



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 7:00 pm. Our meeting location is at Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main St W, Hamilton, ON L8S 1A5 , Hamilton. Look for us in cafeteria on the main floor. Parking in the rear lot off Longwood Rd. Use the back universal access entrance (up the ramp) to the west. In the school turn left and follow the corridor to the end, turn right and you're there.

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

H.A.R.C. Executive	
President – Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca	Past President – Mike Krebs, VA3WXS va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca
First Vice President – (position vacant)	Second Vice President – Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca
Secretary – Jim Sawadski, VE3EEZ ve3eez@hamiltonarc.ca	Treasurer – Dave Bruton, VE3DWJ ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca
Director without portfolio – (position vacant)	

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 -- (position vacant)	Membership -- Sherry Goeller VE3DCU ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca
Contesting/Property Manager -- Rick Danby, VE3BK ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca	Repeater Chairperson -- John Vandenberg, VE3DVV ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca
eQSL Manager -- Don Grisenthwaite VE3DDQ ve3ddq@hamiltonarc.ca	Repeater Technical support -- Mark Gibson VE3MHW ve3mwh@hamiltonarc.ca
Health & Welfare Ambassador - Tom Feeney VE3KTP ve3ktp@hamiltonarc.ca	Field Day Manager -- Dan Martinak VE3DJ va3dj@hamiltonarc.ca
Designated Examiner -- Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca	Designated Examiner -- Mike Christmas, VE3XMS ve3xms@hamiltonarc.ca
Newsletter Editor -- Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca	Controller 2M Check-in Net -- Alan Gammon, VA3ALZ va3alz@hamiltonarc.ca
Hamfest Vendor Liaison -- Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca	Hamfest Manager - (position vacant)
Webmaster -- Jim Sawadski, VE3EEZ ve3eez@hamiltonarc.ca	Station Licensee/QSL Manager - Rick Danby, VE3BK ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca



Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ

Presidents Message

What a busy month January has been. We experienced a few changes to our routine. There was our first time at Westdale Secondary School for both executive and general meetings and after a few years' hiatus, a Basic Amateur Certificate course. It gives me great satisfaction to announce that we currently have 13 students in our Basic Amateur class. What a treat it was to see that many students ready to learn and become new HAM operators. Mardy VE3QEE, our lead instructor, kicked off the first evening with an introduction to the course of study and then marched straight into the technical material. There was even a 'pop quiz' during the evening, taken directly from the material Mardy had introduced. There was no scoring of the quiz. It was employed to introduce the students to the methodology used in the 'real' Industry Canada examination that would be administered at the end of the course.

We currently have six club members volunteering to teach their favourite chapters and one member volunteering to be a proctor. With their help I am sure we will be a success in this



endeavor. Our volunteers are: Mardy VE3QEE, Jim VE3EEZ, Ron VE3RTJ, Sherri VE3DCU, John VE3CXB, Mark VE3MWH.

I must express my deepest appreciation to all you volunteers for making this project work, and for taking a huge worry off my shoulders. It gives me great pride to know that I have these wonderful people helping me carry through with this project. We have been talking about setting up a training program for some time now, and it is finally up and running.

There are still a few chapters looking for teacher/facilitators: Transmission Lines, Antenna's and Station Operation are 'leaderless'. If you are interested, or would like to learn more about the teacher/facilitator role, give me a call. If you are already a HAM, then you have the passion for the hobby that will let you lead a group of eager students through a chapter.

Together we are going to **make it happen!**

The classroom is getting full, but there are still a few desks spare if anyone wants to pay the tuition (\$60) and play a bit of catch up. There is still plenty of time to get ahead of the wave - so to speak.

This past January we held our first general meeting at Westdale Secondary School, in the cafeteria. There was a little QRM (with the refrigerators running in the kitchen) but it didn't create much of a problem hearing our two speakers. The seating arrangements seemed to work out okay as well. I think we will be comfortable with this new venue, and best of all, there is plenty of room to grow.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next General Meeting. Mark the 3rd Wednesday evening in your calendars, that will be February 19th.

73

Roger VE3UFZ



Vice Presidents Message

by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

Greetings: The guest speaker this month, on Wednesday February 19th, will be Shawn Gartley, VE3PSV, from Cambridge. Shawn organizes the Trans Provincial Net on 7.055 MHz and he has been instrumental in building the Trans Provincial Net since the last dip in the solar cycle when daytime propagation on 40 meters was sparse. Shawn also participates in a daily formal traffic net called the Ontario Phone Net on 3.745 MHz at 19:00 local time. He will give us some insights about running a net and an introduction to handling formal traffic.

The Spring schedule for club meetings at Westdale Secondary School is as follows:

Wednesday February 19th from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. regular monthly meeting.

Wednesday March 19th from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. regular monthly meeting.

Wednesday April 16th from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. regular monthly meeting.

Wednesday May 21 from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. regular monthly meeting.

Wednesday June 11th from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. the **Annual General Meeting**.

Please note that the June 11th Annual General Meeting is on the second Wednesday of the month. The date had to be moved one week ahead because High School Examinations are taking place after that and we do not have access to the school during exam time.

Dates for the Basic Qualification Course, Tuesdays in Room 124, 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. are as follows:

February 4, 11, 18, 25;

March 4, 18, 25; (No meeting during the school's March Break.)

April 1, 8, 15, 22;

May 6, 13, 20, 27. (The Basic Qualification Exam will take place on the final date.)

Members are invited to attend the course sessions to help out, or just observe.

At our January meeting, the first meeting in Westdale School, Sherry volunteered to take the minutes. Secretary Jim, VE3EEZ was out of town attending to matters following the passing of his Father. Our condolences to Jim and the Sawadski family. Thanks Sherry for recording and writing up the minutes.



Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of January 15th 2014

- I. Call to order. Roger Pimm VE3UFZ called to order the regular meeting of the HARC at 19:05 on January 15th 2014, at Westdale Secondary School - 700 Main St W, Hamilton, ON L8S 1A5
- II. Sign in. Attendance was not circulated. Visiting were Ed Spingola VA3TPV and Michael Brikell VE3TKI as our guest speakers.
- III. Introduction to our new meeting location. Roger Pimm VE3UFZ described the new meeting room to which we were present. We held our meeting in the cafeteria. He went on about the facilities and parking along with the classroom where we were to have our Basic Training course.
- IV. Basic training course. Roger Pimm VE3UFZ discussed the upcoming basic training course for new amateurs. He asked if anyone was interested in becoming instructors and to take a small piece of the training course to spread the effort all around. Volunteers were accepted. The cost of the course is 60\$.
- V. Speakers. At 19:12, Mike Christmas VE3XMS introduced our two guest speakers Ed Spingola VA3TPV and Michael Brikell VE3TKI. They came to our meeting to discuss IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) and QSL Bureau system.

Ed started the meeting explaining IARU which has 162 country members that report to the ITU (International Telecom Union) which was formed in 1925. The discussion was around the rules and regulations. Also added was the history of the union and the fact that its pioneers were amateur radio operators like Hiram Percy Maxim.

The structure of the IARU is a worldwide system of QSL bureaus. RAC operates Canada. The way it works is that RAC receives QSL cards and then distributes them to all the provinces of Canada to which volunteers are assigned letters of the receiving call sign. The volunteers look for the person that is to receive the QSL card and then mails it to that person. This is



assuming that the recipient is paid up with the QSL bureau. Incoming QSL's can go to anyone however, outgoing QSL's require RAC membership.

At 19:34, Michael Brikell VE3TKI took over the meeting and described in detail about the Ontario QSL bureau and how it works. The Ontario QSL bureau is a shining light on how to handle QSL's as it is amazingly organized and online. One can go to <http://ontarioincomingqslbureau.ca> to view their account. The speakers then took questions and answered them. The evening was very informative.

20:15 was deemed the break time.--- 20:31 was when the meeting resumed

VI. Treasurer's Report. Dave Bruton VE3DWJ gave a report on the current financial situation for the benefit of club members in attendance. Dave Bruton further explained that financial reports would be delivered at the meetings but not published in the newsletter. This decision was made at the last executive meeting.

VII. Health and Welfare. Tom Feeney VE3KTA is the new Health and Welfare volunteer and opened up by thanking Mary VE3OGQ and Joe Urbanski VE3OCD for their past duties with Health and Welfare. They did a wonderful job for many years and the club recognized this fact.

Leif Thompsen VE3KFE had a stroke and is in the hospital. Leif is welcoming visitors while he is undergoes rehabilitation. Also, Anita Thompson VA3ANI had her father pass away recently. Cards have been sent on behalf of the club.

You can reach Health and Welfare chairman, Tom Feeney by e-mail at ve3kta@hamiltonarc.ca if you have any health or welfare items to report.

VIII. Repeater. John VE3DVV mentioned that the repeater is fine and working well. The new messages that are played informing users of club activities and events is working well.

IX. Membership. Sherry VE3DCU mentioned that we have 51 primary members, 2 family members and 2 complimentary memberships. Sherry also asked the group if they had received the latest newsletter and a few people did not get it. Sherry will resolve those matters after the meeting. To fill in your 2013-14 membership application, you can find the forms at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/ourclub/membership/>

X. Contesting. Rick VE3BK has been busy with a vendor taking orders of "T" Shirts, club badges, coasters, and mouse pads. The deadline for any new orders is February 1st 2014. Contact Rick at ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca to get your last orders in.

Rick gave us some scores of recent contests and how the Hamilton club does well in them. The next contest is the CQ 160M on Friday February 21st 5 p.m. EST to Sunday February 23rd 5 p.m. EST. The club will be operating that one from the contest site.

Rick also reviewed some great antenna articles from the TCA magazine.



This is the 100th anniversary of the ARRL and they are having a contest every week this year. So there are plenty of contests for the club to join on their own or with Rick and the club.

XI . February meeting. The next club meeting will have Shawn Gartley VE3PSV come to our meeting and discuss the Trans - Provincial Net and how he is getting it going again. He will describe formal traffic handling and perhaps looking for volunteers.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:54, moved by Mardy VE3QEE, seconded by Mike Krebs VA3WXS.

Time Lookup Table				
	Local 12 hour time	Local 24 hour time	UTC Winter EST	UTC Summer DST
midnight	12:00 AM	0:00	5:00	4:00
	1:00 AM	1:00	6:00	5:00
	2:00 AM	2:00	7:00	6:00
	3:00 AM	3:00	8:00	7:00
	4:00 AM	4:00	9:00	8:00
	5:00 AM	5:00	10:00	9:00
	6:00 AM	6:00	11:00	10:00
	7:00 AM	7:00	12:00	11:00
	8:00 AM	8:00	13:00	12:00
	9:00 AM	9:00	14:00	13:00
	10:00 AM	10:00	15:00	14:00
noon	11:00 AM	11:00	16:00	15:00
	12:00 PM	12:00	17:00	16:00
	1:00 PM	13:00	18:00	17:00
	2:00 PM	14:00	19:00	18:00
	3:00 PM	15:00	20:00	19:00
	4:00 PM	16:00	21:00	20:00
	5:00 PM	17:00	22:00	21:00
	6:00 PM	18:00	23:00	22:00
	7:00 PM	19:00	0:00	23:00
	8:00 PM	20:00	1:00	0:00
	9:00 PM	21:00	2:00	1:00
midnight	10:00 PM	22:00	3:00	2:00
	11:00 PM	23:00	4:00	3:00
	12:00 AM	0:00	5:00	4:00



Contest Report

Rick Danby VE3BK

Announcing our next contest: The 2014 CQ World-Wide 160-Meter Contest

by Rick Danby VE3BK

Last year in this contest, VE3DC was #2 in our Class in Canada and #2 in Ontario, right behind VE3MIS (Mississauga). The year before, in 2012, we were ahead of them. Still a great job for 2013, so let's do it again this year in 2014. This is our next contest. Rules are at: <http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>

We will be doing the SSB one again from our Contest site. Let me know if you want to be scheduled as an operator. This band, 160 meters, is the Gentlemen's Band which is best at night time in the Winter months. I guess the snow or cold weather makes it better. It certainly has been cold for us this year, so let me know if you want to be an operator for this fun contest. New hams are always welcome to see how we operate and to get your feet wet as Contesters. This is a 48 hour contest, so everybody should be able to put in some time. Let me know at ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca or phone me.....my number is in the Club Bulletin.

You are Invited to Help With the 2014 CQ World-Wide 160-Meter Contest

The contest is for 160 meter SSB only. We are limited to one transmitter. The best way to do this is to schedule operators in shifts one following another.

The published times are: 2200Z February 21 (Friday) to 2200Z February 23 (Sunday).

In Local time that would be 5:00 PM on Friday February 21, to 4:59 PM Sunday February 23. A total of 48 hours. So there is lots of opportunity for you to choose a time slot and help us out for a while. Propagation is best after the sun goes down on 160 meters. It is a night-time band so we need operators to work the wee hours and the productive early-morning hours.

Last year in the 2013 CQ WW 160M Contest we won another certificate, and we did it with

actually less operators but more visitors than we had in 2012.

Visitors: Mike Christmas, VA3FS, Randal Walford and Jim's neighbour Albert.

SOAPBOX submitted for the 2013 contest:

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 moved in 1.3kc away. Needless to say the band was very busy with the 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. 73 Rick VE3BK

Pictorial

The NPARC Big Event took place on Saturday Feb. 1st. in St. Catharines

There was a threat of snow but roads turned out to be clear. We saw many familiar faces there and had a good time. Barry, VE3ISX posted pictures to the ONTARS web site. You can view them all at http://www.ontars.com/Special%20Events/nparc_2014_pix/index.html

A couple pics are posted here to raise your curiosity. Thanks Barry.



Scenes from inside the hall at the NPARC Big Event in St. Catharines

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**

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