



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

From the President's Shack

Traditionally the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club holds a special meeting in May. This month we use the general meeting as a "show and tell" forum, bringing in homebrew equipment or other items of interest. Members present vote on the most impressive piece of gear, and the winner is presented with the Crawford Trophy. This tradition goes back before my time, and I frankly don't know the history of the award or who "Crawford" was. I hope to change that this year.



Homebrewing is a time honoured tradition in amateur radio, a link to the days when we had no choice but to build our own equipment, because store-bought equipment was rare and prohibitively expensive. My first taste of "homebrew" was actually a kit. A super-regenerative shortwave receiver that I got through mail-order. The manufacturer is long lost in the back roads of my memory, but I remember building the thing, and the thrill I got when I put batteries in it for the first time and turned it on. I think I was about 12, and radio was a new adventure.

For many hams, "building", whether a kit or scratch homebrew, is a staple and defines their amateur radio experience. For some like myself, jaded old mandarins that we are, it's an occasional diversion when we need a piece of gear that we just can't buy. No matter where you fall in that spectrum, there's a thrill that comes from creating something out of some random bits and pieces that actually works as intended. If you've never tried it, you're missing something wonderful.



Come out to the May meeting on May 18 and swap some ideas. Vote for your favorite project, and recapture the show & tell spirit.

The Crawford Trophy pictured above is awarded annually for the best home-brew project for use in Amateur Radio completed in the past year.

73 de VE3ZX — Ron Pereira

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 Second Annual
"Tri-Bander Spring Social"**

Presented by the Hamilton, Guelph and Burlington Amateur Radio Clubs.



Last year's event was quite a success, so we're doing it again!

Location: Breezy Corners restaurant, 1480 Highway 6, Freelon, Ontario, on the corner of Carlisle Road and Highway 6.



The menu is brought to you by Claudia and her team of chefs: BBQ chicken; roasted potatoes; fresh vegetables and garden salad; buttered bun; a non-alcoholic drink with pie or rice pudding.

Tickets are \$25 and include HST. (Gratuity extra.)

Social at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets will be available from Brent (VA3XWZ) at the Club's general meeting on Wednesday, May 18th. Cash only please. Or, feel free to contact Brent at: va3xwz@hamiltonarc.ca if you wish to buy a ticket at another time. Reservations are available until Sunday, May 22nd.

**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

Congratulations Advanced Graduates

Your club executive wish to extend sincere congratulations to the recent Advanced Amateur graduates. Also we wish to extend our gratitude to the volunteers that assisted our Education Chairman Mardy VE3QEE in coaching these 5 graduates to advanced status.



The successful candidates that passed the examination set on April 21, 2016 were, (left to right):

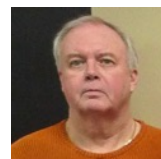
Alexandr Chernyavskiy (callsign pending)

Samantha Williams VE3LZY

Jason Clendining VE3JZX

Parker Slote VA3WPS and

Gary Young VE3GYX (inset right).



On behalf of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Executive;

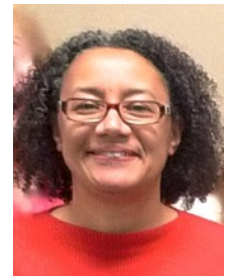
Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, Designated Examiner

Highlights from General Meeting April 20, 2016

by secretary, *Samantha Williams, VE3LZY*

Our May 18th General meeting is Homebrew Night and the presentation of the Crawford Trophy. Everyone is invited to bring in a project.

Brent WA3XWY is organizing both the May Tri-Bander Spring Social and this year's Field Day. Contact Brent at va3xwz@hamiltonarc.ca with any questions.



Rick VE3BK announced three upcoming events, Field Day on June 25 and 26; Canada Day Contest on July 1st 2016 at the Contest Site; the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend (ILLW) demonstration event taking place the 3rd weekend in August, 20th and 21st from around 9:00 AM until around 4:00 PM. The ILLW is not a contest, but rather, a public demonstration of Amateur Radio.

Also in contesting VE3DC took First Place - Ontario in the 2015 Canada Day Contest. Congratulations to Kevin VA3API, Rick VE3BK, Sherry VE3DCU, Jim VE3JS, Mardy VE3QEE, Scott VE3QU, Andrew VE3RIA, Bill VE3VWJ

It is foxhunt season again. This year's schedule has been posted on the HARC website at:

<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/the-h-a-r-c-hidden-transmitter-hunt-schedule-2014/>

World Amateur Radio Day

submitted by *Samantha Williams, VE3LZY*

Do you need an excuse to get on the air? Special event stations were on the air to highlight World Amateur Radio Day from countries such as Bahrain, Australia and Puerto Rico.

World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) is celebrated by hams across the world on April 18. It was on this date in 1925, that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed. Pioneers including W1AW (Hiram Percy Maxim, cofounder of the ARRL) met in Paris in 1925 and created the IARU. Maxim became the group's first president.

The founders were concerned that Amateur Radio was "in grave danger of being pushed aside," so they created the IARU to support Amateur Radio worldwide. Two years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, Amateur Radio gained the allocations still recognized today — 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. The IARU works tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio. Working with administrations all over the world, radio amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout the radio spectrum.

The IARU was originally formed with 25 countries it has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of Amateur Radio.

Today, Amateur Radio is more popular than ever, with over 3,000,000 licensed operators worldwide! In Canada we have approximately 74,239 licensed operators.

Canadian Amateurs by Province on April 7, 2016.

Alberta - 7,093
 British Columbia - 16,900
 Manitoba - 1,999
 New Brunswick - 1,608
 Newfoundland and Labrador - 1,455
 Nova Scotia - 2,582
 Northwest Territories - 92
 Nunavut - 29
 Ontario - 22,288
 Prince Edward Island - 287
 Quebec - 18,194
 Saskatchewan - 1,517
 Yukon - 195

Total: 74,239

“World Amateur Radio Day is the day when IARU Member-Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide.” I’m looking forward to participating next year!

The 2016 Paris to Ancaster Bike Race

intro by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE followed by a report from Rick Danby VE3BK and pictures from Kevin Barker VE3HNG



A group of Amateur Radio volunteers gathered at the Egg and I restaurant in Ancaster in time for 8:00 AM breakfast on Race Day, Sunday April 24th. The weather outside was great for a bike race, quite dry, sunny, and not too warm — one of the most ideal race days in several years. Gary Notto VE3TTO and Kevin Andrews VA3KRA who have helped organize the radio net for many years were on hand distributing assignments and introducing volunteers new to the group. Volunteers in our area came from as far away as Oshawa, Toronto, Burlington and Brantford to man the check points on this 70 kilometer race. Now in its 23rd year this race has become a Classic among competitive cyclists.

The race went very well and due to dry conditions and exceptional organization finished an hour earlier than usual.

Thanks to all the hams who came out to volunteer their services, the check-points were manned and the communication net worked well. Thankfully, few incidents needed to be reported this year and it turned out to be a very safe race for the riders.

It was fun playing Ham Radio on a Sunday afternoon, raising our hobby’s public profile and providing a useful service to the community. We thank the organizers for inviting us on board and hope to have the opportunity to participate again next year.

Thanking: Shawn VA3MFD, Rick VE3UG, Rick VE3BK, David VE3DWJ, John VE3POJ, Bill VE3WLL, Sam VE3CMS, Bob VE3CYE, Peter VE3PWJ, Norm VE3ZKO, Ryan VE3ERF, Joan VE3JNX, Mardy VE3QEE, George VE3OGP, Vic VE3VMO, Mark VA3FLC, Bob VE3RHH, Charles VE3CYM, Rob VA3WHO, Kevin VE3HNG providing photography, and net control ops: Susan VE3TLK, Kevin VA3KRA, and Gary VE3TTO.

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

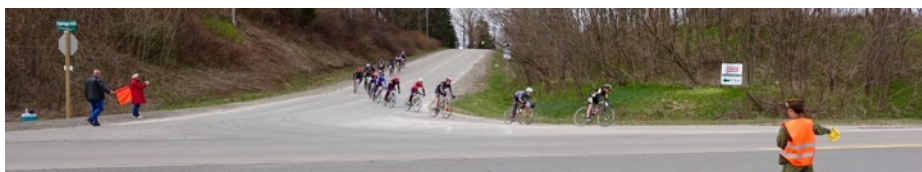
Friday 2m Check-in Net
Controller
Ahmet Ozguder, VA3TUR

Flea market Coordinator
open

Public Relations/Communication
open

Flea market Vendor Contact
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Webmaster
Jim Sawadski VE3JS



Paris to Ancaster Bike Race — continued

Many Hams supplied the “COM” support for the Race. We were from Ancaster, Brantford, Burlington, Hamilton, Milton and Toronto. Too many to list them all. Many were from Hamilton. There were 20 stations to be manned by the Hams, but even with the large number of Hams there, we were only able to fill 18 Stations. Our duties this year was to provide Emergency communications, and report numbers of the first few and last few Racers. Consider joining us in the fun next year.

Kevin VE3HNG was the unofficial photographer for the COM guys and many of the pictures are his, with some of mine as well.

Thanks to Gary VE3TTO and Kevin VA3KRA for organizing the event. Gary is ARES for Hamilton and Kevin is ARES for Burlington. Most of the Hams present are ARES members. Also thanks to Susan VE3TLK from Brantford for being the Control Station, with Kevin and Gary.

There were over 2500 Racers alone this year. Many more people lined the race route including volunteers serving as marshals for the race (ours at station 5, were from the St. George Lions Club) and general public that were there to watch the race. I think there were probably 5000 plus there. The race was impeded for a time because someone had cut a number of trees which fell across the path near the beginning of the race. The Racers were able to overcome that obstacle with ease. Also there was a new class for 20 KM added this year.

Everything went great with our Ambulance driver reporting only one minor injury that did not want any treatment. At our station, we only had one Racer with a flat tire. He replaced the tube and was on his way. A great success story, for both the Racers and the Hams present.



racers passing station 5

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>.



turning left at station 14



blue & pink T shirts identify volunteers



photographer Kevin Barker VE3HNG on the left with with one of the ambulance attendants and David VE3DWJ



Net Control station staffed by Kevin VA3KRA, Gary VE3TTO, and Sue VE3TLK



Rob Manley VA3WHO



arriving at the finish line

Reporting on the Ontario QSO Party

by Contest Chair Rick Danby, VE3BK

This year we ran the Ontario QSO with just 6 operators at the contest site because some of our regular operators were on a DXpedition up in the Timiskiming district using another club call, VE3RCB. The 6 operators in Haldimand County were Albert VA3ERE, Rick VE3BK, Sherry VE3DCU, David VE3DWJ, Mardy VE3QEE, and Andrew VE3RIA competing in the multi-operator multi-station division. Visiting the station were Bob Brennan, VE3ITW, and Bill Snodgrass VE3VWJ.

This contest was a great learning opportunity for some of the group as we had at least 2 new radios that we were not familiar with, so some of the time was spent sorting things out instead of making QSOs. We had fun for sure anyway and some of the newer fellows learned how we operate in the ONTARIO QSO PARTY.

Results were as follows:

Multipliers worked included the following Ontario counties, Canadian provinces, and states:

ESX GRY MSX NFK SIM OH ALG BRU DUR ESX FRO GRY HTN HAM HAS HUR LAN LGR LXA MSX NIA
 NFK OTT OXF PEL PER PET PRU SIM SDG TBY **TIM** TOR WAT WELYRK VEI VA2 VE9 CT MA ME NH
 RI NY NJ DE MDC PA AL FL GA KY NC SC TN VA AR LA NM OK TX CA AZ MT NV WA WY
 MI OH IL IN WI CO IA KS MN MO HAL HTN HAM NFK PEL TBY TOR WEL VEI VA2 VE4 VE6 VE7 VE9
 VY2 MA NY PA AL FL GA NC SC TN VA AR LA MS NM OK TX CA AZ MT UT WA WY CO
 MO NE ND SD AZ

(The county in red is Timiskiming which is where Ahmet, Roger, Jim and Paul were operating. Not sure of their results at this time.)

BAND	QSO	MULTS
80 m	6	6
40 m	352	72
20 m	111	42
15 m	1	1

No contacts were made on any of the other bands.

Announcing the Canada Day Contest, July 1st

Mark Canada Day, July 1st, on your Calendars. This is the next one at the site. We will need as many stations as we can get, especially those CW guys that double our scores hi hi. Andrew did 232 CW contacts on the OQP. Great job, thanks Andrew. Kevin is another great CW operator that comes when he can. I have a certificate for you Kevin. You can't get stuck anymore now Kevin, as we now have a great area to park provided by Sherry. She has done great work out there and always surprises us with her projects. Canada Day, July 1st, 2016 will be our 149th Birthday for Canada this year. This fun contest comes just after Field Day. Think about helping us out on Field Day too, it is great practice to warm up for Canada Day. Look for you then.

73 Rick VE3BK

News About Town

by Mardy, VE3QEE

The CANWARN training session was very worthwhile this year. Geoff Coulson did the whole training session himself and it was very informative and interesting. I confess having had trouble finding the new venue which was the "old" Stoney Creek city hall at 777 King Street. Who would have guessed it was almost in Grimsby, way beyond the built-up area of Stoney Creek. I was thinking that the "old" city hall would be in the old downtown area of Stoney Creek and concentrated my efforts there. It wasn't until I asked some old timers in Tim Horton's that I got pointed in the right direction. The venue was spacious and comfortable and the acoustics perfect, but attendance seemed down slightly from former years. Maybe some people couldn't find the place or maybe it was just too far away from the Chedoke auditorium where we have been having sessions in previous years. I hope we get this venue again because it was a good one and I now know where it is. If you missed this one and want to catch another presentation this season I can forward Geoff's e-mail listing all events running from May through June in different areas of the province — some nearby.

The monthly Club breakfast at Symposium was well attended. Rick and David brought Mike, VA3WXS, and recent advanced class graduate Alexander Chernyavsky cycled all the way from McMaster to join the group. The conversation and food were good as usual. Congratulations to Murray Thompson VE3ZVP who will be dining "on the house" next time around.

At the last club meeting we were treated to a demonstration of the club's doppler radio direction finder unit that goes on the roof of a car. David Bruton, VE3DWJ, explained how it operates. If you weren't there and are not familiar with the unit examine the pictures below. Thanks David, it was interesting



This week on Wednesday 18th is the annual Homebrew / Show and Tell meeting. Bring in something you have completed within the past year and enter it in the Crawford Trophy contest. Everyone is a judge. If you have a show and tell item that is of interest to radio amateurs and useful in the hobby you'll have the floor to explain it to the members present. It will be an informal and hopefully informative night. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend.