



# The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter - 82 Years of Amateur Radio  
1932 - 2014

## ***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 Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main St W, Hamilton, ON L8S 1A5 , Hamilton. Parking in the rear off Longwood Rd. Use the back entrance to the west. *With coffee and treats we serve smiling faces and host great guest speakers.*

## **H.A.R.C. Executive**

Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ - President

[VE3UFZ@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3UFZ@hamiltonarc.ca)

John Boswell, VA3BOZ - 1st V.P.

[VA3BOZ@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VA3BOZ@hamiltonarc.ca)

Jim Sawadski, VE3EEZ - Secretary

[VE3EEZ@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3EEZ@hamiltonarc.ca)

Paul Fleck, VE3HTF - Director / C.C.B.W.

[VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca)

Mike Krebs - VA3WXS - Past President

[VA3WXS@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VA3WXS@hamiltonarc.ca)

Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE - 2nd V.P.

[VE3QEE@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3QEE@hamiltonarc.ca)

Dave Bruton, VE3DWJ - Treasurer

[VE3DWJ@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3DWJ@hamiltonarc.ca)

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



## H.A.R.C. Chairs / Volunteers

### Awards

Paul Fleck VE3HTF  
[VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Contesting/Property Manager

Rick Danby VE3BK  
[VE3BK@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3BK@hamiltonarc.ca)

### eQSL Manager

Don Grisenthwaite VE3DDQ  
[VE3DDQ@rac.ca](mailto:VE3DDQ@rac.ca)

### Health & Welfare Ambassador

Tom Feeney VE3KTP  
[VE3KTP@rac.ca](mailto:VE3KTP@rac.ca)

### Examiner Volunteer

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ  
[VE3UFZ@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3UFZ@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Newsletter Editor

Paul Fleck VE3HTF  
[VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Hamfest Vendor Manager

Mardy Eedson  
[VE3QEE@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3QEE@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Webmaster

Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ  
[VE3EEZ@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3EEZ@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Membership

Sherry Goeller VE3DCU  
[VE3DCU@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3DCU@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Repeater Chairperson

John Vandenberg VE3DVV  
[VE3DVV@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3DVV@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Repeater Technical support

Mark Gibson VE3MHW  
[VE3MWH@rac.ca](mailto:VE3MWH@rac.ca)

### Field Day Manager

Dan Martinak VE3DJ  
[VA3DJ@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VA3DJ@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Examiner Volunteer

Paul Fleck VE3HTF  
[VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca)

### 2M Check-in Net Controller

Allan Gammon VA3ALZ  
[VA3ALZ@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VA3ALZ@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Hamfest Manager

John Bozwell  
[VA3BOZ@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VA3BOZ@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Club License Administrator

Rick Danby VE3BK  
[VE3BK@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3BK@hamiltonarc.ca)



## ***Presidents Message***

A new year and new opportunities. 2013 was indeed an interesting year, with lot's of good things being accomplished. Here's hoping that 2014 brings us as much (and more) success in building our club. One New Year's wish I have is that we can build an environment where the club is more member driven rather than executive driven. As time goes by it seems to be more difficult to find members willing to give of their time and talent to club activities. In real life (before retirement) I would tell the team I worked with that my door was always open. Well, my electronic door is always open, and I would be delighted to hear from fellow members what the club means to them and what is important to them. We need more members to step forward and champion activities such as teaching, field day, fox hunting and Hamfest. If I have forgotten any activities or interests here, please don't assume they don't mean anything to me or the executive. It just isn't possible for the minimum resources we have to promote and steward every interest without your input and help.

Enough of my emoting. Let's review some of our accomplishments in 2013. I think we had a wonderful Christmas Party again. Many thanks to Murray Thompson VE3ZVP and his XYL Laurel, Commodore of the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club (RHYC), for providing a warm and welcoming venue. We have booked RHYC again for 2014.

We have managed to find a more suitable home for our club activities, Westdale High School. This move will allow us establish courses for Basic and Advanced courses. Coincident with this move is a savings in expense since we are a 'not for profit' club and qualify for Provincial subsidization. All we need now is students and instructors. To date we have had only 3 positive responses for Basic, so please get out there and beat the bushes for more candidates. Our club needs new members!

Our Hamfest last year was a big success and indeed a feather in our club cap. RAC held their Annual General Meeting co-incident with our Hamfest and had nothing but praise for our hospitality. The Ancaster Agricultural Society has again approved our presence in October 2014 for our annual Hamfest. Unfortunately they booked another tenant in our original building so we don't have the same building this year as we have had in the past, but the building next door to it has been reserved (at a significant savings).

I wish you all a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing you all at our new location on January 15.



### *Vice Presidents Message*

## **The Big News**

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club has secured an new location for our monthly meetings and a place to teach the Basic Qualification course.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of President Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, arrangements have been made to hold monthly meetings in Westdale Secondary School main floor, starting January 21, 2014. Most meetings are still on the third Wednesday of the month. Doors open at 7:00 P.M. and meetings start at 7:30 P.M. There is free parking in the lot behind the school. Access the lot from Longwood Road. Use the door from the parking lot at the west end of the school (where there is a ramp).



*Westdale Secondary School*

Why the change? Believe it or not, this change turns out to be a significant cost saving measure, although our reason for changing was to improve facilities for hosting club meetings and executive meetings, plus, more importantly, to obtain a classroom for teaching the Basic Qualification course, something we have not done for several years.

Congratulations to Roger for successfully negotiating our new venue. Please pass along to others our Big News so we'll be sure to have a good turnout at the January meeting. Looking forward to joining you there.

Mardy Eedson  
2nd Vice President  
VE3QEE



## *Secretary's Report*

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

11/20/2013

### **I. Call to order**

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ called to order the regular meeting of the **HARC** at **19:26** on November 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.

27 members /guests were present. Visiting was Fergus Kyle VE3LVO our guest speaker.

### **III. Speakers**

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ and John Kassay VE3FDK each took a turn at an introduced our guest speaker, Fergus Kyle VE3LVO. A retired commercial airline pilot from the Burlington Area. Fergus began the evening with a topic on local weather. Speaking to the reasons that we experience the weather we get. An interesting subject that held the interest of the membership. Thank you Fergus for coming out and meeting fellow hams and sharing your knowledge on the subject matter.

### **IV. Health and Welfare**

Joe Urbanski VE3OCD was absent tonight, and is reportedly not doing well as he is bothered by cataracts. We are pleased to announce Tom Feeney VE3KTA has accepted the chair as Health and Welfare ambassador. If you know someone in the ham community who is or perhaps was a member of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, who is not well or should be acknowledged by the club, please contact Tom and let him know so that accurate information can be passed along to the rest of us. You can reach Tom at [ve3kta@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3kta@hamiltonarc.ca)

### **V. Repeater**

John VE3DVV spoke of perhaps programing the UHF side of VE3NCF to automatically connect to some nets i.e., the Trans-Canada IRLP NET. Mixed discussion of the use of the repeater ensued and Roger VE3UFZ asked that we table this discussion before any action takes place, as discussion was leading to the fact that when the repeater is pre-programed, it may cut out any conversations that may already ongoing and causing interference in itself. AI VA3ALZ has experienced bleed through from the UHF side to the 2 meter side of the club repeater when in conversations on the VHF frequency. If you experience these anomalies please note times that this happens and send John a note. [ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca)

## VI. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU was absent this evening, but had reported 47 paid memberships. Please take a few minutes to fill in your 2013-14 membership application. You can find them at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/ourclub/membership/>

## VII. Contesting

Rick has been busy with a vendor taking orders of "T" Shirts, Club Badges, Coasters, and Mouse Pads. Anyone wishing to order some of this merchandise supporting club events contact Rick [ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca). Pricing in effect until Feb 1 2014.

Rick drew attention to the TCA magazine Nov-Dec issue for the rules for the 2013 RAC WINTER contest. The RAC winter contest begins Dec 28 @ 7pm Dec 28, a 24 hr. contest where VE3DC has been given the privilege of using the VA3RAC callsign. Anyone wishing to assist in any contest please contact Rick as above and check the Club Web site "Events Calendar" for the schedule of contests VE3DC is participating in. Also of mention were articles on page 23-4-5 on ¼ wave slopers and pg. 13 on a 3/8 wave dipole -small city lot antennas. QST magazine made mention of VE3DC Field day exercise 2013 as 4rth in Canada in our class. 45 visitors were recorded at that event, which says something about our location being in the public eye. December 14 & 15 is a 10 meter contest. Tune in to those frequencies for some 10 meter action. 10 meters has been open lately.

## VIII. Hamilton ARC Flea market

The 2014 Hamilton ARC Hamfest will take place October 4rth. A new venue which will take place in the bldg. south of the concessions building. The Concessions building was unavailable at the time of booking and this rental is at a reduced cost. A catering truck will be pursued, as one currently services other events in the fairground complex. More information will be available as the committee continues to work out the details.

## IX. Awards

Paul Fleck VE3HTF reminded members to submit their logs for their copy of the "Worked all Hamilton Award" to qualify only 25 direct "City Contacts" are required as per the rules found on the website at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/activities/harc-awards/worked-all-hamilton-award-rules/>. A new award has been added to the Awards Section "The Spouse Award" in recognition of those spouses who are not hams but have contributed to the hobby in one way or another that it had contributed to the hobby in one way or another see details at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/2013/12/01/the-h-a-r-c-spouse-award/>  
No nominations were received for the Art Ferguson Award 2013-14 L

## X. Treasurers Report

Dave VE3DWJ reported a September opening balance of \$2,344.51 and a November 2013 closing balance of \$6,004.13

### **New Business**

Casey VE3CVP began the evening with an acknowledgement of two hams that gave him a hand with some antenna work to get him back on the air. Acknowledgments went to Mark Gibson VE3MWH and Paul Fleck VE3HTF.

#### 1) Events

Hamilton Santa 1-5-10km Race Nov 24 2013 Gary Notto VE3TTO requested and received volunteers to assist in the monitoring of the race. See article and pictures submitted by Rick VE3BK and Kevin VE3HNG <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/2013/12/01/santa-claus-run-hamilton-nov-24-2013/> also see the 2013 Hanukah Shuffle <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/2013/12/01/12th-annual-hanukah-husle-2013/>

## 2) Education

Roger VE3UFZ is continuing to pursue the Hamilton Wentworth Board of Education for a possible site for future meetings and possible class time to begin the BASIC Amateur Radio Classes and testing. The site being "Westdale High School". If you could assist in donating some of your time to Educate / Elmer a prospective HAM please contact [exec@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:exec@hamiltonarc.ca).

Dave Bruton VE3DWJ was asked by Roger to pick up the mail more often during this time period as discussions are underway and we can't afford to miss out on correspondence.

## 3) Newsletter articles needed

Paul VE3HTF is looking for technical articles or practical lessons learned in your hobby. If you can pen them down and send them off, Paul will gladly publish them.

### Next meeting\_

January 15, 2014 The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON. Unless otherwise posted on your website. Check <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/ourclub/meetings/>

At information becomes available

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:45

Moved by John VE3FDK

Motion seconded by Paul VE3HTF

Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ

## *January Meeting*

You can look to see "what's up" for the future meetings by visiting the HARC web site at <<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca>>. Here's "what's up" for January:

Michael Brickell VE3TKI and Ed Spingola VA3TPV of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club are the featured speakers in January. Ed and Michael, as board members of the not for profit Incoming QSL Bureau will provide insight on the workings of the QSL Bureau and showcase the Teams' handy work in creating the system and making the Bureau more user friendly. Has your account been updated?



From: <<http://the-colour-of-the-sun.blogspot.ca>>  
Printed with permission.

More where this one came from -- check it out.



## ***Membership Chair Report***

*Sherry Goeller VE3DCU*

Hello members and potential new members. Happy New Year and I hope your Christmas warm and merry. There is not too much happening on the membership front this January. Most members have paid up and if there are any renewals still out there please see me at the next meeting or go to our web page [www.hamiltonarc.ca](http://www.hamiltonarc.ca) and fill out the membership form and mail it in. The executive has filled out and sent in the club insurance forms to RAC as it needed to be filed by the end of December. So that is done and membership was one of the key requirements in determining how much we must pay.

As a reminder, we have a greater than 40km membership rate of 16\$ if a RAC member and 27\$ if not a RAC member. I now have a smart phone and can calculate the distances during our meetings to make sure a new member is more than 40km from our post office box at 350 King Street East in Hamilton.

That's all for now ... I hope to see you at the next meeting.

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

Question: What type-font would be suitable for an Amateur Radio Newsletter?  
Answer: "Arial", of course! You're looking at it. ---- -- ---- --



# The Zener Diode

by Sherry Goeller [ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca)

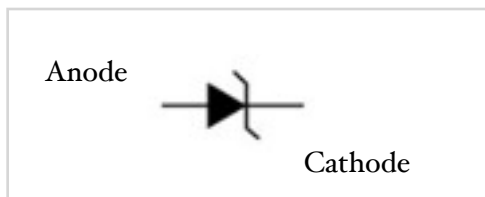
In the December issue Sherry wrote an article about *How the Diode Works*. Here is part 2 of the series in which she describes the Zener diode.

The Zener diode was in effect discovered by Clarence Zener. He discovered that a diode in a reverse bias condition allows current to flow at a certain voltage point. The point is now known as the Zener knee point, Zener voltage or peak inverse voltage. By building a diode that can withstand reverse bias conditions, one can use such a device for voltage regulation or voltage surges which are the most common uses.

This Zener device is a semiconductor that provides a constant voltage reference or voltage control. Like any other diode, it has a P and N junction that is designed to work in reverse bias. As a note, it will still conduct in a forward bias condition; just a like a regular diode. So its construction works in a way that minimal current flow will occur on reverse bias until a specified voltage has been reached. This is the Zener knee voltage. When the knee voltage is reached, the current flow increases so that it conducts in a reverse bias.

A minimum current must be maintained through the Zener to keep the device operating. A rule of thumb is about 5% of the rated maximum Zener current. You will almost always see a resistor in series with the Zener to keep this current flowing through it. On that note, when choosing a Zener diode, one must consider the Zener voltage, maximum current and maximum power the device can handle. Zeners can range from a few volts to more than 200 volts.

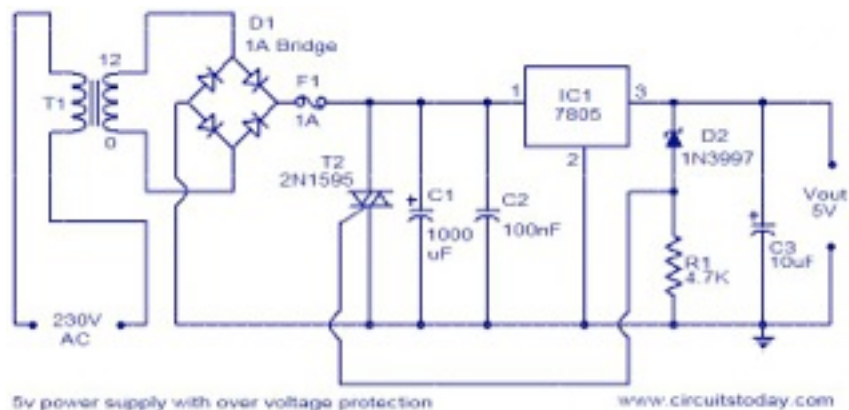
The Zener diode is represented by the symbol shown below.



Experiment with Zeners one day. I have built a Zener diode tester a while back and it works great. It can read the knee voltage for Zeners up to about 40 volts. Maybe I'll write an article on that next month and attach a picture of it.

Just for fun can you spot the Zener diode on this power supply circuit diagram?

How many other diodes can you find?





## Contest Report

*Rick Danby VE3BK*

Our Club worked the RAC Winter Contest running for 24 hours on December 28.

What a thrill using VA3RAC for the first time in the RAC Winter Contest. We were definitely in demand even though we have worked many pileups using our Club callsign VE3DC, we still really enjoyed using the RAC callsign VA3RAC. One thing I noticed was that this call seemed to be easy to trip up on. I found myself saying VE3DC too many times and had to correct myself.

Thanks to all that worked us, it was fun and especially to all the US Hams that came to work us in our Canadian contest. Thanks also for the nice reports I received on 40m as the strongest station on the band at 40 over. Makes you head swell hi hi.

We had a ball doing this contest. Murphy only struck a couple of times but nothing too significant. For any of those who could join us this time, you missed a lot of fun, working pileups and generally getting a good dose of Radio Contesting. Hope you can join us next time.

## Operators and Results

VA3TUR VE3BK VE3CXB VE3DCU VE3EEZ VE3QEE & VE3RIA

	contacts	points	multipliers		contacts	points	multipliers
160 Phone	0	0	0	160 CW	3	40	2
80 Phone	86	624	8	80 CW	0	0	0
40 Phone	465	1930	10	40 CW	198	834	10
20 Phone	288	1622	12	20 CW	70	288	8
15 Phone	39	266	7	15 CW	64	184	4
10 Phone	14	136	6	10 CW	4	34	2



# Pictorial

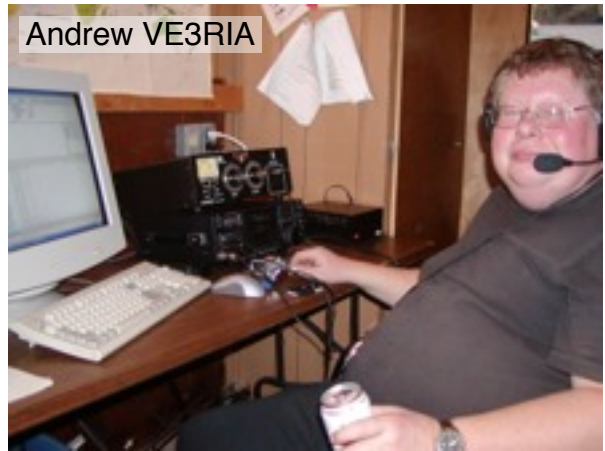
top section

## Canada Winter Contest

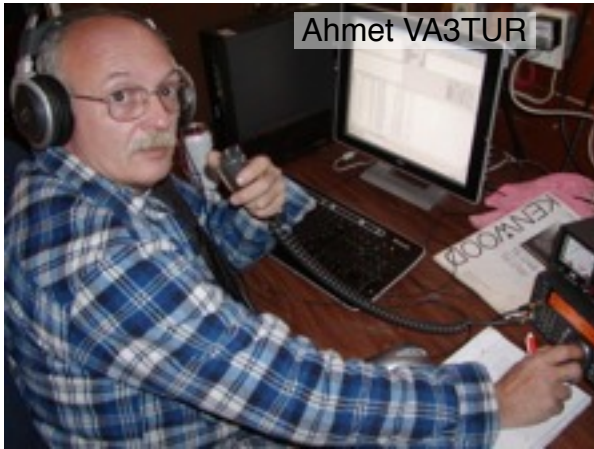
*HARC was the official VA3RAC station in this contest. Contacting any of the provincial RAC stations earned 20 points!*

and the bottom section

## HARC Annual Christmas Party



Andrew VE3RIA



Ahmet VA3TUR



Jim VE3EEZ



Mardy VE3QEE



Sherry VE3DCU



Judy & Barry



Janice & John

# HARC Annual Christmas Party



Casey & Thia



David & Michelle



Gary & friends



Jim & Donna



John & Karen



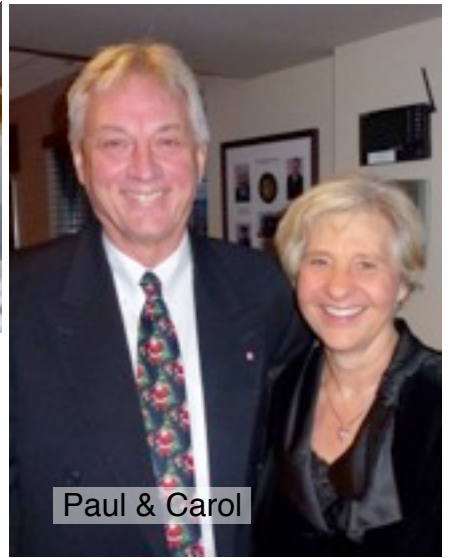
Mark & Roger



Murray & Laurel



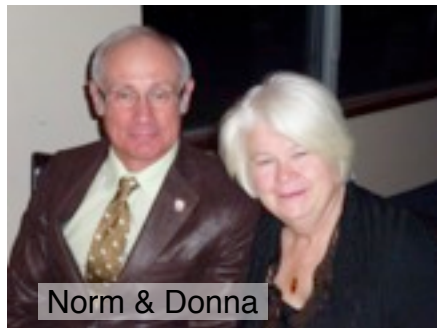
John & JoAnne



Paul & Carol



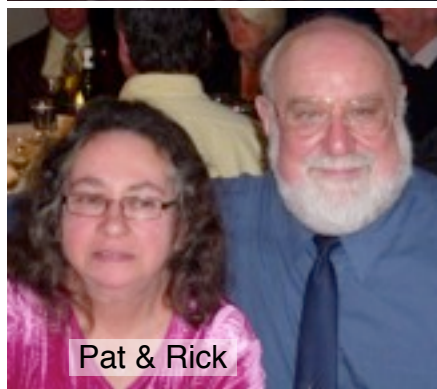
Peter & Mary



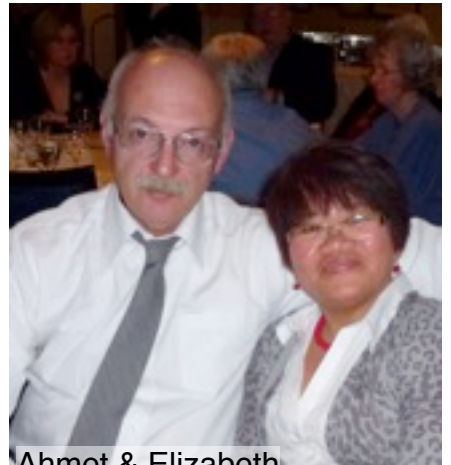
Norm & Donna



Danny & John



Pat & Rick



Ahmet & Elizabeth

## **DAYTON HAMVENTION 2014**

**MAY 15-18, 2014**

**4 DAYS – 3 NIGHTS**

*Hello and Welcome Our HAM Radio friends! We hope you will enjoy this Tour Package that we have put together for you.*

### ***This fully escorted tour includes:***

Refreshments, snacks and movies on the bus

3 Nights hotel accommodations with indoor pool, fitness centre and wi-fi

3 Deluxe continental breakfasts (hot and cold) and 2 Dinner buffets

Daily Transportation to the Hamvention and return to the hotel

Transportation to the Outlet Mall and other Shopping Malls for those not attending the Hamvention

We may also visit the **National Museum of the US Air Force**

Duty free shopping both ways

All taxes included

### ***All this for only:***

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**\$499p.p. Double occ. \$479p.p. Triple occ. \$699 Single occ.**

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