



The Hamilton Amateur

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

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,
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April Guest Speaker

The April meeting, Wednesday, April 16, will feature guest speaker Ron Pereira, VE3RTJ, explaining how hams are "hacking" commonly available Wi-Fi routers for use on the 2.4 GHz ham band. These devices are transceivers that we can reprogram for use as High Speed Multi-Media mesh network nodes (HSMM). Ron has been experimenting with this cutting edge technology and his presentation could not come at a more timely moment because this month's issue of QST, which arrived four days ago, features an article about the very same thing on page 65. Our qualifications permit us to use high gain antennas and amplifiers hooked up to Wi-Fi routers for making long distance communication. Come and find out how. Please join us at the meeting on Wednesday April, 16. In the mean time don't throw away that Linksys WRT54G router!

Second Vice President's Remarks

Greetings. Thank goodness the periods of nicer weather seem to be getting more frequent lately. It has been quite a long and uncompromising winter, so any relief is welcome indeed.

If you use HF equipment, propagation on the higher bands has been wonderful lately. It is very rewarding to listen for DX contacts on 10, 15 and 20 meters. Operating from home, using just 100 watts I was able to contact stations in India, Japan, and South Africa. What a thrill to experience my first time reaching these distant places.

If you check into the local repeaters, you may have noticed Mike Krebs, VA3WXS has now assumed the

Net Control duties on the Tuesday Night Net. The former Net Control, Al Gammon, VA3ALZ sought relief after serving in that capacity for several years. Thanks Al for being there week after week, keeping our Club on the map, and thanks to Mike for stepping up. We'll listen for you on Tuesdays, 7:30 to 8:00 P.M.

The Basic class has been chugging along. We are about 3/4 of the way through the study guide at this time. Classes will be wrapping up around the final week in May. A Fall class has been scheduled with over ten candidates already registered. A Spring class has also been arranged and we are planning to offer an Advanced class too. Ask Roger, VE3UFZ, for details as they develop.

Here is a note from RAC about our new band allocation:

◆ **Canada Formalizes Amateur Radio Access to 137 kHz Band:**

Canada's telecommunications regulator [Industry Canada](#) has included the 135.7-137.8 kHz sliver band in its newly updated [RBR-4 Standards for the Operation of Stations in the Amateur Radio Service](#). Canadian radio amateurs gained access

to the band, with conditions, in 2009, as a result of World Radiocommunication Conference 2007. In announcing the RBR-4 update, Radio Amateurs of Canada ([RAC](#)) reminded Canadian amateurs that the rules stipulate that stations in the Amateur Service using 135.7 to 137.8 kHz "shall not exceed a maximum radiated power of 1 W (EIRP) and shall not cause harmful interference to stations of the radionavigation service..." RAC invited reports of activity as well as operating tips and propagation information. In a 2012 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ([ET Docket No. 12-338](#)), the FCC proposed allocating the band to the Amateur Service in the US on a secondary basis. -- *George Gosline, VE3YV, RAC International Affairs*

New Type of Wire announced April 1, 2014
Thanks to John Hudak VECXB for submitting the following item.

Likely to be of interest to amateurs is a new type of wire mentioned by W9TO in the "Podunk News", publication of the

"Egyptian Radio Club" (St. Louis, Illinois).

... "Formed by reverse drawing extremely fine wire, this conductor has a velocity factor of 0.07. Thus a 40-meter half wave antenna is only 4.62 feet long, and a ten-meter mobile whip shrinks to a mere 6.7 inches. One experimental antenna being pruned for operation on 147.3MHz. disappeared altogether."

This is an incredible discovery. It could revolutionize all radio operations, but the possibilities for VHF/UHF are truly staggering. Think about it - six meter stacked Yagis that can be stored in a shoebox!!! ...

Source for USA County Maps

If you participate in State QSO Party Contests, (like the Pennsylvania QSO Party), it might be handy to have a reference map showing the county names. There is a web site from which county maps can be downloaded and printed for free. Here is the link:

http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/stcou_outline.html

Amateur Club “Twinning”

The executive of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club has reviewed and approved of the “Twinning” of our club to a club that demonstrates similar interests and activities with the intent to develop and initiate the following activities between our clubs.

The purpose of promoting the “Twinning” of our club to another club is multifaceted.

1. Recognition of a community that has recognizable linkage to Hamilton.
2. Foster international friendship.
3. Participation in like minded activities.
4. Recognition of a significant Hamilton person, event or relationship.

What will “Twinning” activity look like? We will engage our Twin club with the:

- Exchange of newsletters.
- Exchange of club plaques / certificates.
- Participation in the Lighthouse contest.
- Celebration of our hobby with like minded persons during special events, like the birth date of Hamilton.
- City of Hamilton Mayoral letter of recognition.

What does your HARC executive want from you? It’s simple actually, a few hours a year, simply to take on the role of our Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Ambassador.

You will be responsible to initiate the “Twinning” activity, maintain the relationship, promote communications, coordinate the Lighthouse Contest contact with our “Twinned City”

Suggestions have been made to select Edingburgh, Scotland as our “Twinned” city because our cities founding father, George Hamilton, who was born in Queenston, Ontario but spent many years obtaining his education in Scotland.

Do you have a city in mind for “Twinning”??
Lets talk this up at the next general meeting!

73's
Paul
VE3HTF

Membership April 2014

Well its fast approaching the time to renew your memberships for the 2014-2015 year. How time flies, indeed. I am hoping to get on the memberships earlier this year so I may be asking our members at the April general meeting to renew if they can. The rates are as follows:

RAC member	31\$
Non-RAC member	42\$
Extra family member.....	5\$
> than 40km member RAC	16\$
> then 40km member non-RAC.....	27\$

I am hoping that we will see our basic study students renew for the new year and be active members in the club. We of course are always looking for new blood and different interests from everyone. We all also want to learn what they have experienced with ham radio.

If you cannot see me at the meetings, feel free to go to the HARC web page at www.hamiltonarc.ca and go to the membership form and download it and print it out. Fill it out and mail it to the address on the membership form and I will process it and mail back your membership card plus receipt.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting; if you can make it.

Cheers, Sherry Goeller VE3DCU -
Membership Chair
ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca

Origin of the Name HAM Radio

Did you ever wonder why we radio amateurs are called "HAMS"?

Well, according to the Northern Ohio Radio Society, it goes like this: the word ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first Amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the HARVARD RADIO CLUB.

The members were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first, they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murry.

Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision and they changed it to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each name.

Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from Amateur wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMO, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM.

In the early pioneer unregulated days of radio, Amateur Radio operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some Amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and they gave much time

to proposed legislation designed to critically limit Amateur Radio activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard.

His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed, he sent for Hyman to appear before the committee.

Albert Hyman was put on the stand and described how the little Amateur station was built. He almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements that were in the bill.

The debate started and the little station "HAM" became a symbol of all the little Amateur stations in the country crying out to be saved from menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. Finally, the bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station "HAM."

That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with Amateurs. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time, in radio, an Amateur is a HAM.

GL and 73's de Gerry WD4BIS



Sleuthing for Past Newsletters

Sherlock needs your sleuthing skills to help build the club's library. A lot of progress has been made in re-building our library of past newsletters thanks to submissions from club members.

Sherlock is asking for your help in finding copies of newsletters from the 1970's and 1960's.

Take a look through that stack of papers under the shack desk for us and let Sherlock know he has more scanning to do!

Give my assistant, Paul, VE3HTF a ring and he will make arrangements to pick up those dusty articles and their return should you want them for your collection!

Paul can be reached at 905-906-4620 or VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca

First Vice President's Report

Dear member,

The snow has melted and my yard is looking rather unkept. So before I run out to Home Depot to pick up the necessary products to green up my yard, I have some news for our membership. Not only are the roots of my lawn looking to grow and strengthen, but so is our club!

Your executive is bursting at the seams with new ideas. The hard work of our club instructors under the guidance of Mardy Eedson, (VE3QEE) and the support of so many members at each class for our Basic license students is a great success. All participants have been on a learning curve that has sparked discussion after class at the local Timmies, new ideas for training, content and the future of club sponsored education.

The members of the executive have been diligent in tackling requests for additional lessons including the Advanced License training. Announcements will be made shortly regarding the clubs Basic and Advanced license training, dates and location.

On the activity side, we are presenting several programs for our members. A "Twinning" of our city with a sister city, an Adopt a Park program, a Technical S.I.G. program and a club initiated Strategic Plan initiative that will create a road map for our club, all venues and activities to be developed that will help us grow our club. The Strategic Plan is developed with the inputs of our membership and member participation. I would invite you to help your Strategic Planning Committee with your valued input, critique, suggestions and ideas. Every member will be asked to contribute their insight to what our club will deliver over the next 3 years.

I look forward to "talking up" each member of our club in the near future looking for your contribution in the building and branding of our club.

73's

Paul
VE3HTF

Adopt a Park

The executive of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club has partnered with the City of Hamilton Parks and Recreation department's Adopt a Park program.

A full information packet will be available for viewing and your questions will be answered at the next general meeting in April.

Here is the "Coles Notes" description for your information.

The members and their families are invited to join us at a park of the clubs choosing and adoption to perform the following activity:

1. Clean the adopted park 4 times a year.
2. Adoptee club sign's up for an April clean up with Tim Horton's sponsorship to be eligible for prizes such as bikes to free coffee and food gift cards for participants.
3. Scheduled park maintenance in June and then August & October by our club members.
4. The HARC requires 2 team leaders to represent the team to the city.
5. Three-year commitment on the clubs part to participate in keeping our adopted park clean.

If we perform a clean up during the June, Parks and Recognition month, our club will be featured on the cities Parks web site and in the yearly report.

The City of Hamilton will post our HARC club logo and name on the park entrance for the three-year period.

The City of Hamilton will provide, gloves, bags, and a Parks trailer can be requested and delivered to the park for our use. The trailer contains additional tools and material used for plant bed repair, mulching etc..

Average on site activity by our membership ranges from 2 to 3 hours.

Suggestions have been made that the HARC team gather at a Breakfast spot, get fed and watered, banter about who has THE BEST GREEN THUMB and then proceed to the park, complete the park cleanup, then disperse.

Here is the extra bonus for us!!

If we adopt a park, the City Parks and Recreation will wave any procedural requirements and permits if we choose to use the park for club activities, i.e.: picnics, field day, radio demo days, and public forums.

So at our next meeting I will have a sign up sheet available for everyone to sign up as a volunteer and of course to answer any questions you may have.

We are also looking for your suggestions and input as to which park to adopt! There are HUNDREDS to choose from. One suggestion to date is to pick the site of our Beach Strip "lighthouse Contest Site" another has been the Sam Lawrence Park on the escarpment. What's your favorite park?

See you at the next meeting...

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

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HARC (Hamilton Amateur Radio Club)

General Meeting Minutes

03/19/2014

I. Call to order

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ called to order the General meeting at 19:00 on 03/19/2014 @ The Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

II. Sign In

Attendance was conducted by the circulation of the members sign in sheet.

23 members / visitors were present.

III. Speakers

Our speaker for this evening had cancelled. A slide presentation of Q&A on the Basic Amateur Radio Course was displayed for members to test their knowledge once again, just for the fun of it. Paul VE3HTF presented an idea of a "technical special interest group" to see if there was interest within the club to meet once a month to discuss any idea or interest / hurdle that a ham may have that would stimulate "like minds" and promote community amongst its members. GREAT IDEA!

IV. Contesting

Rick VE3BK announced the Ontario QSO Party contest taking place the 3rd weekend of April. If you would like to participate contact Rick at ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca Rick also drew attention to a few of the other contests that was listed in the TCA magazine on the contest calendar.

V. Health and Welfare

Rick VE3BK announced on behalf of T Feeney, that Richard Appleyard, has had a stroke and is in rehabilitation. Rick VE3BK & Dave VE3DWJ have visited with Richard and he is doing very well. If you would like to see Richard contact Rick ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca or David ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca for details. Also Rick mentioned for members to remember Leif VE3KFE as well. Leif is at St. Peters Hospital and is taking visitors. Anyone wishing more info on Leif's condition please contact Tom Van Wort. Thank you Rick for passing that information on.

VI. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported 64 members to date with 60 Primaries.

VII. Treasurers Report

Dave VE3DWJ reported on the finances to date. Mardy VE3QEE moved to accept as reported. Roger VE3UFZ 2nd the motion and was carried by members present.

VIII. Awards

Although there was no mention of awards this evening, this may be a good time to mention that Home Brew is around the corner. May 21 2014. Get those irons out.

New Business

- 1) Gary VE3TTO asked for assistance in the Paris to Ancaster Bike Race. This race is to take place April 27 2014. Interested operators should contact Gary at ve3tto@gmail.com meeting place is at the Egg & I restraint, on Rymal Road at the corner Hwy 53 & Hwy 2 8am. Any and all assistance is appreciated by Gary.
- 2) Gary announced that Can Warn training is being given again this year. CANWARN is a volunteer organization of ham radio operators who report severe weather when they see it to Environment Canada. To read more about Canwarn visit <http://www.ecoa.ca/canwarn.shtml> The training for Canwarn will be held April 26 – 9 AM – Hamilton – Nash Auditorium, Wilcox Building, Chedoke Hospital, 555 Sanatorium Road, Hamilton – Free parking available across the street from Wilcox Building.

- 3) Roger VE3UFZ commented on the Basic Ham classes in session at Westdale Secondary School, the fall session of the Basic course being supported once again and an Advanced Study being organised for the Spring of 2015. Thank you to the club members currently volunteering your time to assist these new Hams and for putting your name in the hat for the next adventure of the Advanced Class 2015.
- 4) A Flea Market coordinator is required to assist draw the group of volunteers together to support our Ham Fest 2014. If you can help out in any way, see Roger VE3UFZ or Mardy VE3QEE.
- 5) Paul VE3HTF brought up the topic of having a sister club to share our ideas and interests with. This would be partnering with a club near or afar sharing newsletters or technical writings to promote and share our hobby and stimulate ideas.
- 6) Paul VE3HTF announced an event at the Hamilton Public Library. A Community Outreach Program, that he has been invited to attend. Mark June 13 2014 on your calendar. The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club will be there showing off the hobby to any interested parties. See Paul, to see how you can assist.

Next meeting

April 16, 2014 @ The Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:01

Moved by Mardy VE3QEE

Motion seconded by Roger VE3UFZ

Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ

Contest Reminder - OQP April 19 & 20

The Ontario QSO Party takes place on Saturday April 19th from 2:00 PM 'til 1:00 AM, followed by a period of rest, and resumes on Sunday April 20th from 8:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. in the afternoon.

This is our own provincial contest. We are the bait. Come out and help us put this one over the top. We can put operators to work for an hour or two, or we

can use them for the whole contest - both parts. We do need your help. Come out and learn about being on HF. This is fun. You can bring your radio and hook up to our antennas.

Getting on the air is what Amateur Radio is all about. Talk to Rick, VE3BK, and let him know what you would like to do.

