



The Hamilton Amateur

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

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From the President's Shack

by Ron Pereira, VE3ZX



April is at the door, and it's time for another newsletter. I've missed a couple, I'm afraid, but hope to get back on track with this one.

You'll notice a couple of changes with this newsletter. First, the meeting minutes are not included in it. The executive agreed that using the minutes of the last meeting was a waste of valuable space, and so will be making them available through other means. The club's website is one possibility, but we may not make it in time for April's meeting. We'll bring a few printed copies for those that want them, and will find a way to distribute them more effectively. Next, I've challenged the executive to sharpen their pencils and prepare some articles for Mardy to include in the newsletter. This is my first submission, and I hope to be a positive example by getting two in each newsletter for the rest of the season.

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome from any member. If you have an interesting story to tell, send it along to Mardy. He prefers to have submissions as plain text documents with pictures as separate attachments. I like to add a .pdf format document so he can see how I had envisioned my submission in print.

Mardy can be contacted at VE3QEE@hamiltonarc.ca, or speak to him at the general meeting.

With the warmer weather comes opportunity for outdoor activity. Fox hunting is back in season, be sure to check out the club events calendar for details, or talk to Jim –VE3JS for more information. I'm hoping to see one organized for April, weather permitting.

Speaking of weather, CANWARN training is coming to town, April 23 at the old Stoney Creek City Hall, 777 highway 8, the big building at the corner of Jones Rd. & Highway 8. Times are 9 AM to 12 PM. No charge.

One of the topics near and dear to me is mesh networking in an amateur radio world. It's cheap, it's fascinating, and the applications are only limited by your imagination. There have been some major changes in this technology over the past year, and it's finally starting to come into it's own. Did you know that the club has it's own high speed data hub on the Hamilton Mountain?

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.

Watch for announcements of new tech-night sessions on Thursdays during April, on the weeks without executive or general meetings.

Since starting with MailChimp as an email handler, your executive has been getting educated on how to use it to target email messages to groups interested in specific topics. We have the capability to send weekly bulletins about contesting, kit-building, mesh networking, and various other topics without blasting the entire membership with potentially unwanted email. To make this happen, we need you to click on the 'update my profile' link on the bottom of any MailChimp generated message, and put checks in the boxes for any special interest groups about which you may be interested. Contesting is one, Mesh is another, and we're looking to you for more ideas. It's easy to add these groupings, so if you'd like to see messages about your particular interests, feel free to drop us a line at exec@hamiltonarc.ca.

April's general meeting is scheduled for April 20 at Westdale High School, 7 to 9. We don't have a program yet; March's presentation by Paul Vibert, about his sailing adventures, is a hard act to follow. Suggestions for speakers or presentations are always welcome.

73 de Ron Pereira, VE3ZX, President, HARC

The Great Ontario QSO DX Saga of April, 2015

by Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ

The Great Ontario QSO DX Saga began as a twinkle in the eye of one of our more adventurous members, Paul Fleck VE3HTF. The idea was to head North till the lakes and streams were still frozen, set up camp, start the generators and blast the airwaves. This adventure was intended to be a fun exercise, not a knock em down, carry them out of the building contest event. The idea was to have some fun, fellowship and at the same time experiment with radio equipment with a Field Day approach to technical issues. Well, we were successful on all fronts.

The location we ended up going to was on the shore of Lake Manitou (not the Lake Manitou on Manitouin



HARC 2015-2016 Executive

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Island). This lake is quite a distance North of Sturgeon Falls. Check it out on Google Earth or Maps; Lat 46 52' 38.5"N, Long 80 16' 38.11"W. The luxury accommodation was a licensed trap line cabin on Crown Land, complete with Out House and abattoir shack. The Out House had a glass storm door facing the Lake. An interesting view of the frozen lake and the occasional martins and otters playing in the fore shore melt. For a city guy it was quite a shock to see that there are still trappers in Ontario that rely on their annual catch to augment their daily bread.

We used two vehicles; Paul's pickup and Ahmet's SUV. The trip up was uneventful... a few VHF simplex contacts were made around Huntsville with local hams. We were invited to use local repeaters but were unprepared to change our rigs to frequencies and tones while underway. This year we will remedy that issue and have manuals available and some repeaters preprogrammed. We used simplex to keep the two vehicles in contact. A few jokes were passed back and forth to break the monotony. The radios were really handy to organized comfort/fuel breaks.

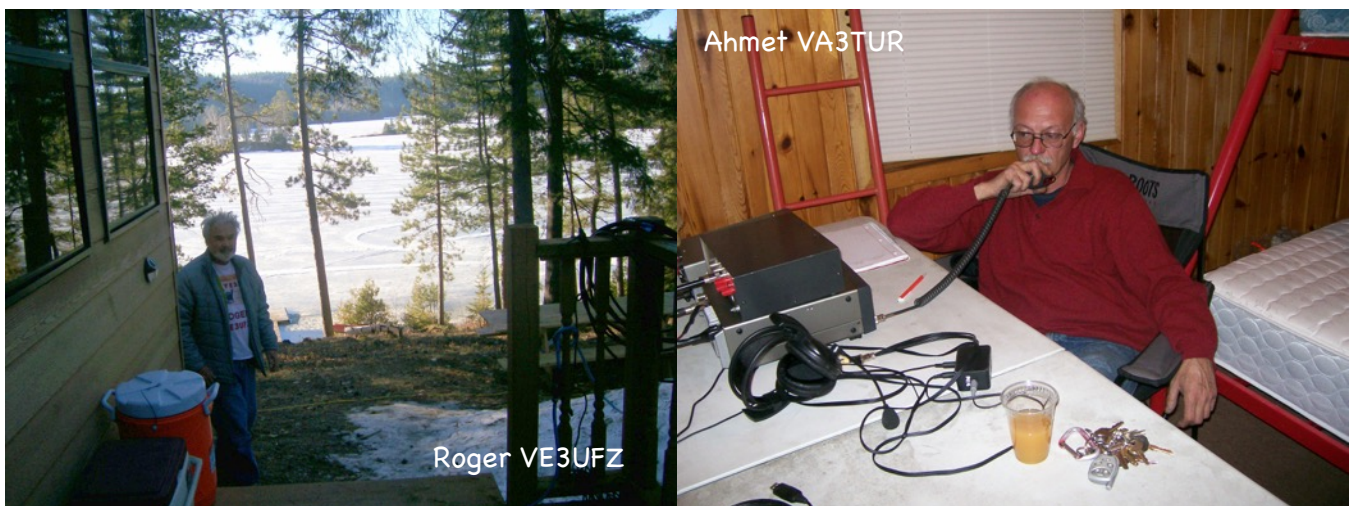
The roads at the end of the journey were basically gravel, with frequent washouts. It wasn't difficult to understand why there are so many off road 4 wheelers that far North. Trucks outnumbered cars at least 10 to one. The lakes and streams were certainly still frozen. Thankfully we had lots of bottled fresh water.

We actually made many SSB contacts, thanks to Jim VE3JS/VE3EEZ. We ran a variety of antennas. Jim ran a full size G5RV. Paul VE3HTF ran a buddy pole rig that was planted on the back of his pickup. This was later moved further away from the cabin and Jim's G5RV because the two antennas were talking to each... not a desirable effect. Ahmet VE3TUR, who had made the arrangements for the cabin through a close friend of his, Pierre, ran 10 meters SSB.

Meals were a treat. We all pitched in with our own personal menu items. Ahmet took the Chef's Trophy with his



Jim VE3JS, Roger VE3UFZ, Paul VE3HTF



Roger VE3UFZ

Ahmet VA3TUR

steaks cooked outdoors over a real wood fire. There is nothing like fresh air to build an appetite. At night we were quite comfortable with the wood stove stoked up.

The trip home was uneventful, as expected. We were really a bunch of tired puppies by the time we found our own vehicles, but not too tired to commit to a return trip this year, 2016. Listen for us during this year's Ontario QSO Party. We will be signing VE3RCB TIM, (for the Timiskaming District).

73, from Paul VE3HTF, Roger VE3UFZ, Ahmet VA3TUR, Jim VE3JS/VE3EEZ

Just as a follow-up to Roger's article, anyone can participate in the Ontario QSO Party from home and contact our guys up north on their DXpedition. For a PDF list of Regions used during the OQP see the Contest Club Ontario (CCO) website: <<http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/OQPMultList.pdf>>. View contest rules at: <<http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm>> It's frustrating for a contester to have nobody on the air to talk to — so do your part and get on the air to give them a few contacts. You don't have to be in the contest to win it, just give the other operators a few contacts and play the game. Hi hi... Ed.

VA3SEW Cookie Corner

by Ginette Pereira, VA3SEW

Who doesn't love cookies? April cookies are Chocolate Chip, a classic. If anyone would like to suggest their favorite cookies, feel to email me <ginettep48@gamil.com>.

Recipe for Chocolate Chip Cookies

What You Need:

1 cup butter, softened
 1 cup packed brown sugar 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 2 eggs
 2 tsp. vanilla
 2-1/4 cups flour
 1 tsp. baking soda
 1 pkg. (300 g) Baker's Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips

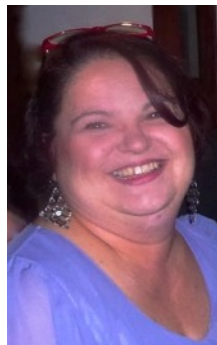
* Heat oven to 375°F.

* Beat butter, sugars, eggs and vanilla in large bowl until light and fluffy. Stir in flour and baking soda until well blended. Add chocolate chips; mix well.

* Drop tablespoonfuls of dough, 2 inches apart, onto baking sheets.

* Bake 10 to 12 min. or until lightly browned. Cool on baking sheet 3 min. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

Send us a photo of your cookies, or better still, bring some in for the next meeting. They will be sew good!



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

News About Town

by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

That was quite a talk at the March meeting by around-the-world sailor **Paul Vibert**. Rare is the time when members are transfixed for an hour-and-a-half by a visitor with such an incredible tale. Thanks to HARC member Jacques Gauthier VE3WBT for arranging to have his friend Paul speak to our club. I wish you had been able to attend Jacques, to enjoy the presentation as much as we all did.

A great many HARC members were seen at **Ham-Ex** in Brampton. The event is jointly run by members of the Mississauga and the Peel clubs and is usually pretty good. This year was no exception, well organized, well attended, and with lots to see for everyone. Check out the wonderful set of pictures posted to the ONTARS web site by Barry VE3ISX. Thanks Barry for keeping us all "in the picture". You make us look so good. See the pictures for yourself at:

<http://www.ontars.com/Special%20Events/HAM-EX_2016/index.htm>



Jack from Radioworld, VE3AMR



John VE3FDK



Syd Lipkowitz, VE3ZSX



Barry VE3ISX, Phil VE3FAS, Mary VE3MVM

The next hamfest in our area will be the 42nd Annual **Ontario Hamfest** at Milton Agricultural Fairgrounds on Saturday July 9th. This event is run annually by the Burlington Amateur Radio Club. Bring your hat because at least half of the vendors will tailgating outside and the weather is often warm and sunny.

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

I have been asked by Jim to mention the **Homebrew** meeting coming up a month and a half from now in May. The meeting will feature the annual Homebrew competition for the Crawford Trophy, which is awarded for the best home built piece of equipment useful in the shack for amateur radio. The competition is designed to foster home building of amateur radio equipment and is open to all projects that have been completed within the past year, May 2015 to May 2016. At the same meeting there will also be time to hear from members who have a Show-And-Tell item to present to members. This can be anything of interest to radio amateur enthusiasts and related to the hobby. So plan to join us, and if you have a project share please bring it along. The more sharing we do, the more enjoyment for everyone.

Please see last month's newsletter for Rick's announcement of the **Ontario QSO Party** which starts in a few days. For this year, the published contest periods are 1800Z April 16 to 0500Z April 17, and 1200Z to 1800Z April 17. In terms of local time that means 2:00 PM Saturday afternoon (April 16) to 1:00 AM that night; followed by time off to sleep; then 8:00 AM Sunday morning (April 17) to 2:00 PM that afternoon. It is the Ontario QSO party so everyone is trying to contact us. Let Rick know if you can help at the contest site. Otherwise, get on the air and give testers a few contacts from your home or mobile station. The eligible bands are: all Bands 160-2 meters with the exception of the WARC bands, CW or Phone.

Sunday August 24th is the 2016 **Paris to Ancaster Bike Race**. Gary Notto organizes the Amateur Radio volunteer communication net for this event. If you are interested in participating in the net get in touch with Gary. If you have never done this before you could team up with another ham to learn the ropes. Time commitment is 8:00 AM until about 4:00 PM. We meet for breakfast and to get our assignments at 8:00 AM in the back of the the Egg and I restaurant on Highway 2 (Wilson Street) at Highway 53 (Garner Road) in the south-west corner of Ancaster. It's a lot of fun and you will meet other hams from different clubs who volunteer to do this event.



Photo taken at last year's Paris to Ancaster Bike Race on Highway 52 at Power Line Road

Ron VE3ZX gave details about the **CANWARN** training session in his opening remarks from the President's Shack. That takes place Saturday August 23rd the day before the Paris to Ancaster race. Busy weekend.

The HARC monthly **breakfast** took place at the Symposium in Elfrida on April 2nd. You can see from the photo it was well attended. Amid pleasant surroundings our chatter touched on many areas including the upcoming DXpedition to Lake Manitou and members' antenna projects now that days are warming up. Greg VE3YGG was the lucky winner of a free breakfast in May. Don't forget to join the group next time on the first Saturday of the month.



Mike Kassay VE3MKX sends along this link to **TX Factor**, a British show dedicated to all things radio. The link to episode #10 tells about the Principia program where British students talk to the international space station, as well as the new GK call signs approved for one year, and a review of the Yaesu FT 991 all mode all band radio. Worth watching. Find out for yourself at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afunOPeM6Z0>>. Thanks for the tip Mike.

Finally, if you haven't ever checked it out, look up the **Soldersmoke** blog spot: <<http://soldersmoke.blogspot.ca>> and listen to the latest podcast, an interview with Ashhar Farhan VU2ESE. The site is dedicated to low cost, build-it-yourself ham equipment, or as they put it, "Serving the worldwide community of radio-electronic homebrewers." You'll learn about many avenues open to the Advanced ham for constructing equipment and getting into the whole area of homebrewing. This blog spot is like the Looking Glass in Alice and Wonderland. It opens the door to a whole new world of low cost adventure. At least you'll see what aspects of amateur radio some other hams are enjoying.

Highlights from General Meeting March 23, 2016

by secretary, *Samantha Williams, VE3LZY*

The Brass Pounder & Wave Rider Spring Social is being planned for May at the Breezy Corners Cafe. Contact Brent VA3XWZ.

Hamfest will be taking place on October 1st at the Ancaster Fair Grounds. Volunteers will be needed to sell tickets, setup/teardown etc. Contact Al, VA3ERE, if you are you are able to assist or Mardy VE3QEE if you are interested in a table.

The countdown to Field Day is on. This year Field Day will be taking place June 25/26. For more information contact Brent VA3XWZ.

Gary (VE3TTO) is looking for volunteers for the Paris to Ancaster Bike Race. April 24th. Those interested should meet at The Egg & I at 8am. Contact Gary at ve3tto@gmail.com for more information.

Our next General Meeting is April 20, 2016 @ the Westdale Secondary School cafeteria, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON

Heathkit Is Back (Sort of)

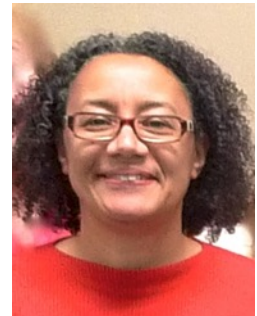
by *Greg Gignac, VE3YGG*

Most people remember Heathkit. Some may have tried searching for it in the later years. Over the years various companies bought the Heathkit company or just the Heathkit name. Once again someone has bought the name, and the websites or identities of some of the past owners. This time, the new owners are actually producing a new kit. Its a broadcast band AM Radio Kit selling for around \$149.95 Its a start. The new owners also have a lot of Heathkit replacement parts for some of their earlier kits.

Here are some links to the latest Heathkit website and related websites I have found, such as the virtual museum. I know there are some club members who have Heathkit radios they would like to refurbish. I have some links below that will point you to more information about the kits, and even manuals and schematics. (You can also check on google.)

Here are links to the new Heathkit website, to someone's Heathkit facebook page (no posts since 2014) and to the very active Heathkit Facebook group. This is a group of Heathkit fans showing off their purchases of Heathkits they found at ham fests and flea markets as well the Heathkits they have refurbished.

<<https://shop.heathkit.com/shop>>



<<https://www.facebook.com/heathcompany/timeline>>

<<https://www.facebook.com/groups/53497998217>>

The History of the various Heathkit owners in the last few years:

<<https://blog.adafruit.com/2014/12/20/heathkit-the-electronic-history-mystery/>>

Various tributes to Heathkit:

<<http://www.heathkit-museum.com/hvmresources.shtml>>

<<http://www.theheathkitshop.com/>>

If you are looking for parts, old kits for parts, manuals, try here. These advertisers are some of the former owners of the Heathkit company or the Heathkit name. The websites still work, but if you want parts or a schematic, I suggest you get them now.

<<http://sc2.vom.com/d8/index.fwx?C=MANUALS>>

<<http://www.d8apro.com/>>

<<http://sc2.vom.com/d8/index.fwx?C=BONEYARD>>

Lots of info, including Heathkit:

<<http://www.pestingers.net/PDFs/>>

Here is a Question for You

by Greg Gignac, VE3YGG

Did you ever wonder why your TV starts at channel 2 instead of channel 1? The early TVs before the days of UHF had just twelve channels, numbered 2 to 13. Newer TVs added UHF, so you then had channels 2 to 83. The latest range since the Digital Over The Air conversion is channels 7 to 59.

So, if you want to know what happened to channel 1, listen to the HARC Friday night net, starting at 19:30 local time, on the VE3NCF repeaters.

Bonus question: What is different about channel 37?

Cycle 24

submitted by Mardy VE3QEE

This very fine graphic from the NASA website at:

<<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>>, was produced by Dr. David Hathaway and reprinted with permission. It shows we are beginning the 7th year of the current solar cycle.

Cycle 24 appears to be one of the lowest on record. Find out LOTS more by looking at the NASA Solar Physics web site above. And get on the air while propagation is still good.

