



The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter ~ 84 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2016

A Note from the Editor

The February issue of THA is slightly different in style as we are move toward publishing the newsletter in Mail Chimp. Hopefully the new format will be easier to read on devices and will be simpler to compose.

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The Next Contest

by Contest Chair Rick Danby, VE3BK

The name of the contest is CQ WorldWide 160 Meter Contest. It is sponsored by CQ Magazine and this time it is a Phone contest only. No Morse Code.

Starts 5pm Fri. Feb. 26 to 5pm Feb. 28, 2015.

This will involve a single station only with operators that rotate on the radio. Spotting is allowed.

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.



Here are the rules for our category.

“ Multi-Operator: HIGH POWER ONLY. All rules apply as in Single Op Assisted (except remote receivers ARE NOT allowed); however, more than one operator (person) is involved in the operation. Maximum operating time is 40 hours. Only one transmitted signal is allowed at any moment in time. Maximum power is 1500 watts total output or the output power allowed by your country, whichever is less. The use of passive spotting is allowed.”

The 160 meter band is a night time band that opens up after the sun goes down and remains open all night until after sunrise. It is a small band, 200 kHz from end to end. We should be able to work anyone we can hear and the band should not be hectic or crowded. It is a hard band to use from home because of the large antenna needed, but we have good antennas at the contest site and much less interference out in the rural area.

VE3DC was #2 in our Class in Canada and #2 in Ontario in 2015, right behind of VA3ZV and 6th in our Class in North America again. A great job for 2015, so let's do it again this year in 2016. VA3ZV and VE3DC clashed for top Ontario Multi and ZV was the winner by only 14K. This is our next contest. Rules are [here](#). **Starts 5pm Fri. Feb. 26 and runs to 5pm Feb. 28, 2015.** 48 hours. We will be doing the SSB once again from our Contest site. Let me know if you want to be scheduled as an operator.

This is the Gentleman's Band which is best at night time in the Winter months. I guess the snow or cold weather makes it better. It looks like good weather, not flooding and ice like we have had before, especially now that the water run off problem has been fixed and no one will get stuck with the new gravel. Lets hope we do have good weather this year. Let me know if you want to be an operator for this fun contest. New hams are always welcome to see how we operate (we will have a few from our classes in 2015). This is a great one to observe and/or get your feet wet as Contesters. This is a 48 hour contest, so everybody should be able to put in some time.

Let me know. My email is: ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca

73 Rick VE3BK

HARC (Hamilton Amateur Radio Club)

General Meeting Minutes

01/20/2016

I. Call to order

Ron Pereira VE3ZX called to order the General Meeting at 19:00 on 01/20/2016 @ The Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

II. Sign In

Attendance was conducted by the circulation of the members sign in sheet and a head count. 27 members were present.

III. Announcements

The positions on Executive have been finalized

Ron VE3ZX - President

Roger VE3UFZ – Past President

Al VA3ERE – 1st Vice President

Brent VA3XWZ – 2nd Vice President

Jim VE3JS - Treasurer

Scott VE3QU - Membership Director

Samantha Williams VE3LZY- Secretary

IV. Education

Testing for the Basic Class has been held. Congratulations to Jason Glendenning and Parker Sloat. Three other students plan on taking their tests shortly. Thanks to Paul VE3HTF for conducting the testing.

Advanced Course will be take place in February

Possibility of a Morse Code course if there is interest.

V. Treasurer

The current balance was \$6000.

Post Office box has been renewed for 12 months

VI. Friday Night Net

Ahmet reported the Mark VE3FLC was net controller last week. Many members mentioned that Mark did an excellent job.

Presentations

Al presented “Does The Hamilton Amateur Radio club need a Code of Ethics”

Membership will be involved in the direction the code takes

Further meetings will be need to be held

No timelines set for development

Al mentioned that a club called On the Lighter Side Code of Ethics and Conduct located at <http://otls.com/club-ethics-and-conduct/> had an interesting example

HARC 2015-2016 Executive

President

Ron Pereira VE3ZX
ve3zx@hamiltonarc.ca

Past President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ
ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca

First Vice President

Albert Ersser VA3ERE
va3ere@hamiltonarc.ca

Second Vice President

Brent Michaluk VA3XWZ
va3xwz@hamiltonarc.ca

Secretary

Samantha Williams VE3LZY
ve3lzy@hamiltonarc.ca

Treasurer

Jim Sawadski VE3JS
ve3js@hamiltonarc.ca

Membership Director

Scott Hamilton VE3QU
ve3qu@hamiltonarc.ca

Coffee Break

Presentations (Cont.)

Rick Danby (VE3BK) gave a presentation on the history of the Contest Group and VE3DC Club Call

Rick showed pictures that went through the history of the club and how they came to be at their current site.

Although the Contest Group uses the Club call sign they operate separately from the club.

If you visit the site to give contesting a try and decide it is something you

Hundreds ran at Bayfront Park

want to pursue, a small fee (\$15) to help with the hydro and the upkeep of the site is requested.

VII. Contesting

Presentation to Jim VE3JS

Contact Rick ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca if you are interested in Contesting.

VIII. Field Day

Brent is has begun work on this year's field day. Anyone interested in assisting, email Brent as va3xwz@hamiltonarc.ca

IX. Events

February Breakfast will be held on January 30th. Original date was the same as the St Catharines Ham Fest. After discussion by the membership, a motion was moved by Ron VE3ZX to move the date to January 30th Seconded by Jacques VE3WBT.

Breakfast will again be held at The Symposium – Rymal Road & Centennial Parkway in Stoney Creek.

Gary (VE3TTO) asked for volunteers to provide support for the Paris to Ancaster Bike Race. April 24th.

Team will be meeting at the Egg & I 8am. Contact Gary at ve3tto@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

Next meeting

February 17, 2016 @ the Westdale Secondary School cafeteria, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:10 by Ron VE3ZX
Seconded by Greg VE3YGG

Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by: Samantha Williams VE3LZY

HARC Chairs 2015 – 2016

Health / Welfare
Greg Gignac VE3YGG

Contesting / Property Manager
Rick Danby VE3BK

Education
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Newsletter
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Examiner Volunteers
Mike Christmas VE3XMS
Paul Fleck VE3HTF
Roger Pimm VE3UFZ

License Trustee / QSL Manager
Rick Danby VE3BK

Repeater Technicians
Greg Gignac and Mark Gibson

EQSL Manager
(VE3DC & VA3CWM)
Don Grisenthwaite VE3DDQ

Field Day Coordinator
Brent Michaluk VA3XWZ

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

Flea market Coordinator
open

Public Relations/Communication
open

Flea market Vendor Contact
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Webmaster
Jim Sawadski VE3JS

What is an Azimuthal Map?

An Azimuthal Map is a map centered on a certain location as if that location was the North Pole, (or South Pole), in other words, as if the world rotated around that location. Because of this, each Azimuthal Map must be custom-made. An Azimuthal Map of Hamilton Ontario would place Hamilton at the exact center of the map. When you create such a map, the outlines of countries and continents appear very distorted compared to the outlines you are accustomed to seeing on a regular map.

A good analogy would be to compare the normal outline of an animal with an outline of the animal's pelt stretched out flat. There is little comparison between the outline of the animal and the outline of its pelt.



Azimuthal maps are very useful in the radio amateur's shack because lines radiating from the origin represent the "great circle" routes, or shortest distance routes around the globe to all other places on Earth. The scale around the edge of an Azimuthal Map, graduated in degrees, indicates the direction one should aim an antenna to get a signal to that part of the world. The direction indicated, is often different from what you would assume based on intuition.

How About an Azimuthal Map for your shack?

Here is a link to the web page of NS6T where there is a form for requesting a free custom-made Azimuthal Map for your QTH.
<<http://ns6t.net/azimuth/azimuth.html>>

On the following page I have included an Azimuthal Map from this web site generated for Hamilton Ontario and extending to the whole earth, You can request much smaller ranges than the whole earth and include various types of information printed on the map. Check it out and experiment.

My first antenna was a half-sized G5RV fifty-one feet from end to end and loading on 40, 20, 15 and 10, meters. It was angled South-East to North-West in the yard. Someone asked me how to tell where your antenna was pointed and I told him to wait two years and see where your QSL cards come from. Using that method my QSL cards indicated that the antenna was reaching much of eastern Europe as well as locations like Dubai. On the other side it was reaching the southern United States locations like Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. The Azimuthal Map shows the way my antenna must have been oriented, It appears all of those locations are close to the line going through 55° and 235° on the map. How could I have changed the antenna to get Sydney Australia and South Africa?

There is an Azimuthal Map centered at Hamilton on the next page. You can follow the link and print a similar custom map for your own use. Thanks to NS6T, Thomas Epperly of Livermore California, for making this resource available to the ham radio community. It is truly an informative tool and especially useful for HF enthusiasts.

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.

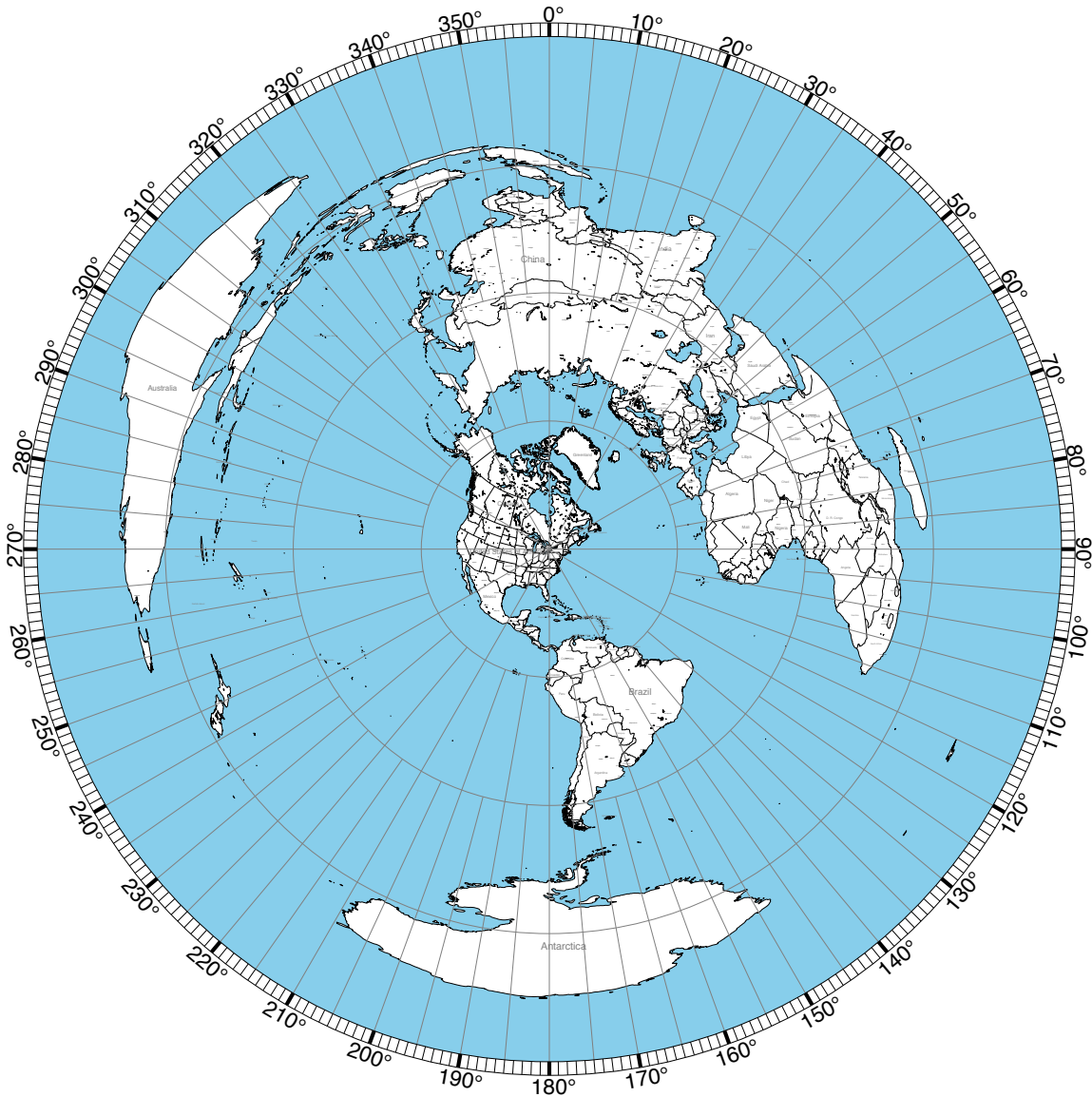
The Hamilton Amateur

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>.

Azimuthal Map for Hamilton

Center: $43^{\circ}13'45''\text{N}$ $79^{\circ}57'29''\text{W}$

Courtesy of Tom (NS6T)



Map from <http://ns6t.net/>

