



# The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter - 81 Years of Amateur Radio  
1932 - 2013

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The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club  
117-350 King St. East  
P.O. Box 75073  
Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 4G6  
Canada

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## *H.A.R.C. Essentials*

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club operates the **VE3NCF** repeater, **146.760-** and **444.075+MHz, tone 131.8.** **VE3NCF** is now part of the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). Special features are a privilege of membership in H.A.R.C..

### **Sunday 2m H.A.R.C. Check-in Net**

Join in the H.A.R.C. Check-In net Sundays at 19:30 on 2m, 146.760 (-), 131.8Hz tone. Bring a topic to the net, maybe your latest DX contact details, that special deal you picked up at the flea market and let the Net controller: Allan Gammon VA3ALZ talk it up!.

### **Monday 75m Net**

We have the 75m net on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. local time, on 3.693 MHz. This is an informal chat net where SSB & C.W. are welcome.

### **Club Meetings**

The H.A.R.C. meets the third Wednesday of every month (except July and August) at 7:30 pm. Our meeting location is at 284 Concession St., Hamilton, Ontario.

With coffee and treats we serve smiling faces and great guest speakers.

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***Presidents Message September 2013***

***Greetings all, and welcome to a new, fresh, fast paced and interesting club year!***

We will be starting right out of the blocks with our annual Hamfest / Flea Market this October. This year our club will be hosting the annual Radio Amateurs of Canada General Meeting. This is quite an honour and a real feather in the H.A.R.C. cap. I understand that the R.A.C. executive are considering a 'town hall' type of meeting prior to the formal General Meeting. This will give all R.A.C. members a chance to ask questions and make suggestions regarding the direction that R.A.C. should take in the coming years.

While on the subject of Flea Market / Hamfest I can't let the opportunity to pass without a vote of thanks to **John Boswell** VA3BOZ and his assistant **Paul Fleck** VE3HTF for taking the reins and making this event happen.

Your new executive has a full plate this year. There are some important legal issues that we have to address. Our provincial government has revised their requirements for non-profit organizations, like H.A.R.C., to take a look at the roles and responsibilities of their executive and the wording of their Charters/Letters Patent. Along with that requirement, the current executive have agreed to take a look at their individual responsibilities (job descriptions if you wish) with a view to bringing them up to date and perhaps actually listing each of the activities we are responsible for. I must confess that in the previous offices I was responsible for I wasn't sure what I was supposed to do (in the absence of a description and job aids).

Another of our challenges is to address the question 'What do our members want for their annual membership dues?' This question is a real head scratcher. There are so many interest groups within HARC. We also must spend some creative energy in building our membership. And yes, I will say it (cause I turned 71 this year) we need to augment our membership with youth if we are to survive as a viable organization.

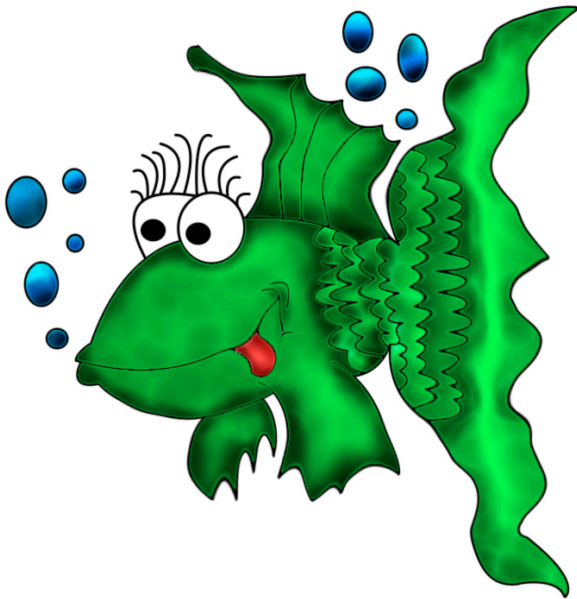
We have a strong executive this year. Each of your executive has had several years of experience and learning so they will ably represent your interests.

Although it's published on our web site I will repeat the executive list here:

President: Roger Pimm VE3UFZ  
Past President: Mike Krebs VE3WXS  
First Vice President: John Boswell VE3BOZ  
Second Vice President: Marsden Eedson VE3QEE  
Treasurer: David Bruton VE3DWJ  
Secretary: Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ  
Director: Paul Fleck VE3HTF

Enough said for now. I am looking forward seeing you all at our first meeting of the 2013/2014 club year. For now...

73



***What do you call a fish with no eyes?***

***A fsh!!***



***Vice Presidents Message***

Hi All

After accepting the executive position of First Vice President I hope I can fill the position to suit all, I look forward to working with Roger and the rest of the executive.

There are a lot of things that we can do to improve our club and with your ideas and suggestions that will help a lot so don't sit back and go for the ride, get involved.

Now for the current item on my duties list is the up coming Flea Market, things are proceeding well and we will need all the help we can get from our members. If you are interested and want to help see Mardy or myself.

R.A.C. is holding their annual General Membership meeting in conjunction with our flea market and we are looking at the possibility of running a joint ONTARS station on location.

The food booth, an always popular venue is looking for volunteers to manage the booth, prepare food, greet hungry visitors. Contact me if you can help.

Also if you want to donate to the food booth, we accept muffins, cupcakes, and sandwiches.

73's

John Boswell

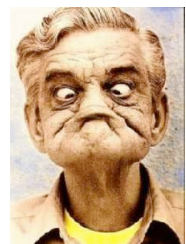
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*The fight we had last night was my fault,  
my wife asked me what was on the TV and I said dust.*



1953 Raytheon

*Ooooppsss!*



**Secretary's Report**

## HARC (Hamilton Amateur Radio Club) General Meeting Minutes

06/19/2013

- I. Call to order  
On behalf of our president Mike Krebs VE3WXS, Roger Pimm VE3UFZ called to order the regular meeting of the HARC at 19:33 on June 19, 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 were present.
- III. Speakers  
There were no speakers his evening due to the annual scheduled elections.
- IV. Health and Welfare  
Mary VE3OGQ had sent flowers to Pat, XYL of Rick VE3BK & also to Dan VA3DJ and had received acknowledgement.
- V. Repeater  
Roger VE3UFZ will meet with John VE3DVV to make recordings for our Annual flea market to announce over VE3NCF repeater at preselected scheduled times. John VE3DVV will get the Bell telephone line disconnected at the repeater site and look into a US phone number for the Magic Jack on IRLP.
- VI. Contesting  
Rick VE3BK reminded members of the upcoming "Field Day" event at The Devil's Punchbowl. Rick went over the territories, sections and noted the activities that have been arranged to prepare the property for the event. Rick announced the upcoming R.A.C. Canada Day event on July 1st and the Lighthouse / Lightship weekend Aug 17-18 and asked for anyone wishing to assist in operating and or logging to contact him. Two more contests of interest were the North American QSO Party the same weekend Aug 17-18 and the WPDJ contest in September. Speak with Rick [VE3bk@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3bk@hamiltonarc.ca) if you require more information regarding contesting or would like to become involved in some capacity. John VA3BOZ mentioned the Laura Secord on The Air Special event Station set for June 22 for all interested in checking in.



## II. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported 21 members had renewed their memberships for the 2013-2014 season. A reminder that the new fee is \$31.00, if you are also a R.A.C member, \$42.00 if you are not. Sherry stated that she would attempt to make the membership form a little more clear (which she has since done)

## III. Hamilton ARC Flea market

R.A.C will be holding a General Meeting directly after the October 5 flea Market at the Merritt Hall in the Ancaster Fair grounds. Tom VE3MQ will be setting up the "Club table". Tracy has agreed to once again handle the treasurer function. Mike VA3WXS had agreed to do the talk-in. Tom VE3QM had suggested using a mobile rather than setting up a 2 M station. Barry VE3ISX has agreed to run Ontars from the flea market once again.

## IV. Treasurers Report

Dave VE3DWJ reported a balance of \$3095.77 in the bank. Mardy VE3QEE asked for a motion to accept the report as stated. Rick

VE3BK moved the motion and Sherry VE3DCU seconded it. Motion was carried by the membership.

## New Business 1) Newsletter

Mike VE3XMS has declined in putting out the monthly newsletter as of May 2013 as he has gotten far too busy to devote the time that the publication requires. Paul VE3HTF will send out request for a new Newsletter Editor. All chairpersons / directors should be responsible to submit content for the newsletters.

## 2) Summer Picnic

For some time now the executives from past and present years have been contemplating a summer picnic. Although some effort was put forth in organizing this for the 2013 year, those plans had recently been abandoned, since the "June" General Meeting. More information to follow for the 2014 season.

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3) Homebrew

Paul VE3HTF, the awards chair, announced a Certificate of Appreciation for participation in Homebrew 2012-13. Club President Mike Krebs VA3WXS awarded the participants, John VE3DVV, Roger VE3UFZ, Kevin VE3HNG, Mardy VE3QEE and (Mark VE3MWH, absent)

4) Elections

Elections were called for the 2013-2014 season Nominations were as follows:

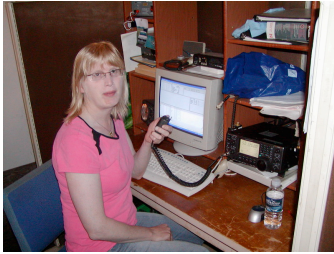
Person Nominated	Nominated By	Seconded By	Elected via members ballots
Roger Pimm VE3UFZ	Mardy VE3QEE	Mike VE3ATX	President
Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ	Rick VE3BK	Roger VE3UFZ	Secretary
Ron Collins VE3DF	Sherry VE3DCU	Dave VE3DWJ	
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE	Roger VE3UFZ	Dave VE3DWJ	2nd V.P.
Paul Fleck VE3HTF	Jim VE3EEZ	Roger VE3UFZ	Director
Dave Bruton VE3DWJ	Jim VE3EEZ	Mardy VE3QEE	Treasurer
John Boswell VA3BOZ	Rick VE3BK	Mardy VE3QEE	1st V.P.
Tom Feeney VE3KTA	Mardy VE3QEE	Jim VE3EEZ	
Tom Van Wort - Declined	Jim VE3EEZ		
Mike Krebs VA3WXS			Past President

Next meeting: September 18, 2013 The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:12 Moved by Roger VE3UFZ  
Motion seconded by Paul VE3HTF Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3EE



***Membership Chair Report***

Welcome to another year at the club. For all of the existing members, we know that September is the time to renew your membership. For new members the H.A.R.C. welcomes you to the club. Each membership that renews by the end of the September meeting will be entered in a free membership for the following year. So get your memberships in at the next meeting and the draw will be held at the October meeting.

As for the costs, we have solidified the primary membership rates. The rates are based on R.A.C. membership or not. If you are a R.A.C. member, the cost for a year's membership is 31\$. If you are not a R.A.C. member, the cost is 42\$. We have to charge more because of insurance costs and also how the insurance is charged back to the club. Our insurance is though R.A.C.. We are still sorting out the cost of the family membership as there was some debate on the price at the last meeting in July. The board will decide on the rate and the information will be relayed via this newsletter column.

Further pricing is rated on how far you live from the H.A.R.C. post office box. If you live more than 40km and are a R.A.C. member, your yearly cost is 16\$. If you are not a R.A.C. member then the cost is 27\$.

This membership column will be ongoing for the rest of the year so look for further membership news and issues.

More membership items can be viewed at the H.A.R.C. web page at [www.hamiltonarc.ca](http://www.hamiltonarc.ca) For any membership related questions, feel free to email me at [ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca).

Sherry Goeller

VE3DCU  
Membership Chair





***Awards Chair Report***

We welcome in the award season with a new addition to the family. Besides my new Great Grandson (*believe me when I say I'm 29!!!*), we have the Worked All Hamilton certificate of achievement. Fresh off the press, this award idea came from our friends at the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club.

Courtesy of the Winnipeg Club, H.A.R.C. has initiated the W.A.H. certificate of achievement for those hams that complete direct calls with VE3 / VA3 operators in Hamilton. The W.A.H. is awarded upon recognition of your achievement, so submit your details asap.

Details regarding the rules and criteria for this certificate are posted on the H.A.R.C. website.

This year we have completed several initiatives to improve member recognition. Each participant entering a project for the "Crawford Award" was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for their entry. We had some very creative projects entered. The winner this year was Mark Gibson, VE3MWH with his "plumbers delight" RDF antenna.

Mardy's project took me back in time to my first radio project, the Crystal Radio! I remember going to Western Radio in downtown Hamilton and asking the sales counter person for a "Cat Wisker" only to be handed a 1N34A diode! Hahahahaha...

If you have an idea for an award or recognition activity, let me know and I will work with you to bring it to life!

73's

Paul

Awards Chairperson

*Did you know that the H.A.R.C. is on Facebook??? Check us out at:*

<https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonAmateurRadioClub>

## Repeater Report by John VE3DVV

### Repeater developments during the summer:

Mark Gibson, VE3MHW and I wanted to know if it was possible to improve the sensitivity of the 440 repeater currently measured at .31microV. To do this we needed an extra cavity to further block the TX signal to get into the receiver ( this was to reduce de-sensing ).

At the recent Milton Flea-market I picked up a relatively inexpensive cavity for 440MHz , just what we needed to try the experiment. So Mark and I went to the repeater site and hooked up the cavity between the TX and the improvised 2 meter cavity we installed earlier. We had done this because there was poor de-sensing. I guess the 440 duplexer's isolation between TX and RX was not sufficient on it's own. Note: The 2 meter cavity was used on the 3rd overtone to make it work like a 440MHz cavity. ( *Editor's note - Rather clever!!* )

When we started testing we measured with the 2 meter cavity in line only .3 uV sensitivity and + TX 18 W going into the duplexer. When we added the cavity we purchased at the Milton Flea-market we measured the same sensitivity, but experienced and measured significantly reduced power output ( .3uV +TX 9.5W). So in the end we concluded that another cavity would only degrade repeater performance. We restored the original hookup.

### Announcement messages:

Roger, VE3UFZ and Mardy, VE3QEE got together at Timmy's for coffee and recorded two messages regarding the upcoming H.A.R.C. Flea-market. (*RAC General Meeting announcement*) & (*HARC Hamfest/Flea-market announcement*)  
I programmed them into the repeater controller to have each of them announced every other hour during the day.

73's

John, VE3DVV

Repeater Chair



### ***Hams will Travel***

This column is for the members that would like to share the life of a “Rover” with other members.

If you have experience with installing mobile amateur radio gear, drop us a line. We have many club members looking for installation help, how to, and technical support.

A short article about your experience, suggestion, technical fixes will help the rest of us “Go Roving”!!

*The editor is looking for an ‘Expurt” to manage this column, are you the one? Everyone will think so! Drop the editor a message at [ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca) for details!*



### ***Tech Corner***

#### **Default Settings for that Used HF Radio by Rick VE3BK**

So you bought a used HF radio and can't seem to get it to work. You are new to the hobby and don't really understand all the knobs yet.

OK, here is a quick and easy way to get some action out of that radio. You have to set the controls in the right places to hear something. Most radios have the same setup (the new ones have a lot in menus, so we are dealing mostly with that bargain you went for at the flea-market) so here is a quick and easy way to see if that radio even receives.

Over a period of time, I have checked a few radios for newer hams to see if they worked. One such radio had even been looked at by someone else that should have known where to set the knobs, but I found them all in the wrong locations, so there was no receive at all and the radio was locked up in the transmit mode. Not sure what the other ham that looked at it was doing but after I moved all the knobs to the correct setting to start out, we had receive and proceeded to work a fellow in England.

That Yaesu FT-757 worked great. Another bargain I looked at was completely dead and it turned out that the fuse holder on the inside, had gone brittle and fell apart, thus no power. We replace the fuse holder, check the controls for proper setting, and the radio worked on most bands.

I know that it is pretty easy for an inexperienced HF operator to get the controls in the wrong place; it even happens once in a while at one of our Contests when one of the operators is using someone else's radio that they are unfamiliar with. So here goes, I will try to remember all the controls, some of which are named differently, depending on the brand of radio you have.

One of the easiest ones to screw up is the RF gain. It needs to go all the way clockwise for full receive. Next is the Squelch. It needs to go all the way counter clockwise for full receive. Now for the obvious, AF Gain or Volume has to be turned up (clockwise) for you to hear anything. The Preamp/Attenuator could be in the attenuator positions so that signal that you should hear loudly is very low or not heard. Better to turn all to the off positions. These controls can be used later to receive better or cut noise later on when you get used to that particular radio. Next there are filters of different kinds that can actually kill all distinguishable sound if they are in the wrong position. At one of our contests, someone had put one of my filters on all the way and then complained to me that the band was dead. Careful use of these filters will give excellent results to get rid of noise and adjacent signals.

There are many types of filters you could run into. PB or Pass Band filter should be in the centre. Also another type is IF Shift, which is almost the same thing, again it should be in the centre. Beware, there may be a switch to actually turn these on or off, depending on the radio and all the bells and whistles. Next is the Notch Filter. It can be very useful to get rid of that guy next to you in frequency, too close and sometimes you can use it to tune out someone who is tuning up, but if not in the centre, could really hamper that receive. Another Filter is an actually marked "Filter", could be for Voice or CW and it could cut your receive significantly too. A great tool to get rid of noise and listen to only the guy you are working. until you find out if you have any noise to tune out in your area.

Another filter of sorts is the NB or Noise Blanker. You may have a range through a switch or even a variable knob to turn, to get different effect to get rid of ignition noise or many other types of noise. Trouble is, if you have this on all the way, chances are you audio is going to be garbled. Best to turn this off until you find out if you have any noise to tune out in your area.

TX/RX Rit, could be on and will make you receive something on the wrong frequency. Not really much of a problem unless you are transmitting, but best to have this control off too. AGC or Automatic Gain Control, but could be set to Slow, which could cause a weak signal to be intermittent. This should be set to AGC only. If it is off, you could receive a very strong signal full tilt and blow the front end of your receive.

OK, your VOX should be mentioned here. It should be off because if you had it on, every little noise in the shack (your coughing, laughing, the dog) could put your radio into the transmit mode. Of course you will hear nothing then.

I think we have most of them now except for this really important one. The Transmit or MOX switch. Before you turn the power to the radio on, make sure this switch is in the off position. If you had this on when you power up your radio, you could destroy the PA or power out transistors, if you had no antenna connected or were on the wrong band for the antenna you did have connected. This brings up another control, RF Power. It should really be turned all the way counter clockwise to minimum, until you have your radio on and setup for the band you want.

I hope this was useful to many of you who are new to ham radio and are purchasing that older HF rig that is a bargain at the flea-market. The newer radios have the same controls and more (like roofing filters) but these functions may be hidden in a menu somewhere, so may be a little harder to figure out, especially if you buy it at a flea-market. The new ones should be defaulted in a good place for just plugging it in and playing radio almost right away. The best thing is to read your manuals first, no matter what radio you purchase. What, no manual with that used bargain. Get on the internet and download at least the User's Manual. You should be able to find one free. Read it first and familiarize yourself with all the controls. Some may be called somewhat differently to what I called them in this article, but do the same job. Good luck with your new purchase and I hope you get it working normally right away.



*Do you know How many lightning flashes are there in a year?  
Over the continental United States there are on average 20,000,000 cloud-to-ground flashes.  
Make sure your antenna and shack grounding is intact and working!*



***High River flooding 2013  
when Field Day became for real.***

Late Wednesday night with the rain teeming down onto my back deck we were planning our small but mighty club's Field Day activities a few days away. Little did we know our Field Day would be one of the largest Emcomm events the Province of Alberta had ever seen and testing our limits far beyond any Field Day activity. 24 hours after our planning meeting 18 towns and municipalities would be under a State of Local Emergency for the worst flooding ever seen here.

FARS, the Foothills Amateur Radio Society, is based in Okotoks, Alberta. It's my hometown, having moved from Hamilton Ontario in October 2012. Our members commute from 100km away to attend our social gatherings and meetings. Our repeater network is fully linked, hub and spoke style, and covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometers. We've been working with local townships for 20+ years helping with flood watch, providing repeaters for those supporting forest fires, and the more fun events like the local parades and festivals.

Twelve (12) hours after our planning session ended we were put on standby by the Provincial Capital in Edmonton. I departed my workplace at 1400h and arrived at the EOC approximately 1630h faced by several road closures and hampered by clogged and failed cellular networks and in-town roadways, a drive that would normally have taken me about 1 hour. Every shortcut I tried to take from my home to the High River EOC was closed due to excessive amounts of water. Upon my arrival the Town of High River's sewer systems were offline and water was being drawn down from the reservoir. Phone lines were down and Telus/Bell cellular were offline but for the few of us who had Rogers it was fine. Occasionally we'd get a bit of propagation and our cellphones would perk up to life for a second only to disappear for hours again. There was no internet as the Town's servers were also evacuated before a failover to the hot site completed. This is the definition of all critical systems offline if I ever saw it.

The EOC had already been evacuated to its backup location at the High River Firehall when I arrived with talk of moving again being forced by water levels increasing rapidly. We bugged out about 2 hours later and drove 100km around road closures to the Nanton Firehall, normally a 25 minute drive that took close to an hour. At 2230h we were moved back to the HR Firehall where we continued operations. Owing to the rapidly changing EOC location I made the decision to split Net Control away from the EOC functions, thus we used Scott's home location as Net Control. At first the EOC was in High River Firehall (2h), then my truck (1h), then Nanton Firehall (2h), then my truck (.5h), then High River Firehall – so we split the operations as a result of being forced from our Firehall but still needing to run a controlled net. That turned out to be a key differentiator allowing us to focus 100% on the task at hand.

Net Control's roles were to schedule workers and report them provincially as well as handle traffic; this allowed my team at the EOC to focus on the rapidly changing situation at hand. Net Control was staffed with some less experienced amateurs however they were very well organized with up to 4 people at a time working in it and two nearby but off-duty. They rotated OPs every 2 hours to give breaks. They totally self-organized. I also told them to pair less experienced amateurs with more experienced when scheduling field resources allowing the newbies to learn and grow.

I gave Scott directions over the phone while driving away from the Town's Firehall when we bugged out threatened by water. I told him to set expectations with volunteers that they may deploy into a true disaster zone and needed to come prepared with rubber boots and shoes, clothing, some food and water as well as their HT and radios. Extra antennas a bonus. We ended up with a very diverse asset base, everything from longwires to Buddipoles to those with multiple HTs, 4x4s and generators. There was talk of deploying via Helicopter to the Hospital which was later evacuated as it was surrounded with 2' of water. In all we had a team of 50 Radio Amateurs working on this callout covering an area of about 1200 square kilometers.

We worked closely with many agencies including the Provincial Operations Centre, Alberta Emergency Management Agency, RCMP, Alberta Health Services and of course the Town of High River. Politicians from all levels visited our EOC. We also coordinated our activities with other ARES units in the province. Simply put, we couldn't have done this without the high level of coordination and cooperation among ARES teams. Along the way our mission became twofold; to help the Town of High River and to help AHS. We dealt with the AHS traffic from our position in the EOC and in cooperation with the POC.

Operations in an EOC are controlled chaos. We are privy to very much information that is highly confidential. We hear about everything yet see nothing, so it's sometimes hard to grasp the reality of the situation. We worked shoulder to shoulder with those that had lost their homes yet soldiered on with much professionalism – I was greatly moved by this. Our temporary EOC was one third the space of the normal area, and owing to the magnitude of the event the EOC team was three times it's normal size. It's hot, cramped and very noisy. We saw politicians from the Local, Provincial and Federal levels come in for meetings. It's a place that only level-headed and well-trained operators should work in, yet we still managed to have a few less-experienced folks by our sides as message runners so they can learn for the next big event.

We were able to stand down when the cellular networks were stabilized for about 18 hours.

We adjourned to the Scott's home for a debrief meal and meeting to discuss lessons learned, good and bad. Splitting the command and control between EOC and Net Control was a key win allowing me to focus on EOC without logistics/scheduling concerns. Our list of "do better" is matched in length with "what we did good". Later in July the entire ARES Alberta team met for a similar meeting as seen here <https://www.rac.ca/en/news/bulletins/2013/28-0/>.

Field Day activities and regular participation in nets (even just to say “QRU”) helps a lot to prepare for these situations. Working SSB contesting is also good practice for this as you have to be very good to make sense of a signal in tough circumstances. Before you debate that FM is different from SSB in terms of S/N, consider that the noise I experienced in the EOC was 35 other people talking in the same room in my other ear when I’m trying to QSO on 2m... Last but not least I’m personally thankful to the training and operator opportunities provided to me by VA3OP, Gary Notto and VA3BUR, Kevin Andrews during my time in the Hamilton area.

I have never been through such an intense event in my life. I am pleased to have been able to serve, and I’ll do it again in a heartbeat.

73 de VE6LK  
..Vince

### **The Team**

Kerry Atkinson VE6GG, Doug Seymour VE6DHS, Andrew Stott VA6AWS, Barry Cherneske VA6MIA, Kiernan Burr VA6IP, Gern Sabourin VE6KG, Curtis Bidulock VE6AEW, Earl Morris VE6NI, Ian Burgess VE6EMS, Daniel Krysak VA6DJK, Michael Curtis VA6EMT, Vince D'Eon VE6LK, Scott Nalder VE6OBL, Tony Toews VE6MVP, Jeff Low VA6JL, Greg McKinney VA6GMC, Ken McPherson VA6KM



*Editors note;*

*A special note of thanks to Vince for his article submission. Clearly a team of dedicated HAM's that assisted their community in a time of need. Our "Hat's Off" to you and your fellow operators for a job well done!*



***Contest Corral***

**Summer Happenings at the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club**

Rick Danby VE3BK

Some of you may know already that just because the Club does not have meetings in July and August, does not mean we do not have things going on.

To name a few:

1. Field Day happens the 3rd weekend in June, after our Club meeting. Anyone can help out: members, non members, non hams etc.
2. We run the July 1st Canada Day Contest from the Contest Site using VE3DC. Ask me how to help out. We can always use more operators or just come and see us operated to learn how we contest. We usually do quite well, even though we work at a relaxed rate to have fun.
3. The ILLW or International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend, where we work as many Lighthouses or Home stations as we can from the Burlington Main Light. Here we usually try out antennas and radios and generally promote Ham Radio and our Club to the public, on the trail near the Lighthouse. Two great days down on the beach as we do not go for the whole 48 hours. It is not a contest but rather a time to have fun with Ham Radio.
4. Foxhunts have happened at the end of every month. Anyone can participate, just check for dates and times on the website listed below.
5. Contest Group Barbecue happens the first Sunday after Labour Day. This is usually for Contest Group members, but any prospective contest group member is also welcome. Maxine, Dan's dog, loves everyone, especially if you happen to drop some of your BBQ hi hi.

Well that is about it. We have done other things too, like Picnic in the Park or any Special Event someone has come up with. Check the Website <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca> to keep up to date with what is happening with our Club. If you are not on Holidays when we have an event, you are more than welcome to join in the fun.

**Field Day 2013**

by Rick Danby VE3BK

This year Field Day took a different kind of twist with our Field Day Coordinator having a serious medical operation and not quite recovered for Field Day. This didn't stop Dan VA3DJ from making arrangements with the Hamilton Conservation Area to use Devil's Punch Bowl again this year. His Dad cut the grass for us again and outdid himself this year by cutting all the remaining areas that were not cut, so that any of us could set up our tents and antennas where ever we liked.

Yes, we had a different layout than last year, with people being in different locations and some new people getting in on Field Day. Paul Fleck VE3HTF was our G.O.T.A. (get on the air) station this year and tried out his vertical. The 40 and 80 meter stations were pretty much in the same location but Sherry VE3DCU was setup with Paul to cover many bands. Sherry even made some 6 meter contacts along with her 15 meter contacts. She found 10 meters and 160 meters were not very productive this time.

I submitted the logs again this time and found they were easier to do than last year; we are all definitely improving on our logging skills. We ran 4A that is 4 HF transmitters with a G.O.T.A. station and a free 2 meter station ran by David VE3DWJ and Kevin VE3HNG. Our results are good, with Andrew VE3RIA getting us those extra points for all his CW contacts. Mardy VE3QEE, Mark VE3MWH and John VE3DVV did the 80 meter station with some demonstrations by John of the FLEX system he uses. Andrew also demonstrated his CW method of communications to 5 people that were visiting.

We had quite a few visitors again as we are on part of "the trail" at the Devil's Punch Bowl and I think many use this area for walks and exercise. We probably missed getting a lot of the visitors in the "Visitor's Logbook" as it was more fun to demonstrate Ham Radio to the public than worry about getting their name in the book. We had a lot of fun at it anyway.

All in all it was another successful Field Day with many people seeing what Ham Radio can do.

Weather stayed cooperative: no rain (even though we had some boomers and some wind) for the whole time we were there, no wet tents to pack up. It was a little warm but great weather.

Helping out was Ahmet VA3TUR, new to Field Day and Ham Radio but a big help and he was initiated into Field Day by operating at the 40 meter station. Jim VE3EEZ did very well on 20 meters. He took point; down by the Cross so had a really good spot on the edge of the escarpment. Hope he didn't disturb too many of those late night romantics that seem to come to look over the city late at night.



**R.A.C. Bulletin**

NOTICE DATE CHANGE FOR SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

\*RAC Bulletin 2013-026E - 2013 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) October 19, 2013\*  
2013-07-18

This year's SET is now scheduled for October 19, 2013 due to a conflict with Thanksgiving on October 12. Please visit the RAC website for details.

A reminder that groups are encouraged to hold their SET on any weekend that is convenient

***"The RAC Canada Winter Contest 2013"***

The significance of this contest is that we have been given the privilege of using VA3RAC for this contest from R.A.C.

This year the contest will start December 28th, 2013 0:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC, this translates to Friday night December 27th to Saturday at 7pm at night.

This is a 24 hour contest. This year it is between Christmas and New Years, on a weekend, and doesn't interfere with any of the Holiday Festivities.

The official contest rules for 2013 will be on the RAC web site or check your November/December TCA magazine from Radio Amateurs of Canada.

We will need all the help we can get to place well in the standings, so if you want to run a station or just be an operator, let me know. My email [ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca)

Let's put on a good showing for The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club.

Here is the link to RAC (the Winter Information has to be posted yet):  
<https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests/>

73 Rick VE3BK



**Editor's Review**

With club elections completed the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club and its valued members have a great challenge ahead for 2014.

As a membership we are taking the opportunity to build on 81 years of club integrity, mentorship and valued friends. The value of our members is recognized by it's growing list of volunteers, our engagement with the community and our ability to have fun with a hobby we each love.

I would invite everyone to enjoy our September 2013 newsletter over a cup of coffee.

Share your thoughts with the editor, suggestions, critical acclaim, ideas, even a paragraph about your most recent QSO is welcome.

This is your club, your newsletter, your opportunity to enhance the quality of your club to be the very best example of Amateur Radio, at its Best in Canada.

Thank-you to all those members who have contributed to this September issue. It is those who contribute that will gain the most from sharing with others.

I look forward to hearing from every reader about your interests, comments and what you love about this hobby!

73's  
Paul  
VE3HTF

Calendar

- Sep 09  
[7:30 PM - Monday Night 75 Meter Net](#)
- Sep 10  
[8:30 PM - Community Volunteer Communications Net](#)
- Sep 11  
[7:30 PM - HARC Executive Meeting](#)
- Sep 15  
[7:30 PM - Sunday Night 2M Net & Swap](#)
- Sep 16  
[7:30 PM - Monday Night 75 Meter Net](#)
- Sep 17  
[8:30 PM - Community Volunteer Communications Net](#)
- Sep 18  
[7:30 PM - HARC General Meeting](#)
- Sep 22  
[7:30 PM - Sunday Night 2M Net & Swap](#)
- Sep 23  
[7:30 PM - Monday Night 75 Meter Net](#)