

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 Remarks

by Tom Van Wort
VA3TVW



Hello to all Members.

Thanks to the members and guests that came out to our meeting in January to see the presentation by Eric Meth the Icom representative. It was a great demonstration and members had many questions answered. We got to see repeaters up close and find out how they are configured in various commercial and amateur applications. The same unit that Eric showed us does both jobs, and Eric knows the hardware well. He actually programed the repeater while we watched and explained different features. The executive is very close to making a decision about replacing the 30 year old equipment at VE3NCF and they found Eric's presentation really helpful.

We now have booked the park at Devil's Punch Bowl for Feld Day weekend this year 2012. (The date is always the last full weekend of June).

Guides On The Air (GOTA) is a world-wide program that takes place the third weekend of February each year. Once again Tracy and I will have Girl Guides at our house February 26th, 2012 from 1-3 pm so please listen up and give the girls a contact on the VE3NCF repeater and also on the HF bands.

There are still a few club members that we don't often see at a club meeting or other club activities. We would love to have you come and join us in February. The general meeting for the month of February is on the 22nd, (which is late in the month). We hope the weather will be good. If you could use a lift ask around. Contact information for the executive and committee heads is printed in the sidebars of each newsletter. Give someone a call.

Our weekly two-meter net is held on Sunday evenings at 7:30 P.M. on VE3NCF.

The frequencies are:
VE3NCF (vhf) 146.760 (-) tone 131.8.
VE3NCF (uhf) 444.075 (-) tone 131.8
Join us to check-in and say hello to Tracy VA3CDU with or without traffic. We are slowly building up the number of contacts each week and we are getting contacts from farther and farther away like Toronto, St. Catharines and Brantford.

Watch the club web page at hamiltonarc.ca for reminders and late breaking news.



Girl Guides On The Air, Feb. 2010
Please give the girls a contact.

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.

HARC (Hamilton Amateur Radio Club)

General Meeting Minutes

01/18/2012

I. Call to order

Tom VanWort VA3TVW called to order the regular meeting of the HARC at 19:35 on Jan 18, 2012 at The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - Day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON.

Motion set forth by Jack VE3WBT and seconded by Mike VE3XMS



Minutes submitted by: Secretary Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ

II. Sign In

Attendance was conducted by the circulation of the members sign in sheet.

34 members were present. 2 visitors, our guest speaker Eric Meth VE3EI and 1 new un-licensed member, welcome Charlie Janicki.

III. Approval of minutes

Of note by David VE3DWJ correction to his call sign, not VE3DWW as recorded in the November Newsletter minutes.

IV. Speakers

Eric Meth VE3EI, representative of Icom, was in attendance as a request of the Hamilton ARC executives to discuss and demonstrate for the members the ICOM FR5000 repeater and related hardware that is one of the possible units that are being considered as a replacement for the existing club repeater. Eric was very familiar with the product and it's capabilities as a commercial unit. He gave the members a very informative demonstration, and was able to answer all questions and concerns that the assembly had.

V. Health & Welfare

Mary was not in attendance this evening. Tom VA3TVW acknowledged receipt of a thank you card from Al, VA3ALZ and Ann, VA3NOE in appreciation for the club's sympathy card sent after their mother recently passed away. Thank you Mary for your diligence in looking after our members and their families.

VI. Contest

Rick VE3BK announced that on February 24, 5pm to Feb 26, 5pm eastern standard time that the contest group, using the VE3DC club call, will be once again out at the site working the CQ 160 meter contest. All interested in participating in the event should please contact Rick. Rick also mentioned the upcoming North American QSO party contest taking place the weekend of Jan 21-22, 2012. Rick brought the members attention to the fact that in two issues of TCA magazine there are articles in which the Hamilton Amateur Radio club was mentioned. The articles

are about 1) Picnic in the Park 2) The Hamilton Santa Clause Parade, both submitted by Sherry VE3DCU. Rick also pointed out that one of our members Jack VE3WBT was published in the TCA for his involvement in the last NA QSO contest with 99 contacts as well as the WW WPX (worked all prefixes). The WW WPX SSB contest is coming again March 24-25, 2012.

VII. Repeater

Our repeater chair, John VE3DWW, reported that the UHF & VHF repeaters are in need of replacement and that the 3 units that are being looked at are the ICOM / Kenwood / Hi Pro brands. The repeater is approx 30 years old and has done it's job. John also informed members that the IRLP was not working because of computer issues, and that it would be going back on line shortly. John also gave a slide presentation showing our existing repeater equipment at the repeater site.

VIII. Treasures Report

Mark VE3RYI reported a \$200.00 expenditure for the Christmas Party held Dec 18 2011 at the Hamilton Yacht Club. See the financial report for details. Mardy VE3QEE commented that the amount was reasonable and smaller than that of previous years. He congratulated the organizers for doing such a wonderful job.

IX. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported that membership dues are coming in continuously and that as of Jan 18, membership stood at 56 primary and 6 family members.

New Business

Tom VA3TVW began the evening reviewing some of the milestones of 2011 for the Hamilton ARC

- 1) The organizing of 3 fox hunt events for which club members were invited to participate in.
- 2) A new opportunity to advertise the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club at "Picnic in the Park" 2011 and the intention to once again make a showing in 2012.
- 3) Another opportunity of advertising with the club members participation in the Hamilton Santa Claus Parade 2011, which also made the TCA magazine thanks to Sherry VE3DCU for her article.
- 4) The initiating of the electronic news letter, in which John VA3BOZ pointed out to members that every newsletter sent out via email saves approximately \$10.00 of their membership dues. A noteworthy analogy.
- 5) The participation in the 2 Meter Challenge (CW, Digital, SSB) hosted by the Frontenac ARC, with the VE3DC Call sign in which our executives Tom VA3TVW and Mark VE3RYI won first place with over 20 contacts.
- 6) 2012 Christmas Party is booked Dec 2nd 2012 at the Hamilton Yacht Club. Please plan to attend. Roger Pimm

VE3UFZ & Murray Thompson VE3ZPV have stepped up to assist with the organizing. Thanks to Murray & Roger:

Request to all HF amateurs - Shawn VE3PSV is looking for operators to re-start the Trans-provincial net on 7.055 MHz any and all help would be appreciated. This net use to operate daily 7am to 5pm. Contact Shawn for an operating spot.

Newsletter Editor/ Publisher needed. Anyone interested in assisting with the publishing of the Hamilton ARC newsletter is asked to come forth and assist with this task to take some pressure off Mardy VE3QEE who has done a wonderful job throughout the years and is looking to pass on the torch. All help is encouraged and welcomed. **2Meter net** - Tracy offered her plea to the membership to pick up their rigs and make contact Sundays @ 7:30pm with her and join the club 2 meter net. Tracy receives 10-12 regular contacts weekly. Let's give her a workout.

200 year Bicentennial of the war of 1812 - Mike VA3ATX talked of the clubs intention to participate in a special event station. Mike asked for 7-8 interested parties to assist with the organizing. The first meeting is to be held Jan 22nd @ 8pm. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Mike.

Paris to Ancaster Bike Race - Gary Notto VE3TTO announced the race coming up April 5th. Any amateur interested in assisting with the communications for the event please see Gary.

Next meeting
February 22, 2012 The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON.

Adjournment
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:50 by Jack VE3WBT seconded by Rick VE3BK. Thanks all in attendance

Financial Report

by Treasurer Mark Proctor VE3RYI



Carry over from Dec 27

\$ 5,221.72

	Withdraws	Deposits	
Bank Charges	\$ 4.95		
BELL CANADA	\$ 27.36		
Field Day			
Flea Market 2011			
Flea Market 2012			
GIC accounts			
Internet webpage			
Memberships			
News Letter			
Other		\$ 20.00	
Petty Cash			
PO. Box	\$ 158.20		
Property Sale		\$ 500.00	
Rac.			
Refreshments			
Repeater	\$ 782.41		
Speaker	\$ 35.00		
Supplies paper, ink			
Xmas Party		\$ 339.00	
TOTAL	\$ 1,007.92	\$ 859.00	\$ (148.92)
Bank Account		\$ 5,072.80	
GIC. Accounts		\$ 3,000.00	
CLOSING BANK BALANCE		\$ 8,072.80	

Saturday, January 28, 2012

HARC 2011-2012 Executive

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Past President

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Treasurer

Mark Proctor, VE3RYI
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Director

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Library Axes TCA

by Mardy VE3QEE

Phil Pennylegion, VE3OAB informed me at the HARC January meeting that the Main Branch of the Hamilton Public Library is no longer subscribing to The Canadian Amateur magazine.



Apparently they have cut out a lot of their magazine subscriptions because patrons with access to the internet can get information without reading physical media like books and magazines. My regret stems from the fact that a stack of old magazines is a great source of information.

Let me give you examples to illustrate the kind of stuff you can get from old magazines. When I sold my Yaesu FT-897 rig, the purchaser expected to receive a patch cable and an interface module supplied with the FT-897 because an owner's manual, PDF from the internet, indicated that those items were included in the box. To the rescue old issues QST. I was able to show the purchaser a "3rd party" advertisement from QST that indicated an American ham, W4RT, not Yaesu, made and marketed the interface module to use with the FT-897. A couple issues later, in QST, a new Yaesu advertisement indicated the same module was, by then, available from Yaesu. My radio was purchased before that module was made by Yaesu. Old magazines helped me prove that claim.

In the second example, I wanted to see when a particular Dentron antenna tuner was made and how much it cost at that time. I found an advertisement in old issues of 73 magazine from the 1960s that showed the tuner and indicated the "new" price, around \$60. Strange, I thought, that you see the same tuners, now fifty years used, offered at hamfests for \$75 to \$125.

Back a few years, I watched a speaker showing slides of electric company ads. that spanned a 40 year period starting in the 1960s. Early in the

series, the electric company was encouraging people to use more electricity and purchase electrical appliances to make life easier. The slides went on to show how that policy shifted to a later policy asking people to conserve electricity. The speaker made his slides by photographing a collection of old magazines in the library.

I offer these examples to show why I am sorry to learn that there will be no more TCA magazines in the library's collection after 2011. Maybe the proclaimed "end of the world in 2012" is actually occurring right now, in bits and pieces, with the demise of one thing at a time. Today it is the end of a TCA subscription, tomorrow it may be the end of physical media completely, i.e. the end of books and magazines.

Post Script. Apple Corporation just announced their intention to enable students in the USA to read text books on the iPad, eliminating totally their need to purchase and carry text books. See? I rest my case.

A Couple of Interesting Kits

report by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE



SDR Cube Transceiver

If you want to get into Software Defined Radio without needing to use a computer you might be interested in looking at the SDR Cube. It can be purchased as a kit or

Important Points

Executive Meetings

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August, on a Tuesday or Wednesday preceding 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,

as a fully constructed and tested transceiver.

The SDR Cube is strictly QRP, although it could be used with an external amplifier to boost its output power. The price for a fully constructed and tested SDR Cube, off-the-shelf so-to-speak, is in the same price range as the Flex 1500, the 5 watt transceiver by Flex Radio. However, with the SDR Cube you don't need a computer. It has knobs and operates "stand alone" like familiar radios.

Building this radio from a kit is not a task for beginners. Frank Roberts VE3FAO from Peel ARC said it was one of the most challenging construction projects he has ever done, but at the same time, one of the most rewarding. To find out about the SDR Cube you can read about it on the following web site: <http://www.sdr-cube.com/>



NUE-PSK Digital Modem

The NUE-PSK digital modem plugs into any SSB capable radio with an appropriate socket, and decodes/encodes PSK RTTY, and CW signals.

The modem comes as a kit and features a built-in screen to show the PSK or other digital text being copied or sent. No computer is required. The unit is quite small measuring 7" x 4" x 1" and is battery operated. The modem can be ordered as an assembled and tested unit when available, or ordered as a kit. Again, this kit is not for inexperienced builders because it contains a number of surface mount components with large numbers of legs requiring precise soldering. See pictures of the boards on the web site: <http://www.nue-psk.com/>

Yes, the NUE-PSK modem can be used with the SDR Cube transceiver making a two piece digital station which can be operated without a computer.

Ham Radio: It Really Is A Small World

Story researched and submitted by Rick Danby VE3BK



The story from last month relates to this one as "The Picture In The Shack" was taken by none other than the president of that group. The group was known as the *Voice of Canada*, the *Haverim Radio Group* and the president was none other than one of our own: Gerald Goldberg, Past President of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club.

While I was doing the research into who was in that group picture from last month's newsletter, I was informed by 2 of the group that I should talk to their president, Gerald Goldberg VE3HLI who was in Hamilton and still a member of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. On further investigation, I found that Gerald was indeed still a member of the H.A.R.C. and had been for some time. Then I discovered that he had won the Order of the Gavel in 1981 which means that he had been President of the H.A.R.C. probably in 1980. I was impressed even before I contacted him. Our first contact was by email. When he wrote me back he invited me to come by any time and we would discuss the Haverim Group etc.

Well I went to visit him and he told me about the problem with his triband beam. The problem was that a commercial antenna guy had come to fix his tribander and decided it wasn't worth fixing so put up a 20 meter dipole for Gerald instead of fixing the problem. I decided I would ask Jim VE3EEZ if he had the time and we would look at it for him as he was dismayed at what had happened with

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the commercial antenna guy. One good thing though was that the guy left him with the 20m dipole, so he wasn't totally off 20 meters, just had an inferior antenna to work with. It turned out that I met the commercial fellow who is a ham (that's why he had a 20 meter dipole to put up for

Gerald) and I went to his 60th birthday party in Port Dover with Dan VA3DJ. The commercial fellow thought he had done Gerald a big favour. If I hadn't done the research on the picture, in the shack of Dr. Jack Shekter VE3IUD, I would not have met Gerald VE3HLI and found out about his problem.

To make a long story short, Jim and I had gone to look at Gerald's tower and Jim found the feed point was corroded sure enough, but we took away the balun, took measurements etc. I purchased some stainless steel hardware for the balun and feed point connections so that when we went back, we thought we were all ready for it. I had tested the balun with my antenna analyzer and thought it was OK, even though I was visited by two dopey hornets in my workshop when I was working on it. Later on we discovered that the balun was no good and when I took it apart later at home, found a nest of hornets in it, plus a burned up coil from Gerald's Drake amplifier. We replaced the balun with a coax choke wound on a coffee can that Gerald had and after those repairs the beam worked again. Oops, trouble turning the beam as branches had grown in the way from Gerald's tree. Gerald searched the neighbourhood for a ladder to go up the tree but the only guy he knew for sure had a ladder was out. Jim (what a climber) shimmied up the tree and cut all the branches that were interfering. Gerald was extremely happy that we were able to get his beam in service.

I asked Gerald what did he do when he was working. He told me that he was an Insurance Broker, ding ding ding, the bells went off in my head and that is when I realized I had known Gerald years ago when he had supplied the H.A.R.C. with insurance. I had even done work in his office

once when I was working, after I had become a ham radio operator.

OK, this leads me to an email exchange I had with Gerald when I asked him what positions he had held in the Club. He had mentioned that he had been Treasurer as well as President of the H.A.R.C. so I asked him for some history. The email tells the rest of the story. Ham Radio: it truly is a small world.

Here is our email exchange in Gerald's own words:

Subject: History of VE3HLI in the H.A.R.C.

Hi Gerald,

I would like to write a story about Jim and I doing you antenna work for you and would like to know just how involved were you in the club? I know you were President in 1981 and I think you mentioned being Treasurer once, also I know you did the Club Insurance for us. Can you give me some details and dates so I can put some more information in this article please? The January issue should have my story about the picture of the Haverim group.

Hope you are feeling well and are making lots of contact on 20m hi hi. Have fun with the bands.....they are finally coming alive in this cycle.

73 es gud dx
Rick Danby VE3BK

Subject: History of VE3HLI in the H.A.R.C.

From: gerald goldberg To: "Richard Danby"

Dear Rick and Jim.

I will always remember the kindness and lots of hard work that both of you did on my antenna, because of you both, I am now able to get on the air again. I had been told by a commercial fellow that my beam was corroded and that it is now useless. You, Rick, came to visit me and climbed up my tower and immediately diagnosed the problem.

You told me that the beam was fine, but you showed me the problem. The Balun connectors the so234 connectors were corroded. You then saw that I had a plastic coffee can in the basement and wound the RG8 over the can and made me a new balun. Jim climbed up and saw that the branches of my maple tree were interfering with the rotation of the beam. Jim then climbed up the tree and with a saw proceeded to cut off the interfering limbs. Because of these great members of our club Harc I am now back on the air. I propose that the club should honour Rick and Jim for the work they are doing. Thanks fellows I greatly appreciate what you did for me, and I didn't even ask for help.

Rick I joined the club in 1974 persuaded to join by Freddie Robinson my teacher at ham radio classes, and am still a member, at least I pay my dues, how could I say no Hi. Fred was an active member of R.S.O. Radio Society of Ontario a forerunner of R.A.C. They were having a convention in Hamilton. As soon as I joined Fred said "Gerry you will be in charge of the Flea market?" I didn't know what a flea market was. I said to "What is it and what am I supposed to do?" I was told not to worry it will be fine. I'm not sure what I did but it was a success and I bought a Heath Kit ssb adapter to go with my Viking Ranger and my Hammerland HQ 129 Receiver. For anyone who hasn't seen these monsters they only took up 3 feet of space on the desk and the knobs you had to ten including resetting the ssb adapter every time you wanted to move up the ban, it wasn't easy but it did work. Today my TS-50 does the same job and I can run it mobile.

Later on in my career at Harc, I was given the honour of serving on the executive. I was given the job of Treasurer. I felt honoured, then the former treasurer told me he had lost the bank book which didn't make the job too easy especially when you need to balance the account, but I managed somehow. I served as Vice President and then as President around 1980. It was great to work with the executive and we had a

good one fortunately which made my job easy.

The club published a newspaper, that of course is nothing new, I am happy to say we still do. Printing it was fun Hi Hi. It was first typed on to a duplicating sheet on a typewriter, Then it was transferred to a Gestetner duplicator and I was the one who turned the handle. We had over 150 members in those days and there were 8 pages to print so we had lots of paper to print. My Ping Pong table was well used. When handed the job over we got an electric machine procured from Stelco by one of our members bless

him I still have some copies which I will gladly present to the club.

Well Rick that's about all I can tell you. Please feel free to do with it as you wish. Again and again I can't thank you enough.

Best 73 Gerry VE3HLI

Then And Now

Below is a page from one of those old eight-page newsletters that Gerald described, run off on a Gestetner duplicator. The page was sent by Mark VE3RIY.

VE3RY1

1983 FIELD DAY POST-MORTEM

Even though it didn't look like VE3DC would become operational, the small group that gathered at Rattlesnake Point the last weekend of June was full of spunk. Although this was probably the worst year ever as far as organization goes, the event was, again, a success. Most of the station set-ups went without problems. As usual the 20mtr quad went up at the last minute. Due to a slight mis-calculation, it suffered a broken limb that was quickly repaired by Roy, LWY.

Two P.M. rolled around and stations were still being set up! The only station to become active at the starting gun was 40 phone (manned single-handed by Bernie, EKY)

The Results

BAND	QSO's
80PH	416
80CW	109
40PH	246
40CW	409
20PH	416
20mtr	40

Total QSO's: 1636 (518 cw & 1118 phone)

Claimed Score: 4908 points in class 5A

You may wonder why class 5A when we had 6 transmitters. Simple! Forty phone and cw alternately operated (12hrs cw and 8hrs phone)

Thanks to all who came and helped out this year. The team effort put forward by all was terrific. A special thank to Doug, OCT, who manned the hospitality tent and provided the FB chili and other food. Tnx to the 80CW crew for their FB first effort and for the phone call the night before wondering what it was!

Now, what happened to the 130 of you who didn't make it out? Being there is all the fun. Mark your calendars now. June 23/24, 1984 is the weekend.

Contest Corner

Information provided by Contest Chair Rick Danby VE3BK

The next contest VE3DC will be entering at the site is the 2012 CQ World-Wide 160-Meter Sideband Contest.

The time in UTC (universal time coordinated) is 2200Z February 24 to 2200Z February 26. Translated to local time that will be 5:00 P.M. Friday February 24th until 5:00 P.M. Sunday 26th, a 48-hour period.

I. OBJECTIVE: For amateurs around the world to contact other amateurs in as many U.S. states, Canadian provinces, and countries as possible utilizing the 160 meter band.

II. BAND USE: 1810-2000 kHz in ITU Region 1. 1800-2000 kHz in ITU Regions 2 and 3. All entrants are encouraged to spread out as much as possible, obeying frequency restrictions and power limits for their own country.

III. CATEGORIES: For this contest only a single transmitter is permitted to be on the air at any given time. However, there can be multiple operators taking turns and/or working together one talking and one logging, etc. Observing band activity using a second receiver is permitted, in all categories.

RULES: To see a summary of the rules go to: <http://www.cq160.com/>

Propagation on the 160 meter band is most effective when the D layer is weak which begins as the sun goes down in late afternoon and lasts throughout the night. The most intense contest activity is expected to be at the starting time until well into the night. A second active time is expected to occur the following day at the same period.

If you would like to help out please talk to Rick and give him an idea about when you could be available.

Logging accuracy is important in this contest because CQ Magazine applies a point deduction system for errors.

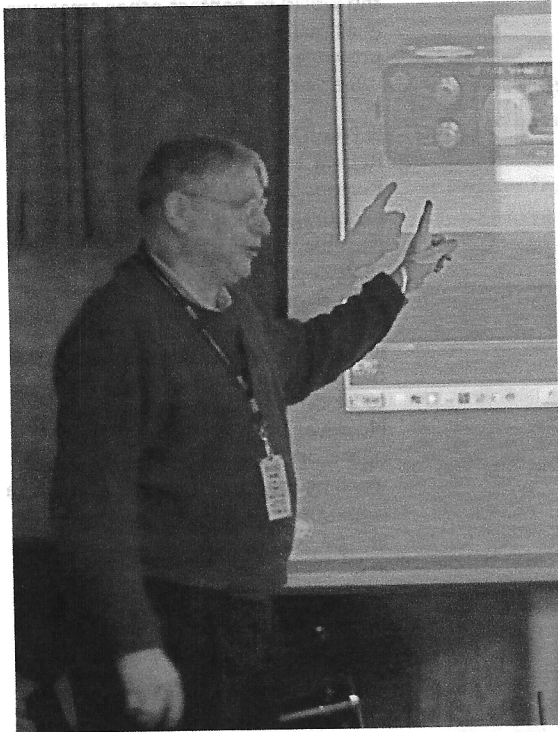
WOW

VE3JTR
MIKE SPENUCK

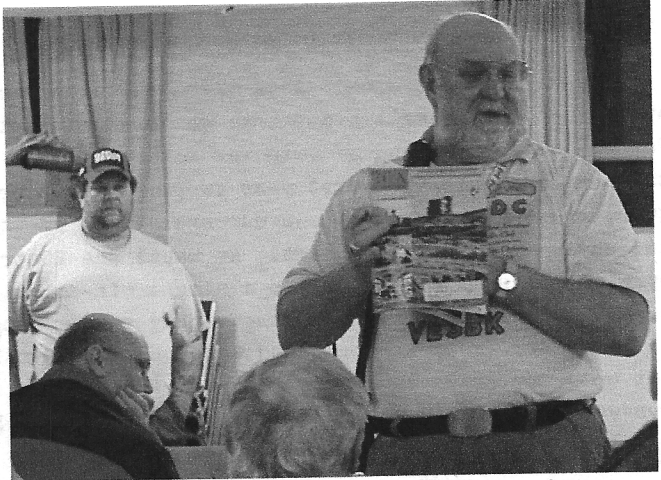
Pictorial



Members gather at the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club general meeting January 2012

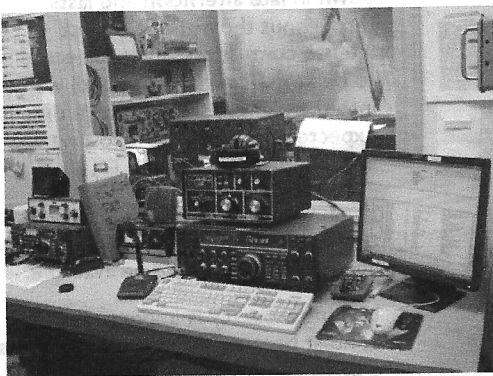
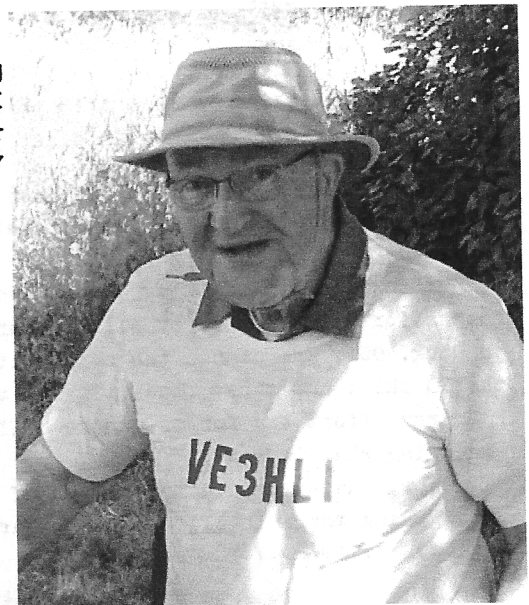


Guest Speaker Eric Meth VE3EI



Rick VE3BK explains we are in two issues of TCA

Gerry Goldberg
VE3HLI
Photo taken at
Field Day 2007



Operator's position
at VA3CWM station
in the Canadian
Warplane Heritage
Museum