



Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,
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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

President's Remarks

by Ron Pereira VE3ZX



Fall brings changes

It's October, and the second month of the new club season. The new Basic class is underway, Hamfest is wrapped up, and it's time to look forward to new adventures.

The general meeting is coming up on Wednesday, October 21, at Westdale High School. This month Mardy (VE3QEE) will be doing a demonstration of the EMI effects of different light sources. We have some business to conduct during October's meeting, namely the election of a new director to the board of directors. So far, two candidates have put forward their names for consideration, and will speak on their own behalf prior to the actual election.

The election process is a little different this time around, and a little more in keeping with the club's constitution, I feel. Members who wish to be considered for a director's post must indicate their interest prior to being nominated. If you wish to be considered, we will call for interested parties to identify themselves at the meeting. Nominations of those interested will occur after the candidates have been identified, and those candidates successfully nominated will be put on the ballot.

What kind of club do you want?

Over the past 2 years, a lot of change has taken place, and is beginning to bear fruit. The club now has a business plan that will provide us with direction for the future, and help us grow as a credible organization. We have established training as a core element of the club, and under Mardy's leadership have brought several new amateurs into the club ranks. We have taken club meetings to new areas by dropping the 'guest speaker' routine in favour of demos, hands-on sessions and open discussion. Fox hunts have become a monthly event for many, with growing participation. We've begun to explore inter-club activities with Guelph and Burlington.

So what's next? Well, you need to tell us. We have positioned the club as

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.

a 'general purpose' group of amateurs in order to appeal to the widest audience. Many clubs tend to focus on a small facet of amateur radio. Whether it's vhf/uhf repeater operations, hf contesting, emergency comms, microwave, homebrew or public service. We've tried to bring as many of these activities into the Hamilton club as we can accommodate. As directors, we rely on you, the members, to tell us what interests you. We have a wonderful facility at our disposal, where a monthly meeting can actually incorporate several activities in the same room. Let's take advantage of that. If you have a demo you'd like give, or a topic you'd like to see explored, tap one of us on the shoulder and tell us about it.

Thursday nights throughout the season we have booked the education classroom for 'tech nights' where we explore, hands on, various topics. Last year we focussed a lot on Mesh Networking, something I like a lot. This fall, I'd like to lead a few sessions on sound card digital modes. If you've never tried PSK, SSTV, Olivia, Hell, or some of the really esoteric digital modes, this is the time. We haven't set the start date, so watch the event calendar on the web site. Because the school's availability is limited this month, the start date may be the first Thursday in November.

The club Christmas party is coming up in December. Watch for the official announcement and ticket availability, to be announced in a future e-mail bulletin or with other club news.

Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact the executive at exec@hamiltonarc.ca, or myself at ve3zx@hamiltonarc.ca. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome. After all, we do work for you, the members.

73 de VE3ZX, Ron Pereira President

Announcing the CQ WW DX Contest SSB for 2015

by Contest Chair, Rick Danby VE3BK

We will be operating VE3DC at the Contest Site and will have a station on every band. This is the fun contest where we work everyone we can, all over the world, including strange Islands and call signs. This is usually the contest where we are always checking to see what Country or Area we worked because of unfamiliar Call Signs.

Contest time is October 23–25, 2015. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday Ends 2359 UTC Sunday. In local time that is Friday, October 23, at 8:00pm to Sunday, October 25, at 7:59pm.

The objective of the Contest is for amateurs around the world to contact as many other amateurs in as many CQ zones and countries as possible, on the six contest bands only: 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz. The contest exchange is a signal report (RS readability and strength) plus our station's CQ Zone number (our location). For this contest the exchange will always be 59 04.

Come on out and run a station or relieve the other operators. Let me know if you can make it at ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca. Come and have some fun. See you there.

Rick VE3BK



HARC 2015-2016 Executive

President

Paul Fleck VE3HTF
ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca

Past President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ
ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca

First Vice President

Ron Pereira VE3ZX
ve3zx@hamiltonarc.ca

Second Vice President

Secretary

Samantha Williams VE3ZLY
ve3lzy@hamiltonarc.ca

Treasurer

Jim Sawadski VE3JS
ve3js@hamiltonarc.ca

Director

Albert Ersser VA3ERE
va3ere@hamiltonarc.ca



Some contesters at the contest site. From back to front, Jim VE3JS, Sherry VE3DCU, Andrew VE3RIA and Georgette. Through the open door you can read Rick's licence plate glowing in the dark. (It's his old call sign.)

Minutes for Sept. 19 General Meeting

by Secretary,
Samantha Williams
VE3LZY



I. Call to order

Ron Pereira VE3ZX called to order the General Meeting at 19:02 on 09/19/2015 @ The Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON. Ron requested members of the Executive introduce themselves.

II. Sign In

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

35 members/guests were present/ Welcome visitors Henry VA3OV, David VE3RNF, Meghan and Jason Clendenning, Bruce and Sylvia Craig, Abdelaziz Elmlafi.

III. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU reminded members that renewals are due. Anyone getting membership renewals complete by the

October meeting will be eligible for the incentive draw.

IV. Evening's Agenda

This evening was devoted to remote station operations and to a discussion of replacements needed on the Executive. There was also a presentation of Hamfest 2015 activities.

V. Education

Ron VE3ZX spoke of the Basic course, scheduled for Tuesday evenings 7- 9pm beginning September 29 @ Westdale High

School Advanced Certification will be scheduled for January 2016.

VI. Contesting

Rick VE3BK handed out certificates for the World Wide DX contest. If you would like to see what public demonstration of Ham Radio is all about or want to become involved with the contesting see Rick ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca. There are upcoming contests in October.

Notes:

Technical Night will be starting up again in October. 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

New Business

1. Roger VE3UFZ began the meeting explaining the student membership role as was decided by the outgoing executives for the past Basic and Advanced courses, as there was much confusion over the structure.

2. Our remote control radio site is currently off air. There were positive comments from those who were able to try it out.

3. Jim VE3JS mentioned the next Fox Hunt will be held September 27th at Lowville Community Park. A brief description of the activity was provided for our guests. For details go to <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/the-h-a-r-c-hidden-transmitter-hunt-schedule-2014/>

4. Review of summer activities included:

Field Day in the Rain

A special thanks to Mardy VE3QEE and Sherry VE3DCU (Antenna setup), Scott VE3QU (Working past tear down).

Positive thoughts were expressed regarding the site. Kudos to Ginette VE3SEW for the excellent site choice.

Light House Event (ILLW) was well attended. Photos are on the web site, <hamiltonarc.ca>

Picnic in the Park sponsored by City Housing Hamilton took place at Gullivers Lake. Our club had a demonstration station for the event. Again, photos are on the web site.

After the coffee break our guest left and the meeting turned to Official Business:

1. Paul Fleck VE3HTF will be stepping down as president. We are also in need of an addition member to complete the Exec

- Original votes for the Executive were reviewed to determine who had the next highest number of votes. (Georgette, Scot and Mike)

- Scott was asked, and graciously accepted an appointment to the Executive.

- Motion made by Roger VE3UFZ, seconded by Greg VE3YGG, motion carried.

- To fill the remaining vacancy an election will take place in the October General meeting.

- Interested candidates should email the Secretary at exec@hamiltonarc.ca

HARC Chairs 2014 – 2015

Health / Welfare
Greg Gignac VE3YGG

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 Grisenthwaite VE3DDQ

Field Day Coordinator
Ginette Pereira VA3SEW

Friday 2m Check-in Net
Controller
Ahmet Ozguder, VA3TUR

Flea market Coordinator
Paul Fleck VE3HTF

Public Relations/Communication
Ron Pereira VE3ZX

Flea market Vendor Contact
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Webmaster
Jim Sawadski VE3JS

Candidates will need to have nominator and seconder.

Candidates should be prepared to present a little biography about yourself.

Email will be sent to Membership

2. It was contended that an Executive Meeting was called without appropriate notification

Apologies were given by the Executive

A mistake was made communicating dates on the website

It was noted that the correct date was included in the minutes.

3. Constitution states that the top three positions on the Executive require the candidate to have served on the executive for 1 year.

- Our present situation necessitates setting aside this requirement temporarily until it can be reinstated.

4. Directors Insurance was discussed

- Quote of \$3500 given to another club ñ not being looked at by Hamilton ARC.

- Jack Gauthier VE3WBT has followed up with RAC and stated Exec would not be liable in case of accidents at an event.

- Request made by Ron to see this in writing

5. Transparency

To improve transparency, Scott suggested minutes should be available to all

- Jack VE3WBT made a motion that minutes of the Executive

meeting be made available on the website.

* Login would be needed to access

- Will be discussed at the next Executive meeting and added to agenda

6. Jack VE3WBT wanted to bring a motion that Joanne, John VE3DVV's wife receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

- Motion deemed not necessary. Sherry will ensure they are sent going forward.

Next meeting

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:50

Moved by Roger VE3UFZ, seconded by Greg VE3YGG

Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Samantha Williams VE3LZY

As Discussed Over Coffee

Thanks to Jason Clendenning, Basic Course Candidate, class of Fall 2015, for bringing this fact to our attention.

It should be well understood, that in the case of almost all amateur radio equipment, the most significant specification is ultimately going to be the SAR. A good fact to keep in mind.

SAR refers to the spouse approval rating of course!

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>.

John VE3DVV SK

A tribute to a dear friend, mentor, example, and fellow ham by Mardy, VE3QEE.

Those of us who came to know John also came to recognize his humility. Here among us was a fellow whose roots with the club reached back to long before most of the current members were around. Here was a gentleman who was first in this area to set up a packet node when most didn't know what packet radio was. John employed the Baycom Modem in the days of DOS and communicated with early innovators all over the place, who had never met one another except over the packet network. John was also an early experimenter with slow scan TV, IRLP (internet radio linking project) and many of the new digital modes as they became available. John was first in the area to own a Flex 5000 software defined radio. Despite all of these accomplishments you never heard John brag or even mention what he could do, but if you asked him for help he provided answers and he was willing to trouble shoot if you had problem. I remember hearing Rick VE3BK comment, one time, that John was "probably one of the smartest guys around", and I concur with that assessment.

For many years, John had been attending the Dayton Hamvention with his friend from St. Catharines, John Faber, VE3CNF. In fact, I found out that John had been a workshop presenter at Dayton some years back. In short, he knew the ropes.

Learning that, I approached John in 2007 to see if he would agree



to tell me about Dayton and perhaps show me around when we arrived. Not only did John agree to do that, but he suggested that four of us drive together in one car, and stay in the same motel.

Four of us piled in the car in 2007 for my first trip to Dayton, John Faber, John Vandenberg, Fred Robinson and myself. The following year, there were just three of us, and the year after that just John VE3DVV and I. For next seven years we traveled together, visiting the flea market, asking questions at the vendor displays, and taking in a number of the workshops. It was great, and I learned a lot.

A few years ago, John invited two Dutch ham friends of his, to join us on the Dayton trip. The three of them grew up together in Holland and attended school together, Bram Bottema, SM0FLY now living in Sweden, and Henk Stuivenberg, ZS6CS now living in South Africa. Both of them came

to Canada, in May and from here we journeyed to Dayton in one car. That year the theme of the Hamvention was International Friendship and our group exemplified that theme. It was an unforgettable experience, and we had many stories to tell of our adventures together.

A couple of years later the four of us met again at Dayton to enjoy one another's company. John never lost touch with these friends from the time of his youth and young adulthood.

One year at Dayton, John and I witnessed the early demonstration of software defined radio that an electronics engineer named Gerald Youngblood K5SDR was putting on for those attending. For three days there was a crowd around Gerald's table. It was astounding to see what Gerald's invention could do to process incoming signals and render them audible and free of interference. What was even more astounding was

watching the signals dance on a monitor in real time. You could actually see what you were hearing and watch the software process the signals in response to the movement of a computer mouse. We talked about it all the way home.

The following year at the Hamvention, John ordered one of the brand new Flex 5000 radios and was one of the first people in Canada to take one home. This was before Radioworld became a Canadian distributor.

I got my Flex 3000 because of John's influence. He helped me set it up and helped me learn the controls. A bunch of us talked once a week on the club's Monday Night net. You could always depend on a clear signal from John and helpful feedback if you wondered how your signal was getting out.

For a number of years John was the technical person looking after VE3NCF. He didn't want the job, but agreed to fill in after Don Graziano VE3OCY retired from that position. He did that job up until he took ill and could no longer go to the repeater site.

John was also a member of the Warplane Heritage Museum, and employed his talents there, keeping the computers functioning well and helping us with technical suggestions. John was a member of the Thursday group and later on he came out on Tuesdays when he was able. Because of his climbing experience, he also went up the tower when antennas needed attention.

In and apart from those activities John volunteered to help at the HARC Hamfest, was a frequent



Bram SMOFLY Henk ZS6CS Mardy VE3QEE and John VE3DVV at Dayton May 2011



operator at the contest site and even acted as guest speaker at HARC meetings from time to time. He was an equipment builder and often had a project in the annual home-brew competition, winning the Crawford Trophy on several occasions: 1971, 2012 and 2014.

John and Joanne attended the Christmas parties and on a

number of occasions John graciously asked the blessing on our behalf.

I never saw John angry or heard him utter a harmful word. Most of the time he was sharing his knowledge with others and all of the time he was optimistic. It was a true honour to have known John and I am thankful for our time together.





John, they were all good times.
Thanks and 73.
We will remember you.