

VE3BK



THE HAMILTON AMATEUR

April 2012

Volume 79 Number 8

www.hamiltonarc.ca

Est. 1932 Inc. 1956

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President's Remarks

Hello to all Members

lights for Earth Hour

Orbiting Earth, astronaut Andre Kuipers will monitor, photograph and broadcast live commentary as the worlds lights flicker out during the annual global event taking place between 8.30 and 9.30 p.m. March 31

More than 5,200 cities and towns in 135 countries worldwide switched off their lights for Earth Hour 2012, sending a powerful message for action on climate change. It also ushered in a new era with members going Beyond the Hour to commit to lasting action for the planet. Without a doubt, its shown how great things can be achieved when people come together for a common cause.

We have a few club members that we never see at a club meeting or other club activities. That means their sole connection with the club is through the newsletter. We would love to have you come and see some of the activities that we have done and our guest speakers.

Don't forget the general meeting for the month of April is 04/18/2012

Our weekly two-meter net on Sunday evenings at 7:30 P.M. on VE3NCF (vhf) 146.760 (-) tone 131.8.VE3NCF (uhf) 444.075 (-) tone 131.8 Join us and check-in and say hello to Tracy VA3CDU

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.

HARC 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 volunteer 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, Mike Christmas, VE3XMS, <ve3xms@hamiltonarc.ca>

HARC 2010-2011 Chairs

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Casey VanBroekhoven VE3CVP
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905-544-3253 <ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca>

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<va3ani@hamiltonarc.ca>

HARC 2011-2012

Executive

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905 308 7538
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Treasurer

Mark Proctor, VE3RYI
<ve3ryi@hamiltonarc.ca>

Director

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

I. Call to order

Dave Bruton VE3DWJ called to order the regular meeting of the HARC at 19:32 on March 21, 2012, in absence of our President, Tom Vanwort VA3TVW, at The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON.

II. Sign In

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

26 members were present & 1 visitors, Tom Feeney VE3KTA, past member.

III. Meeting Minutes

Dave VE3DWJ made a motion to accept the minutes from February 2012. John VA3BOZ 2nd the motion and it was carried by the membership.

IV. Speakers

Our speaker scheduled for this evening was Tony Osman VE3RZ, who was called away on business. Thank you Mark VE3RYI for stepping in the last minute to give the members a look at the Icom 7000 and the unit's programming features.

V. Contests

Rick VE3BK announced the upcoming Ontario QSO Party contest. Contest to take place April 21/22 2pm – 1am April 22 and again from 8am April 22 through to 2pm that day. VE3DC has sponsored a plaque for this event for 1st place, single operator, mixed mode, low

power. Last years winner was Tom Haavisto VE3CX.

VI. Repeater

Our repeater chair, John VE3DVV, reported that the repeaters are up running. More tweaking is required as the pair of technicians learn the software. John has also installed a "Magic Jack" on the router for making calls through the auto patch. The auto-patch feature can be used through either of the uhf or vhf radios. John is investigating long distant calling with the auto-patch functionality.

VII. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported that membership as of March 21 stands at 63 primary and 6 family members. Mark VE3RYI announced that with the inclusion of the RAC requirement, to declare membership numbers in November, we will now be accepting 2012 -13 early-bird membership in April, May and June 2012. The draw will take place at the first meeting back (September 19, 2012). Please get your dues in early.

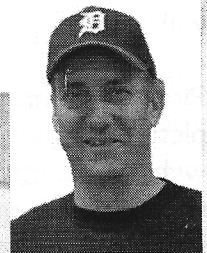
VIII. Awards

Don't forget to nominate your membership for awards available and deserving. They can be found at the hyperlink below.

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

Minutes submitted by:

Secretary Jim Sawadski
VE3EEZ



New Business

Mike Christmas VE3XMS announced the retirement of Gary Westhouse from the QSL bureau. Gary looked after the QSL Cards with the prefix VE3/VA3. Mike is assisting in picking up some of the slack by sorting cards VE3X__ as well as VA3X__.

The new email address is qslmgr@ontarioincomingqslbureau.ca
Cheques and address labels to:
VA3/VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau
PO Box 216 Streetsville, On.
L5M2B8

2012 Flea Market - John will be looking for assistance this year in a variety of capacities. There will be a sign up in May for all who are willing to assist in the 2012 hamfest.

Pictures - John VA3BOZ is still looking for pictures of past and present for display on a linked website see <http://www.pbase.com/harc> for a snapshot of some interesting photos. If you have some that you would like to share, email John at va3xm@rac.ca to get them posted.

Fox Hunts - More of the fox hunt events will be scheduled in the upcoming months. Membership is urged to keep an eye out for scheduled events on the Hamilton ARC web page. We will be trying to put at least one hunt on each month beginning April 29, 2012.

Home Brew

A reminder to the membership to dig out your projects for home brew night May 16 2012. Let's see what you've been up to.

Elections will be in June. Give some thought to running for an executive position to help make your club a better experience.

Field Day 2012

Rick VE3BK announced that Ron VE3DF will be our GOTA station this year at the Devil's Punchbowl.

Paris to Ancaster Bike Race

Gary VE3TTO announced the call for hams to dig out their 2m HTs and head to The Egg & I Restaurant @ Duffs Corners for 8am if you are willing to assist in the communications for this race. There are 22 checkpoints to cover. Over 2500 riders have already expressed interest in this event. Gary needs your support.

Next meeting

April 18, 2012 at The Hamilton Mountain Seventh Day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:10

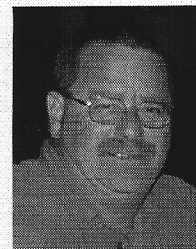
Moved by Mardy VE3QEE

Motion seconded by Ron VE3DF

Thanks all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ

by Treasurer Mark Proctor
VE3RYI



HARC

Month end Report 2011-2012

Carry over from Feb 294.95/1:

\$ 5,237.14

	Withdraws	Deposits
Bank Charges	\$ 4.95	
BELL CANADA	\$ 27.36	
Field Day		
Meeting hall	\$ 300.00	
Flea Market 2012		
GIC accounts		
Internet webpage		
Member ships		
News Letter		
Other	\$ 25.01	
Petty Cash		
PO. Box		
Property Sale		
Rac.		
Refreshments		
Repeater	\$ 3,265.70	
Speaker		
Supplies paper, ink		
Xmas Party		
TOTAL	\$ 3,623.02	\$ - \$ (3,623.02)

Gas to get repeater

Bank Account	\$ 1,614.12
GIC. Accounts	\$ 3,000.00
CLOSING BANK BALANCE	\$ 4,614.12

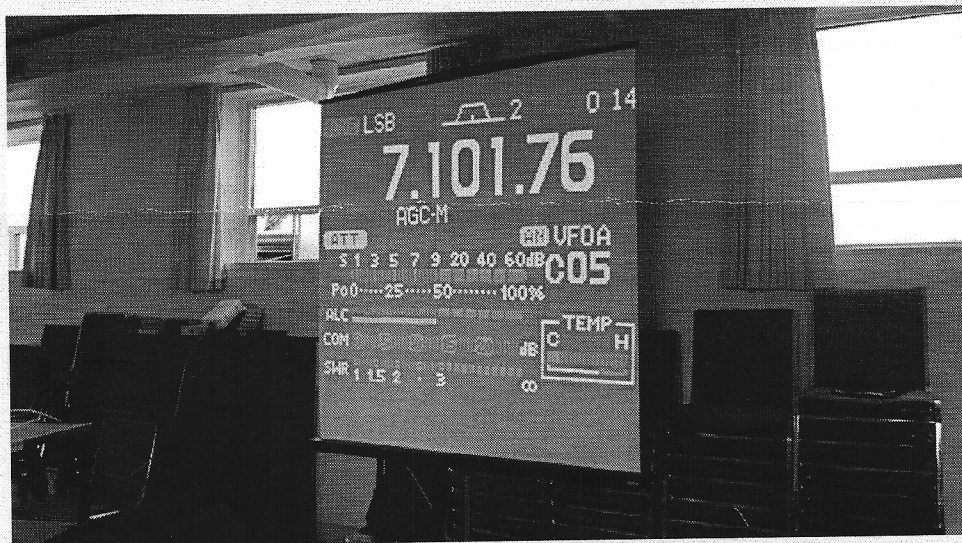
Report done, Mar.30

Treasurer Mark Proctor,
VE3RYI

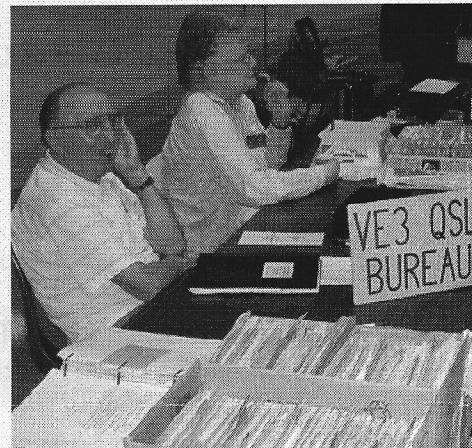


Our speaker scheduled for this evening was Tony Osman VE3RZ, who was called away on business. Thank you Mark

VE3RYI for stepping in at the last minute to give the members a look at the Icom 7000 and the unit's programming features.



The reorganization of the VE3 Bureau is happening at the request of Gary Westhouse, VE3NIT, VE3 Bureau Manager, who has diligently managed the VE3 QSL Bureau for many years. Gary and Ann wish to retire and engage others to manage the Bureau--as if completely retiring from a volunteer organization is possible. Mike Christmas VE3XMS will be taking on the role of Bureau manager under a new name and a complete reorganization of the group. Gary in the past years as serving manager had many hats that in reality was a full time job--and did a wonderful job I might add. So in order to fit the shoes as the new manager, an organization called the VE3/VA3 Incoming QSL Bureau, along with a few new positions.



1. Mike Christmas, VE3XMS, VA3/VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau Manager
2. David Karecki, VE3RER, Treasurer.
3. Michael Brickell, VE3TKI, Secretary
4. Ed Spingola, VA3TPV, Post Office Box Custodian and Incoming Mail Manager
5. Murray Yewer, VE3JMY, QSL Card Sorting Manager
6. Barry Liebner, VE3LBL, Special Event, Special Prefix, and Return QSL Card Manager

The new address for sending in donations and maintaining your account for active HAM's is:

VA3/VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau
PO Box 216
Streetsville, ON L5M 2B8

NOT IN
RAC YET

Keep an eye out on our new WEB page for announcements: www.ontarioincomingqslbureau.ca
If you have any questions please Email me: qslmgr@ontarioincomingqslbureau.ca

We wish Gary and Ann all the best and Thank You so much for doing such a wonderful job for so many years.

**73's
Mike VE3XMS**



REPUBLIC OF THE SOUTH SUDAN AWARDED Z8A TO Z8Z CALL SIGN BLOCK

The International Telecommunication Union has announced the official call sign allocation prefix block for the newly created nation of the Republic of South Sudan--Z8A through Z8Z. The Republic of South Sudan joined the United Nations on July 14, 2011 at which time it became the 193rd member of that august world body

KENTUCKY SEVERE WEATHER

Amateur Radio operators in Hardin and surrounding Kentucky counties provided critical communications during and after the severe weather outbreaks on February 29th, and again on Saturday March 3rd.

BUOYS ON 10 METERS

The source of some mysterious weak signals on 29.684 MHz with an 81.9 Baud and 130 Hz shift have been located. According to the February IARU Region, the signals came from the Spanish coastal area and were audible across all of Europe but only during band openings and only by directional antennas.

It turns out the source of transmissions was by Datawell buoys. These buoys, produced in the Netherlands are used for measuring water temperatures and wave heights. They are designed to transmit with 75 milliwatts on frequencies between 27 and 40 MHz.

Dick Van Empelen, PA2GRU, of Heemstede in the Netherlands has since visited the Datawell Company and has informed them that the buoy transmissions on the amateur service 10 meter

band are illegal. The operations chief promised to inform all Datawell offices about the situation. (IARU-RI)

PLANNED MALI DXPEDITION ON HOLD DUE TO POLITICAL UNREST

An Italian Dxpediton Team announced that they were planning to be active as TZ5T from Mali between April 12th to the 27th. However, their Pilot station, Art Lorenzo, IK7JWY, has now issued a statement that the situation of civil war in Mali between the government and Tuareg insurgents is worsening. Because of this and other concerns Mali authorities will not issue licenses to radio amateurs who may be targeted because of radio equipment.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS WEEKEND

The International Museums Weekend special event operations will take place on the weekends of June 16th through the 17th and again on June 23rd and 24th. Radio amateurs are encouraged to participate in this event by setting up stations in their local museums.

The International Museums Weekend organizer is Harry Bloomfield, M1BYT in Leeds in the UK. He asks that all those intending to take part in the event, please register their museum operation at www.ukradioamateur.co.uk/imw.

This is not only a fun event but one that permits you to showcase amateur radio to non-hams world wide.

I have been volunteering at the Warplane Heritage Amateur Radio Station on Tuesdays. Using their station VA3HWM I began to check into the local nets--the Ontario Amateur Radio Service Net [ONTARS] on 80 meters and the Trans Provincial Net on 40 meters. The ONTARS net on 3.755 MHz is going strong with net control personnel filling most slots throughout each day of the week. They have an active web site maintained by Barry VE3ISX, and experienced net control operators. The Trans Provincial Net on the other hand is getting re-established on 7.055 MHz after an extended period of tough (tuff) conditions on 40 meters during the last trough (troff) in the sunspot cycle. For a period of almost three years you couldn't hear anyone on 40 meters because of noise and lousy propagation. Unless you had a kilowatt you couldn't get a signal out either.

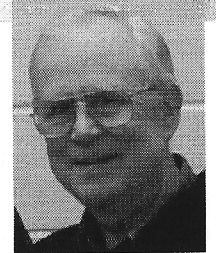
Now, conditions on 40 meters have vastly improved. During the daytime you can talk to lots of people in a nearby area with a modest antenna not too far off the ground. At home I use a wire antenna at about 20 feet. At VA3CWM, they have an end-fed long wire mounted in the clear above the hangar door. It can be tuned on 40 meters and it seems to get out.

On good days, the range of 40 meters during the day is roughly Thunder Bay to the West and Montreal to the East, with contacts from places in the north like Eliot Lake, Sault Ste Marie, North Bay and Sudbury most of the time. The forty meter band goes long in the late afternoon and early evening making the band congested by late evening because of foreign stations--both amateur stations and commercial broadcast stations.

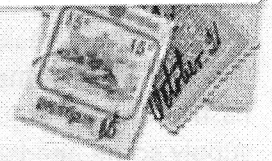
According to the Canadian 40 meter band plan, phone operation is permitted between

7050 and 7100. Not so with American stations. They can only use CW and digital transmissions in this part of the band. The result of these restrictions is a private space during the day where Canadians can talk with Canadians. If the band is short you will only hear Canadians talking in this part of the band. If the band is longer you can sometimes hear Spanish speaking conversations, usually from the Central America region.

After checking into the Trans Provincial Net a number of times (between 2 P.M. and 3 P.M. on Tuesdays), the Net Manager, Shawn from Cambridge, VE3PSV suggested that I could become a net control operator on Tuesdays between 2 P.M. and 3 P.M. when I was at VA3CWM. Why not? So, for about four weeks I have agreed to be the operator for that hour. I was shy at first, not knowing the routine, and not knowing what to say.



by Mardy Edson, VE3QEE



Also, I didn't know any of the hams who were checking in. After a couple of Tuesdays I found all of the hams checking in were very helpful, even giving relays when I couldn't quite hear the person trying to reach VA3CWM. After a few contacts, you get to associate a call with a name, a location and some information about the person.

Each day I have been on the air, there have been a few more check-ins. Last count was eleven during the hour. I have found there are a lot more people listening than speaking. You find this out when someone who hasn't checked in, jumps in to supply some needed information like a call sign or a name when you can't quite hear the other person. The helpful individual had obviously been listening for a while without checking in.

The experience of acting as net control has been a real blast. Talking to nearby hams you get a lot of interesting information. Yesterday I talked with a chap who was using his eaves trough as an antenna. I quizzed him about that. He was feeding two sections of eaves trough as a dipole with coax cable going to a balun at the feed point. Each side of the balun was connected to a separate section of eaves trough, one section on each part

of his roof. When I asked him about the match he said he could match the trough just fine using the tuner built into his rig. That blew me away.

Another chap I talked to was using a software defined radio. It was a Softrack Ensemble good for 40 meters and two other bands. He had ordered the Softrack as a kit from Tony Parks and built it himself for a total cost of \$82. It only puts out 1 watt, but he also built himself a 25 watt amplifier to boost the signal. He built the amplifier from another kit. He was using free Power SDR software which is the exact same software that the Flex radios use. You can download it from the internet and run it on a Windows computer with a USB connection to the radio. Wow! Again, I was blown away.

Like I said, serving as net control is a blast. I have a sheet of paper in front of me with the things you say as net control. I log the contacts by hand and write down some notes about the person. Other than that I am still feeling my way. Please check in!

The Trans Provincial Net is being built back up. We need net control operators. Check in any time, and if you find, as I did, that you are checking in at roughly the same time, consider

volunteering too. There are lots of hams out there who are glad to have someone listening when they want to make a contact. The TP Net at 7.055 is a great place to meet, and you will be rewarded by getting to know a regular set of people who are out there much of the time just listening.

73's Marty

Preview to Hams to the Rescue

This story from Dr. Ed Sheffman VE3FTO, and is a result from my story about the "Picture in the Shack" where I identified many of the hams in the picture, Ed being one of them. I now have some new ham friends. This led to the story of "It really is a small world" about my encounters with Gerald Goldberg VE3HLI. Ed forgot to mention in his story (but he relayed it to me in an email) that he and his wife had met Gerald and his wife and after Gerald found out Ed was a Ham Radio operator, he told him about the emergency he had heard on the air. This incidence was instrumental in Gerald becoming a Ham Radio Operator too. It was this story below that Gerald had heard as a SWL. It really is a small world with Ham Radio. I am glad to have met these "Hams". I hope you enjoy the story below. I was really moved by it. This story was in a different time but it is still relevant to what we do today.

Enjoy, Rick Danby VE3BK



Hams to the Rescue

Amateur Radio Operators (Hams) are known and respected throughout the world for their knowledge and skills, and especially for their ability to communicate when all other methods are either ineffective or not available because of catastrophic events.

I always had an interest in short wave radio listening since my childhood in St. John's, Newfoundland and especially during the war years of 1939-1945. In addition to her other skills and attributes, my mother was a linguist. She was fluent in English, Russian, German, Yiddish, and Latish. We would sit together by the radio and listen to foreign radio broadcasts via short wave. She would then translate the news etc. into English for me. One of my outstanding childhood memories was when I listened with her to Adolph Hitler speaking at Nuremberg. To this day, I remember Hitler ranting and raving over the short wave. Our then "Modern" radio had a tuning aid called "The Magic Eye." As the radio was tuned for the maximum sound, the eye would close so that the full color of the eye would turn a brilliant green. I recently saw such a radio in an antique store.

I became involved in Amateur Radio in 1964. We had recently moved into our new house. A few weeks after we settled in, I happened to see a peculiar metal structure attached to a tower at the side of a house in the neighborhood. Being curious and wanting to meet some of the neighbours, one day I rang the doorbell at this house and introduced myself to the owner. He was quite friendly and responded to my question about the contraption at the side of his house by telling me that he was a "Ham Radio Operator," and that the contraption was a special antenna. He then invited me in to see his radio station and his "Shack." The "Shack" is the place where the station is set-up. Well, to say the least, I was fascinated and "Hooked!" I immediately decided to get involved. My new friend suggested that I join the local radio club called the Nortown Amateur Radio Club where I could enroll in the study program. If I could complete this program and pass the examination, I could then apply to the Federal government to get my radio station license.

At that time, the requirements to gain the Amateur Radio license from the Federal Department of Communications, and to operate a station were quite stringent. One had to become proficient in the transmission and reception of Morse Code; in effect, I had to learn and become fluent in a new language. I also had to complete the course of study in radio theory and electronics as well as the regulations that applied to the operation of a radio station. Finally, I had to sit and pass an examination as prescribed by the regulatory body. In reality, the study course could take up to six months. Fortunately, the course was provided by volunteer members of The Nortown Club.

I joined Nortown and attended the study course offered by the club. What little spare time that I had was devoted almost exclusively to this study. I sat and passed the examination and was awarded my call-sign, VE3FTO, which is still active. I was then able to proceed to setting up my station and to join the very collegial fraternity of radio amateurs all over the world. I was very proud of my accomplishment. It was almost as important to me as getting my Medical Degree!

Over the years, I was able to establish radio contact with other "Hams" from near and far. I found that I could immediately make friends with "Hams". Many friendships were established which led to longstanding and fascinating relationships. In addition, whenever I traveled, I could knock on any door where I was able to spot the roof-top antennas, identify myself as a "Ham" and be graciously welcomed within the local "Ham" community.

One Friday evening in late November, 1973, after returning home from a meeting of Nortown, I found a telephone message from AI, VE3AND. I returned his call and was informed that two other Nortowners were on the air and were asking for emergency medical assistance. AI thought that I might be able to help.

I immediately went to my radio room (Ham Shack), turned on my station, tuned my antenna and was able to establish radio contact with the other two Nortowners. They were a husband/wife couple. Gord was a school teacher and Sandy a nurse. They were stationed at the native reserve of Kashechewan located in the far north on the shores of James Bay. Their only link with the outside world was via Amateur Radio.

They were already in contact with other "Ham" stations. As soon as I identified myself as a physician, the other stations cleared the frequency so that I could carry on without any interference.

I soon learned that there was a serious medical emergency in the village. A small child had fallen from a dock and struck her head on the ice causing grave injuries which rendered her unconscious. The only available medical assistance was from Gord and Sandy. When they described the young girl's symptoms, I was convinced that the diagnosis was severe subdural hematoma, pressure on the brain from bleeding caused by the fall resulting in a skull fracture. I was able to advise Sandy as to how to position the child to keep her airway open, and to check breathing rate, blood pressure and pulse every thirty minutes and to relay these measurements to me as she took them. If the pressure on the brain was not relieved by Neurosurgery, the child would die.

Take a moment to picture this scene. Here I was, all alone in my little "Shack," sitting at my desk and with no other means of providing assistance other than my radios. The air-waves were crackling with activity, and the dials of my receiver and transmitter glowed with power.

I remained in contact with Sandy helping her to monitor our patient's vital signs, and offering her encouragement throughout the night. I was worried that my transmitter might suffer a blown fuse or failure of a vacuum tube as our equipment in those days utilized tubes. However, this did not occur. My wife, Helen (XYL in Ham terminology), kept me supplied with fresh hot coffee.

Meanwhile, the wheels for rescue were set in motion. Other amateurs from across the province who remained on the frequency with me started to call hospitals to locate a Neurosurgeon who could do the necessary surgery. Another group was contacting the Canadian Armed Forces to arrange to fly in a medical evacuation team to the village at first light the next morning.

It was determined through this extensive network of "Ham's" that the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto was the best choice for the surgery. A medical-evacuation team flew in to the village, landed on the ice (a landing path was lit by bonfires in discarded oil drums), and then flew the girl to Toronto where an awaiting helicopter rushed her to that hospital. Surgery was immediately performed. The child survived.

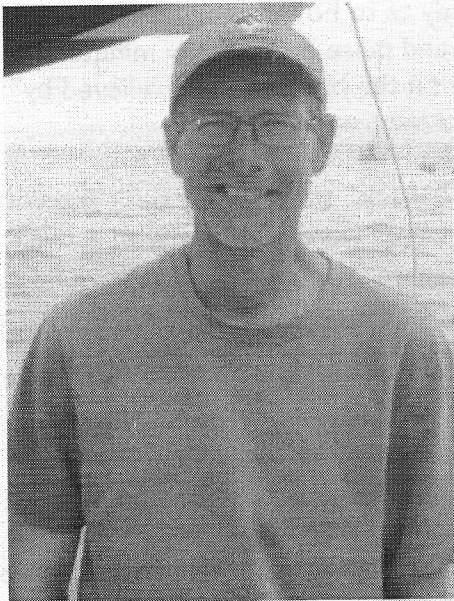
At some time during the early morning, somebody notified the media and our household became the target for many radio and television calls and requests for interviews; however I was unable to leave my post until I was notified that the aircraft had departed for Toronto. With a sigh of relief, I signed off with Gord and Sandy and the village of Kashetchewan, closed down my station, ate breakfast and went to bed. I was thrilled that I was able to live up to the traditions of Medicine and Amateur Radio.

Several months later, I was the proud recipient of an official citation of good service from the American Amateur Radio Relay League, a prominent organization within the Ham fraternity. This citation remains on display in my "Shack" to this day.

It should be emphasized that this rescue took place in the days when there was no internet, no satellite navigation or cellular communications, and no source of artificial lighting to assist the rescue aircraft. Amateur Radio was the only available reliable means of communication.

Edward J. Shoffman, MD, CM, F.R.C.P.(C), F.A.C.A., D.A.B.A.,
 VE3FTD

Written by ve3wbt



Paul Vibert; Aboard *Rough Bounds*

It all started with a dream and a bottle of scotch. Paul Vibert was frustrated with his life and career. With the loss of a child and his marriage breaking up he needed change. What he wanted was to remove himself from society and live a little. With no experience on board a boat he wanted to fulfill a dream of sailing around the world solo. We spoke of this in great

detail and with many scotches, I suggested to him the boat to purchase as well as communication, radar and provisions. We drank more, and then it started to solidify. A week later he purchased a small sailing vessel called "Rough Bounds". Rough Bounds is an Alburg 30 with an aft cockpit, she was a sound vessel with a reputation of being angelic in the water. Her sails were doubled; a marine vhf radio installed, radar was purchased off the internet (buyer beware), the purchase turned into a non functional piece of equipment other than a boat anchor. I stressed to him the important of communication, and how he should study for the amateur radio exam. He took my concerns to heart. He studied diligently during the winter, the problem began when he was looking for an examiner. You see Paul lives on an island off the coast of New Brunswick, getting an examiner close enough meant travel to the main land for 2 hours. So it



Written by ve3wbt



was postponed. He did not put the same priority on communication as I did.

The only experience Paul had aboard Rough Bounds was a trip from Thunder Bay Ontario to Miscou Island in New Brunswick through the inter-water ways. That winter he discovered he needed sea experience so Paul volunteered to be crew on a crab fishing vessel. He spent three weeks in the north Atlantic sea in rough weather. That should give him some insight he thought.

Now we get to the meat & taters so to speak, "the important of nets".

Paul Vibert, 45 year male, over due at destination, Easter Island in the south Pacific.

Last e-mail I received from Paul, was the 30/01/2012, he was heading to Easter Island for going the Galapagos's, his estimated time of arrival was 25 – 30 days. This would put him at Easter Island around the 3rd of March. On the 14th of March not hearing any news made me worry. I contacted HPIXX; Gunther on 14.135.00, Gunther runs a German net for mariners from Panama City to all points in the south pacific. If you recall our Monday night check in's were on this frequency. Several weeks prior I heard Gunther, and had a little chat and he informed me he has been running this net on this frequency for over thirty years for German mariners. I apologised for the interrupt and suggested to our club members we move off. On the 14th of March I contacted HPIXX, and asked him to contact

sailors in the south Pacific, just to see if they have run across Rough Bounds and her captain.

Nothing was heard. Gunther told me he would re-broadcast this message from time to time and he would notify me via e-mail. Later that week I made contact with the Maritime Net on 14.300.00. They suggested I contact [HTTP://WWW.MMSN.ORG](http://WWW.MMSN.ORG) (I suggest you have a look see) in which I logged a formal overdue vessel at sea. The Maritime Net with their contacts plus the international boatwatch.net had placed Paul and Rough Bounds as an overdue vessel. Within an hour of logging this with the Maritime Net on 14.300.00, I received a phone call from "United States Coast Guard Alameda". We spoke of Paul, and the vessel in question, and they put Paul on the top of priorities for a search. As days went by, USCG contacted Chile; to Pitcairn Islands then later to Tahiti, this was their search grid. I also contacted Gunther (HPIXX) again, the Maritime Net Caribbean, the South Pacific Maritime net, Pitcairn Maritime Net, as well as the Seafarers Net. All these nets played an important task. These nets and their affiliates sent out bulletins to Coast Guards; Police stations and to other Ham radio operators in the area.

I continued on a daily basis to search for my friend...my brother of 28+ years. Each night I laid my head down on my pillow I thought of Paul and what may have transpired. I kicked myself in the rear-end, of not pushing him further to get his radio license.

As of this writing 22nd day, 52 days later USCG Alameda contacted me and said all is well on board Rough Bounds and Skipper is in good health and spirit. He heard that he was being looked into, by another boater passing by. Oh God--the power of radio. A passing vessel that received the bulletin passed by Paul and Rough Bounds in the South Pacific, came alongside and allowed him to make contact to USCG Alameda. Today is a good day.

We in turn forget the relationships of "Nets" and there purpose. Yes, a group from the club and surrounding area meet on frequency to chat and test new equipment. We like to say it is an informal chat, but we are there if something arises. If a real emergency is to take place, we have what it takes to pass traffic. During this ordeal, I have heard individuals sending false carriers, calling cq cq contest, and generally interrupting the

maritime nets. Let us not forget those individuals that volunteer their time and energy to take this responsibility seriously. Their participation in these nets may, and have saved lives--people like our Gary Notto with ARES, the individuals with SATARN, and SERV. Even our Elmer's that can pick up the torch if needed. Let us not forget the very important "Field Day exercise". This is all about emergencies and passing traffic! If it wasn't for the Maritime Nets I contacted, what is it to say my friend/ brother may not have been heard from at all. What turned out to be a simple contact could have turned into something much more.

I'm having a change of mind these days in particular from a "neat hobby", to something in which I can lend a helping hand to someone in distress if the need arises.

The 15th Annual Ontario QSO Party 2012

Our next contest as VE3DC. It is held on the third full weekend of April, 1800Z (2 pm local) April 21, 2012 Saturday to 0500Z (1 am local) April 22, 2012 Sunday morning, then we have a break so the Rovers and mobiles go to sleep and then back at it, 1200Z (8 am Sunday to 1800Z April 22, 2012 Sunday.

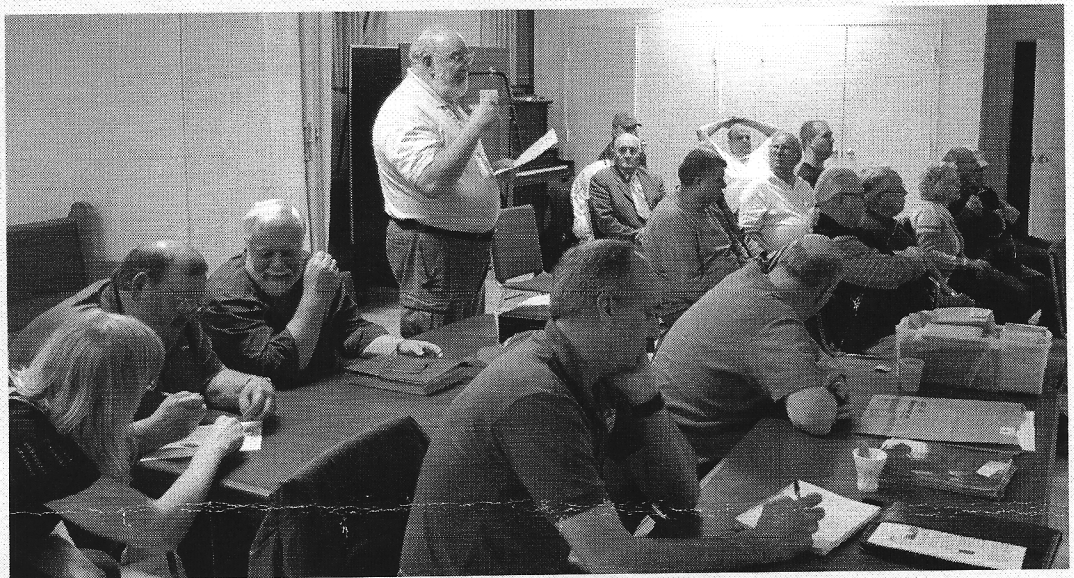
This is a fun contest for us and one that we have been successful at right at the beginning. We get to talk to fellow Canadians and find out how much snow they have in Winnipeg and if they have anymore flooding in the East. In other words, we actually talk to some of our contacts. Our Club President has been a Rover on this contest and so has his wife. More than once they have enjoyed the event. We even went to the CCO Barbecue so Tracy could get her award last year.

The Ontario QSO Party (OQP) began in 1998. Bob Chandler VE3SRE of DX Ontario started the contest and it quickly became a popular event among many hams. In 2006 the OQP was turned over to Contest Club Ontario (CCO) who now manages the event. In the contest, stations outside Ontario

make as many contacts with Ontario amateur radio stations as possible.

Ontario stations contact as many amateur radio stations as possible both in Ontario and world-wide. See the rules for the contest exchange, frequencies, modes and categories.

Let me know if you can come and help us out or run a station for us. We will be running full blown Multi-multi and band conditions have been good at times so we hope to



have a great OQP with many contacts that weekend. Email me at ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca or call me on the phone. My number is in the bulletin.

Same as last month - not the new one

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club

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



HARC.28.04.2011

HARC MEMBERSHIP Registration Form

Name		Call Sign	
Address			
City		Province	Postal Code
Home Phone		Work Phone	
Email Address: _____ 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		Occasionally we take photos at club events, Please specify: <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 _____

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<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	