



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..

Tuesday 2m H.A.R.C. Check-in Net

Join in the H.A.R.C. Check-In net Tuesdays 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 – Paul Fleck, VE3HTF ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca	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, Canada L8N 4G6

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



THE PRES'S CORNER

by Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ

CQ HARC

Greetings All....

Will spring ever arrive? I know the official date for the Spring Equinox is March 20, but the current weather is ridiculous. I am looking out of my window this morning, March 12, and see at least 6 inches of snow and wind gusting to 70 kph. The Weather Channel screen is **RED** and the message is 'Blizzard Conditions'. Down at the boat yard in Etobicoke where I keep my boat, there are still mountains of ice between the boats that will be there certainly till mid-



April. The last Ice Age ended around 20,000 years ago, and looks like the next Ice Age is starting NOW. And I thought Global Warming was really WARMING!! Am I naïve or what?

I am currently looking after a Snow Bird home for one of our club members, Murray Thompson VE3ZPV, and I promised that I would try to get a VHF and HF antenna up for him before he and his XYL Laurel return from Florida. Well... good luck with that one. I have all of the materials necessary, but we haven't had a break in the weather yet. Perhaps by late May? I know, I know, this is perfect antenna weather; maybe it is for Inuit, but not me.

I have to thank all of the volunteers that are making our club year so successful. There are so many that I can't list the names here, but if you are involved teaching Basic Amateur Radio, or helping out during our Tuesday night classes, or are taking care of one of those important jobs like membership, health and welfare, repeater, contesting, awards, SK's, newsletter editing... and I must apologize if I have missed anyone... THANK YOU! Your efforts make my job so easy.

Just this week I visited the repeater site with John VE3DVV, Mark VE3MWH, Paul VE3HTF. The purpose of the visit, for me, was to get more familiar with the physical layout of the location. In reality, the visit was to sort out a problem with our internet carrier. Paul sat on 'hold' waiting for technical assistance from the carrier and finally after more than a half hour gave up. That doesn't say much for the quality of tech support from the provider. What we are trying to achieve here is eliminate the need for a land telephone line and put everything on VOIP.

Just a reminder in passing, we are planning to run the Basic Amateur course again next fall, starting in September. Please, if you have a relative, friend or neighbor that you think may be interested, let them know about this opportunity. Better still; bring them to a meeting to meet other amateurs. We welcome guests.

Don't forget our weekly VHF and HF nets (frequencies and time listed on our Web Site). Check in for a chat or just to drop another bean in the pot.

VE3UFZ out

73



Vice Presidents Message

by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

Here's some news about town. Our Ham Radio course has been going well with a number of club members sharing in presenting course topics. I am pleased to report that the executive has elected to run a Fall course starting in September, and we already have people signed up to take the Fall course.

On 2014/03/07 RAC announced that Industry Canada has published a new version of the question bank for the Basic Qualification exam. The exam generator has also been updated to reflect the changes. You can view the exam generator at: http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/025.nsf/eng/h_00040.html. You can read the full story of the process on the RAC web site at <http://www.rac.ca> This has been an involved process. Obsolete questions have been removed, new questions added relevant to today's changes in amateur radio, and confusing language has been improved. The curriculum is essentially the same material as before but the question bank has been brought up to date.

On Saturday March 22, later this month, the Peel Amateur Radio and the Mississauga Amateur Radio Clubs are jointly sponsoring their HAMMEX flea market at the same spot as last year, the Brampton Fall Fair Grounds, Heart Lake Road and Old School Road, in Brampton near the north end of Hwy. 410 The admission cost will be \$7.00. Admission times vary. Vendors are admitted at 7:00 AM, displays and demonstrations are open to the public at 8:00 AM and the flea market opens to the Public at 9:00 AM. This is a big one so take note and enjoy. Their web site is found at <http://www.ham-ex.ca>.

The March meeting takes place on the third Wednesday of the month, March 19, from 7 until 9 PM at Westdale Secondary School. Two items will be on the agenda for the Speaker part of this meeting. A presentation about the "webinar" conducted recently by members of our club, on a trial basis, and a pop quiz presentation on amateur radio propagation and antennas. Hope you can join us at the meeting and help us welcome the newest members of the club.



*parking sign courtesy
of Al Gammon VA3ALZ
Tuesday night net
controller on VE3NCF*



Secretary's Report

by Jim Sawadski, VE3EEZ

First, I would like to offer a personal note to the membership.

Thank You!

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the membership of The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club for the sympathy card, the phone calls and emails that were sent on the passing of my Father, Daniel Sawadski, January 15 2014, in his 90th year. Your kind thoughts and words were encouraging during a very difficult time.

Sincerely

Jim VE3EEZ

Minutes of the HARC (Hamilton Amateur Radio Club) General Meeting 02/19/2014

I. Call to order

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ called to order the regular meeting of the HARC at 19:03 on February 19, 2014 at The Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

I. Sign In

Attendance was conducted by the circulation of the members sign in sheet. 24 members /guests were present. Visiting was Shawn Gartley VE3PSV, our guest speaker. Welcome new member Ginette Pereira and guest Marshal Fink.

II. Speakers

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ welcomed our guest Marshal Fink SWL, and introduced our guest speaker, Shawn Gartley VE3PSV. Shawn spoke on the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) and gave a slide presentation on Radiograms. An amateur's way of relaying messages meant for parties of who may or may not be licensed hams through



radio. Shawn explained how the Radiograms get relayed from the sender to the end recipient of the message through various traffic nets. Some of those nets mentioned were the Great Lakes Emergency & Traffic Net, The Ontario Phone Net, The Dominion, and The Laurentian Net. To find out more about the NTS see <http://www.arri.org/nts> , for a list of the various nets above with their frequencies and schedules follow this link <http://ve5brc.amateur-radio.ca/net.htm>



An interesting subject that held the interest of the membership. Thank you Shawn for coming out and meeting fellow hams and sharing your knowledge on the subject matter. Thank you Roger VE3UFZ for being the taxi in order to get Shawn to the meeting and Mardy VE3QEE who was also instrumental in arranging it all.

III. Contesting

Rick took the opportunity to present a certificate to John Hudak VE3CXB this evening for a contest in which John participated in last year, ARRL CQWW 160 Meter contest 2013. Rick again announced the 2014 160 meter contest beginning Friday Feb 21st and invited all interested in helping out to contact him.

IV. Treasurers Report

Dave VE3DWJ gave a closing balance report for the current state of Club finances

V. **New Business**

Roger made note of the school schedule for March Break and June exams. The executive meeting for March will be held the 1st Wednesday of the month. March 5th instead of March 12, the Basic Ham course will not take place March 11, (study up students) and the next General meeting will take place as always on the 3rd Wednesday, March 19. For the month of June, the executive meeting will take place Wednesday June 4th and the Annual General Meeting will take place June 11th.

VI. Events

Garry Notto VE3TTO again is canvassing operators to assist in the Paris to Ancaster Bike Race, to be held April 27 2014. If you wish to assist either bring your radio or ride along with a fellow ham to see what it's all about. Meet Gary at the Egg & I at the corner of Gardner Road and Hwy 2/Wilson street. Contact Gary for more information.

VII. Next meeting

March 19, 2014 @ Westdale Secondary School 700 Main Street West Hamilton. Check <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/ourclub/meetings/>

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:35. Moved by Roger VE3UFZ. Motion seconded by Mardy VE3QEE Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ



Designated Examiner's Report

by Paul Fleck VE3HTF

Exam Time...

It's time to have a party! A graduation party as we have four very keen people who wrote amateur radio exams and passed with flying colours!

We have two NEW ham's that wrote the basic exam and they are Joeseeph Skrypka and John Fink.

Joe has applied for the call VE3UKY. Joe is a member of the HARC as an SWL, but now gets to enjoy his new status as a licensed Basic with Honours operator!

John wrote his exam and has applied for the call VE3PDP and intends to "play" in the digital realm. John completed the exam and secured his Basic with Honours license as well! We spoke at length about QRSS and all the new and fascinating aspects available to ham's in this area.

Congratulations to Hamilton's newest, talented Amateur Radio Operators, welcome aboard!

Not to be left out, we have our newest and shiniest ADVANCED operators. Can you believe it??? I was tickled pink (*you should be as well!!*) that Sherry Goeller VE3DCU successfully completed the test and is now looking to take on the big guys! Sherry was hesitant about taking the exam, but her true strength, talent and skill rose to the challenge, nice job Sherry...

With quiet determination our very own Ahmet Ozguder VE3TUR carefully applied his recently acquired knowledge to secure his upgraded status to Advanced. Ahmet is a staunch supporter of the contest team and has been learning on the "run". Ahmet always asks questions and is like a "Learning Sponge". Ahmet, you are a great addition to the Advanced license family and the HARC.

To our newest Advanced Amateur Radio operators, your learning continues and we congratulate you on your achievement!

Well done...

Paul
VE3HTF



Contest Report

Rick Danby VE3BK

The VE3DC contest site was activated for the CQ magazine sponsored 160 meter worldwide Phone contest. This band is best for DX after the sun wanes in late afternoon and continues all night and into the early morning. We had five operators staffing a single station consisting of the IC 756PRO III transceiver, AMERITRON AL-80 amplifier, PALSTAR tuner and three antenna choices : 160M DELTA LOOP , 160M DIPOLE, and a 160M WINDOM. The five operators sharing operator duties were VA3TUR Ahmed, VE3DCU Sherry, VE3BK Rick, VE3QEE Mardy, and VE3RIA Andrew. Although there was one fewer operators than last year we actually made more contacts. Here is the soapbox submitted with our log.

Another great Winter Contest. Lots of fun on this contest, working everyone we could hear. These winter contests usually bring adverse conditions sometimes. We have had a lot of snow lately and it started with being stuck in the ditch when we put up the 160m dipole temporarily. On the start of the contest, one of the guys had his car stuck in the snow, right in the driveway so we were a little late starting. On the Saturday we ended up with a flood of water, about a foot deep. We have had this condition few years ago at our contest site, that is, a water backup behind the culvert with snow eventually letting loose and all that water letting go causing a flood. The water went away as fast as it came up and we ended with just an uneven ice surface which was actually OK. All the equipment worked great and we had fun taking turns and working as many as we could. Thanks to all that worked us and thanks to all our operators who came out to help us in the wee hours. Hope to see you in the next one, for us it will be the Ontario QSO Party, so look for us at VE3DC for more contacts. : 73 Rick
VE3BK

Multipliers were: 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 NV WA WY MI OH WV
IL IN WI CO IA KS MN MO SD NB PE QC ON MB

DX:

C6 HK KL KP4 VP9 XE ZF

Announcing The 17th Annual Ontario QSO Party 2014

The Ontario QSO Party is coming up in April! You are invited to help us out at the Contest Site for all or part of this event. Please clear your calendars for the weekend of April 19/20. The snow should be all gone and the mobiles and rovers will be in full operation, enjoying the Springtime conditions we usually have this time of year.

The contest takes place during the third full weekend of April. There are two periods of operation. In local time, Saturday April 19 from 2 PM until 1:00 AM. Then again on Sunday April 20 from 8 AM until 2 PM. That gives operators and rovers time off to sleep.

Tom Van Wort (VA3TVW) will likely be one of the rovers again this year, maybe working 3 counties at once. He wants to earn a new plaque with his new call, VE3MQ. We all like working the mobiles and rovers especially from our Multi-op Multi-radio setup. Also on the air will be the three bonus-point stations VE3ODX, VA3RAC and VA3CCO which make this an interesting contest.

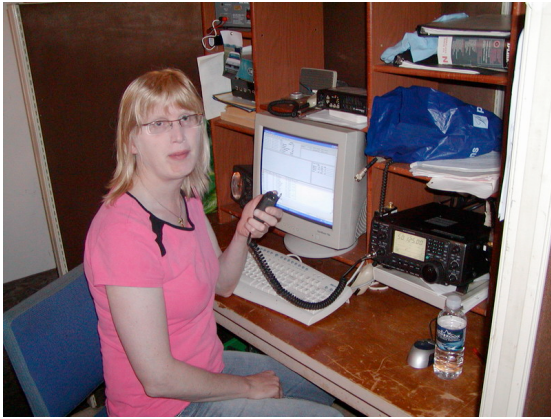
Let me know if you are interested in running a station or plan on coming out to operate VE3DC. We plan on having as many stations on the air as possible. The new to ham radio people are more than welcome to come and see how we do it. Regretfully, Dan VA3DJ will likely only make a visit to the Contest site as he did last year, but may do some operating for us as he is looking better. This means that someone will be able to run Dan's favourite band (75 meters) with help from Dan and whoever else wants to get in there.

Beginning in 1998 under the thoughtful guidance of Bob Chandler VE3SRE this Ontario contest quickly became a popular event among Ontario hams and beyond. VE3DC has been involved since the beginning and have many plaques and certificates from this event. In 2006 the organization of the party was turned over to Contest Club Ontario (CCO) who now manages the event.

The rules are simple. In the contest, stations outside Ontario make as many contacts with Ontario amateur radio stations as possible. Ontario stations contact as many amateur radio stations as possible both in Ontario and world-wide. Please check the rules at <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm> for the contest exchange, frequencies, modes and categories.

Time goes by very quickly so let me know if you want to be a part of this great Canadian event this year. You don't have to be a great Contester to come and help out. We have fun on this one and get to talk to many Canadians. We find out the weather in Eastern, Western and all parts of Canada and we even get some sleep on the Saturday night as per the times that are in effect now, making it safer for the Rovers and Mobiles. Many of our American friends come to give us a contact for our Ontario QSO Party. Lots of fun. CU there.

Rick Danby, VE3BK, ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca



Active Devices

by Sherry Goeller, VE3DCU

Voltage Variable Capacitance Diode

All diodes when reversed biased will have a small capacitance change across the P and N junctions. Normally at low frequencies this does not matter at all. However when you get into the higher frequencies this can have a negative experience on the experimenter. However, one can also take advantage of this physical fact and use it to our benefit. Well, Voltage Variable Capacitance (VVC) diodes are just the thing we are going to talk about. These are specially designed diodes to take full effect of the variable capacitance.

Since VVC's are always reversed bias'ed, no current will flow. That is a good thing. However these VVC's can change the depletion zone width. This changing width or space then changes the capacitance. The wider the depletion zone, the lower the capacitance. The smaller it is the higher the capacitance will be. Values vary from 5 to 40 pF. Not too bad and just the ticket for replacing some old fashion variable metal plate capacitors that tune older radios. In fact the VVC has mostly eliminated those bulky variable capacitors in small type equipment. Of course we still need those big metal plate capacitors for tuners and amplifiers but the receiver part is nicely covered by VVC's. VVC's are used in Voltage Controlled Oscillators and frequency multipliers. Other uses are out there but these are the two main ones.

Of course this description is just general however more information on the VVC can be done using our friend the internet.



Membership Report for March 2014

by Sherry Goeller, VE3DCU

It's been an interesting month or so. We have been conducting the Basic training course and it seems to be going very well. We have many volunteers helping out with teaching individual subjects. So this is real exciting. It's also exciting to see the new members. They all become members for the rest of the year in the club and while I don't have the final number it looks like we have about 10 or 12 students. So that will bring up our membership to about 60 or 62 primary members and 2 family members. So we hope to hear and see new things from our new HARC members. Thank you for attending the classes and we hope you the best success in the course and of course the exam.

Speaking of exams, I personally wrote my Advanced license and passed it. So I am grateful for Paul Fleck VE3HTF in giving me the exam. It was a last minute thing as I heard from him that he was recently announced as a certified instructor and that he was giving exams the following week. I have been studying of late and I decided to pull up a seat and give it a go. So I have some ideas on how to use my privileges and one of them is a remote station of some sort. So I am working on those logistics and hopefully will get things going this spring/summer.

So thanks to the members and keep up the good work. If you have any membership questions feel free to contact me via email.

Sherry VE3DCU

ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca

Pictorial



Above, members of the executive at work in room 214 at Westdale Secondary School. Directors meet 7 to 9 on the second Wednesday of every month. Club members are always welcome to attend executive meetings and observe.



Left, those 48 hour contests take their toll. Here one of our contesters takes a break during the recent CQ 160 meter DX contest in January.

Right, Ahmet VA3TUR operating Club station VE3DC during the CQ 160 meter DX contest. We were only allowed a single station for that one so operators took shifts while the band was hot. Equipment included an IC 756PRO III transceiver, an AMERITRON AL-80 amplifier, and a PALSTAR tuner. "Whisper in Haldimand county and they'll hear you in France". It was real nice to get out and get on the air big time.



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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All taxes included

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