



# THE HAMILTON AMATEUR

March 2013

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Est. 1932 Inc. 1956

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### President's Remarks

Hello to all Members

Please join us at our next club meeting:  
Wed, March 20, 2013, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
284 Concession St., Hamilton On  
Doors open at 7pm

All are welcome

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.

73's  
Mike Krebs

**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 3.693 MHz in the 75 meter band. All contacts to both nets are welcome.

**Examinations**

Amateur radio license examinations are Mike Christmas, VE3XMS and Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ. 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](mailto:ve3xms@hamiltonarc.ca)>

**HARC 2010-2011 Chairs**

Awards Chairman  
Paul Fleck VE3HTF

Contesting Manager / Property /  
Repeater Administrator  
Rick Danby VE3BK  
905-544-3253 <[ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca)>

Hamfest. Coordinator  
John Boswell VA3BOS

Hamfest. Vendor liaison  
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE 905-648-0187  
<[ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca)>

Volunteer Examiners  
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Dan Martinak VA3DJ  
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Repeater Technician  
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<[ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca)>

Health & Welfare Chairperson  
Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ 905-388-8383  
<[ve3ogq@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3ogq@hamiltonarc.ca)>

Membership Chair Sherry Goeller  
VE3DCU, <[ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca)>

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**HARC 2012-2013****Executive****President**

Mike Krebs VA3WXS  
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**Past President**

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**First Vice President**

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**Secretary**

Jim Sawadski, VE3EEZ  
905 664 3198  
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**Treasurer**

David Bruton VE3DWJ  
905-383-9808  
<[ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca)>

**Director**

Mike Panopoulos VE3ATX  
<[ve3atx@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3atx@hamiltonarc.ca)>

## I. Call to order

On behalf of our president Mike Krebs VE3WXS, who was ill this evening, Dave Bruton VE3DWJ called to order the regular meeting of the HARC at 19:36 on Feb 20, 2013 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. 17 members / visitors were present.

## III. Speakers

Our speaker for this evening was John Vandenberg VE3DVV. John gave the membership a slide presentation of the IRLP system with a live demonstration of how to access the VE3NCF repeater to pull up an IRLP node, using a handheld transceiver. John called on a volunteer, Don Roop VE3EIR, who was prompted to dial up the Vancouver reflector 9008 and spoke with Reginald Bagshaw VK6BQQ of Jandakot Australia. Reg was waiting patiently at home, using his computer on Echo Link, for a call from the VE3DC Club before he headed off to work Thursday morning, being 13 hours ahead of our time. After speaking with a few of the members, Don, Mardy VEQEE, Rick VE3BK and John, Reg signed off with much enthusiasm and the membership was invited to join in to the Friday night Tech Net 8-10pm local. John assisted Paul VE3HTF, in calling up the Haliburton node and sign off again. A very "hands on" experience for our members in accessing the world with UHF / VHF transceivers. Thank you John for sharing your knowledge and hobby with fellow Amateurs.

## IV. Contesting

Rick VE3BK gave a report on Dan VA3DJ's progress after his surgery as he continues to regain his strength and mobility. Rick announced the CQWW 160 meter contest this upcoming weekend and encouraged members to turn on their radio's from home or come out the contest site and visit and or operate a rig. Rick referenced a few pages in TCA and QSL magazines where club members past and present have been acknowledged for their efforts. Rick presented certificates to participants of the 2012 Ontario

QSO Party Contest where VE3DC took 1st place Ontario, Multi / Multi. Participants, Rick VE3BK, Dan VA3DJ, Jim VE3EEZ, Scott VE3QU, Andrew VE3RIA. Rick mentioned the next couple of contests upcoming in March and April, The ARRL DX Contest and the 2013 QSO Party respectively.

## Repeater

## V.

Our repeater chair, John VE3DVV, reported on the successful installation of the back-up power supply for the club repeaters. John and Mark VE3MWH are continuing to monitor the performance and cycle the power supply on and off for testing performance. John notified members that the courtesy tone that will be heard when on battery supply is "B" -... . John had some pictures of the Cavity filters in use at the site and commented on a remote operated control that he is working on to access the repeater from a remote location. John will bring it in when he's finished for a show and tell. Thank you John and Mark for all your dedication and hard work at the repeater site!

Minutes submitted by:

Secretary Jim Sawadski  
VE3EEZ



## VI. Health and Welfare

Mary and Joe were not in attendance.

## VII. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported 60 primary and 4 family memberships. On track with previous years. Sherry suggested that the membership consider getting their 2013-2014 membership funds in order as a new season is just around the corner. Early renewal is encouraged and appreciated. Please take some time to download a copy of the membership at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/pdfs/harcmembership-2011.04.28.pdf> and hand it in with your funds. Please be prepared.

## VIII. Treasurers Report

Dave reported that the GIC was cashed in anticipation of further expenses as recommended at the February executive meeting for our web site maintenance, upcoming "Field Day" exercise in June, repeater expenses, and flea market down payment for October.

## IX. Awards

Paul was presented the VE3DC Certificate for the 2012 Ontario QSO Party contest to post on the website.

Paul once again announced the need for submissions to enable the awarding of "The Digital Operating Award" aka CW Gavel award. This Certificate is available for log submissions from all digital modes of operating. Get you logs in via

<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/activities/harc-awards/february-cw-operating-order-of-the-gavel-cw/>

See the form imbedded in the link above. Fill it out and submit it to Paul Fleck [ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca) or bring it to Paul or any of the executives at the March 20 general meeting. This certificate has not been awarded since 2008. Make it be yours this year!

## New Business

1) Paul Fleck announced to the membership the possibility of an "Online Store" coming to our website. This is being considered by the executive in hopes to generate some revenue for the club. A commission is paid to VE3DC whenever an item is purchased from the store. Paul will send a link to the site so that the executives can see what is being proposed and can make a timely decision.

## Next meeting

March 20, 2013 The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:30

Moved by Dave VE3DWJ

Motion seconded by Rick VE3BK

Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ

# Treasure Report

## Treasurer Report February

Opening Balance \$1,811.27

### Expensives

Bell Canada	\$30.79
Bank Charges	\$4.95
Guest Speaker	\$35.00
Battery Charger	\$526.00
Canada Post	\$194.36
Repeater Site	\$322.05

### Income

\$600.61	
Membership	\$30.00
\$3000.00	
Cash	\$30.00
\$10.78	
GIC Inteast	\$10.78

### Account Balance

GIC  
GIC Interest

## Treasurer Report

By David Bruton  
VE3DWJ



On Sunday mornings in the early thirties, after the rest of the family was safely off to church, the boys of the Hamilton area would reach under their beds and pull out a couple of boxes. To the uninitiated, they would appear to contain scrapes of wire and odd shaped bottles — nothing but junk. But in a few minutes the 80 and 160 metre bands would come alive with chirps, scratches and even a few T9 signals. The gang was in session. Calls such as 3JU, 3QU, 3YR, 3CJ, 3KM, 3VZ, 3IZ, 3HP, and many others were distinguishable. Those requiring help asked for it, and got it. They would visit each other, giving assistance in getting those notes cleaned up and coaxing all possible electrons to head for the antenna.

Shortly after Christmas, 1932, they decided they should get together regularly and iron out their problems. Back to the airwaves they went, advertising the fact that they were going to organize a radio club. The first meeting was held at the home of VE3KM, Wibb Clemence, and a turnout of forty-five amateurs was recorded. Thus the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club was born, and Art Ferguson, VE3HP, was elected its first president.

The year 1934 brought the Club's first field day activity. The H.A.R.C. topped all other Canadian Clubs and took third place in the challenge from U.S. Clubs. Battery operated rigs were used and all nearby service stations were kept busy charging batteries. The succeeding five field days were taken in grand style and a cup was presented to the Club by the SCM, Fred Saxon, VE3SG. Later a permanent field day site was leased "Signal Hill." The location is one of the highest points of land in the vicinity, with power supplied by gasoline generators. With the assistance of Noel Eaton, VE3CJ, two permanent shacks have been built and are still in use. Originally Club meetings were held in the homes of various members, but with a growing attendance these were moved, first to Westminster Hall and later to the Moose Hall. Unfortunately Moose Hall was destroyed by fire, and many of the Club records, including the Charter, were lost. Just before the war in 1939 the membership rose to 130.

The Club was reactivated after the war, and several moves with respect to meeting places were made. The year 1958 saw the Club's largest project, which was the sponsoring of the A.R.R.L.

Convention. This took place in October of that year and proved to be a successful venture. Attendance included visitors from VE1 land, as well as several from W land.

Code training classes are held weekly and includes projects such as mobile rigs, d/f loops and hi-pass filters. Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (AREC) exercises are held monthly. The Corps has a large membership. Mobiles are always ready to go, and the AREC has been called on in several emergencies.

ARTHUR FERGUSON - VE3HP

Re: Presentation of the Art Ferguson Trophy to the Hamilton  
Amateur Radio Club at the 50th Anniversary Dinner, Sept.  
15th, 1982

\*\*\*\*\*

Art was born in Port Arthur, Ontario, on March 31, 1906. It was here that he received his primary and secondary school education and where his interest in radio communication first started: his home being only 3 blocks away from the Marconi Radio Station - VBA.

In 1919, at the age of 13, he had built his own spark station consisting of spark coil, electrolytic interrupters, Leydon jars, crystal detector etc. By 1922, however, he was operating his first CW transmitter with a UV202 tube.

He obtained his First Class Radio Commercial Certificate from the Department of Marine and Fisheries in 1924. Also, during this same year he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Corp of Signals (Reserve).

Art started his working life with Ontario Hydro in 1925. He was engaged to install, maintain and operate their first Radio Station in the North. This, to serve as a link between Head Office in Toronto and their generation plant in Cameron Falls on the Nipigon River. This position was created after he had successfully demonstrated what could be done by the use of his own equipment.

In 1928, Art was transferred by Ontario Hydro to Dundas, Ontario. At that time, Dundas was the operating control centre for the Southern Ontario System. He became very active in Amateur Radio during this period.

It was in September of 1932, that Art, along with a number of dedicated Hams from the area, formed the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. He became the first President and continued in office to the end of 1933.

During the War Years, he was actively engaged in the war-time expansion of Hydro. This work involved new airfields, large plants etc. In 1944 he was appointed to the position of Power Supervisor working from Head Office in Toronto.

During 1948, Hydro set up the Province into separate Regions and he was appointed to the position of Operating Superintendent for the Western Region with his office in London, Ontario. In 1952 he became the London Area Manager.

In 1971, Art retired after a most successful and productive career spanning some 46 years with Ontario Hydro.

Art Ferguson Trophy - Cont'd

Art and his wife Ruby were married in 1927. Two of their children, daughter Cathy of West Hill and son Keith of Port Elgin are active Hams holding the calls of VE3LED and VE3IDQ respectively. Perhaps he most proud that his eldest grandson holds the call of VE3HZP.

He is a member of the Professional Engineers Association of Ontario and, also, holds a degree in Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario.

He and his wife Ruby are spending their retirement years in Tobermory, Ontario where he is still active on the Amateur Bands. His only regret that ill health of both he and his wife, prevents him from being here this evening and presenting this trophy to the Hamilton Club personally.

Amateurs far and wide and in this area particularly owe a deep debt of gratitude to Arthur Ferguson - VE3HP. The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club is deeply appreciative of this most beautiful trophy and will see to it that your wishes are followed in furthering the work of Public Service in Amateur Radio.



Above Photo: Art Ferguson, on the left, receiving the first Order of the Gavel Award from then President John Dykstra in 1977. Art was the first President of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club.

CANADA LAUNCHES OTOTRBO DIGITAL  
AUDIO C BRIDGE TERCONNECT

Hams in Canada have taken their first step toward the creation of a national amateur radio Division Multiple Access or DMR network. This with the launch of the first inter-provincial DMR networking server on Saturday, February 23rd.

The server, more commonly known as a "c-Bridge" was manufactured by Rayfield Communications and will serve as a network hub for Canadian amateur radio DMR repeaters. It will not only allow them to reliably link to one another but also to the growing DMR-MARC global network using Internet connectivity.

The DMR-MARC global network is an all-digital group of ototrbo DMR repeaters in the USA, Germany, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Switzerland, Spain, Austria, Finland, Sweden and of course Canada. The backbone networking is being created by amateur radio operators many of whom are Motorola Solutions employees, Motorola Service Station employees, dealers, system installers, and just plain Motorola equipment

aficionados. Repeaters on this network are connected around the clock.

And for those listeners who are unfamiliar with Mototrbo system, this is a Motorola digital radio product marketed rimirly to business and industrial users, but which has found its way into some public safety uses and now to ham radio. The format is based on and compatible with the European 2-slot DMR standard and uses Time Division Multiple Access to accommodate two simultaneous users. Therefore a single 12.5 kHz channel is able to carry two simultaneous and independent conversations or simultaneous and independent voice and data paths each with 6.25 kHz equivalency. More about the world-wide DMR-MARC global ham radio network is on-line at [www.dmr-marc.net](http://www.dmr-marc.net).

The Canadian c-Bridge is located in Montreal and is currently supporting several DMR repeaters in Ontario and Quebec, including the VA3XPR digital DMR repeater located in downtown Toronto. For more information on the new Canadian digital

interconnect and how your organization can connect their DMR system to it, please visit <http://www.va3xpr.net/digital-dmr-repeater/>

Demo: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/1Ga6F48895w>





## THE VK0RTM 6M BEACON ON AIR FROM NEAR THE SOUTH POLE

A new 6 meter propagation should now be on the air from near to the South Pole. Craig Hayhow who is signing VK0JJJ from Mawson Base in Antarctica is reported to have brought with him a beacon transmitter with the call VK0RTM that is now operational on 50.300 MHz.

The VK0RTM transmitter runs 50 watts. It was donated for this very special operation by David Craig, N3DB, who is the Secretary and Treasurer of The 6 Meter Beacon Project.

But the beacon will not be the only 6 meter signal coming to the air. While at Mawson Station for about 12 months, Hayhow plans to be active on all bands from 80 through 6 with priority given to 6 meter operation.

VK0JJJ is a senior telecommunications engineer from West Australia. He is a member of the

Antarctica Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition due to return home in January 2014. (VK3PC, QRZ.com)



## HAMS HELP TRAIN EMERGENCY RESPONDERS IN CONNECTICUT

The Ridgefield Press in Connecticut says that amateur radio operators from the city's volunteer disaster communications team have been assisting in the development of a communications training video. This for use by fire, police and emergency medical first responders.

The new training video will focus on the importance of including ham radio in emergency planning and operations. It will also demonstrate the capabilities of amateur radio equipment and disaster-trained ham radio operators.

Ridgefield's Emergency Operations Center and many other centers and hospitals throughout the region are equipped with amateur radio equipment

that provides backup communications when normal channels are out of service. The complete story on this new video can be found at: [www.tinyurl.com/rescue-radio-video](http://www.tinyurl.com/rescue-radio-video)

# 160 CONTEST

If you did not make it this time, you missed out on another great contest. Sleep is a little bit screwed up because of it being a night time contest, but the wee hours of the morning were great contesting. Sorry if you couldn't make it. Maybe you can try for our next contest the third weekend in April for the Ontario QSO party when we will be running full tilt again, Multi-multi, so can use everyone's help. Thank to Mike Christmas for coming out and supporting the group, even though the bands were dead when you were there.

\*\*\*\*\*

## OUR RESULTS BELOW

CQ 160-Meter W.W. SSB Contest 2013  
MODE: \_\_PHONE\_\_

CALL: VE3DC STATE or PROVINCE or  
COUNTRY: ON  
CLASS: X Multioperator Single  
Operator

491 QSOs. 2370 QSO points  
x 61 Multipliers  
= 144570 Claimed score

Station Description: Icom 751A, AL80B, Palestar  
AT4K, homebrew TX-RX relay

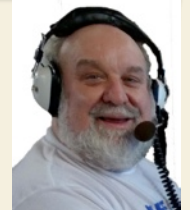
Antenna(s): 160 dipole, 160 size windom used to  
TX and RX, magnetic loop and delta loop used for  
RX only

Operators: VE3BK VE3DCU & VE3EEZ

Visitors: Mike VA3FS, Randal Walford and VE3EEZ's  
neighbour Albert

Remarks: Another great contest with the sweet  
time being around 6-7am when it was quiet and  
signals were up. I was getting swamped by a guy in  
Maryland at 40 over who

submitted by:  
Rick Danby  
VE3BK



Needed to say the  
were very busy with  
contest. As usual at  
VE3DC, we had  
Randall bring in his  
Icom 745 radio that  
he acquired for his sailboat to be  
looked at. I was able to get it  
working somewhat, even though it  
mean't that Sherry spent more  
time on the air. Thanks to Sherry  
VE3DCU for her great efforts and Jim VE3EEZ for  
helping me pack up when we left early. Hopefully  
his neighbour Albert will be interested in Ham  
Radio enough now to get his ticket. This is the  
second or third time we have seen him at one of  
our radio events. We could not spend the whole  
time on the air this year, so our score is down, but  
we all had fun, especially Sherry when she worked  
the first DX on 160 meters. I don't think she  
thought we could do that. Thanks to all that  
worked us. We didn't get as many numbers this  
year but we definitely had fun doing it.  
MULTIPLIER LIST

NAM:

CT MA ME NH RI VT NY NJ DC DE  
MD PA AL FL GA KY NC SC TN VA  
AR LA MS NM OK TX CA AZ ID MT  
OR WA MI OH WV IL IN WI CO IA  
KS MN MO NE SD NB NS PE QC  
ON SK AB BC

DX:

C6 CT3 HC HK KP2 KP4 XE ZF  
Rick Danby VE3BK [http://www.eqsl.cc/  
Member.cfm?VE3BK](http://www.eqsl.cc/Member.cfm?VE3BK)  
Contesting Manager for VE3DC