

The Hamilton Amateur

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



Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
117-350 King St. East,
Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 4G6
<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>

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HARC 2015-2016
Executive

President

Ron Pereira VE3ZX
ve3zx@hamiltonarc.ca

Past President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ
ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca

First Vice President

Presidents' Message

by Ron Pereira, VE3ZX



Welcome back for another season!

Our first meeting of the season is on Wednesday, Sept. 21, from 7pm to 9pm at the Westdale High School cafeteria. There is some new business to discuss, and we need a membership vote on some of it, so please make an effort to attend.

I've been granted an opportunity to try my hand at editing the newsletter. This electronic version represents the first of a lot of small steps towards multimedia publishing of the club newsletter. In addition to this version sent via e-mail, an archive will be placed on the club website that will preserve the styling and layout that we're all familiar with. Please feel free to send me feedback, suggestions, or even articles.

-73 de VE3ZX

New Club Policies

Over the past year the executive has been working on a couple of projects to bring club management up to modern standards.

First, we now have a privacy policy that is

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

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

compliant with federal legislation. This means we promise to safeguard your personal information and use it responsibly for club business. We're working on a way to present the changes in an easy to read form on the website, but in the meantime, you can read the full privacy policy [here](#).

Along with the new privacy policy, we have developed a new membership application. We will be asking everyone to complete one of these new applications so that we have a record of what information you have given us permission to use. It's very important that you fill out one of these new forms, regardless of whether you have already renewed or not. We'll have paper forms at the meeting, or you can get an early start by visiting the membership page [here](#).

And finally, we have developed a Code of Conduct to help us establish a common ground for behaviour at meetings and events. Please give it a read by clicking [here](#).

Because this policy represents something we ask you to follow, we require a vote from the general membership to accept it as policy. Please, come out and make your opinion known.



Flea Market Treasures.

Brent Michaluk VA3XWZ

Friday 2m Check-in Net

Controller

Ahmet Ozguder, VA3TUR

Flea market Coordinator

Al Ersser

Public

Relations/Communication

open

Flea market Vendor Contact

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Webmaster

Jim Sawadski VE3JS

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

--*Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE*

Often, the protective containers that are provided with expensive equipment outlast the equipment for which they were designed. Such containers, whether they are boxes, bags, tins or cases can still be used long after the original contents are gone. I look for containers at flea markets and when the when the price is right, I pick them up and "decomission" the obsolete or worn out equipment, cleaning out the container and filling unwanted holes in the case.

Take for example the containers in the photo.

These round-shouldered aluminium enclosures

were, once, custom made to hold expensive portable test equipment from an earlier time. All of these containers were made by the American aluminium company AMALCO, a firm that has been operating since 1910. They feature distinctive bell shaped snap closures and hinges that can be configured for removal or angled support, or complete retention of the lid. AMALCO is still in the contract manufacturing business. Check out their web site at <http://www.amalco.com> to see what they now produce.

I have been repurposing AMALCO containers by lining them with foam and using them to transport various pieces of ham gear like Morse Code keys, antenna analyzers, radios etc. It has been a pleasure reusing these quality cases, and a delight to learn that the company producing them for over 100 years is still in business.

Keep an eye open at the next hamfest. You might just find one of these fine treasures waiting to be picked.

Contest Reports

by Rick Danby, VE3BK

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.

2016 RAC Canada Day Contest

Province ON

CALL USED: VE3DC

CALL OF OPERATOR IF DIFFERENT FROM CALL USED:

- Single Operator All Bands
- Single Operator Low Power
- Single Operator QRP
- Single Operator Single Band
- Multioperator

If multioperator, list calls of all operators and loggers:

VE3BK VE3CDU VE3JS VE3QEE VE3QU

Our results and score:

	CW	PHONE					
BAND	QSOs	Points	Multipliers	QSOs	Points	Multipliers	
160	0	0	0	0	0	0	
80	0	0	0	81	630	6	
40	0	0	0	368	1766	10	
20	0	0	0	363	1876	13	
15	0	0	0	1	10	1	
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4282	X	30	=	128460			
points		multipliers		score			

Soapbox: Canada Day Contest is one of our favourites at VE3DC.

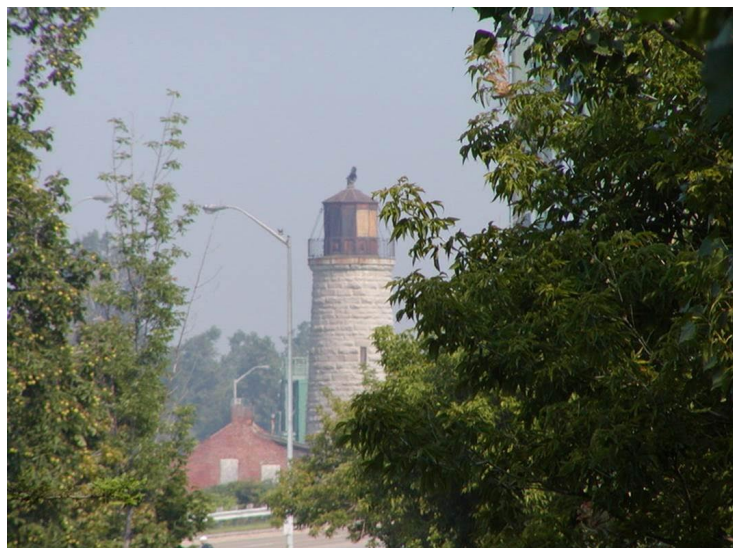
We combined it again with a barbecue for Scott and Dan for their birthdays. Thanks to Georgette Welling, Pat Danby and Joe Martinak for their support with the barbecue, especially to Georgette for supplying the condiments and the meat but also to the "Birthday Boy" Scott for

doing the cooking. A great Contest and the day went very well, even though some of the time the bands were not very good. Great fun.
73 Rick VE3BK



The International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW)

by Rick VE3BK



The ILLW was on Saturday August 20th and August 21st, 2016 this year. This is the event that is sponsored by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group in Scotland and August seems to have become Lighthouse month. Check out their site at

www.illw.org/ We used Lighthouse CA0015 for this event.

On Saturday helping setup: Alex VE3KOU, Murray VE3ZPV, Mardy VE3QEE, and Rick VE3BK. We used Mardy's full size G5RV antenna and his flex radio setup with great success and later used Scott's radio. Operators for the day were Mardy and Scott. Visitors that we knew were Georgette, Mark VA3FLC, Brian VA3BGN, Barney VA3BSO, Kevin VE3HNG who took pictures and helped with setup and teardown, Gary VE3TTO, Parker VA3WPS and his girlfriend, and Ahmet VA3TUR. We had many visitors stop by and ask us what we were doing, so we promoted Ham Radio and gave them pamphlets about the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. The weather was great, a little hot, but we had many visitors and it was a fun day.

Sunday started out a little different. It had rained the night before so when I opened up the hydro outlet we had access to, the water ran out. On the Sunday Parker VA3WPS showed up early for setup. We also had Mark VE3RYI helping this day with Rick VE3BK as well. Murphy struck right away. Scott was a little late so we didn't have his radio to put on. Rick brought out his radio and power supply. We still had Mardy's G5RV up and working. My radio (Icom 735) was receiving great, but every time I tried to transmit, the GFI on the hydro outlet would trip. Looking back, I think it was the water that got into the outlet. The radio and power supply tested just fine at home. Parker was good enough to go home and bring his car battery and radio because we had not seen Scott yet. When he got back, everything worked great, but when Parker tried, no contacts. The wind was really blowing this day and I think that maybe the outlet dried out

enough for when Scott came. Needless to say, we were a little late getting on the air and making any contacts, at least it was cooler on Sunday. Scott and Georgette arrived and Scott hooked up his Kenwood with the same type power supply I was using and everything worked perfectly this time. Operators for the day were Parker VA3WPS, Scott VE3QE, Carole VA3WHU, Mark VE3RYI and myself Rick VE3BK. Others that also came to visit were Brian VA3BGN, Ahmet VA3TUR, Kevin VE3HNG taking more pictures again, Ron VE3RM and his wife Bev. Back to Murphy struck us again: Scott was operating and all at once, the radio went quiet. It was a group effort, using the digital meter I had in my tool kit, we tested the coax, choke, and antenna to discover that the TV wire part of the G5RV had gone open. Mark VE3RYI came to the rescue with his long wire and Icom tuner that talks to his Icom radio. We used the same string to pull up his antenna and I wound up the G5RV. Thanks Mardy for letting us use this antenna. I think the big winds must have done the damage, sorry to give you a repair job. Everything worked very well with Mark's antenna and radio setup. We didn't really have as much operating time as on Saturday, but we had many visitors that were interested in what we were doing, some of which had Amateur Radio Operators as Fathers or Grandfathers. We had some good chats with many of them so this turned out to be a great day as well. Looking forward to next year. This is a great time to test out your radio or bring an antenna we can put up and try. The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club has done this event many years now and every year has been different. We have even had rain before but are under a roof so no problem, just keep the radios dry by moving away from the edge. We have a special QSL card, designed by Mark VE3RYI just for this event. Hope to see you next year for this International event.



In Closing:

This first pass at an electronic newsletter is longer than I thought it would be. There's a lot of scrolling to do. But there's far less content than is normally contained in our print versions. We hope to build on this effort by hosting the newsletter on our web page and making it's style consistent between all media types, including print for those who would prefer a paper copy. Octobers' newsletter is already in the works, so if you have something you'd like to write about, please contact me soon.

--73 de Ron Pereira, VE3ZX. ve3zx@hamiltonarc.ca



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