



*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/>*

The Hamilton Amateur

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

From the President's Shack

by Ron Pereira VE3ZX

Fall is in the air, leaves are gathering in the eaves troughs, and the wind is threatening to undo all that hard work you did on your antenna farm this past summer. I love November.



The club's election of a new director took place at the last general meeting. Please welcome Brent Michaluk, VA3XWZ, to his new role as director. With all 7 seats filled, we are better able to tend to the club's business and respond to your input.

There is a lot of opportunity within our club for individuals to contribute to our development as an association. If you have skills that you'd like to share, please don't be shy. Let us know what project or program you'd like to volunteer your time for.

Here's some examples:

- Programs & Public Relations. I've done this one, and I just don't have the skills. I know there are many of you who could do a much better job than I've done over the past year. This job involves advertising, promoting club activities, and thinking up interesting things to do at the monthly meetings.
- Ways & Means. This is a new position, and carries an opportunity to shape it into existence. This is a person who would create fund-raising opportunities and seek revenue streams, within the scope of the Ontario Not For Profit act. (We are a Not For Profit association, but not a charity.) Applying for grants under various government and private sector programs is a component of this position.
- Field Day coordinator. More than just a summer picnic for the benefit of members, this is a public awareness event with opportunities to recruit new members and trainees.

Many more opportunities are available, and we would love to hear your take on any of them. Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the membership, and we make every effort to receive proposals from any member in attendance, as time permits. Our next meeting will be on Nov. 11, 7-9 PM, room 124 at Westdale High School.

73 de VE3ZX, Ron

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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 Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Annual Christmas Party December 6, 2015

Royal Hamilton Yacht Club
555 Bay Street North
Located at the foot of McNab Street
Social hour begins @ 5pm, Dinner @6pm
\$40.00 per person
Contact any of our Executive for your tickets
Or call Roger VE3UFZ @ 905-308-0060
To reserve tickets at the door



Field Day Results reported by Ron Pereira VE3ZX

Here is a summary of our Field Day results. Remember this was the rainiest Field Day in recent times, nevertheless we did a good job getting on the air, and cleaning up afterward. Even though Field Day isn't a contest, it's kind of gratifying to see we finished in the top 10 for our section:

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	VE3SAR	6,574	3A	1,540	2	VA3OIL	ONS	24	Lambton Cty RC
2	VE3VM	4,590	3A	1,065	2		ONS	24	Niagara Peninsula ARC
3	VA3YV	3,650	1B2B	378	5		ONS	2	
4	VE3MGY	3,458	1E	1,004	2		ONS	1	
5	VE3SGB	3,020	1A	954	2		ONS	10	South Georgian Bay ARC
6	VE3TNC	2,636	5A	558	2		ONS	23	Toronto ARC
7	VE3DC	2,562	6A	667	2	VE3RCB	ONS	12	Hamilton ARC - ON
8	VE3IC	2,476	6A	606	2	VE3UOW	ONS	18	Kitchener Waterloo ARC
9	VE3LON	2,158	7A	477	2		ONS	30	London ARC
10	VE3QDR	1,600	2AB	120	5		ONS	5	Durham Region QRP Club
11	VE3OSR	1,550	3A	289	2		ONS	11	Georgian Bay ARC
12	VE3GCB	1,410	3A	238	2		ONS	19	Barrie ARC

Maybe we'll have better weather next year and will be able to move up a few slots.

J.O.T.A. 2015, the 58th Scouting Jamboree On The Air,

Photos and story submitted by Rick, VE3BK

Annually, the scouting movement participates in Jamboree On The Air introducing young people to the hobby of Amateur Radio. This year, on October 17th, former scout leader, Rick Danby, VE3BK, along with Peter Goodson, VE3DOU and Scott Hamilton, VE3QU set up a station for a group of Scouters at the 1st North Grimsby Scout Building on Ridge Road just past Wolverton mountain access in Grimsby - a radio friendly location, high atop the escarpment and away from urban RFI.

We set up a G5RV Junior dipole antenna supported by trees on

the site and an HF station inside the building. Using Peter's call, VE3DOU, we contacted a number of stations up and down the band, mainly on 40 meters. Under the supervision of Rick, Peter, and Scott, the JOTA participants included First Winona Commissioner Ian Major, and Scouter Scott Dalton, First North Grimsby Colony and Pack Scouter Peter Bromley, "Hawkeye" along with Group Commissioner Bill Nolan, with two Cubs Logan Hildebrandt and Philip Freda and also First North Grimsby Venture leader Terry Bulman and Venturer Chris Bulman. It was an exciting day. The weather was great and the band conditions ideal.

The bands were open 10-40 and we worked mostly 40 and were able to work many other JOTA Stations on the air. Our Scouts and Scout Leaders too, got to talk to many other Scouts and hams. Enrico says this was a lot better

HARC 2015-2016 Executive

President

Ron Pereira VE3ZX
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Past President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ
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First Vice President

Albert Ersser VA3ERE
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Second Vice President

Scott Hamilton VE3QU
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Secretary

Samantha Williams VE3ZLY
ve3lzy@hamiltonarc.ca

Treasurer

Jim Sawadski VE3JS
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Director

Brent Michaluk VA3XWZ
va3xwc@hamiltonarc.ca

than his last years JOTA. I think the antenna and the height we were able to get it up, plus the excellent propagation, made it a great radio day. Other contests were on too, so we really had fun finding a spot on 40 to talk. I used the spud to get the antenna up quite high in the trees, up about 40'. The leader from Dunville kept calling the spud a torpedo hi.

We were there from 9am to 4pm., We set up twice, once in

Winona and once on the mountain in Grimsby.....a lot more fun than going for breakfast hi hi. 73, Rick



HARC Chairs 2015 – 2016

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 Technicians
Greg Gignac and Mark Gibson

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
open

Public Relations/Communication
Ron Pereira VE3ZX

Flea market Vendor Contact
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Webmaster
Jim Sawadski VE3JS

Thursday 'Tech Nights' Resume

Subject to availability of our training room on Thursdays, we'll be starting up our 'Techie' nights on Thursday, November 12, from 7 to 9 PM. These sessions are held in room 124 at Westdale High School. We can't really accommodate large construction projects, but we can hold brainstorming sessions and share some ideas.

For November, I'll be starting out with 4 sessions for the digital operating novice. Each session will incorporate as much hands-on equipment wrangling as we can manage. These sessions are intended to get you started with sound card digital modes. A computer with a sound card or USB audio 'fob' are required, and you can bring your rig too.

Sessions:

1. Sound cards and you. These are 'sound card' modes, so we'll start by demonstrating the basics of how to use your Windows sound card as a modem. Adjustments and measurements, interfacing basics. Bring your computer if you can.
2. Interfacing and rig adjustments. It's not enough to simply plug your radio into your computer. Well, in most cases. It is that simple for my Kenwood TS-590. How to get your rig to play nice with your computer; audio coupling, eliminating ground loops, setting drive levels and assuring the best decode. Rig requirements for effective digital operation.
3. Digital modes. How to set your rig for various modes, what software to use, basic operation. I can demonstrate FLdigi and Ham Radio Deluxe, and hopefully we can arrange some other demos. Frequency bands and typical uses. The big modes: PSK, SSTV and RTTY. The rare modes: HELL, Olivia, JT65/9
4. So what do you do with this stuff, anyway? Digital nets, AGWP packet, Outpost, Winlink, RMS express, and my newest favourite, NBEMS. Reverse beaconing and PSK Reporter, local ops. Plus anything else we can think of

Actual dates and times may change, sessions will be marked on the events calendar on the club webpage. My hope is that we will generate enough interest to form a digital net on HF and/or VHF. Many modes are perfectly usable on the higher bands, and using FM are capable of stunning speeds. Move over, packet.

No pre-registration is necessary, but I'd appreciate an e-mail if you have a specific request for assistance, ie: interfacing a specific rig, etc. That'll allow me time to research and print out relevant documentation. My e-mail: VE3ZX@hamiltonarc.ca

73 de VE3ZX, Ron

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>.

Putting Contesting to Work for Your Public Service Team



By Ward Silver
NOAX. Reprinted with permission from November 5, 2015 ARRL Letter. Thanks to Rick VE3BK for submitting the article after obtaining permission from the author and publisher.

Operating skill is not something that can be tested on a license exam or learned from a book. Emergency managers know that practice - lots of it - is required for operators to be sharp when they are really needed. Repeating drill after drill can get old but there are other enjoyable ways to give your equipment a good shakedown and build on-the-air know-how. Just as sports keep you physically fit, "radiosport" or contesting can serve as a training ground while having fun at the same time.

First, you don't need a huge, multi-tower station to participate. A comm trailer or EOC probably has everything you need for success, particularly if you choose the right contest. You can start simply with any of a number of regional FM simplex contests that encourage the use of mobile and handheld FM radios for an afternoon or evening. Just search the Internet for "FM simplex contest" to find several. For example, in the St Louis area, the [St Louis and Suburban Radio Club](#) sponsors an occasional "ZIP code contest" in which hams operate from home or a car and count the different ZIP codes as multipliers. Operation takes place

on the usual simplex FM channels from 147.42 MHz to 147.56 MHz for four hours on a weekend evening. This is a great way to learn about squelch management, copying weak signals, using phonetics, and the effectiveness of good locations and antennas! No contest in your area? Work with the local clubs to start one.

Instead of jumping into a big DX contest, try the domestic contests such as the upcoming [November Sweepstakes](#) or December's [10 Meter Contest](#). The low dipole you use for regional communications will work lots of stations - more than you might imagine. A multiband vertical will work great on 10 meters or put up a temporary dipole for the weekend. Farther in the future, check out the [North American QSO Parties](#) with their easy name-and-state exchange and low-power signals. [Look up your own state's QSO party](#) and activate your county or parish for hours of fun with callers chasing YOU for a change. If your club has VHF SSB gear, there are regular VHF contests. If your team uses digital modes to exchange text and files, try a digital mode contest with RTTY and PSK keyboard-to-keyboard operating.

Trying to pack an entire team into the shack can be counterproductive. A couple of people have a lot of fun while the rest watch and get bored. If you have enough interest, divide your group into two- or three-person teams that operate in shifts with an experienced operator to mentor and guide (and log). Better yet, put the teams at different stations and let them go head-to-head in a short challenge. No one says you have to operate the entire contest, either. Pick

times that work - maybe about as long as your regular drills - and get together afterward for the usual "hot wash" or maybe just a little story-telling session over pizza.

A "contest Elmer" can help those new to contesting with scripts guiding the operators through a QSO. Start each team of operators with a period of listening so they have some time to get up to speed. Show them how to tune in an SSB signal, operate the necessary receiver controls, and the abbreviated style of calling and answering. Using paper log sheets can work at first but you'll find that simple logging software like that available from [N3FJP](#) is easy and intuitive to learn. Let one operator talk and one operator log - then swap.

Once your team gets up to speed, reinforce the reasons why we have contests in the first place: accurate, effective operating. Place a special emphasis on getting call signs and exchanges 100% correct. Making a lot of contacts is good but not at the expense of errors. Help operators make good use of primary radio controls to increase clarity on receive and transmit: filters, RF gain, AGC, RIT/XIT, and others can make a surprising improvement in copying ability. Watch for teachable moments such as unusual and changing propagation, small pileups of callers, confusing letters, and clean vs distorted signal audio.

The hours will fly by and when it's over, you'll have some operators anxious to try again. It's a good way to introduce non-hams to Amateur Radio, too. Why not invite a CERT or SKYWARN volunteer to sit in and make a

contact? Don't forget to submit a log - no matter how small - and watch for your team's call sign in the final results. You might even get lucky and win a certificate. Could a [Worked All States](#) award be in your team's future?

Regardless of how many contacts you make, when interspersed with your regular drills and exercises contesting offers a great change of pace while advancing everyone's abilities at little or no cost. See you in the pileups! -- *Ward Silver, NØAX, St Charles, Missouri; Member, St Charles Amateur Radio Club and ARES Rapid Response Team; QST Contributing Editor*

The Popular G5RV Antenna

a review by Mardy VE3QEE

A British ham, Louis Varney (SK) who's call sign was G5RV designed the first G5RV antenna. The G5RV is a multi band dipole which is not naturally resonant on any band but which can be made to resonate with an antenna tuner on all bands from 80 meters to 10 meters. Louis himself used a double sized version which would resonate from 160 meters to 10 meters, and there is a half sized version which loads from 40 meters to 10 meters.

The dimensions of the full size G5RV are 51 feet per element fed by a 28 foot length of TV twin lead, (longer if you use ladder line). The half size would be 25' 6" per element fed by a 14 foot length of TV twin lead. The double size, 102' each element and 56' of twin lead. You can find plans on the internet.

My first HF antenna was a half sized G5RV antenna, also known

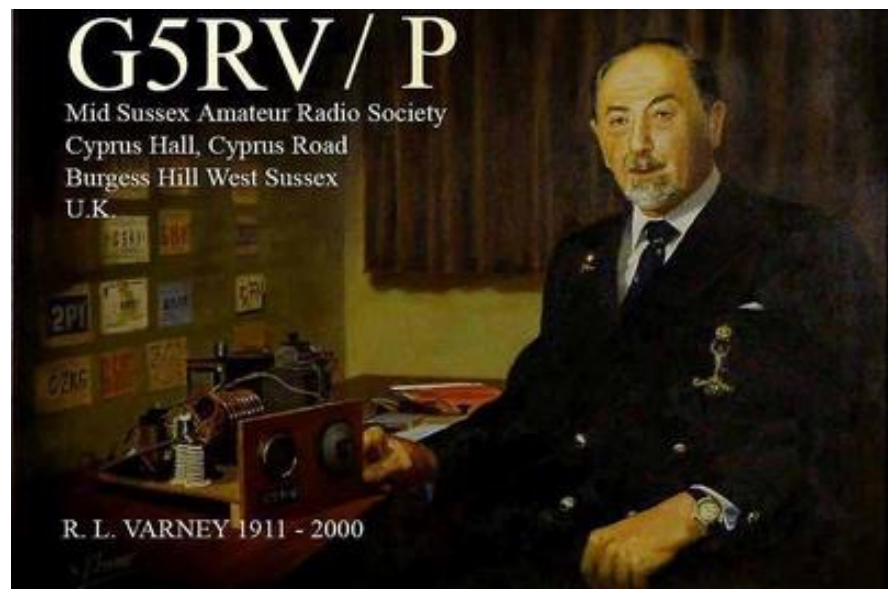


Image from the internet.

as a G5RV Junior. I put it up on a temporary basis oriented NW to SE, where it remained in use until a squirrel chewed it down two years later. I promptly put it back up again, with new rope. It was a very satisfying and inexpensive antenna that could be angled across my city lot. I contacted stations all over Europe and in the Middle East off one side and the Southwestern USA off the other side. It was also good for local contacts. I often talked to stations on the Trans Provincial net from Thunder Bay to Montreal and in between. Occasionally when the band went long, I got Newfoundland and BC on that antenna. (The Trans Provincial net meets daily on 7.055 MHz from

Because I was suspending it between two trees, it took the shape of a shallow U with the feed line hanging free in the middle. I used a 1:1 balun where the feed line attached to the twin lead and matched it with a manual tuner. Now the auto tuner in my transceiver matches most frequencies.

Today, there is another wire antenna in service at this QTH, one that is slightly longer, but that also gets 80 meters. More about that antenna in a future article. A recently constructed G5RV is still in service here as a temporary antenna that has been used twice for Jamboree On The Air, a couple times at the Lighthouse and at the Gulliver's Lake Picnic in the Park event last summer.

Inexpensive to make, short in length, and easy to construct, the G5RV Junior remains popular, and a good starting antenna when you are putting together your first HF station.

Just remember that the G5RV is a multi-band antenna that must be used with an antenna tuner of some sort.

The element ends can be angled slightly either downward or off to the side in order to make the G5RV Junior fit on a small city lot.

Google this antenna on the internet to see plans. Good luck, and hope this article helps you to get on the air.

HARC Hamfest 2015 Pictorial

Thanks to all who helped out before, during, and after the hamfest. The event was well attended and successful with good results similar to previous years. Please plan for next year's date which has been booked for Saturday October 1st, 2016. This is our major annual fundraiser.



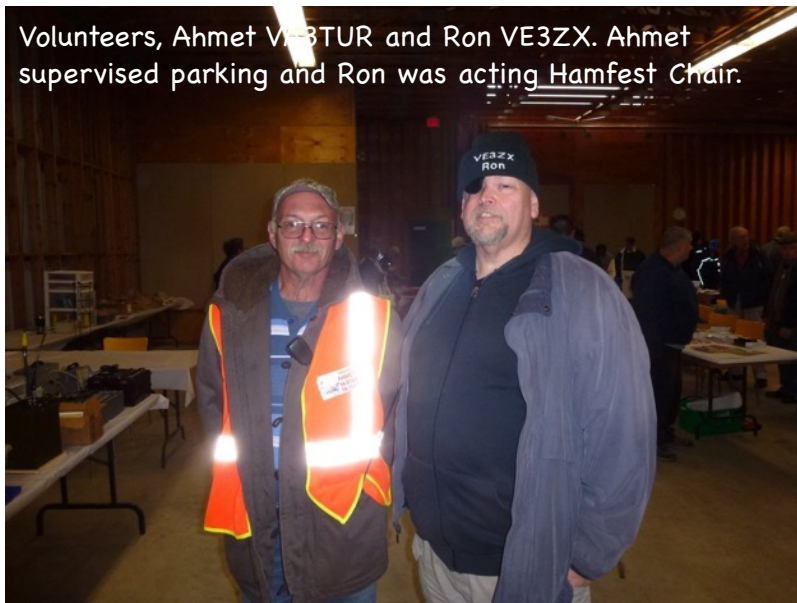
Looking in on the hospitality area early in hamfest. The room featured a different layout this year and hospitality seating was well received.



Rob VE3WHO and Mark VE3MWH negotiating a deal.



Volunteers, Ginette VA3SEW and Norm VE3ZKO



Volunteers, Ahmet VE3TUR and Ron VE3ZX. Ahmet supervised parking and Ron was acting Hamfest Chair.



Volunteer Georgette in action.



Roger VE3UFZ AND Don VE3EIR.



We were able to set up the room on Friday.



Below, see some real hams in action with Rick Mercer at the Warplane Heritage Museum.



Thanks to the work of former HARC member Vince D'Eon we now can download the latest RAC Band Plan.

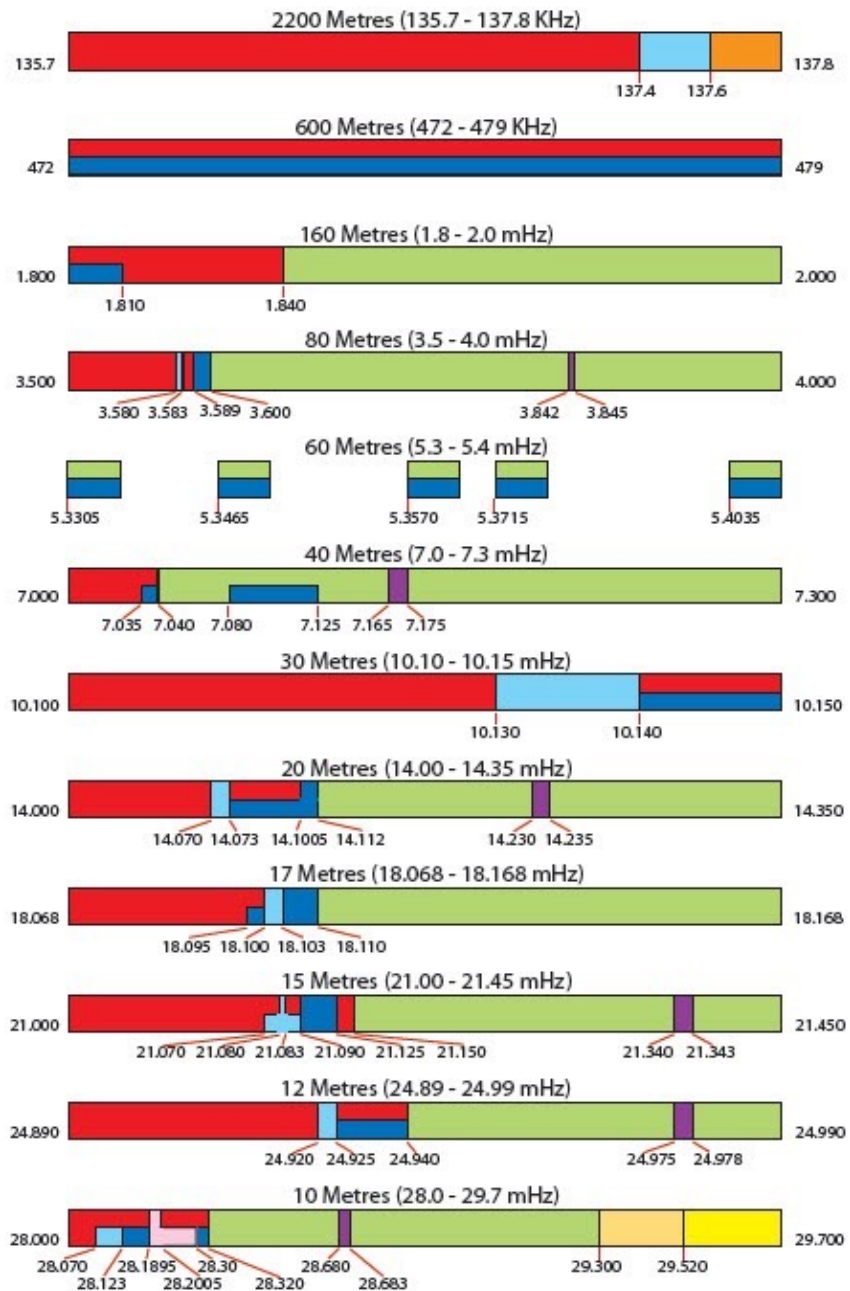


Canadian 0 - 30MHz Band Plan

**Effective Date:
January 1, 2015**

1. This is a simplified version of the official RAC Band Plan. Not all permissible modes/activities are represented.
2. LSB is used on 160, 80 and 40M. USB is used on all other bands that permit SSB, including 60M.
3. Narrow Digital modes are up to 500 Hz bandwidth. Digital includes all digital modes.
4. Maximum bandwidth permitted on 2200M is 100 Hz. Maximum power is 1 Watt EIRP.
5. Maximum power on 600M band is 5 Watts EIRP, with recommended maximum bandwidth of 1 KHz. Details are still being developed.
6. Refer to the IC and RAC websites for full details before operating on the new 60M channels.
7. Remember not to allow your signal to spill over into adjoining band segments when operating close to the edges. During major weekend contests, activity in certain modes can spill over into other segments.
8. This graphic is a living document and will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect changes in the band plans and operating habits.

www.rac.ca



Key		
■ CW	■ FM	■ SSTV
■ CW QRSS	■ Beacons	■ Digital
■ Phone	■ Satellite	■ Narrow Digital

