



The Hamilton Amateur

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

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

Inside This Issue:

May Homebrew Night.....1

Vice President's Remarks1

Planning Group Report3

Notice of Motion4

April Meeting Minutes.....5

Hidden Transmitter Hunts7

Encounter With Lightening7

Meeting for Breakfast.....9

Ontario QSO Party.....10

Automatic Connections
on the VE3NCF Repeater...11

Antennas For At Home.....12

HARC Executive.....13

Paris to Ancaster
Bike Race.....15

Homebrew Night plus Show & Tell

The May meeting, Wednesday, May 21 will feature our annual Homebrew Night where members who have constructed a project in the past year can explain and demonstrate their project. The Crawford Trophy is presented annually to a home-brew project selected by a panel of judges for its usefulness in the shack and qualities of construction. Kits qualify. Adding to the fun, members are also invited to give us a Show and Tell presentation about any current item of interest to amateurs in the hobby. Show and Tell items do not have to be "home brewed" but could be pieces of commercial equipment, software etc. etc. that have been acquired for use in the shack. Please join us for the Homebrew Night to see what others have been doing and to share your ideas contributing to the art and science of Amateur Radio.

First Vice President's Remarks

Be on the lookout! I have been told that SPRING has arrived, could someone please let me know where it's hiding, did I miss it?

My fan dipole in the back yard is up in the air, but not working very well, in fact it's just not working. So after last week's Basic class at Westdale, the team went for coffee at Timmies where I was able to secure helpful information from "engineers" John VE3DVV and Rick VE3BK on how to fix my very high VSWRs! So having my head filled with new ideas, resolutions and fixes for my antenna, I am just waiting for some dry, sunny and warm weather to get

back out there and fix things up!

April was a busy month for the club's Strategic Planning team. You will see an article on "what" has been completed to date, but I am excited knowing that our club will have a "plan" to help us grow your club and the membership.

The members of the team are Ahmet Ozguder, John Hudak, Greg Gignac, Roger Pimm and myself. Mardy Eedson has helped us along the way during our meetings and continues to be our go to guy for our successful education programs! I must say, that after attending several classes and listening to our students and attending members, there is a sense of shared learning that we need to continue building upon.

There will be a motion during the May meeting to accept the new Vision Statement and Mission Statement for the club, be sure to review the article in this month's newsletter!

This week I am in the U.K. in the Lake District, known as Cumbria visiting relatives and after hours, meeting up with members of the Workington Amateur Radio Club, a great team of enthusiastic HAMs. I am taking my station with me, an ICOM 7000 and a Buddipole antenna system. My goal is to work from the hill tops of the Fells, namely Hardknotts Pass and Honister Pass. (see photos below)

I will send an operating schedule once I am in the country and have my bearings. I am currently looking over the RSGB

band plans to identify my options.

Alex Hill, a member of the Workington Club has informed me that "Rain Gear" may be the order of the day!

Back home, please be sure to attend the May meeting as it is the Homebrew Night / Show and Tell, always a good time to review our friends' building skills!

Mark Gibson was last year's winner with his very nice RDF quad array!

OH, by the way! I'll not be bringing cookies or muffins to the May meeting, sorry, I'll be enjoying a cold brew and some curry or fish & chips, but I'll be thinking of all the fun you'll be having at the May meeting!

73's
Paul
VE3HTF



Strategic Planning Group Report

The Strategic Planning group made up of the following members has been busy over the past two weeks.

The participants in this team are Greg Gignac, John Hudak, Roger Pimm, Ahmet Ozguder and myself. We had a visitor who attended our meeting and soon became an active contributor in Mardy Eedson. Thanks Mardy..

Our first formal meeting was on April 24th at the Westdale School. I would like to take a moment just to offer my sincere thanks to each member of the team for sitting through some tedious material, engaging in dialogue and discussion that proved challenging and enlightening and for your professionalism. Thank-you..

Our activity was to review value of Strategic Planning and it's purpose, the tools associated with developing a Strategic Plan and lots of discussion on if we are ready as a club to take on this challenge.

A Strategic Planning document is the end result of gathering information from many sources and compiling a snapshot of the following areas of interest, namely:

Strengths of the HARC
Weaknesses of the HARC
Opportunities available to the HARC
Threats to the HARC

Usually the first two parts, Strengths and Weaknesses are considered an Internal review, how do we see ourselves? The second two parts of the S.W.O.T. analysis relates to the external challenges and opportunities.

Our team then contacted many of the executive and chairpersons of the club to set up interviews and documented the feedback, perceptions and opinions of everyone and categorized the findings under each S.W.O.T. category. The team is now going to call members directly to ask for an interview to complete the S.W.O.T. questions. If you are called by one of the team and asked to participate, I would like to extend my thanks to you for taking the time to contribute. Want to tell us what's on your mind, we would love to hear it! Simply notify one of the team of your interest.

The information, perceptions and S.W.O.T. details will be gathered, filtered, into a final document and most importantly the resulting plan will include our clubs three year goals, budget and action plan. Your individual information enable our efforts to build a stronger more inclusive club. Your personal information, name, expressions will NOT be a part of this document, nor will that information be public at any time.

On May 1st we had our second meeting and reviewed our findings. Several opportunities jumped off the pages, and of course several weaknesses brought us back to the reality that we have a lot of work ahead of us. Some would say this exercise is not for the weak of heart, but I believe the teams findings and future recommendations will only strengthen and deliver more benefits, more activities and most importantly a more friendly, inclusive membership.

As a result of our preliminary efforts, the team has completed the creation of the HARC's formal **Vision and Mission Statements**. Both of these statements are a critical piece in developing a Strategic Plan for our club. Each member of the team contributed his thoughts and ideas to the creation of these statements. Mardy carefully kept us focussed on the need to recognize the importance of education, John pointed out the need to include the science and experimentation aspect that the club offers our members, future and present. The use of the word fraternalism that we find on the first page of our clubs web site gave us pause for thought and we kept it in our statement and because it is so important to our members and club we re-worded it so we are focused on being an "Inclusive Fraternalism".

So I present to you our members the following two statements for your

review. At the May meeting, the membership will be asked to approve the motion to accept the Vision and Mission statements.

H.A.R.C. Vision Statement

"The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club will be a club offering amateur radio operators a venue to practice our hobby building on community participation, engaging in scientific experimentation exploring the science of communications."

H.A.R.C. Mission Statement

"The stated purpose of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club is to promote public interest in Amateur Radio communications, experimentation and the advancement of the art and science of radio. The H.A.R.C. holds regular public meetings, offers educational courses, engages in radio sport and community activities utilizing our newsletter and social media to promote the clubs activities. The members and executive of the H.A.R.C. promote an inclusive fraternalism, a high standard of conduct and good citizenship."

HARC (Hamilton Amateur Radio Club)

General Meeting Minutes

04/16/2014

I. Call to order

Paul Fleck VE3HTF called to order the General meeting at 19:00 on 04/16/2014 @ 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.

27 members / visitors were present. Welcome Anton Verevkin VA3IDL, Peter West VE3HG, John Fink VA3PDP, Norm Freidin VE3CZI, Jeffrey Davis VE3AK (VE3COJ), Richard VE5WTF, Jack VE3WBT

III. Speakers

Our speaker for this evening was Ron Pereira VE3RTJ and Anthony Verevkin VA3IDL. Ron and Anthony shared their enthusiasm of MESH networking via slide presentation and live demonstration as members connected to the mesh network setup within the confines of the cafeteria. Although a bit of a challenge at times, members began connecting to the network provided by Ron. Anthony shared his vision for a future network linking the local area clubs together using a 2.3-2.4 ghz band, as momentum grew on the topic. A lot of interest was stirred up. Very interesting and informative. For information on this presentation see <http://w8mrc.com/docs/presentations/HSMM-MESH-Web.pdf> Need a place to purchase your Nano-station check out <http://ubnt.ca/>

Thank you Ron & Anthony for sharing your interest in Amateur Radio

IV. Meeting Minutes

Mardy VE3EEZ moved that the meeting minutes for March 19 be accepted as written. Mike VA3WXS 2nd the motion and it was carried by members in attendance.

V. Contesting

Rick VE3BK announced the Ontario QSO Party contest taking place Easter weekend. Inviting members to contact him at ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca if they would like to participate. Rick also drew attention to a few of the other contests that were listed in the TCA magazine on the contest calendar for May, June and July, noting June 28 & 29 as our field day event at the Devils Punchbowl and Canada Day... watch the Events Calendar at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/activities/events-calendar/> For information regarding Field Day 2014 please contact Dan va3dj@hamiltonarc.ca Rick also noted an article in QST magazine pg 65 on a vertical dipole, an interesting read if you can get your hands on a copy.

VI. Health and Welfare

Rick VE3BK announced on behalf of T Feeney, that Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ is home from the hospital after the removal of a tumor. Mary can take visits, call ahead if you would like to pay her a visit. 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.

VII. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU was furiously collecting the 2014-15 membership from those anticipating a FREE membership in the Early Bird Draw to be drawn at the October meeting. Membership to date 65-67 members reported.

VIII. Treasurers Report

Dave VE3DWJ reported on the finances to date. Mardy VE3QEE moved to accept the report as discussed. Casey VE3CVP 2nd the motion and was carried by members present.

IX. Awards

Mardy VE3QEE mentioned Home Brew is around the corner. May 21 2014. Get those irons out. Along with Homebrew, if you would like to show case anything that you've been doing this year, not necessarily Ham related, come out and share your interests.

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) Mardy VE3QEE 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) Mardy shared a way to coil coax, rope, garden hose in a fashion so as to not tangle it when un-coiling it. Here's a handy video of his explanation <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEd7ru24Vx0>
- 4) Jim VE3EEZ announced that the bus trip to Daytona may be canceled for a lack of interest in the Ham community. Travel Good Time Tours needs a minimum of 25 people to make good on this trip. To date only 10 individuals have committed to travel. Tuesday April 22nd is the deadline for the tour company to commit to the held Hotel rooms. Thank you to those who have considered the venue.
- 5) Paul again re-iterated the Adapt a Park program as a promotional idea to put Hamilton ARC in the public eye by cleaning a specific park 3-4 times per year. The effort shows good stewardship between the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton ARC. The Club would have a plaque installed at the park that has been adopted. A mention would be placed in the Cities local publication and have website acknowledgement for The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club looking after that Park. Mardy set the motion to be accepted in principal. Rick VE3BK seconded the motion and it was carried by members present.
- 6) Paul VE3HTF explained the idea of twinning with a club ie. A Club in Scotland, where both areas have ties through George Hamilton, a club to share our ideas and interests with. This was explained in the last general meeting as a sharing of newsletters or technical writings to promote and share our hobby and stimulate ideas. Paul asked for a motion to accept the idea in Principal the motion was seconded by Mike VA3WXS and carried by all members in attendance.

Next meeting

May 21, 2014 @ The Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:55

Moved by Mardy VE3QEE

Motion seconded by Mike VA3WXS

Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ

Hidden Transmitter Hunt

HARC will be hosting Hidden Transmitter Hunts once a month through September, on or near the last Sunday in the month. If you have never been out on a hunt and would like to join us meet up at the location and time posted on the web site. Come alone, or with a partner or double up with another transmitter hunter at the starting location. See the schedule below also posted on your web page: <<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/2014/05/01/the-h-a-r-c-hidden-transmitter-hunt-schedule-2014>> Please consider supporting your members.

VE4JI's Encounter with Lightening

submitted by John Hudak, VE3CXB

Summer is coming, and with it the risk of thunder storms. With this comes the risk of lightning damage to our antenna systems and equipment. Don't think it can't happen to you, or assume that because you've grounded your system that you can't still become a victim. Lightning can be an insidious force of nature. It can go where it wants to go in spite of any precautions you might have taken. Short of spending extremely large amounts of money for lightning

protection as the commercial radio stations do then we are always at the mercy of mother nature to some degree. Remember that you don't have to suffer a direct hit to have damage. Hopefully this never happens to any of our members. Following is an article I came across on one of the internet ham radio discussion groups by a ham who got hit by lightning one night. It is reprinted here with permission.
John VE3CXB

LIGHTNING

All I can say is BEWARE!!!

Last summer I got hit for the second time. I had an 18AVQ all band vertical on the roof of the house. At about 02:30 CT I awoke to either a flash or a bang. My wife's side of the bed is toward the window and because it was a very warm night we were sleeping without covers. When I opened my eyes toward the window she was in midair, beneath her I could see a shower of sparks like Niagara Falls through the window. I ran outside to see if we were on fire and got soaked in raindrops the size of watermelons. Seeing no fire I went back inside where I could smell smoke. A call to 911 and minutes later we had 4 huge fire trucks from the nearby military base in our driveway (we live on a rural property).

The firemen got on the roof and did an infra-red checks for fires in the walls. They made the comment that if my grounding system had not been so good it would have blown a hole in the roof. As it was, part of the bolt followed an eavestrough to a metal gable end, to some metal soffit, through a wall to a metal framework for a suspended ceiling, jumped to a brass wall lamp and blew a .50 cal hole in it, then to ground. That set fire to the wall paper which fortunately went out.

Meanwhile the 200 amp service breaker had tripped, but not before the lightning had taken out the transformer on the power pole 300 feet away via an underground cable. We were without power until noon that day.

After daylight came we had a better look around. The aluminum tubing that was the antenna was now large patches of melted metal on the roof, like someone had gone nuts with a soldering iron. All I found was the steel ball that had been on the end of the whip at the top. The "cans" for the loading coils were blown full of holes. In the garage there had been a 12V wall transformer plugged in to power the irrigation computer. Now all that was left were two brass pins in the wall receptacle and a totally smoked transformer on the floor.

In my shack I just shook my head. Both my laptops were toast, the inline power supply boxes had their covers blown off. My Yaesu IC-745 2m rig, the Hughes satellite system, Star Choice TV satellite, 12V power supply, antenna tuners - all stinking junk! Where the surge followed the TV cable the walls and furniture had black burns and the TV splitter boxes had exploded. One room had to be redecorated.

We also lost 2 garage door openers, 2 digital SLR cameras and a video cam that were having their batteries charged, 3 TV sets, a VCR, DVD player, 3 digital clocks, a fridge, a freezer, and half a nights sleep. Insurance covered most of it to the tune of \$65,000. It was a direct hit on the vertical.

It would not have mattered if the cable had been disconnected from the antennas. Every thing in the house was damaged.

Jim VE4JI

P.S. Now I have a 65 ft tower, and I am putting a 3 el. tri-bander on top...

The H.A.R.C. Monthly Breakfast Gathering!!

When: Saturday, June 7th, 2014

Where: The Egg & I

Location: Ancaster



1242 Garner Rd W, Ancaster, ON L9G 3K9

The H.A.R.C. breakfast meetings will be held every month, including July & August, the first Saturday each month.

Bring your appetite and see you there!

Wear your VE3DC "T" shirt and you'll be entered into a draw for a FREE breakfast, the following month!

Don't have a "T" shirt? We'd like to help out, wear your H.A.R.C. club badge and you qualify.



Results from the Ontario QSO Party

April 21, 2014

by contest chair Rick Danby VE3BK

SOAPBOX: Ontario QSO Party is a great Canadian Contest that we enjoy at VE3DC. We improved our QSOs by almost 100 but multipliers were down a bit, probably because of the Easter Weekend. I was impressed by how our operators kept racking them up. Thanks to our great operators and thanks to all that worked us, especially the American Hams that didn't seem to work anyone else. See you all in the next one.
73 Rick VE3BK

How we did:

Contact Points : 1048
Total Mults : 186
Bonus Points : 0
Claimed Score : 194928

Band	Contacts	Multipliers
80	30	21
40	465	77
20	246	38
15	37	13
10	11	2
6	1	1
2	4	2

Thanks to the operators: Ahmet, VA3TUR; Rick, VE3BK; Sherry, VE3DCU; John, VE3DVV; Jim, VE3EEZ; Andrew, VE3RIA; and visitor Greg, VE3YGG



John



Ahmet Greg Andrew Sherry



Jim



Rick

Automatic Net Connections on the VE3NCF UHF Repeater

information provided by Repeater Chair, John Vandenberg, VE3DVV

You may have noticed that the UHF repeater automatically connects with with some other repeaters via IRLP (internet-radio linking project) allowing local hams to participate in various nets that are taking place during the week. For your information, here is a list of those automatic connections.

HARC NET Tue 7:30 2m/440 net — our own club's weekly net to keep members and friends informed about local events

TECHNET Fr 20:00-22:00PM 9008 a world-wide net hosted from Western Australia by former Hamiltonian and friend of the club Reg Bagshaw VE3BQQ

PROCOM net Su&Thu 20-21:15 0040 an emergency preparedness net spanning much of South Ontario promoted locally by Gary Notto VE3TTO

##WX Net Thu 6:30-7:30PM 9038 (not enabled)

X CA IRLP net Wed 16:00 GMT 9013

SATERN net Mon 2100-21:45 EST 9032 a Salvation Army net for the purpose of maintaining regular communication with radio amateurs who could possibly provide assistance should an emergency arise.

Of course, you are encouraged to tune in and participate.

ANTENNAS for at Home by Rick Danby VE3BK

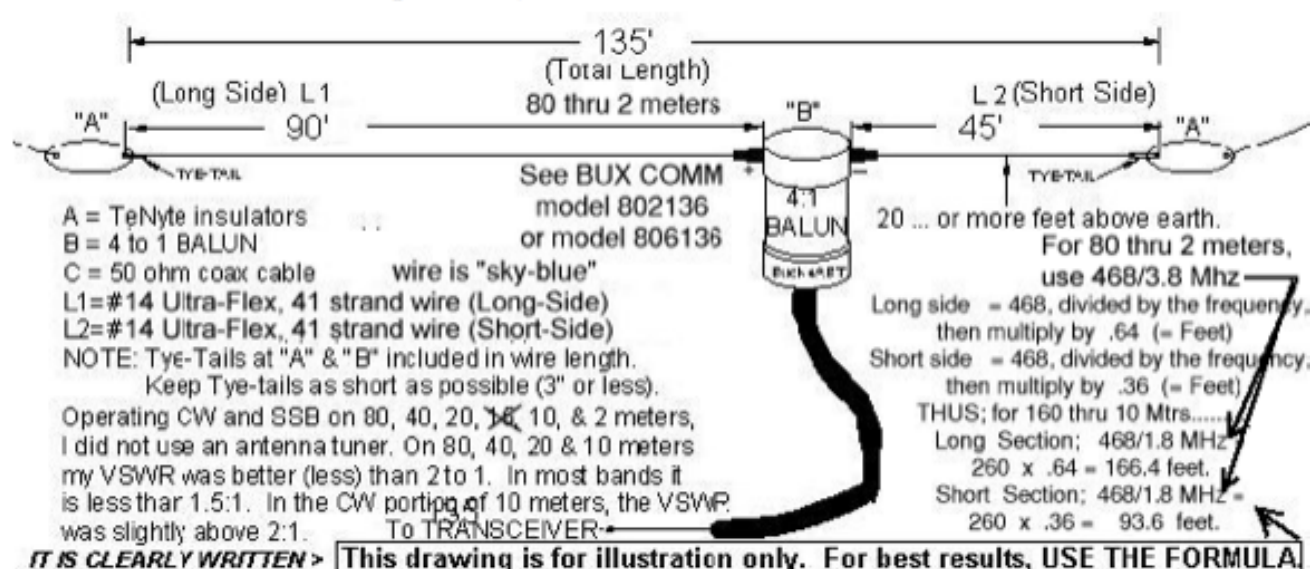
One of the students in the class, asked me what was the best antenna for someone new, just getting on the air. First of all, I didn't really understand what he meant, as someone new to Ham Radio doesn't really know what is required either.

First thing I did was ask him how much room he had to put up an antenna. Well this fellow is lucky in that he lives in a farm environment and has a few acres to put up antennas. My first answer to him was too complicated and he didn't understand what I meant. I think I said something like "there was no such antenna that would do it all." I think he meant something for listening and I was thinking something to transmit on all the bands.

Any antenna that can transmit on all bands is really a very compromised antenna. So what do we have? He was thinking more of one to listen with. Well any type of long wire antenna would do this for him. You do not need a resonant antenna to receive on. Depending on the length that you can get up, depends on what will come in the best, and of course a resonant antenna for one of the bands would work the best for that band.

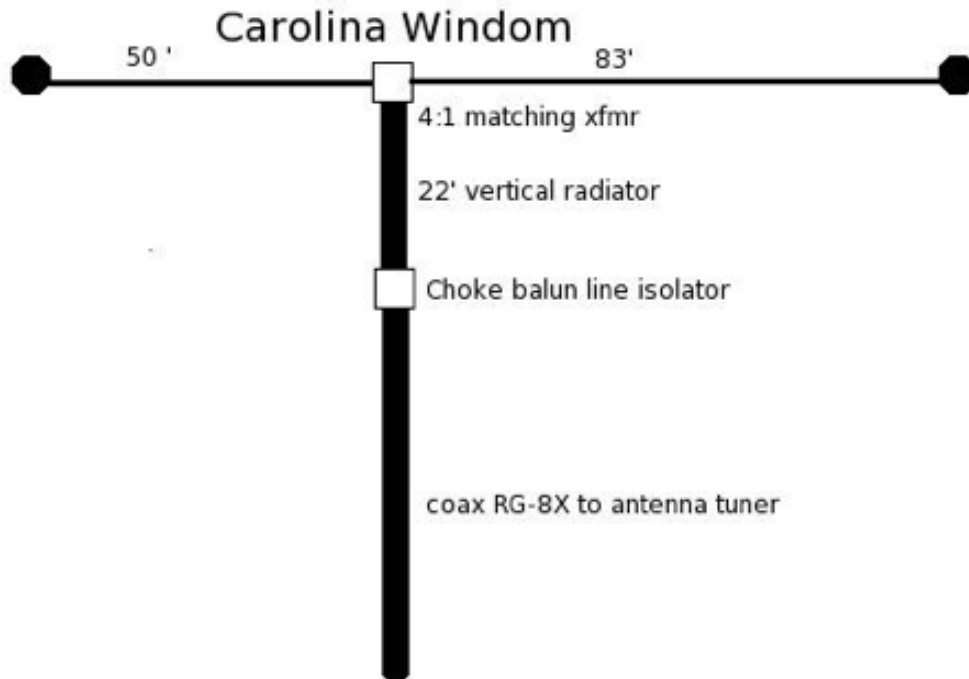
Let's get into transmit multiband antennas, keep in mind that I am a firm believer of the KISS rule (Keep It Simple Simon). There are a few that come to mind: the Windom (really an off centre fed dipole for all bands), the Carolina Windom which has an extra Balun and a vertical section, the famous G5RV antenna, the Mystery antenna, and a longwire. There are probably more that you can find but these ones are all that are easily made by yourself (KISS) or if your time is limited, they are all available commercially made. These antennas all come in a downsize or the large size. I suggested the OCF (off centre fed) Windom to the student, but then I think I confused him by telling him how to make it.

So here goes: The OCF Windom. You need wire and a 4:1 Balun. Not too much to it, making it yourself. For someone with property, I suggest the full size one, cut for 160 meters, but you can make the 80m or 40m one (more compromised) for smaller areas.



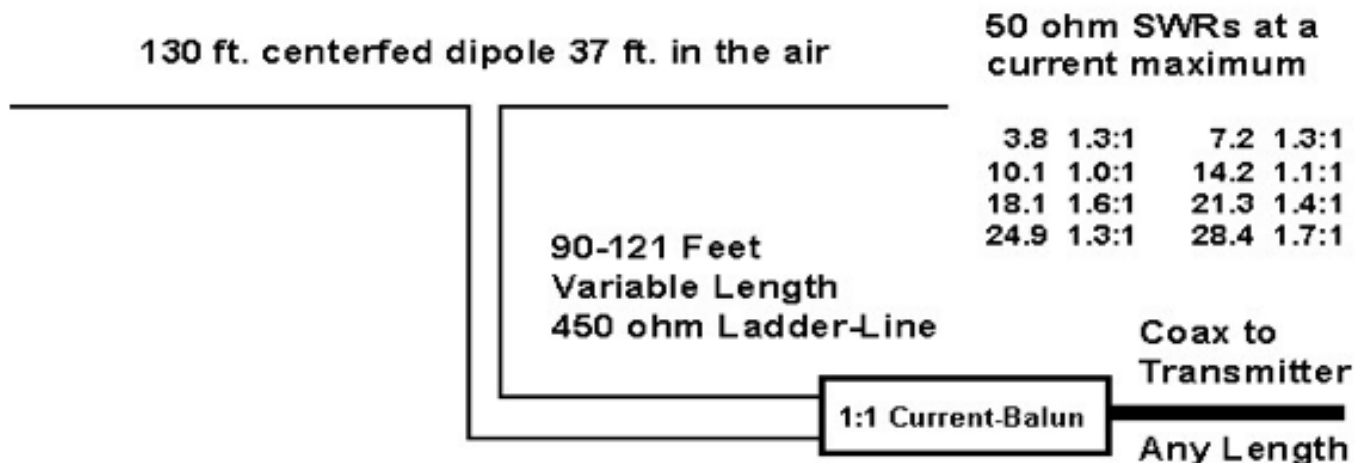
Next would be the Carolina Window. This antenna is very similar to the OCF Window but has a vertical section and a 1:1 balun at the bottom of the coax vertical section. This kind of balun is usually called a unun because it is really unbalanced to unbalanced with coax on both sides of it or you can make a choke out of the coax itself, if you have enough coax and can get the vertical length correct.

The Carolina Window: Shown is full sized, check the internet for downsized ones.

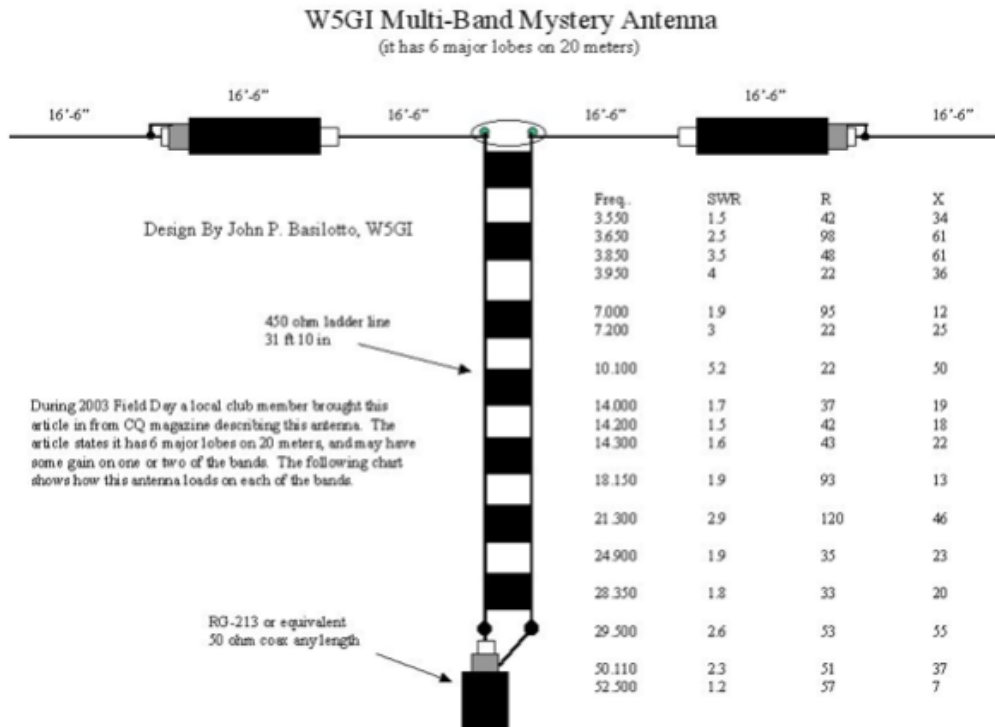


The famous G5RV antenna: Many variations, check internet for your size.

No-Tuner All-HF-Band Antenna



Next is the Mystery antenna: You need coax and check for your size in the graph. This antenna was designed by W5GI.



OK, now for the Longwire. This cartoon by WB1GFH says it all:



These are just a few of the antennas that can be used for Multi band use. Have fun making one or if you have no time, these are all available commercially. There is plenty of information about these on the Internet. Have fun making them or getting on the air to try them out.

HARC Executive**President**

Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ
ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca

Past President

Mike Krebs, VA3WXS
va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca

First Vice President

Paul Fleck VE3HTF
va3htf@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

The executive committee meets on the Wednesday one week prior to the club meeting in Room 124 at Westdale Secondary School. Club members are welcome to attend and observe.

Paris to Ancaster Bike Race

by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

A number of local and not so local Hams came out to staff the volunteer communications net for the 21st edition of the Paris to Ancaster Bike Race. The day was sunny and refreshingly cool. This year the longest distance had been extended to 70 km and a contingent of professional riders led the pack. Race organizers implemented cut off times, this year, and riders not passing a check point before the cut off time had to stop and be picked up. This cut one full hour off the finishing time and helped tie up the loose ends very effectively at the end of the day. Organizers also had a very effective "sweep" team that followed the last riders on each leg preventing anyone from being inadvertently left on the course.

Thanks to our own Gary Notto VE3TTO for organizing the local contingent of Hams, and Bob Brown VE3CYE, for sending out all the e-mails. The call goes out for volunteers every year, and if you want to play "amateur radio" for half a day it is a fun outing and a chance to meet some local Hams who may not all be members of our club.

