



Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,
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 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 ~ 83 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2015

Message from the 1st Vice President.

by Paul Fleck
 VE3HTC



Well, April was certainly a very busy month for our members. The Brass Pounders and Wave Rider Social on April 14th was attended by members of the Guelph, Burlington and Hamilton ARC's. The dining room was alive with chatter, laughter and S-9 QRM until the food arrived and then...it was like the bands had closed up... Our hosts, Luke and Claudia of Breezy Corners made us feel right at home! Michele our waitress was brought in just to look after us and she did a great job!

Before the end of the night, many members were asking, when is the next get together!

Be sure to read the article in this months newsletter.

The VE3DC and VE3RCB teams were working the airwaves for the Ontario QSO party and racked up some nice scores. There is an article about the "DX-expedition" to the Great White North in this newsletter.

The club strategic planning team met with many of the clubs chairpersons and we had a great working session, reviewing our plans and ideas for the following years. Our plate will be full with innovative activities, new approaches to reduce our workload and bring better services to all of our members!

I invigilated an exam for our newest ham this month. I would like to introduce Mark Arnett. Mark passed his exam with flying colours and secured his Basic with Honours and his call-sign of VA3FLC. Congratulations Mark! If you hear Mark on the repeater, be sure to give him a warm welcome!

The Saturday morning breakfast on May 2, was attended by 16 guests and the winner of the free breakfast was Scott Hamilton, VE3QU.

Be sure to come out to our next general meeting, we would love to meet and greet everyone. I will be creating the treats for our next meeting and I have to think really hard about what to make, as Ginette VA3SEW has been a "Sharp Cookie" (excuse the pun) when it comes to baking!

73's for now...
 Paul, VE3HTF

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.

Next Meeting

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday, May 20th at 7:00 P.M. in the Cafeteria of Westdale Secondary School (Main West at Longwood). Visitors welcome.

The May Meeting is our annual homebrew night featuring a competition for the Crawford Trophy, and a Show-and-Tell session where members are invited to share an idea or item that can benefit the hobby.

Qualifying Homebrew projects are amateur radio items that you have built or assembled, which have been completed in the past 12 months. In the first part of the evening builders will explain their projects. Following the presentation, members will have time to see the projects up close and ask questions. Judging will be done by a committee of the whole using an evaluation sheet.

Last year's winner, John Vandenberg, VE3DVV took home the Crawford Trophy after demonstrating his version of the Wobulator, a device for evaluating circuit performance. Join us for on the 20th for Homebrew Night.

Brass Pounder and Wave Rider Social

A report by Paul Fleck VE3HTC

The QRM started at 6:00 p.m. sharp! Would you expect anything else when a hungry group of hams from the Burlington, Guelph and Hamilton clubs get together?

This normally quiet, well behaved gathering burst into chatter, kibitzing and "Technical Talk" as

soon as they walked through the door!

Members of the B.A.R.C., G.A.R.C. and H.A.R.C. clubs joined together on Tuesday April 14th at the Breezy Corners Restaurant on Highway 6 between Hamilton and Guelph.

The meal was put together by Claudia and her husband Luke (Owners of Breezy Corners), who likes to call us the "Hamsters" as we walk in the door any day of the week!

There was a Chinese Auction and a 50/50 draw. We had corporate sponsorship from Home Depot, Rona, Turtle Jacks and Breezy Corners. Total value of the prize table was in excess of \$400!

The funds raised by the auction and 50/50 were donated to the Children's Wish Foundation in the amount of \$216.00!!! What a fantastic success and great participation by the Ham community!

The event was attended by 38 (hungry) guests. We had a short but very enlightening and engaging speech's from Bryce Lee - VA3TRN (President of BARC),

Guests at the Brass Pounder and Wave Rider Social on Breezy Corners Restaurant on Hwy. 6



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

Roger Pimm - VE3UFZ (President of HARC) and Barry Brousseau - VE3SLD (President of GARC).

The main message was that of engagement and participation,

sharing of knowledge and support between clubs and memberships. It was very evident that each club had significant strengths and varied activities that we could all partake in and learn from. Even before the dinner ended, plans were being discussed on how we could enable each others members and clubs, joint fox hunts, Hamfest support, etc, etc..

Some concern was voiced that members from clubs would sit and chat together, but that never happened as everybody engaged around the room and tables, Before the night drew to a close we heard questions like, "When is the next get together" and "Can this be a regular event".

The food was excellent, the friendship engaging and plans are underway for another gathering of "The Hams"

Several "Key" contributors are in the spotlight as they helped to make this event a memorable one as well many behind the scenes helping hands...

Ms. "Georgette" Welling - HARC
Scott Hamilton VE3QU - HARC
Ginette Pereira VA3SEW - HARC
Norm Freidin VE3CZI - BARC
Nolan Reid VE3NLR - GARC

Thank-you to all those that helped to make this event a

success and to those members that came out to enjoy the fellowship and a great meal!

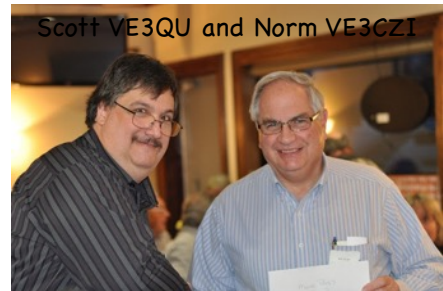
73's....until the next event!
Paul VE3HTF

Brass Pounder and Wave Rider Social

photos of this three-club event courtesy of Paul Fleck VE3HTF



Roger with hosts Luke and Claudia



Scott VE3QU and Norm VE3CZI



Nolan VE3NLR



Ron VE3RTJ



Jim VE3JS and Ahmet VA3TUR



Bryce VA3TRN



Michele

Minutes of the April 15 General Meeting

Submitted by
secretary Jim
Sawadski VE3JS



I. Call to order

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ called to order the General Meeting at 19:05 on 04/15/2015 at Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON. Roger asked the membership and guests to introduce themselves.

II. Sign In

Attendance was conducted by the circulation of the members sign in sheet. A total of 37 members / visitors were present. Welcome visitors, Don Pullen VE3LJU, Rob Manley VA3WHO, John Edwards VA3JLE, Donna Yussack, and Carol King.

III. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported membership at 54 Primary members, 16 Student, and 2 family, for a total of 72. Sherry reminded everyone that the 2015-16 membership drive will be starting shortly with the April general meeting. Get your dues in early to be eligible for the early bird draw. A free membership will go to the lucky winner, to be drawn before the October 2015 General meeting.

IV. Evening's Agenda

This evening was devoted to the fox hunting "show and tell". Members brought out an assortment of antennas and directional finding equipment as well as the transmitters used in

the hunts. Much discussion evolved over the coffee break with the interaction of the members and guests.

V. Education

Mardy informed the attendees that there were about 3 more lessons before the final Advanced testing on May 12. Mardy also spoke on the Fall Basic course expected to begin in September 2015 and another Advanced class in January 2016. If you would like to assist with either of the courses or if you know someone who is interested in attending either of the courses, see Mardy ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca

VI. Contesting

Rick VE3BK presented two certificates to several club members for their participation in the 2014 WWDX contest and the 2014 RAC Canada day contest. Rick announced the Ontario QSO Party contest April 18-19.

VII. Treasurer's Report

Dave Bruton reported on the clubs finances to date. The report was accepted as delivered.

VIII. Repeater

John VE3DVV was absent. Garry Notto commended operators on the Friday Night Net for their adaptability in using a simplex frequency to carry on business when there was a malfunction on the repeater.

Program Notes

Ron is looking for technical night topics of interested 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

Sherry VE3DCU made note of a correction to be made to the

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

general meeting minutes where Gord Murray VE3JSJ made mention that he used to be an active member of the Hamilton ARC. Sherry noted that Gord was in fact also a current member.

Paul VE3HTF mentioned the success of the Brass Pounder & Wave Rider social, which took place April 14 at Breezy Corner restaurant. Benefits from the event went to the Childrens Wish Foundation. A \$216.00 donation.

Paul VE3HTF announced the Burlington Flea Market scheduled for July.

Ginette VA3SEW is looking for volunteers for the 2015 Field Day exercise to be held this year at Valley Park, directly behind the fire department. Email fieldday@hamiltonarc.ca if you would like to be involved in any capacity.

New Business

1. Gary VE3TTO Reminded the membership of the upcoming CanWarn Training at Nash Auditorium, Wilcox Building, Chedoke Hospital, Sanatorium Road in Hamilton, free parking across from Wilcox building
2. Gary put out a request for operators for the Paris to Ancaster Bike Race. As well as all those interested in ARES to hand in their forms, that were handed out earlier.
3. Roger VE3UFZ announced that June will be election night. Your executives have ended their term beginning September 2015. Please throw your name in the hat if you can contribute in any way. Be prepared to nominate the people of your choice to continue with the club growth.

Next meeting

May 20, 2015 at the Westdale Secondary School cafeteria, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:00. Moved by Roger VE3UFZ
 Motion seconded by Jim VEJS
 Thanks to all in attendance.

Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3JS

The Ontario QSO Party

a report by Rick Danby VE3BK



The OQP took place on April 18th -19th, 2015. Our club was represented by two groups, seven operators transmitted from the contest site using the call VE3DC. Another group of four operators transmitted from a DXpedition station north of North Bay using the call VE3RCB.

At the contest site there were VE3BK, Rick; VE3DCU, Sherry; VE3QEE, Mardy; VE3QU, Scott; VE3RIA, Andrew; and VE3WBT, Jack. Here are the results:

BAND	QSO	MULTS
160	5	5
80	74	42
40	493	82
20	50	27
15	22	7
10	2	1
6	0	0
144	2	2
220	0	0
440	0	0

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>.

Visitors to the site included: Dan VA3DJ & Brother Tim, Albert VA3ERE & Brian VA3BGN (both new hams), Tom VE3MQ & Tracy VA3XU (operating the contest in a mobile rover station), and Georgette (Scott's better half).

Ontario QSO Party is a great Canadian Contest that we enjoy at VE3DC, even though we could have been in 3 other places this weekend, we enjoyed this great contest. Our score was down slightly. Our QSOs were down on 20m but up on CW up by 8 and multipliers were up by 2. We still did very well despite the fact that two of our usual operators were away on the mini dxexpedition in the north, using the call VE3RCB and the exchange "5 9 TIM".

I was impressed by how well our operators did, even though participation by Ontario stations heard on the air seemed to be down a little this year.

Thanks to our great operators and thanks to all that worked us, especially the American Hams that didn't seem to work anyone else.

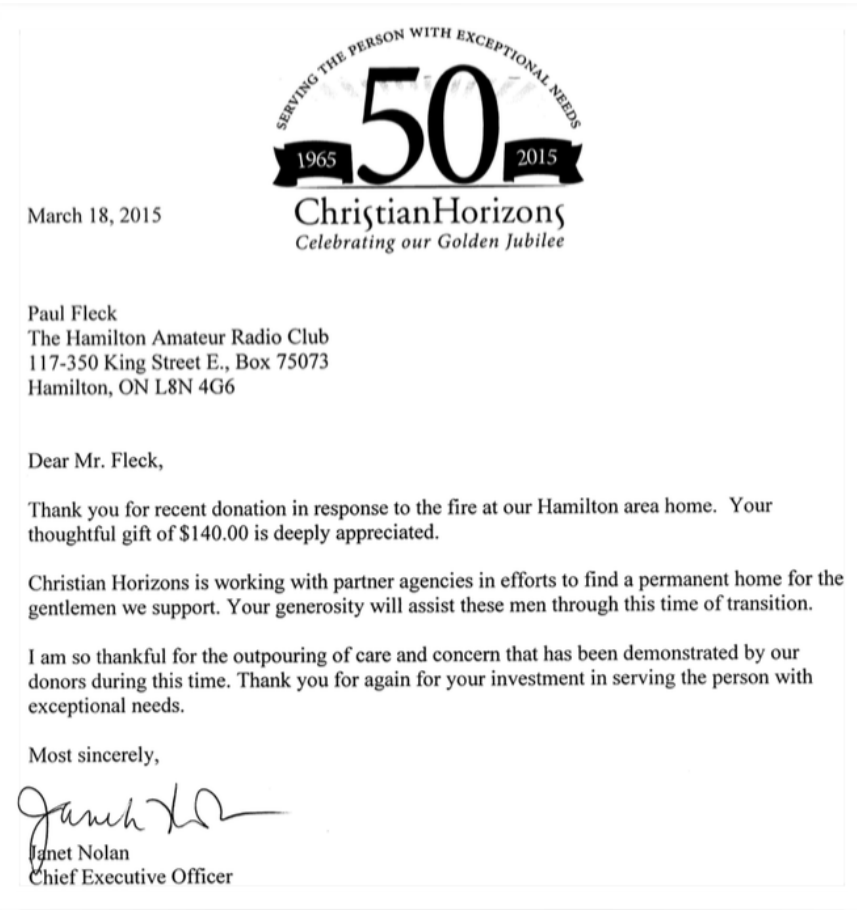
See you all in the next one.

73 Rick VE3BK

The VE3RCB Radio Expedition to the "Great White North"

by Paul Fleck VE3HTF

It's early morning Friday, April 17th and as I roll out of bed my dogs, Brandi and Rosie give me a



puzzled look as if to say "Where are you going?"

Well this morning Jim VE3JS, Ahmet VA3TUR, Roger VE3UFZ and I are meeting at 07:30 a.m. at

Breezy Corners Restuarant for breakfast. It's the beginning of our journey to a little know Trappers Line Cabin located about 50 K.M. north of River Valley, Ontario. Our intentions are to set up VE3RCB

portable and work the 2015 Ontario QSO Party contest.

During our planning sessions, Ahmet would talk of deep snow, cold weather, no water or electricity. In my mind, the vision of the trappers and the Hudson's Bay Company sprang to mind!

We ended up taking two trucks loaded with gear, food, generators, fuel and MORE food! We travelled via the highway 400 and 11 to North Bay then across 17 to Verner. The last stop for supplies. Heading north along 805 we came across rushing rivers and waterfalls, giant "sinkholes" in the road, ATV's, and lakes frozen 1 meter thick!

We arrived at our final destination after about 6.5 hours on the road and quickly got ourselves organized.

All hands on deck as we unloaded supplies, started the wood burning stove, setup up the antennas, generators and radio gear.

Our camp had three antennas to use, a G5RV, a vertical and a BuddiPole dipole.

We had about four hours of daylight left to get set-up and settled in. Jim demonstrated his "Pitching Arm" technique by easily pitching a weighting mason's line over some very high branches in the pines to support the G5RV. With the G5RV supporting our main station and an amplifier, we quickly found out we needed to move the BuddiPole and vertical antenna further from the cabin so interference could be eliminated.

The wood stove caught on quickly providing ample heat and with the sleeping bags rolled out, we

settled in nicely for the night. We spent time setting up our WriteLog contest logging program, reviewed operating procedures, shifts, band management all while enjoying some orange juice, coke and medicinal additives (Vodka and Ruhm!!)

We discovered that Ahmet is a world class hunter with many years experience in this area, hunting with Pierre our host. Jim is a "Closet" chef with amazing cooking skills, Roger the "Trivia Man" with amazing stories, like do you know how Starbucks got their name?? I think it has something to do with a naked lady, and a pirate ship or was that a naked captain and a dressed pirate.... I was coming down with a nasty cold, so my facts might be blurred as a result of the "medicinal" additives to the orange juice!! So off to our cots we went, Saturday is coming quickly!

Saturday morning we arose to a cold cabin and a craving for a coffee. Ahmet stoked the wood burner into action and soon we had a toasty cabin. Ahmet prepared some "Turkish Tea" and coffee and we watched as Jim whipped up some eggs and bacon. A feast in this remote location. By 12 noon we were ready for action. The radios had been finely tuned and the bands were starting to perk up!

The team spent the day right thru to early Sunday morning working the bands. We operated as a multi-operator two station setup. Our station call was VE3RCB / Portable and our region was TIM. From all accounts the G5RV and vast skill set brought by the operators secured 14,432 points!



We settled into the sack early Sunday morning. Upon arising we had a good breakfast and packed up before noon, as we wanted to make our way back home during daylight hours. We also realized that we came “over prepared” and could have reduced our load and effort in setting up and tearing down our site.

That being said, we did find ourselves in a potentially dangerous situation as we found the only road into the camp had been severely damaged with a large sinkhole caused by torrents of water runoff. The crews were on site and kept the road open, however on the return trip the completed repairs were eroded and the road was quickly failing. The water run-off had caused a large amount of damage. We didn’t need the extra supplies, however if we had been stuck, we could have remained in the cozy cabin for a few more days.

During our period of operating, we had a visitor come to the cabin and watch the goings on. Shane is the son of a local celebrity in the area, the “Mayor” as he is known is a permanent fixture of this remote community. Shane was keenly interested in what the strangers were up to with the antennas. Shane lives in the Sudbury region and after speaking with him and demonstrating what we were doing and why, he thought this might be a great hobby to get involved in! We agreed and pointed Shane in the direction of the Sudbury Amateur Radio Club!

During our time at the table talking to hams in Florida and Georgia, we watched two Otters running across the frozen landscape. What a terrific sight!

Our time together in this remote and beautiful location gave us a great opportunity to learn from each other, demonstrate our skills at cooking, antenna raising, trivia, contesting, drinking and many other skills needed to remotely operate from the beautiful region of Timiskaming, Ontario.

We all left with the same question.... Where will be VE3RCB's next adventure??

73's Paul, VE3HTF



News About Town

by Mardy Eedson,
VE3QEE

There was a lot of activity taking place since the last newsletter so there was a lot to report, hence, this issue runs beyond the customary eight pages. I will start with sad news first.

Current member, Leif Thompsen VE3KFE-SK has passed away recently, after suffering a stroke over the Christmas season. Leif by nature was quiet and low-key, but he was an active and long time member of our group and, above all, a strong club supporter. He participated whenever the club was doing community events like Picnic In The Park, and was always in attendance at club meetings. Leif was often paid up a year ahead in his membership dues, just the kind of guy he was, and every few months he brought



in QST magazines and left them on the table for others to take and enjoy. I have been told by Tom VanWort, VE3MQ, that in accordance with Leif's wishes, his remains are going to Denmark where he was from and donations can be made to the SPCA in his remembrance.

Recent members will not have met Bill Nichols, formerly, VE3HOD-SK, in later years VE4HOD and VE4WN who was an active member from years ago. Bill participated in the early days of the Contest Group and I can remember Bill erecting a rotatable Spider Beam quad on a tower one Field Day back in the early 90s. See photo below. Bill was also very active in the early days of packet radio. Bill passed away on the 16th of April where he had been living in Saskatchewan.

Vic Forde VE3HPD-SK was another active member of the club in years gone by well remembered by our older members. Vic made a point



of coming to see us a couple of times in recent years when we were set up at the Burlington Ship Canal doing the lighthouse event in August. He was supportive of our efforts to publicize amateur radio in a public venue. Vic passed away at 93 years of age, still living on the Mountain Brow near the end of Fennell avenue overlooking the east city and Lake Ontario, an ideal location for great propagation. God speed radio amateur friends, di di di dah dit dah.

Greg VE3YGG sent me the following item for the newsletter: Credit goes to Mike Kassay VE3MKX (John Kassay's son) for sending us the information. It is all about a new service called the Reverse Beacon



Network. You can read about it on their web site. Have some fun and see where your signal is being heard !!! Here is how it works: Send CQ with your call sign in CW or any other digital mode and the Reverse Beacon Network will pick it up and report your signal where it is being received....Use the filters available in the "aggregator" software to make it easier to find your signal among the listings! Compare bands, modes, output and antennas...

Interested? Here is the ULR:

<http://www.reversebeacon.net/dxsd/>

Finally, Rick Danby sends some suggestions to radio amateurs about how to operate from home during one of the many contests that can be heard on weekends almost any weekend during the



Bill Nichols, then VE3HOD, setting up a Gem Quad for Field Day 1993 at Rock Chapel on the escarpment north of Dundas.

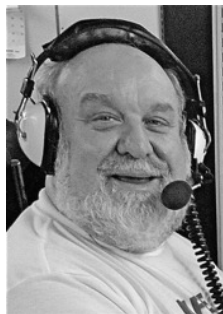
year. All those contesters that you can hear calling, will be glad to receive any contact that gives them another bean for the pot. As a radio amateur you should be glad of any contact that proves your station is being heard, and that gives you practice in the art of communicating on the air.

Rick and I often make a few contacts during a contest, then, out of courtesy, send in our log by e-mail to be used as a "check log", not to win any points, but just to verify that the other guys had a legitimate contact from us.

Rick recently made some contacts from home, in the Italian Amateur Radio International DX Contest.

Try Working a Contest from Home

by Rick Danby, VE3BK



Station Description:HOME STATION

Antenna(s):TRIBAND
Operators:VE3BK

Remarks:You can see that you don't necessarily have to make many contact to enter a contest and have some fun doing it. This year the bands may not have been as good as previous years as there didn't seem to be as many Italian stations on that I could hear. I only spent a short time on this contest because of other commitments and because not many were heard. HF radio can have some sporadic conditions at

	QSOs	Points	DX:	Provinces
160m:	0	0	0	0
80m:	0	0	0	0
40m:	0	0	0	0
20m:	9	90	0	9
15m:	5	50	0	5
10m:	0	0	0	0
Total:	14	140	0	14

times which means you have to be there when the conditions are good, to make many more contacts. It could be that I just was on at the wrong times because there are a couple of other Canadian stations that were on and did much better than myself. The idea is to have fun just making the contacts and entering the contest. By persevering with the conditions, you will learn what to expect on a given band for that time of day. I did not do as well on this contest as I did last year, probably because I didn't spend the time at it to see good conditions. Last year I won 1st Place in Canada in my class with only 37 contacts which had 4 of those denied because of some error I made or the fellow in Italy may have put my call down incorrectly. As you can see below, I only worked Italy on 20 & 15 meters, because that is the only bands I could hear Italy on at the times I was there. I still had fun doing this contest, hope to do much better next year, and I put my station to the test once again. Turn your HF radio on and make some contacts, even if you are not really in a contest. You will get some experience and who knows, even get some wallpaper if you do enter the contest, but at least have some fun working some DX contacts at least. More chance of that if there is a contest going.

73 Rick VE3BK

Next, a few reminders are in order.

Elections are coming up in the June General Meeting. It would be good to have a few fresh candidates run for Board of Directors. Our club is run by a Board of Directors, seven in total, who decide after the election which of them will take on the job of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. The past president is automatically one of the directors, so only six positions remain to be filled. It is good to have new people learning the ropes, so think of who would made a good candidate to bring into the team which manages your club. Ask them to run and become a seconder for their nomination.

Also, the Field Day Committee saw an excellent video presentation by Ron and Ginette about the 2015 Field Day site and how we plan to set up stations for Field Day. The committee asked Ron and Ginette to share their ideas with the whole group, so, at the next meeting Ron and Ginette will take a little bit of time to introduce everyone to the new Field Day Site and share ideas of the committee for operating Field Day this year.

Finally, Sherry has put out a call for members to renew for the next Club year, 2015-2016. As usual there is an early renewal incentive draw, so do it soon.