



*Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,  
117 - 350 King Street East,  
P.O. Box 75073,  
Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 4G6  
Est. 1932 Inc. 1956  
<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>*

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# The Hamilton Amateur

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

## The Next Meeting

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday January 21st at 7:00 P.M. in the Cafeteria of Westdale Secondary School (Main West at Longwood). Visitors are welcome.

## Minutes for the Meeting of November 26, 2014

*Recorded and submitted by Secretary Jim VE3JS*

### I. Call to order

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ called to order the General Meeting at 19:00 on 11/26/2014 @ The Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, (library) Hamilton, ON. Roger asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes for the month of October 2014. Motion was seconded by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE and carried by all members in attendance.



### II. Sign In

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

A total of 33 members / visitors were present. Welcome was extended to visitors Renzo Conz, Collin Bell and a group of student members Lenny Casilla, Albert Ersser, Samantha Williams, Methag Badda and Brian Norris.

### III. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported membership at 50 Primary members, 12 Student, and 2 family, for a total of 64. The draw for the membership early bird took place. Congratulations to Rick Danby VE3BK for yet another year of Free Membership to Hamilton ARC.

### IV. Program

The program tonight was about how to use your handheld. Members and visitors brought their handheld transmitters to the meeting in order to show other members or to learn from other members how to program some features available on the radios.

Many members were introduced to the programming software "Chirp" and used it to upload pre-

Club meetings – 3rd Wednesday each month – 7:00 pm (except July and August) in the cafeteria of Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton. Wheelchair accessible. Parking in the back. Use the rear entrance closest to Longwood Road. Visitors welcome. Complimentary refreshments.

set frequencies into their radios. Although some unsuccessful attempts were made for a variety of reasons, many members were able to download the frequencies into their handhelds. Prior to the meeting Mardy cautioned members about transmitting a number of radios inside the class room at the same time. A number of "Dummy loads" and connectors were available for members to use.

## V. Education

Mardy VE3QEE spoke briefly on the "Basic Certification" course currently being held at Westdale, where we currently have 12 students engaged. A delay in getting approval to use the room from the Hamilton School Board, had pushed our expected completion time to January 20, 2015. At this point only a few lessons remain, but attendance has been good and the number of students present at the this meeting confirmed a level of participation was being demonstrated. A winter class in "Basic Certification" will be postponed until September 2015, due to lower level of interest, insufficient classroom availability and instructors engaged in the "Advanced Certification" planned for January 27, 2015. Roger Pimm has reached out to the Burlington Club, and will offer information to those interested in acquiring "Basic Certification" via the Burlington venue, if desired. Mardy stated that he will present the lesson scheduled Tuesday December 2nd if nobody from the membership can take it. (Note: If you can assist in any capacity with the future educational classes, please make your intentions know to Mardy)

## VI. Contesting

Rick VE3BK announced the RAC Winter contest Dec 26, 2014. Rick invited anyone interested in visiting or assisting the operators at the site to contact him at [ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca) if they would like to participate.

Rick handed out certificates of accomplishment to participants of previous contests in the Ontario QSO Party, Rac Winter and CQWW using the VE3DC, and VA3RAC Callsigns. Rick also drew attention to the QST magazine for the December issue page 79, where VE3DC participated in Field Day 2014 and were listed as a 3rd place Ontario ranking.

## VII. Treasurers Report

Dave Bruton reported on the club's finances to date. A motion to accept the report as presented was proposed by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE and seconded by Sherry Goeller VE3DCU. Motion passed.

## New Business

### 1 RAC Liability Insurance

Roger VE3UFZ commented that the insurance forms for 2014-15 have been filed with RAC.

### 2 Mesh Network Group

Ron VE3ZX informed all present on the class room bookings of room 124, Thursday evenings beginning November 27 for learning and experimenting with a Mesh network. Ron, John VE3DVV & Paul VE3HTF visited the site of the VE3NCF repeater to assess the possibility of setting up a Mesh node at that location and

commented on the site as favourable.

### 3 Christmas Dinner

Ron announced the Hamilton ARC Christmas Dinner Dec 7 Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. 5-6pm social 6pm dinner.

### 4. Future Program

Ron VE3ZX is getting the "Guest Speaker schedule prepared for 2015.

If you have an idea to be considered, email Ron at [ve3rtj@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3rtj@hamiltonarc.ca).

## HARC 2014-2015 Executive

### President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ  
[ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Past President

Mike Krebs  
[va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca)

### First Vice President

Paul Fleck VE3HTF  
[ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Second Vice President

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE  
[ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Secretary

Jim Sawadski VE3JS  
[ve3js@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3js@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Treasurer

David Bruton VE3DWJ  
[ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca)

### Director

Ron Pereira VE3RTJ  
[ve3rtj@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3rtj@hamiltonarc.ca)

## 5. Hamfest for 2015

Paul VE3HTF announced that the Hamilton ARC Hamfest 2015 will be at the same venue "School Fair Bldg" at the Ancaster Fair grounds, October 3rd 2015. A contract has been signed.

## 6. Invitation to Join ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)

Gary Nottto VE3TTO handed out forms to be filled out to assist the ARES group in securing interested parties for future needs in Emergency Services. Please fill out those forms and pass them back to Gary [ve3tto@gmail.com](mailto:ve3tto@gmail.com). Training in Emergency procedures will be available for interested parties.

## 7 Public Service Events

Gary VE3TTO thanked members of HARC for their support in a successful Hannuka Hustle 2014 and encouraged the membership to participate in the upcoming Hamilton Santa Run Sunday November 30 2014. Meet Gary and the fellows at Bayfront Park at 8am with your UHF HT.

In addition Gary mentioned that the next events known at this time are the Burlington "Chilly Half Marathon & Frosty 5k" March 02, 2015 and the "Paris to Ancaster Bike Race" on April 25, 2015. Members are invited to participate by volunteering your service as a communication provider. Get specific details by contacting Gary, [ve3tto@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3tto@hamiltonarc.ca).

### Next meeting

January 21, 2015 @ the Westdale Secondary School cafeteria, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:55 moved by Roger VE3UFZ, seconded by Jim VE3JS

Thanks to all in attendance.

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3JS

## HARC Annual Christmas Party

a report by Mardy, VE3QEE

Current members, former members, and guests, nearly fifty in total, attended the Annual HARC Christmas Party on December 7th at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. Thanks to the effort of Barry VE3ISX, pictures are posted on the ONTARS web site at [http://www.ontars.com/Special%20Events/harc\\_christmas\\_2014/index.html](http://www.ontars.com/Special%20Events/harc_christmas_2014/index.html) (With permission a few of those photos have been reprinted in this newsletter.) Photographers Barry and Rick VE3BK captured some wonderful moments among friends. It was, truly, an enjoyable evening.



Our thanks to Commodore Laurel and husband Murray Thompsen VE3ZPV for sponsoring our group in the beautiful ambiance of the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. Our thanks to Scott VE3QU and Georgette for hosting the event and serving as masters of ceremony and prize presenters. Our thanks to Ginette VA3SEW and Georgette for decorating the room and behind the scenes organizing of the prizes and gifts. Our thanks to Paul VE3HTF and Roger VE3UFZ

for organizing and promoting the event. Apologies to those I have neglected to name because this was truly a team effort with many helping hands.

Four boxes of non perishable food, donated by guests, were delivered to Neighbour-To-Neighbour on Monday. Thank you all for your generosity.

Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

## RAC Winter Contest

an invitation by Rick Danby VE3BK

*Note: This all-Canadian contest takes place between Christmas and New Years. If you are looking to log all Canadian provinces and territories this is your best chance. Come and be one of the contesters in the quiet surroundings of Haldimand County and help push VE3DC into the lead.*

Hi Contesters, Don't forget the RAC Winter Contest. It is a 24 hour contest that starts at 0:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC December 27, 2014 this year. That means (because of the 5 hour time difference for the Winter months), this actually means that we start at 7 pm local time on December 26th and go 'till 6:59 pm local time on December 27th, 2014.

This is another one of those fun contests where you get to learn what the weather is like in Winnipeg and St. John's as well as wish you fellow Canadians "Happy New Year", a great contest. So let me know if you can operate a station (we are multi-multi again, that means 12 possible stations, but likely 6) or you can come out and relieve some operators or

take a turn calling CQ. You are more than welcome and failing coming to work a DX Station with power, you could always work us from home for our log.

Last year we ran VA3RAC and won a certificate for doing it, lets make this another good one for VE3DC. Hope to see you all there. My email is [ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca)

CU all there.  
Rick VE3BK

## Vinyl Records and Vacuum Tubes (Valves) Still More Popular Than Ever.

By Greg Gignac VE3YGG

Thanks to audiophiles, vinyl record albums sales are now growing leaps and bounds again, the only music medium other than digital sales where sales are increasing each year. CD sales on the other hand, are now going down each year. And vacuum tube amplifiers have made another huge comeback. If you have thrown out your old turntable, vacuum tube stereo and records don't despair. You can buy brand new record albums, turntables and tube audio amplifiers right here in Dundas, On at Alternative Audio/Diamond Groove Records. Please visit them at 6 Hatt Street, or check out their websites at:



<http://www.alternativeaudio.ca/>  
<http://diamondgroove.com/>

Thanks to Hams running vintage equipment, vacuum tubes are still needed for repair or to refurbish classic transmitters, linear amplifiers and receivers. And one of the largest online stores for tubes is right here in Hamilton, The Tube Store (near Rymal Rd and Upper Ottawa.) To learn about Vacuum Tube Basics see the FAQ on their website:

<http://www.thetubestore.com/Resources/Matching-and-other-tube-info/Vacuum-Tube-Basics>

Need some 6146 tubes for your transmitter or linear, see their selection of amateur radio tubes on their website:

<http://www.thetubestore.com/Tubes/Ham-radio-RF-Industrial-Tubes>

Remember to check out the rest of the website for resistors, capacitors and everything else to repair/refurbish your radios. Order online or call 905-570-0979 (they are not really a retail outlet, but you can pick up your tubes on location once your order is processed.) Tell the above suppliers Greg VE3YGG send you.



### HARC Chairs 2014 – 2015

Health / Welfare  
Tom Feeney VE3KTP

Contesting / Property Manager  
Rick Danby VE3BK

Membership  
Sherry Goeller VE3DCU

Education  
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Newsletter  
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Examiner Volunteers  
Mike Christmas VE3XMS  
Paul Fleck VE3HTF  
Roger Pimm VE3UFZ

Repeater Admin. / QSL Manager  
Rick Danby VE3BK

Repeater Technician  
John Vandenberg VE3DVV

EQSL Manager  
(VE3DC & VA3CWM)  
Don Grisenthwait VE3DDQ

Field Day Coordinator  
Ginette Pereira VA3SEW

Tuesday 2m Check-in Net  
Controller  
Mike Krebs VA3WXS

Flea market Coordinator  
Paul Fleck VE3HTF

Public Relations/Communication  
Ron Pereira VE3RTJ

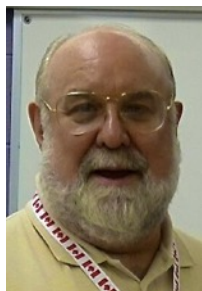
Flea market Vendor Contact  
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Webmaster  
Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ



## Hamilton's own Santa Claus Run November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

a report by Rick  
Danby VE3BK.



Communications were provided by a group of Amateurs from many places: the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, the Burlington Amateur Radio Club and some individual Hams as well. We all met at the Hamilton Yacht Club at 8 am to have a coffee and get our instructions and locations for the race. We met some of our fellow hams there and had a look at the map. We also found out this was a 5 km race and everyone had the same colour numbers (black on white).

David VE3DWJ and myself were assigned to Bayfront Park, check point #2, actually on the path up from the boat ramp. We had to report the first 3 male runners and the first 3 female runners. Then the last runner going back. This made it so we had to stay till all the runners had passed our location. We were also there for safety, in case a runner ran into some kind of difficulty. Saint John's Ambulance people were on site to give assistance.

All the runners wore Santa Claus suites and most were easily identified by their number. There was only one of the first male runners that had his number twisted around his body so that you could not read it.

After the run, we all went back to the finish line at William's restaurant where we had a coffee and a yummy breakfast wrap. The fellowship among volunteers at the end is one of the things to look forward to on these race events. We enjoyed meeting some of the other hams that were helping out. There are too many volunteers to mention, but from our Club, there were Rick VE3BK, David VE3DWJ, Kevin VE3HNG, Gary VE3TTO, Norm VE3ZKO and many more from other areas. Kevin VA3KRA (from the Burlington Club) was one of the organizers of the Hams as well as Gary VE3TTO from our Club.

Thanks to all that helped out. We are contributing to good public relations for all Amateur Radio Operators when we help out at these events. See you on the next one.

See the pictorial section for photos.

73 Rick VE3BK

## Putting Up a Wire Antenna in Winter

suggestion by Mardy  
VE3QEE

Winter could be the best time for putting up a wire antenna if you are using one or more trees for "sky hooks". The leaves are gone and you can pick a good spot where the branches provide a convenient V over which to drop a line. It is easy to pull up a wire once you have a line over the branch. Of course, these types of installations are best viewed as TEMPORARY for sooner or later the antenna will come down, but, if the line remains and the branch



## Important Points

### Executive Meetings

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August. Members are invited to attend. Time and location of the meetings vary but they are posted on the web site at <hamiltonarc.ca>

### VE3NCF 146.760 - & 444.075 + using tone 131.8

HARC operates VE3NCF repeater, located atop the Niagara Escarpment. It's open for use by all Amateurs. Special features are a privilege of membership.

### Nets

HARC "check-in net" is held every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. on VE3NCF (see above) September through June. An informal HF net takes place Mondays at 7:30 PM on 3.693 MHz. All contacts are welcome.

### Examinations

Amateur radio license examinations are conducted by arrangement with our three designated examiners. Refer to the web site at <hamiltonarc.ca> for details.

### Membership Information

Club membership, including all privileges, is \$31 per person, per year, Sept 1 to Aug 31. Additional membership, for immediate family living in the same home, is offered. Refer to the web site at <hamiltonarc.ca> for details.

### The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur is published ten times each year (not in July or August). Deadline for article submission is the last Saturday of the month for the next month's issue. Preferred format is .txt file. Articles will be checked for spelling and grammar, but the author is responsible for factual content. E-mail submissions to Editor, Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, <ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca>.

is still there you can easily haul the antenna back up again. Worse case would be you start from scratch again.

Get help from other club members. Some of us do this often and have the equipment and experience to drop a line over a branch. A couple volunteers recently helped Murray, VE3ZPV drop lines over two trees on his property. He raised a HyEndFed antenna for 80, 40, 20 and 10 meters over his roof, and felt pleased with the results when he tested the antenna. The first contact made was with a ham in Alaska. It worked! The whole operation did not take long, only a few hours.

If you have an idea for antennas at your place and want to talk it over, drop an e-mail to <[exec@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:exec@hamiltonarc.ca)>. Act fast. Winter will be gone in a few short months. Hi hi.

## Check Out These Web Sites

NASA publishes an astronomy picture a day from its huge inventory. Each photo is followed by an explanation.

<<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>>

The Space Weather web site publishes “news and information about the Sun-Earth environment”. Animations and explanations on this web site show us how space weather affects many aspects of our life on earth including phenomena affecting radio wave propagation.

<<http://spaceweather.com>>

## Results from the CQ WW SSB Contest

a report by Contest Chair Rick Danby VE3BK

**Date and Location:**  
The contest took place October 25-26, 2014 at the Contest Site using Club Call VE3DC

**Operators:**  
Ahmet VA3TUR, Rick VE3BK, Sherry VE3DCU, Jim VE3EEZ (now VE3JS,) Mardy VE3QEE, Scott VE3QU & Georgette, and Andrew VE3RIA

**Visitors:**  
Dan VA3DJ, Paul VE3PMV and Jack VE3WBT

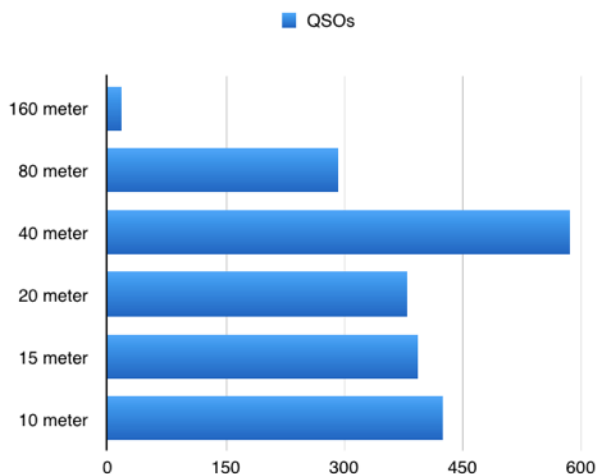
**Remarks:**  
Another great DX contest that the group had fun with, again this year. Murphy struck a few times with some hardware problems, rig controls quitting and some problems with a headset, still we exceeded our score from last

year with a higher QSO count. Our zones and countries worked were actually down a bit. A fun contest again, with everyone working every station and getting more experience. We actually had Georgette (Scott's better half) get her feet wet and call CQ with many responses. She told me when she first started to call CQ,

"I got one", another Contester is born. We are getting more familiar with the strange calls, as no one was asking what country that was. A window in the Writelog program displays the country automatically. Lot's of fun, with some ragchewing with our visitors too. Hope to see you all for the next one.

73 Rick VE3BK

Band	QSOs	Points	Zones	Countries
160 meter	19	32	2	2
80 meter	293	553	10	19
40 meter	586	1250	19	59
20 meter	381	916	22	74
15 meter	393	1001	23	75
10 meter	424	1183	26	67





# Pictorial ~ The Hamilton Santa Claus Run



Everyone is wearing a Santa outfit.



Rick VE3BK and David VE3DWJ



Communication Volunteers



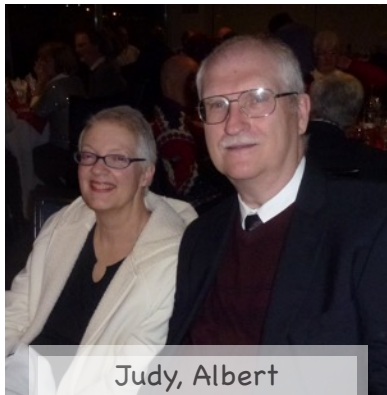
Crossing the Start Finish Line



Peter VA3PRE and Norm VE3ZKO



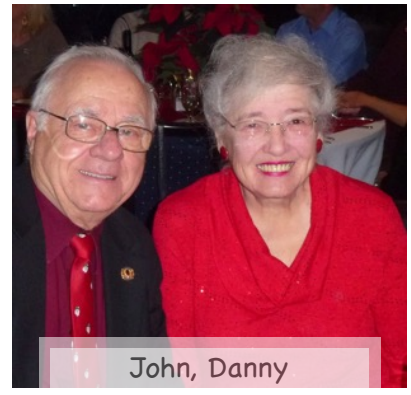
# Pictorial ~ HARC Annual Christmas Party



Judy, Albert



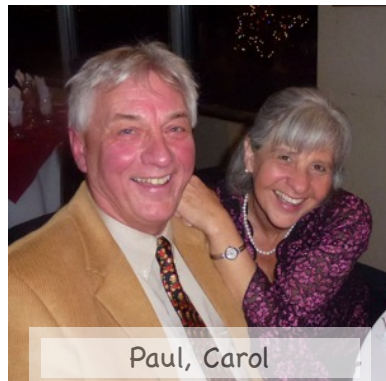
Mary, Judy, Barry, Laurel, Murray



John, Danny



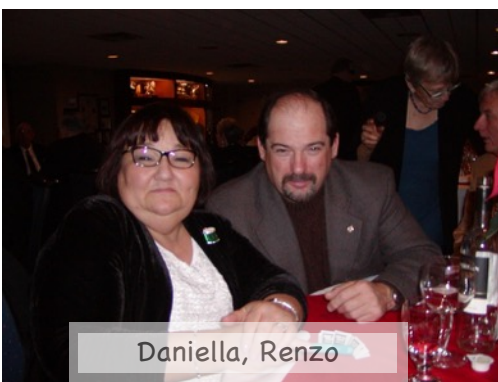
Donna, Norm



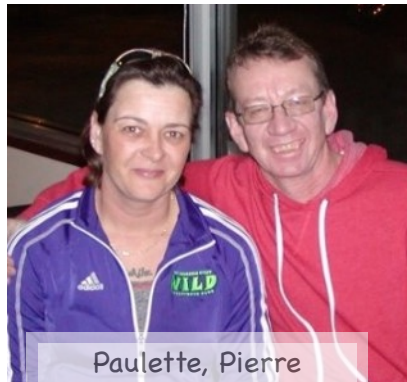
Paul, Carol



Greg



Daniella, Renzo



Paulette, Pierre



David



Evelyn



Georgette, Scott, Laurel, Murray



Mike



# Pictorial ~ HARC Annual Christmas Party



Ahmet, Elizabeth



Mark, Marilyn



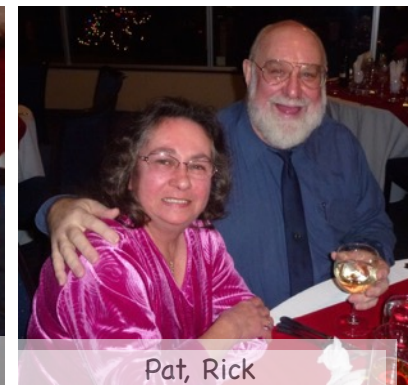
John, Joanne



Donna, Jim



Laurel, Murray



Pat, Rick



Peter, Mary



Ginette, Ron



Thea, Casey



Mark, Roger