to our score.

It is worth noting of all the unique calls that we worked that were only in our log. This means that many of the American hams worked us because we were the only ones they bothered to work in the contest. Many of our neighbours to the South do that for us because we are not pushy contesters.....at least I like to think that. Check out the CQ info and see you next time. 73 Rick VE3BK