



Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,  
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 P.O. Box 75073,  
 Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 4G6  
 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956  
<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>

# The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter ~ 83 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2015

## The Next Meeting

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00 P.M. in the Cafeteria of Westdale Secondary School (Main West at Longwood). Visitors are welcome.

The guest speaker is John Hudak VE3CXB introducing us to what is happening on the Very Low Frequency band. Join us to hear the sounds and learn about the activity in this little known area of spectrum.



- VLF = Very Low Frequency Band 3 kHz to 30 kHz
- LF = Low Frequency Band, 30 kHz to 300 kHz
- MF = Medium Frequency Band, 300 kHz to 3 MHz.
- HF = High Frequency Band, 3 MHz to 30 MHz.
- VHF = Very High Frequency Band, 30 MHz to 300 MHz.
- UHF = Ultra High Frequency Band 300 MHz to 3 GHz.

## Vice President's Message

by Paul Fleck VE3HTF

It is the beginning of a new year for the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club and we start with a much larger membership, a graduate class of new Amateur Radio Operators, Tech nights on Thursdays with MESH technology leading the way, and a ground swell of interest in C.W.. Our team of teachers is currently engaged with an enthusiastic group who are taking their Advanced course.



Our first "pay it forward" initiative was at our January meeting when members pitched in during the 50/50 draw and raised \$135 to benefit the Golden Horizons not-for-profit organization after they sustained a terrific loss (fire) of a community group home in Hamilton, displacing the residents and leaving them with nothing. My personal thanks to all of our attending members for your generosity!

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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.

The club executive is ready to take on new opportunities that will enhance your participation in the club. Our general meetings this year take on a new perspective with hands on demonstrations ranging from MESH demos, to digital H.F. and that is just the beginning. I know that Ron VE3RTJ has many other activities planned for us in 2015. If you have some ideas or would like to learn something about our hobby that would benefit members of the club, please let Ron know.

We have our monthly breakfast meeting with participation growing every month, everyone is welcome to join us the first Saturday of every month at the West End Diner, see our web site for details. Great food and lots of friendly banter! In the works is a TRI-Club dinner involving two other clubs, as yet this event is in the planning stages so stay tuned!

Your club needs participation from all members to help create and sustain the momentum and activities that are benefitting everyone. Would you like to sponsor an activity in the club? So many venues to tackle, C.W. group, QRP activities, Social and networking activities, mentoring our new hams and beginners the list of opportunities is endless. Do you have a favorite activity that we don't know about but you would love to give it a try? Let Roger, Paul, Ron, Dave or Mardy know your passion and

we will help you get us...the membership just as excited!

Welcome 2015, it's going to be a great year for the members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club!

73's Paul VE3HTF

## Minutes for the January 21, 2015 General Meeting

by Secretary Jim  
Sawadski VE3JS

### I. Call to order

Paul Fleck VE3HTF called to order the General Meeting at 19:00 on 01/21/2015 @ The Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON. Paul began the meeting by asking members and visitors alike to introduce themselves. Paul asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes for the month of November 2014 as there was no December meeting because of the Club Christmas Party. The motion was seconded by Scott VE3QU and carried by the majority in attendance.



### II. Sign In

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

30 members / visitors were present. Welcome visitors David Sigouin VA3AHK, Bob Brennan VE3ITW, Ed McCartan, and new student member to our meeting, Cheryl Van Herk VE3CVH.

### III. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported membership at 58 Primary members, 12 Student, and 2 family, for a total of 72. A membership drive initiated by Sherry pulled in a few more of the primary memberships over the last month.

### IV. Speakers

There were no guest speakers scheduled this evening. Instead a few of the members brought in their radios and computers for a show and tell, as an introduction to the digital world. Mardy VE3QEE, John VE3DVV, and Ron VE3ZX, set up transceivers in the

## HARC 2014-2015 Executive

### President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ  
ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca

### Past President

Mike Krebs  
va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca

### First Vice President

Paul Fleck VE3HTF  
ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca

### Second Vice President

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE  
ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca

### Secretary

Jim Sawadski VE3JS  
ve3js@hamiltonarc.ca

### Treasurer

David Bruton VE3DWJ  
ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca

### Director

Ron Pereira VE3RTJ  
ve3rtj@hamiltonarc.ca

cafeteria to demonstrate PSK31 with a variety of software. Guests and members alike gathered around to explore and converse.

## V. Education

Mardy VE3QEE spoke briefly on the "Basic Certification" course currently being held at Westdale, where we have completed the class of 12 registered students. From the class test night, 9 students graduated with 8 of them graduating with honors. Not everyone was able to get out to the testing night and they will be contacting the examiners when the timing is right for both student and examiner. Congratulations to all students! Mardy announced the "Advanced" certification classes that were to begin January 27 at Westdale High School 7-9pm. If you wish to join the class contact Mardy [ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca)

(Note: If you can assist in any capacity with the future educational classes, please make your intentions known to Mardy)

## VI. Contesting

David Bruton VE3DWJ on behalf of Rick VE3BK announced the upcoming CQWW 160 to take place at the end of February. Mardy encouraged all in attendance to come out and try their voice at the mic or hands and the keyboard in what's referred to as the "Gentlemen's band" anyone interested in visiting or assisting the operators at the site to contact Rick at [ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca) if they would like to participate. For

more information on this contest visit <http://cq160.com/rules.htm>

## VII. Treasurers Report

Dave Bruton reported on the club's finances to date. A motion to accept the report as stated was set forth by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE and seconded by Ron VE3DF.

## VIII. Repeater

John VE3DVV spoke briefly on what's been happening at the repeater site. John has turned the antenna slightly to try and do a better job in the Ancaster area, with marginal improvement. Of course terrain is not favorable for the VE3NCF location and several members have plotted and commented on the repeaters reach and have stated that with the present set-up it is as good as it's going to get. The club has purchased a Nano-Node from Mico-Node International <http://micro-node.com/index.html>

This unit will enhance our current IRLP structure and allow us at some point to add the echolink functionality to our site as needed. John will be looking into the installation as time and equipment become available. John also commented on the possibility of doing something with the 440 antenna, possibly moving to a 4 bay antenna.

## Notes:

Paul VE3HTF noted that the Strategic Planning Committee would be getting back together in the upcoming months to continue

its work on club vision and improvement considerations.

Ron VE3ZX spoke on the Mesh Network workshops set to go on the following evening of this general meeting. The goal being to teach interested parties on how to pack a kit to quickly set-up, get logged in and talking with each other as a need arises as well as how to connect to services in the network and just practise the skills.

Ron is looking for technical night topics of interest to its members. If you have a topic that would benefit others or you feel you could lead someone on a topic of interest please send Ron a note [VE3ZX@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:VE3ZX@hamiltonarc.ca)

The speaker for February 18 is our very own John Hudak VE3CXB. John will be speaking about very low frequencies.

Ahmet VA3TUR has been doing our Friday night net. Ahmet's report noted an average of nine check-ins, with the latest check-ins hitting numbers of ten and fourteen. Please be mindful of our net times 19:30-20:00 Friday evenings and do your best to keep Ahmet busy. Note that the 440 repeater switches to the Friday night tech net with Reg Bagshaw VK6BQQ at 20:00 automatically, so if you are on the 440 side of the repeater, get your contact in before 8pm.

## New Business

- Gary Notto VE3TTO reminded members to hand in their ARES forms that have been passed out. If you still have yours please get it in to Gary. If you need one, see Gary.

- Gary noted that a Digital Mobile Radio DMR has been set up on the CHCH tower on frequency 442.675+5 mhz, the owner VA3QR. Read more on DMR here <http://www.va3xpr.net/>
- Scott VE3QU and Georgette SWL, spoke to the membership of a group home that caught fire the week of the general meeting. Mardy VE3QEE on behalf of Georgette, asked for a motion to hold a fundraiser for the victims of that fire who were displaced, the motion seconded by Sherry VE3DCU and carried by all in attendance. Georgette thanked the members present who contributed and will donate those funds on behalf of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. Thank you Susan VE3TLK for your generous donation in addition to the support raised.
- Paul noted that a script for the Friday night net had been developed to keep the net more formal. Ahmet VA3TUR the net controller, has agreed to give that a try and we'll tweak it as needed. Please send any comments to the net control manager, Ron [ve3zx@hamiltonarc.ca](mailto:ve3zx@hamiltonarc.ca)
- Ron VE3ZX kicked off the fun part of the evening with a brief talk on all things digital before breaking for coffee and snacks and playing with the transceivers.

### Next meeting

February 18, 2015 @ the Westdale Secondary School cafeteria, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON

### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:00 Moved by Paul VE3HTF.  
Motion seconded by Sherry VE3DCU. Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3JS

## Digital Operators Award

*Formerly the CW Operators Award. This Award is given in February for contacts made during the previous year.*

### History



In January 2013, the award known as the CW Order of the Gavel Award, was renamed the Digital Operating award by the 2012-2013 executives as a result of the additional modes of operation available and the decline in the CW submissions for the CW QSO's. (CW being one of the first forms of digital modes available) This change in "re-branding" the award and opening the award to other modes of operation was done to encourage club participation while keeping intact the original mode of operation.

Note that Award Winners between 1979 and 2011 were exclusively CW mode only. Future winners will have specified which mode of operation was recognized by The Hamilton ARC.

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this award is to promote the use of DIGITAL communications and to stimulate an interest among the newer Hams to operate in the HF bands.

### RULES:

### 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

The event is open to all members of the HARC.

The award may not be won two consecutive years.

The award will be presented annually.

Only the previous twelve months will be considered, from January 1st through December 31st. In the case of a new Ham of less than 12 months, the score will be prorated by dividing 365 by the number of days licensed, times the score of points attained.

The following point system will be used to decide the winner:

Digital QSO's @ 1 point per QSO

C.W. QSO's @ 5 points per QSO.

The total points from above will be adjusted by a DX multiplier of 1, 2 or 5 points per DX country in relation to the power levels listed above. DX will be the current ARRL DX country list. There will be no DX multiplier for USA.

A valid QSO will be QTH, RST, and name.

Please submit this form not later than February 1st. The judges may want to see your logs before making their final decision. Include QSO's from January 1st through December 31. A valid QSO must be in a digital mode using your own call sign and must contain the standard report (i.e. RST, name, call and QTH). Fill in the applicable blanks in the form to compute your score.

Past Recipients (between 1979 and 2011 all recipients where exclusively CW submissions)

1979 VE3JTO/VA3SP Mike Spenuk

1980 VE3AHB Irwin Merritt

1981 VE3EKY Bernard Granby {SK}

1982 VE3KOT Mort Paterson

1983 VE3NYF Gary Dumbleton

1984 VE3NKW John Rozsa

1985 VE3OIZ Bill Leslie

1986 no recipient

1987 no recipient

1988 VE3SRK Richard Leah

1989 VE3VFR Norm Sander

1990 no recipient

1991 no recipient

1992 VE3DSN Sheran DeVotta

1993 no recipient

1994 VE3JWJ John Johnston

1995 no recipient

1996 no recipient

1997 VE3YAG Richard Appleyard

1998 VE3STT David Jones

1999 VE3EKY Bernie Granby {SK}

2000 VE3EKY/VA3XJ Bernard Granby {SK}

2001 no recipient

2002 VA3RE Bob Edge

2003 no recipient

2004 no recipient

2005 VE3EKY/VA3XJ Bernard Granby {SK}

2006 no recipient

2007 no recipient

2008 no recipient

2009 no recipient

2010 no recipient

2011 no recipient

2012 VE3BK Rick Danby

Let's promote HARC awards program. Help us by submitting nominees for the Digital Operators Award right away. send your nomination to <exec@hamiltonarc.ca>

## Education Report

by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

Congratulations to the graduates of the Fall 2014 Basic Course. This was the largest group we have taught in quite a while and we are pleased with the level of success. Can't wait to hear this group of new operators on the air.

An Advanced Course began the last week in January with an enrolment of eight. By the time of the February meeting we will have had three sessions.

I would like to thank Roger Pimm who worked to secure a room for teaching the courses and



## 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>.

## Basic Course Candidates ~ Fall 2014



Left to right: Gary Young VE3GYX, Georgette Welling, Samantha Williams VE3LZY, Cheryl VanHerK VA3CVH, Brian Norris VA3BGN, Albert Ersser VA3ERE, Scherrie Kelly VA3YVS, Daniel Vukovich VA3VUK, Barney Bethel VA3BSO, and HARC President, Roger Pimm VE3UFZ. Congratulations to our new RadioAmateurs.

acted as behind the scenes sponsor, organizer and troubleshooter. His vision and leadership have contributed to our successful teaching program.

I would also like to thank Paul Fleck whose "Big Picture" vision and endless promotion have contributed greatly to the spirit and enthusiasm that drives our educational activities both formal and informal, that is the Tuesday classes and the Thursday interest groups.

Thirdly, I would like to recognize and thank the five or so club members who have volunteered to teach one or several classes and an additional five or so members who attend the classes to give informal assistance to students, to contribute anecdotes and generally act as Elmers. The group approach that we have adopted seems to be unique among clubs offering Basic and Advanced training. The group

approach seems to be achieving remarkable results.

At the St. Catharines Big Event, this past weekend I was asked by someone from another club how we get so many students and how it is those students have so much success. I was delighted to answer the question by saying that I felt it was the result of the group approach with many of our club members being involved presenting material and helping in the classes. This group approach fosters a sense of fraternity among candidates and ham volunteers in an atmosphere where they are welcomed and valued.

Good stuff, volunteers. Smiles on the faces above say it all.

## Kit News

*thanks to an tip from Brian Norris VA3BGN*

Brian Norris, VA3BGN is among the group pictured above. In the

1970s before being licensed Brian was building kits. In fact he built a Heathkit transceiver which has not been on the air. Brian sent along a couple of web sites with information about kits from forty years ago. Here are the URLs (uniform resource locaters, otherwise known as a web addresses). Quoting from Brian's e-mail:

"This first URL is for the company situated near Rochester/Finger Lakes region and the second one is a nostalgia site containing history of many kits I built in the mid 70's and still have in my possession."

<http://www.ramseyelectronics.com/>

<http://www.nostalgickitscentral.com/>

All kinds of detailed information is found on these web sites especially tips about restoring older equipment like Heathkit transceivers.

If you might be interested in building a modern transceiver check out the G6BLQ web site at:

<dxkits.com> for information on the multi band BitX Transceiver, a modular kit covering 160 to 10 meters SSB. (The web site is currently off line but promises to be back up soon). You will find a picture there of the kit. On the PARC Homebrew Group - Yahoo Groups reflector I just saw pictures posted by Ken Chase from the Peel Amateur Radio Club. Ken is currently building the BitX transceiver kit and has completed several modules.

## Dayton 2014 Official Attendance

On the Dayton Hamvention web site the official attendance for last year has been posted. There were **24,873** attendees including five, that I know about, from the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. The Hamvention will take place again at the Hara Arena on May 15, 16 and 17, this year. If you have never been, Dayton is a nominal 7 hour drive and you'll need to



Attendees in the Hara Arena 2014



Mark VE3MWH, John VE3DVV, & Mardy VE3QEE

show your passport or Nexus card crossing the border.

## Announcing the 2015 CQ World-Wide 160-Meter Contest



by Contest Chair Rick Danby VE3BK

The 2015 CQ World-Wide 160-Meter Contest is our next contest coming up at the end of February.

We will be doing the SSB once again from our Contest site. You are encouraged to come out for an hour or two and help or observe. Let me know if you want to be scheduled as an operator. The 160 meter band is called the Gentlemen's Band. On 160 meters, propagation is best at night time and best in the Winter months. I

guess the snow or cold weather makes it better. It looks like it could be good weather, not flooding and ice like we had last year, and hopefully no one will get stuck. The weather was not very cooperative last year, so let's hope for the best. Please let me

know if you want to be an operator for this fun contest. New hams are always welcome to see how we operate (we have a few from our classes in 2014). This is a great one to observe and/or 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 let me know at the Club meeting on February 18, 2015 at Westdale High School.

Details are as follows:

**Name** of the contest is the 2015 CQ World-Wide 160-Meter Contest

**Modes:** SSB (using a microphone)

**Date in local time** (Eastern Standard Time): Starting at 5PM on Friday February 27, 2015, running 48 hours to Sunday March 1st, 2015, 4:59PM.

**Date in UTC:** 2200Z February 27 to 2200Z March 1st - 48 hours.

**Best operating period:** This is a night-time band so the best openings are in the wee hours or the early evenings Friday and Saturday night.

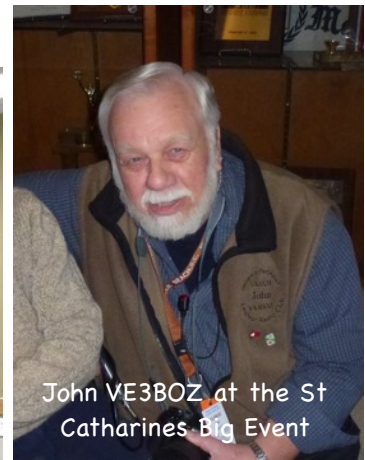
**Results in 2014** We earned a certificate for 2014 and we did it with a small group of five operators: VA3TUR VE3DCU VE3BK VE3QEE VE3RIA

Our station, VE3DC placed #1 in our class in Canada and #1 in Ontario right ahead of VE3VV, and we were 6th in our class in all of North America. A great job for 2014, so we are hoping to do it again this year in 2015.

Rules are on the web at: <<http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>>

# Pictorial ~ various events in late January early February 2015

Designated Examiners, Roger VE3UFZ and Paul VE3HTF marking the Basic exam with candidates looking on.



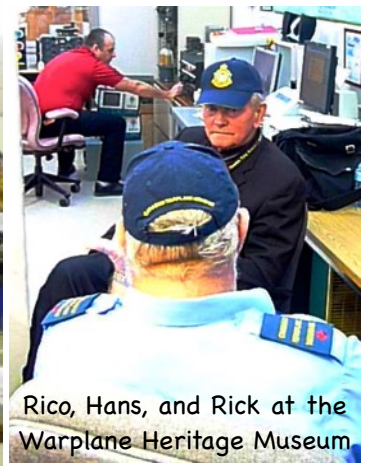
John VE3BOZ at the St Catharines Big Event



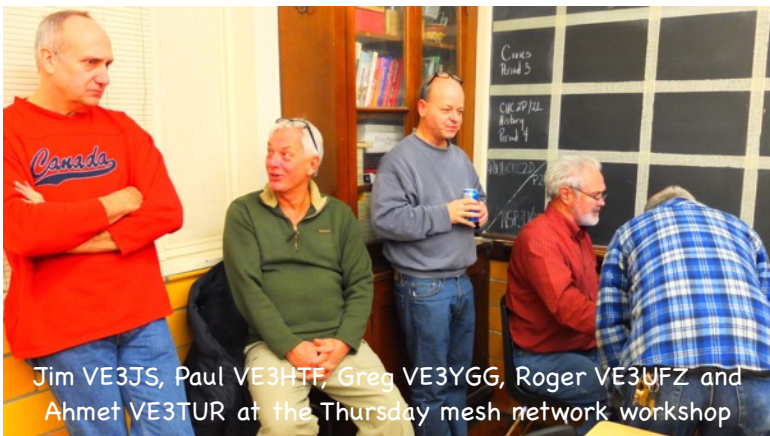
Inside the St. Catharines flea market last Saturday. Good crowds and spacious accommodation. A good kickoff for the 2015 season. Barry VE3ISX has more pictures posted on the ONTARS web site.



John VE3FDK at the St Catharines Big Event



Rico, Hans, and Rick at the Warplane Heritage Museum



Jim VE3JS, Paul VE3HTF, Greg VE3YGG, Roger VE3UFZ and Ahmet VE3TUR at the Thursday mesh network workshop



Ron VE3ZX and John VE3DVV at the mesh network workshop