

VE3BK



The Hamilton Amateur

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

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

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President's Message

by Tom Van Wort
VA3TVW



I hope you all have had a happy holiday and are enjoying good health and good spirits as we enter the 2012 season. The January meeting of HARC takes place on Wednesday January 18th at 7:30 P.M. in the SDA Church 284 Concession Street. See box at the bottom of this page for further details. Our guest speaker for the meeting is Eric Meth, Icom rep for this area, who will be presenting information about two new Icom repeaters the club is considering for purchase to give our repeater system a major upgrade. Join us to see the VHF and UHF equipment and take this opportunity to ask Eric any questions you may have.

Over the holidays we had a very nice Christmas party at the Yacht club, and a successful contest at the contest site. These items are reported later in the newsletter. More interesting activities are being planned for the coming months and details will be released as the plans become firmed up. The executive is working on improving services to club members while eliminating unnecessary expenses and these plans seem to be producing results.

We hope to have a good turn-out at the meeting, so please plan to attend.

Keep your fingers crossed that the weather stays as good as it has been so far these past couple of weeks. I look forward to welcoming members and visitors alike to the January meeting.

That Picture In The Shack

by Rick Danby VE3BK



A few months back, when the weather was starting to get nasty, not antenna type weather, we had a call to get in touch with the son of a long ago member of our club. He wondered if we could take down his Dad's tower and antennas as he was a SK now. After some emails back and forth and contacting a couple of the fellows from the Contest Group, we were able to get a crew together and decide on a time to remove the Delhi and TV tower and antennas with his son.


The SK we are talking about is listed on our website: Dr. Jack Shekter VE3IUD who has not been with us for a while now. His son was worried that the towers may fall down on their own as they had been sitting idle for some time. To make a long story shorter, we arranged a time and three of us went there and took everything down in a constant drizzle all day. All went well but it took all day.

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.

There is a story to Jack getting the VE3IUD callsign as relayed to me by one of the guys in the picture. He had written his test and done his code and was informed that he had to wait about a month for a call to be assigned. He didn't want to wait and told the Inspector that. It just so happened that right at that time someone else had been assigned the call VE3IUD and definitely did not want this call because of what it signifies. These female contraceptives were new to the market and the other Ham did not want to be associated with it. Jack was asked if he would like that call as he was a Doctor. He was very happy to get that call. Included here is a picture of his QSL card of which he was very proud.

Now to get to the picture story, upon inspecting the shack etc. I

VE3 IUD

 **CANADA**
Dr. J.J. Shekter
88 Bertram Drive
Dundas, Ontario
Canada L9H 4T7



OSO WITH	DATE			GMT	MHZ	RST	MODE	QSL
	MONTH	DAY	YEAR					

had done a great job finding out who many of these people are. There are two with callsigns visible, one completely readable and the other I had to guess at the last letter. You

in our Club and has been a member since 1973. He has not been at meetings lately as he has a little trouble driving at night but plans on coming again with a ride. We can tell



Picture taken in a park in Kingston, ON in the 1980's of the Chaverim Group, Voice of Canada (Koi Canada) Part of an International Group of Jewish Ham Operators. The group in Florida still meet on the air on 80 meters. One of the members of the Florida Group is over 90 years old.

Back Row: Howard Krakower VE3JDZ Napean ON, Harry Glanz VE2GJ (SK), Dr. Jack Shekter VE3IUD, Dundas (SK) Founding Member, Morris Schliver (Noe) VE3DEO Toronto (SK), Michael Caplan standing VE3MJC Napean ON, unidentified, unidentified DO YOU KNOW THEM? TELL US.
Front Row: unidentified, Arnold Fine KA1HL, Allan Solomon VE3DH retired Orthodontist from Hamilton moved to Toronto, Brian Summers VE3JKZ now VE7JKZ Richmond BC, Georges Citrome VE3GPP now VE3JU Ottawa ON, and Dr. Ed Sheffman VE3FTQ Willowdale. Missing from the picture is Gerald Goldberg VE3HLI past President of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, he took the picture.

another story about Gerald later, back to this picture.

This picture was taken in a park in Kingston in the 1980's where they all decided to meet. This group was known at the Voice of Canada (Kol Canada in Hebrew), the Chaverim Group. Part of an International Group of Jewish Ham Operators and with non Jewish hams as well. This group is not active in Canada, but still have active chapters in Florida and California. Gerry VE3HLI still contacts his friend Mort who is over 90 years young in Florida on 14.320 Mhz.

Back to the picture: I have identified as many as I can with Michael, Ed and Gerry's help. Gerry said he wasn't in the picture because he is the one who snapped the shot of this happy bunch. I was very interested in this picture as it showed a group of Hams that were actively doing something with their skills, something like some of our activities that we still have in the club. This may be an older picture but many of the hams in the picture are still with us and are still active to some extent. Dr. Ed Sheffman VE3FTO tells me he is still active on ONTARS occasionally. Does anyone know the 3 unidentified Hams? Please let me know at: ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca or give me a call. My number is in the bulletin.

I find some of these older pictures very interesting with Ham activities of the past. I would like to thank Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ and Dave Bruton VE3DWJ for their help on the VE3IUD project and hope you all find this as interesting as I did.

HARC Christmas Party

A report by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

We had lots of pictures taken at the annual Christmas Party which returned to the Yacht Club following two years at the Warplane Heritage Museum and one year at the Legion Hall on Barton. This year the event was well attended and you can see in

photographs that participants look like they were having a good time.

Much thanks to the organizers Mark VE3RYI and Tom VE3TVW for putting together a very nice evening. I have heard positive comments that people really liked the door prizes and the way the draw was organized. Sunday night seemed to be a time that agreed with everyone. The meal was really good and the surroundings very comfortable and nicely decorated.

A poll was taken during the evening and it has been decided by those attending that the 2012 Christmas party will take place at the same location. The facility has already been booked. How's that for decisiveness? Kudos to the executive.

Thanks to all the photographers, among them Barry VE3ISX, Rick VE3BK, Mardy VE3QEE, and John VE3FDK, there are numerous photos, a few of which have made it into the newsletter. Barry put a nice spread of pictures on the ONTARS web site. Thanks for keeping the Club front and centre, Barry.

Thanks to all who attended the celebration. As Frank says, "all things being equal" we'll look forward to seeing you, again, next year.

Dxpedition to Pitcarin Island Announced

The RAC email Bulletin circulated the following announcement courtesy of Vernon Ikeda - VE2MBS/VE2QQ of Pointe-Claire, Québec.

There is going to be a Dxpedition to Pitcairn Island (OC-044, CQ Zone 32) between January 20th and February 4th, 2012. The operator lineup is made of Jacques F6BEE, Gilles VE2TZZT, Nigel G3TXF, Michel FM5CD and Vincent F4BKV

[The station call will be VP6T] They will be on all bands 160-10 metres including the WARC bands during their stay. They will try and upload

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the VP6T log to LoTW during the operation if they can. If not, they will upload the logs after their arrival home. They will try to update their VP6T log on "ClubLog" as often as they can during the operation.

For their operating plans, QSL information and other information, take a look at the Dxpediton web site at: <http://www.vp6t.org/>

Financial Report

by Treasurer Mark Proctor VE3RYI



Carry over from NOV 27/11 7179.09

	Withdraws	Deposits	
Bank Charges	4.95		
BELL CANADA	27.36		
Field Day			
Flea Market 2011			
Flea Market 2012			
GIC accounts			
Internet webpage			
Member ships		55	
News Letter	49.81		
Other	316.95		
Petty Cash			
PO. Box			
Property Sale			
Rac.	694.14		
Refreshments		10	
Repeater			
Speaker			
Supplies paper, ink			
Xmas Party	1199.16	270	
TOTAL	2292.37	335	-1957.37
Bank Account			5221.72
GIC. Accounts			3000
CLOSING BANK BALANCE			8221.72

Report done, Dec 27 2011

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 Edson, VE3QEE,

Pitcairn Island is a small volcanic island 1350 miles east and south of Tahiti in the South Pacific ocean with a population of about 50. It is where the crew from the British ship Bounty took refuge after the mutiny. Politically, Pitcairn is part of a British Overseas Territory. See the web at <http://www.government.pn/> for more information.

BPL Provider Announces Shutdown

(BPL - is an acronym for broadband over power lines)

Thanks for this item goes to the ARRL e-newsletter to members, dated January 5th 2012.

IBEC -- one of the very few remaining operators of Access BPL systems -- has announced that it is closing down. In an undated announcement that appeared on the IBEC website, the company announced that it has "no other option than to close our doors and cease operations." IBEC claims that it cannot recover financially from the April 2011 tornadoes in Alabama that "ravished [sic] some of our major service areas." IBEC provided Internet service via broadband over power lines (BPL) to rural communities.

"While we regret the loss of jobs brought about by IBEC's BPL business failure, in the long run the rural areas that IBEC was trying to serve will be better served by broadband technologies that are superior to BPL and do not pollute the radio spectrum," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "While initially IBEC was cooperative in addressing the ARRL's concerns about interference to licensed radio services -- including Amateur Radio -- the ARRL was dismayed to find that the systems as actually deployed fell short of meeting even the inadequate requirements of the FCC's rules. We

hope that this latest in the long string of Access BPL failures will persuade the few remaining fans of BPL to turn their attention elsewhere."

Read more at <www.arrrl.org/news/bpl-provider-ibec-announces-shutdown>.

BPL technology involves the delivery of RF signals on power lines in order to provide internet service to homes not hooked up to cable. The process of putting broadband RF signals on power lines was proven to create huge interference levels for radio equipment in a wide range of Services, not just the Amateur Radio Service. Despite a vast amount of evidence, that the technology caused interference levels which contravened the FCC's own regulations, BPL was permitted during Bush administration. It is good to learn that little-by-little the technology is now being abandoned. Ed.

Contest Corner

by Rick Danby VE3BK

The most recent contest took place on December 17th a day before the Christmas Party. It was the **RAC Winter Contest** where we got 10 points for a Canadian station and 20 points for a RAC station. We had a good turn out and the contest was a lot of fun.

Operators included: Dan VA3DJ, Tom VA3TVW, Mike VE3ATX, Rick VE3BK, Sherry VE3DCU, John VE3DVV, Jim VE3EEZ, Mardy VE3QEE, Scott VE3QU, Andrew VE3RIA, Mark VE3RYI, and Jack VE3WBT. Gary VE3TTO was a visitor.

Soapbox: Always fun working the Canadian Contests. We did well again this year, even though the numbers were down slightly, we had a better turnout and probably spent more time ragchewing with each other. I know a radio was fixed on the fly and we spent time manually keying an amplifier because we didn't have the proper adapter cord made up for the TS-2000. In the end we wired up another footswitch to manually key the amplifier. This

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seemed to work OK but everyone who used the footswitch said they were building up their muscles because we were keying it by hand. Lots of fun...we are adaptable and had a great time. I want to thank everyone that worked us at VE3DC, especially some of the American Hams that were actually in our

Canadian Contest and especially the guys that ran VE6RAC for working us 7 times on 6 different bands.

Hope to see you all down the log, especially for the Canada Day Contest for July 1st, 2012.

CW	QSOs	Points	Mults.
80	2	20	2
40	138	594	8
20	28	96	4

SSB	QSOs	Points	Mults.
160	8	50	2
80	240	1736	10
40	282	1472	11
20	346	2024	13
15	185	1048	9
10	18	126	5
2	2	20	1

The next contest at the site will be the **CQ WW 160 meter SSB contest on February 24th to 26th, GMT.**

The contest runs from 7:00 P.M. Friday 23rd until 7:00 P.M. Sunday 25th, local time a 48 hour period. However, since 160 meters is open at night Friday night into the wee hours of Saturday, and Saturday night into the wee hours of Sunday will be the heavy traffic times we'll need operators, so please let Rick know if you can help.

Working the RAC Winter Contest

Pictures by Rick VE3BK and Mardy VE3QEE

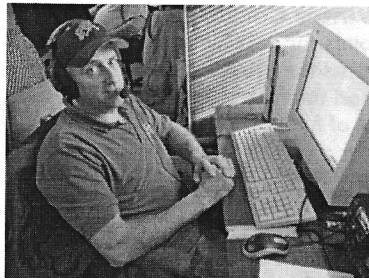
Andrew VE3RIA



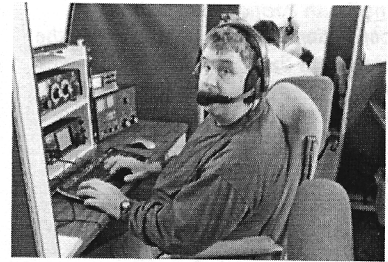
Tom VE3TVW



Jim VE3EEZ



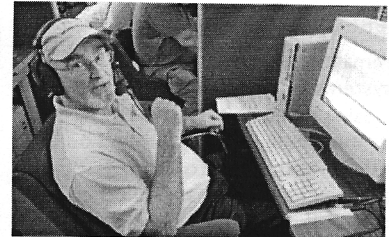
Dan VA3DJ



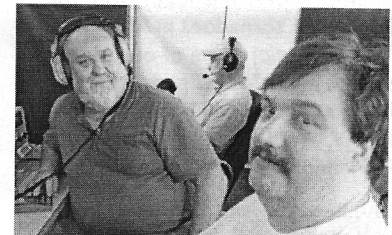
Sherry VE3DCU



Jack VE3WBT

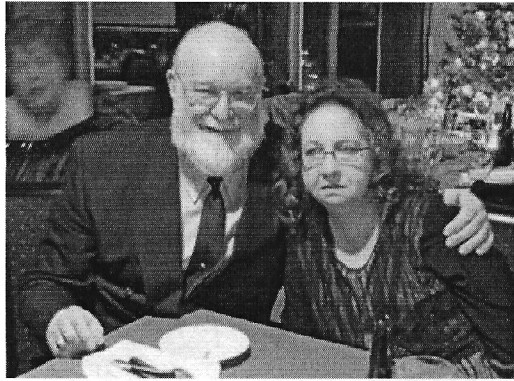


Rick VE3BK and Scott VE3QU

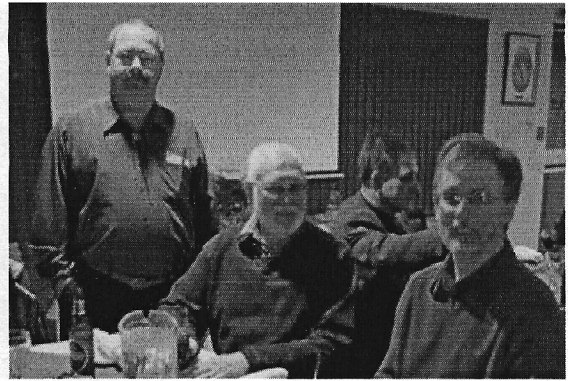


HARC Christmas Party at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club

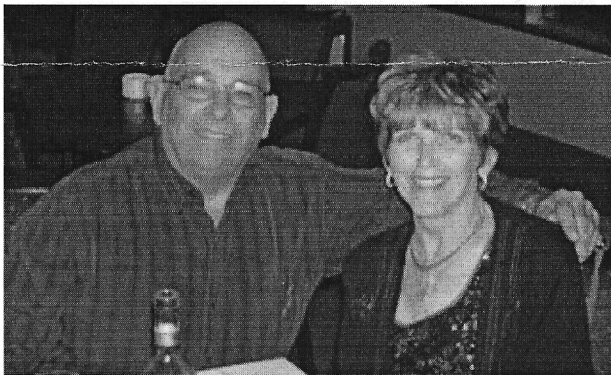




Rick and Pat Danby



Mark Proctor, John Vandenberg, and Mark Gibson



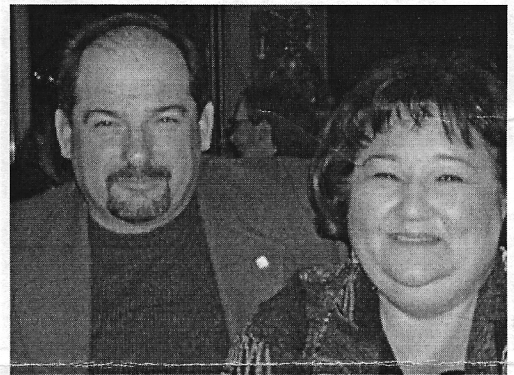
Peter and Mary Goodson



Dawna and Jim Sawadski



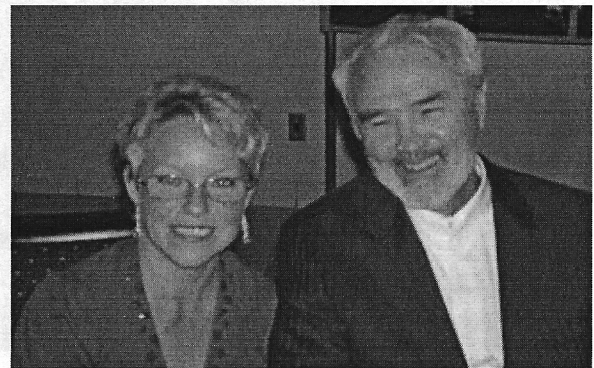
Judy and Barry Lisoweski



Renzo and Daniella Conz



Laurel and Murray Thompson



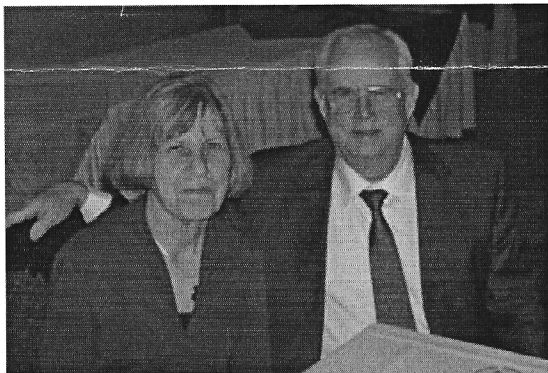
Monica and Roger Pimm



William and Gwen Pleydon



Joe and Mary Urbanski



Betty Ellen and Mardy Eedson



Danny and John Kassay



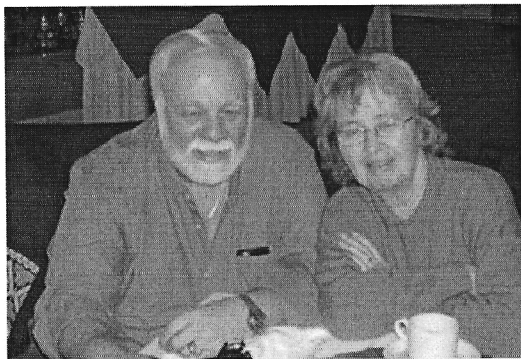
Tracy and Tom Van Wort



Gail Van Wort



Ebe and Alex Bartfai



John and Karen Boswell



Evi Patrick



Dan Martinak, David Bruton, and Judy Lisoweski