



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 ~ 83 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2015

Message from the 1st Vice President.

by Paul Fleck
 VE3HTC



It has been a very busy year for our members and with summer on the horizon we can take some time to enjoy the barbeque, family and friends. Speaking of barbeques, the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club picnic will be held August 8th this year at my home QTH. There will be more details to follow.

The ARRL has launched their “Strategic Planning” activity for 2015 and beyond with the following statement:

“The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to focus ARRL’s resources to ensure that our programs and services best serve our members and amateur radio overall, since the future of the ARRL and amateur radio are inexorably linked.” (June 2015 QST, page 13)

Your executive and several club members have been working to complete such a plan for our club. The process has been praised and challenged but many

good ideas, services, events have been proposed and documented.

I believe our club now has an inclusive plan that we can use as a guide to building on our successes, mitigate recognized risks and leverage the talent and skills of our members. That skill and ability can be seen at every class that club members deliver to new hams, our ability to raise funds for community charities, the inclusiveness activities between clubs with our recent social dinner, the list goes on.

To build on the continued growth of our club, we always depend heavily on our members to step up. Roger has sent out a letter to all members opening the door for members to participate in our future growth.

The only skill you need is a passion for this hobby and most importantly the willingness to engage every member that makes up our club. Our club is not on a highway to becoming the premier club of Canada, more like a gravel road with bumps and pot holes, BUT we now have a map and a destination for our club and that is a beginning, a start of something much better.

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.

So, take a moment to think about your participation, your commitment to our / your hobby.

Pick up Roger's e-mail, give it a read, and I hope to see you at the June meeting.

73's, Paul Fleck, VE3HTF

Next Meeting — HARC Annual General Meeting

a message from the Executive.

The next meeting is our HARC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which will be taking place on Wednesday, June 10th — the second Wednesday in June. Please note, this meeting is a week early because Westdale School will be closed for Exams following that date. You have already received a separate e-mail regarding the meeting date, from President Roger Pimm VE3UFZ which was sent out last week.

At that Annual General Meeting we will hold an election for the Board of Directors. Prior to the election, nominations from the floor will be received.

This year's President becomes next year's "Past President" and a slate of six additional Directors are to be elected.

<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/harcmembership-2013.05.10.pdf>

Membership Report



by Sherry VE3DCU

It's that time to renew our memberships for the 2015/2016 year. So I am hoping that I can get some renewals at the June meeting. Non RAC members \$42.00, RAC members \$31.00 and family members \$6.00. I will be mailing out membership renewals to the folks I know that cannot make the meetings but I'll do that after the June meeting.

It's been a great year for new members and a big part of that was the education program that we put on with the basic and advanced course. It really attracted a lot of new Hams and I personally did not know there was such a pent up demand. The classes were well attended and we are hoping for the same success for next year. This should bring new members in. I also noticed some new folks at the May meeting that were not associated with the course and that is exciting to see as new members are what drive the club and keep it alive. I hope to get their first memberships signed up.

For a renewal form click on the link in red. If you have any membership questions feel free to contact me via email at: ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca Sherry, VE3DCU

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

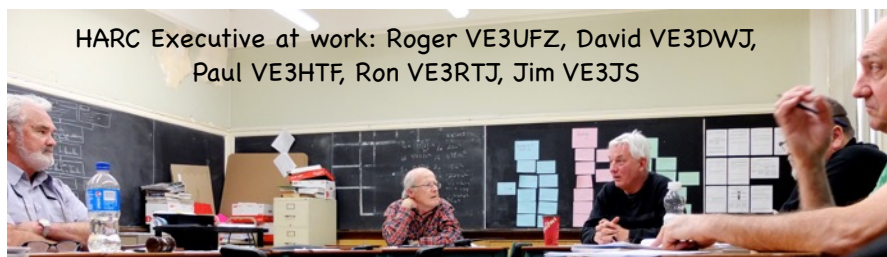
Director

Ron Pereira VE3RTJ
ve3rtj@hamiltonarc.ca

Dayton 2015

A brief update by Mardy VE3QEE

Several members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club attended Dayton this year. Mark VE3MWH, Brian VA3BGN, myself, VE3QEE and Ahmet VA3TUR, were among the crowd. Honest Bob Morton from Maple Leaf Communications had a table and so did from Harold Mcfarlane from Battersea Ontario. Bob carried on Canadian tradition by displaying a pair of snowshoes along side his stock in trade. I kidded Harold that he needed to keep up appearances by displaying skis or perhaps a toboggan. It was a good show and well attended. We didn't bring much back because the cost of an American Dollar was \$1.24 CDN



HARC Executive at work: Roger VE3UFZ, David VE3DWJ,
Paul VE3HTF, Ron VE3RTJ, Jim VE3JS

Letter of Thanks

A note from Paul, VE3HTF

This letter of recognition from the Children's Wish Foundation is to the members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. The Burlington and Guelph clubs have also been sent a separate letter of recognition thanking our clubs for the

donated funds to this worthwhile charity.

As members of our community at large, we have demonstrated again, that HAM's are willing to step up and help. Our fraternity, the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club in 2015 has raised over \$350.00 for charities in our community.

A special note of thanks to the following extraordinary people who helped make this happen:

Nolan Reid – G.A.R.C.

Norm Friedin – B.A.R.C.

Georgette Welling – H.A.R.C.

Scott Hamilton – H.A.R.C.

Ginette Pereira – H.A.R.C.

Roger Pimm – H.A.R.C.



Celebrating 30 years, 20,000 wishes granted, and countless smiles.

Joy is a wonder drug

June 2, 2015

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
117-350 King St. East P.O. Box 75073
Hamilton, ON, L8N 4G6

Dear Executive Committee,

Thank you for your very kind donation of \$216 from the Brass Pounder and Wave Rider Social to The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada.

With your generosity, we are able to continue our tremendous history of granting wishes to children coping with a life threatening illness. You have helped us grant more than 22,000 wishes since 1984.

We are extremely grateful that with your donation we can grant wishes like Riley's. Riley is a sweet little five year old boy who has been battling cancer for most of his young life. Riley's wish is to go to Disney and meet his Superheroes. Your gift is going to help our little hero meet his heroes.

Thank you! You have made a real difference in the lives of the children and the families we serve.

With every best wish,

E. Sandra J. Hancox
Acting Director, Ontario Region

Dayton continued....

Nevertheless, it was good to see the new equipment and to rub shoulders with our American friends.

Brian Norris sent along a You Tube link for anyone who is curious about what there was to see. Check it out at:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=dzI-J9PuDuw>

RAC Insurance



In response to numerous questions 1st Vice-President, Paul Fleck, VE3HTF, consulted the people in RAC headquarters who look after insurance. Here is a summary of the important points regarding RAC Insurance prepared by Paul.

Our club along with other Amateur Radio clubs in Canada subscribe to membership with our national organization, R.A.C. Radio Amateurs of Canada. One of the benefits to belonging to our national representative organization is the ability of clubs to secure reasonable liability insurance that protects our members and the club from potential claims arising from club sponsored or endorsed events where the general public may be in attendance. Such an example would be our Hamfest, the use of Hamilton Wentworth School facilities for teaching and meetings

and Field Day. All of these events require proof of insurance before we can utilize those offered facilities.

So I have worked with our R.A.C. insurance representative to clarify what our R.A.C. insurance covers and put them into point form for our edification.

1. All paid members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Inc. whether they are R.A.C. subscribers or not are covered by the R.A.C. liability insurance policy for club sponsored and endorsed events.

2. The coverage for liability is \$5 million dollars per claim.

3. The paid up R.A.C. member gets personal coverage for personal activities above and beyond his / her own personal insurance. Personal insurance is invoked first for any claim. (the club member who is also a RAC member receives 24/7 liability protection.)

4. Personal amateur radio equipment in personal car or at home / cottage is covered by a rider policy associated with ham's personal home and car insurance. (RAC's insurance program does not insure an amateur's radio gear or ancillary equipment.)

5. The Club's liability program thru RAC insures the Club and its' members for all Club sponsored and endorsed activities.

6. All HARC sponsored events should be submitted to R.A.C. insurance before the actual event outlining the activity and scope of the event. i.e.: Scouts camp and radio event, Christmas parade, club picnic, etc.

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
Ahmet Ozguder, VA3TUR

Flea market Coordinator
Paul Fleck VE3HTF

Public Relations/Communication
Ron Pereira VE3RTJ

Flea market Vendor Contact
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Webmaster
Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ

Minutes of the May 20th, 2015 Monthly Meeting.

by Secretary Jim Sawadski, VE3JS



Call to order

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

Sign In

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

31 members / visitors were present. Welcome visitors and new members Gary Young VE3GYX, Robert Hooks, Mark Arnett VA3FLC, Al Tyson VE3EXE.

Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reported issuing of memberships for the upcoming term on 2015-16. Sherry reminded everyone that the 2015-16 membership drive will continue, with the early bird draw to take place before the October 2015 General meeting for a free membership in the following year. Funds collected since last meeting and being forwarded to the treasurer ending May 20 was \$543. Sherry also made note that Ron VE3DF was a paid up member for the next 4 yrs, and

that he donated \$32.00 to the club.

Evening's Agenda

This evening was devoted to the upcoming Field Day organization effort and a few of the projects undertaken in 2014-15 for the awarding of the annual Crawford trophy. Ginette VA3SEW began with a general overview of when and where followed by Ron VE3XZ's slide show presentation with views of the new venue at Valley Park Recreation Facility, behind Fire Station 17. Ron stressed that this event should be of special interest to anyone who has not experienced it before and encouraged new members to come out and support us. This is a "CLUB EVENT" everyone should assist in any way they can. Regular meetings are scheduled by Ron & Ginette at Westdale room 124 May 26,28, June 2, and 4 a site visit to Valley Park and a future meeting at Station 30 to go over logging software. For field day contact fieldday@hamiltonarc.ca or harcfieldday@gmail.com

Education

Paul VE3HTF noted that 3 exams where written and new certificates were earned by Vic VanHerk VE3VVH, Al Ersser VA3ERE for the Advanced Certificate and Mark Arnett VA3FLC for Basic qualification. Congratulations fellows!

Contesting

Rick VE3BK reported on various articles in the TCA magazine. Of special note was acknowledgment of the New RAC members also members of HARC , Al Ersser

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 \$42 per person, per year, (\$31 for RAC members) 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>.

VA3ERE, Brian Norris VA3BGN, Samantha Williams XVE3LZY, Scherrie Kelly VA3YVS. Also of note was the 2014 field day results VE3DC 3rd in our class, articles on coax, current baluns, and the upcoming Canada Day Contest. If you would like to see what contesting is all about or want to become involved with the contesting see Rick ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca

Treasurers Report

Dave Bruton reported on the clubs finances to date. Mardy VE3QEE moved to accept Davids report as delivered, the motion was seconded by Vic VE3VVH.

Repeater

The Hamilton ARC is aware of a variety of repeater issues and are working through them. Of note is our repeater chair John VE3DVV who has been ill lately and is now recovering.

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

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 fielday@hamiltonarc.ca if you would like to be involved in any capacity.

New Business

Elections: Roger VE3UFZ again made mention to the fact that June general meeting is for the 2015-16 elections of The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. Please consider running for the board of directors and assist your club moving forward.

Fox Hunt: Jim VE3JS made mention of the 2015 fox hunt schedule now posted on the website. For details go to <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/the-h-a-r-c-hidden-transmitter-hunt-schedule-2014/>

Strategic Plan: Paul VE3HTF is working on the strategic plan for the Hamilton ARC the report will be delivered as it becomes available.

Equipment Donations: Mardy VE3QEE brought in a couple of items donated by John VE3DVV. A soldering station and power supply to anyone wanting to make an offer.

President's Report: Roger VE3UFZ announced the school room bookings are submitted for Westdale for the next session on Hamilton ARC meetings and classrooms.

Roger also announced the winner of the free breakfast May 2, 2015 – Scott VE3QU the lucky winner. Roger also mentioned that the RAC insurance calculation will need to be submitted soon. If you can get your membership dues in early it helps with the calculations

Thanks to Volunteers: Gary Notto VE3TTO thanked the club members who took part in the communications for the Paris to Ancaster Bike race, on behalf of the race organizers. Thanks to all

that came out to support the effort.

Sue VE3TKI thanked Gary VE3TTO for the support she received as net controller on the Procom Net.

Orders for T-Shirts and Badges: Rick VE3BK will be taking orders for "T"s and Badges, if you would like to get them see Rick.

Net: Gary Notto VE3TTO reminded members to check into the Ares Net Tuesdays @ 9pm on VE3RFI and VE3TVI

Home Brew Competition / Show and Tell

Two members delivered projects for consideration this year. Greg VE3YGG with his "All Materials Canadian Tire" 2 meter YAGI antenna and Mardy VE3QEE with two projects a KIEL Keyer kit purchased and then assembled. And two components of a QRP transmitter that Mardy is creating with members of the PEEL amateur radio club. After vote and close call tally, the winner of the Crawford trophy went to Mardy for his workmanship on the KI Keyer. Congratulations Mardy and "thank you" to both builders for your entries. Roger VE3UFZ brought two projects that he had built for a show and tell. A 1/4 wave 2meter antenna and a 300 ohm fed dipole. These projects although not entered into the competition added to the discussion and considerations by members for the night.

Next Meeting:

June 10, 2015 @ 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

Contesting Tips by Rick Danby VE3BK

In response to numerous questions Rick offers some tips to help people who might want to make a contact or two during one of the weekend contests on HF.

One of the things everyone is unsure of is the Section Abbreviations used in the various contests. For example, what do we put in the log for Western Virginia? The abbreviation for the state of Virginia is VA so how do we designate Western Virginia ... WVVA? No, actually it is WV. Each contest sponsor like ARRL or CQ Magazine, or RAC has a special list of abbreviations to be used in their contests. The lists are usually published in the contest rules.

During Field Day, which is coming up this month, and which is sponsored by ARRL, we have several larger states subdivided into smaller sections. Examples are Massachusetts. Note that: Eastern Massachusetts is EMA and Western Massachusetts is WMA, whereas in most other contests, it is just MA for Massachusetts. Another example is the state of California which is usually just CA. However for Field Day, California is split up into 10 sections with both 2 and 3 letter designations. You really need to download the list and keep it

handy for logging California stations.

In most of the other contests, the sponsors use 2 letter postal designations for each of the states and provinces. Depending on the contest, foreign countries, i.e. DX Countries, are listed with their normal 2 letter designation or, in some cases, just DX to keep the Contesting Program happy, whether it be Writelog, N1MM or some other popular program.

The ARRL Sections used for Field Day and the other ARRL Contests are found at: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-sections-list> or at: <http://www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations>

For many contests, the 2 letter postal designations are the most often used abbreviations but for some contests, all that is required is a serial number or for other contests it might just be your first name and call sign. Again, it depends on the contest rules.

To summarize, in every contest there is an *exchange* which contains the information we give to the other operator. We give them our *exchange* information and they give us their *exchange* information. The *exchange* is what we log to verify the contact. For Field Day the *exchange* includes a signal report, 5 9, and the ARRL section abbreviation.

For many other contests, (not Field Day) the usual abbreviations can be found at: <http://www.maww.com/PostCodes.html> or at: <http://www.mapsofworld.com/usa/zipcodes/> Try making a few contacts from home during a contest and you will get the idea.

73 Rick VE3BK

Lighthouse Weekend Special Event

This event is designed as a public demonstration of Amateur Radio conducted at the Burlington Ship Canal by members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. Participation is open to anyone who wants to join in. Not a contest.

Announcement:

The International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend 2015 (ILLW) will be on August 15th and 16th, this year and we will be at the same place on the Beach Strip within sight of the old light house. This has been a great spot for us with lots of interest from the public. We will be running VE3DC as usual on whatever bands we can.

This year is the 157th Anniversary of the Burlington Lighthouse. We have been operating on adjacent property on the Beach Strip for the last 9 years. We will be looking for participants to help operate and set up temporary antennas again this year. Let Mike Krebs VA3WXS know if you can come and maybe bring some equipment or an antenna to experiment with. Mike looks after arrangements with the city.

Mike's number is 905-523-9005. I know that there is a lot of interest in this event. If you can't get Mike on the phone and you are interested in giving us a hand, you can email me at ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca. Mike will probably be phoning you for confirmation.

Check out the information on these websites. August is the month of Lighthouse events. If you

go to the ARLHS website, you will see there is also a contest on the 2nd weekend but we are not involved with this one, just the ILLW event when many Lighthouses are on as Special Event stations like VE3DC.

You can check out the ILLW at their site: <http://illw.net/>

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend – Held on the third full weekend in August - An annual amateur radio weekend event conducted under the sponsorship of the Ayr Amateur Radio Group, (AARG), Scotland.

We usually only operate in the daytime from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the Saturday and the Sunday.

You can check out the Beach Canal Lighthouse Group. This is a group of volunteers that are working on getting renovations done to the Lighthouse at the Canal: <http://www.bclg.ca/>

Information on the Canal Lighthouses can be found at:

<http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=1066>

If you want to help us out this year, let Mike know or send me an email to let us know. Thanks

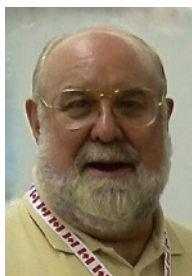
73 Rick VE3BK

ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca

148th Canada Day Announcement

by Rick Danby,
VE3BK, Contest
Manager for the
Hamilton Amateur
Radio Club.

The Canada Day
Contest will be



In the photo, from August 2014, a young member of the public is asking questions about Amateur Radio at the Burlington Ship Canal during the Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend demonstration. Members from HARC set up temporary stations and antennas and contact other lighthouse groups around the world.

here soon, right after Field Day this year. The Hamilton Amateur Group will be sponsoring a station at the Contest Site open to any member who would like to participate or just to watch.

Field Day occurs on the Saturday and Sunday of June 27-28 this year and Canada Day closely follows it. Canada Day is starting at 00:00 UTC or 8pm locally on Tuesday June 30th, 2015, a day and a half after Field Day, and is running 'till 23:59 UTC or 8pm locally on Wednesday July 1st, 2015.

This year Canada Day is on the Tuesday and Wednesday so everyone will likely have the Wednesday off for the holiday.....no reason not to come out, run your own station, or have fun operating one of the stations we have set up at the site. You will have most of the day on Sunday and till 8pm on the

Tuesday to recuperate from Field Day.

We will be looking for stations to be set up at the contest site. Call me if you can help out or run a station (my number is in the book or email me at ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca). Rules and information can be found in the TCA magazine May/June 2015 issue page 46 or on the RAC website at: <https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests/files/2014%20Canada%20Day%20Contest%20Rules.pdf>

Hope to see you there. If you can't help out, at least get on the air from home and wish your fellow hams in Canada "Happy Canada Day". Don't forget to look for us on every band too at VE3DC. We can always use as many contacts from you as you can give us. Let's make this another great Canada Day Event.

73 Rick Danby VE3BK



ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO®

www.arrl.org

2015 ARRL FIELD DAY

HAM RADIO



Field Day 2015--

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) conducts Field Day every year on the last full weekend in June, the 27th & 28th this year. Field Day is an opportunity for 'hams' throughout North America to gather in 'the wild' to practice their skills in setting up ad-hoc communications systems and calling as many other 'hams' as possible. Part emergency preparedness exercise, part contest, and part picnic, it's always fun.

This year the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club will be conducting field day operations at Valley Park in East Hamilton. We'll be at the east end of the Valley Park complex, where all the trees are. The closest entrance to the site is beside Hamilton Fire Station 17 at the corner of Isaac Brock dr. and Mud St. (Please don't park in the Fire Station's parking lot!) There is limited parking on site, but we are hoping for additional nearby parking. You can also access the site from the Valley Park Recreation Center's main parking lot, a short walk or bike ride along paved pathways.

All members are encouraged to attend, whether as participants bringing their stations out to the field, or as operators providing short relief periods for those on the air, or even just to visit and cheer on the participants. Bring family and friends and show them you're not the only one with strange devices in the basement that make strange noises.

Watch the club event calendar for meetings about various aspects of Field Day. If you would like more information, or can help out volunteering for a couple of hours over the weekend, please drop an e-mail to fieldday@hamiltonarc.ca

-- Ginette Pereira - VA3SEW, Field Day Co-Ordinator