



Phillip Boucher, VE3BOC

The Club Corner / Bits and Pieces

Spotlight on the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club

One of the most important aspects of the Amateur Radio Service is that none of us are alone in it. Although we are all individuals, we meet and talk to a lot of other operators and sometimes make new friends, both local and on the other side of the planet. But we also have Amateur Radio clubs that educate, support and promote membership, friendship and cooperation, along with a lot of activities, excitement and fun. What would we do without our clubs?

I recently had the pleasure of talking to Murray Thompson, VE3ZPV, President of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club about the club's activities and services during the pandemic.

The other members of the club's Executive are Rick Danby, VE3BK, who serves as its Treasurer and is also in charge of Contesting, and Mike Krebs, VE3WXS, who serves as its Secretary.

Although the impact on the club has been substantial, the club has made changes that have enabled its Member Services and activities to continue.

The club maintains a radio room at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum (<https://www.warplane.com/>) running the station VA3CWM in which any club member who is an Amateur can operate the station during regular museum hours. However, Murray did indicate that access to the radio room has been closed due to the pandemic and communications are being done through a club member's remote station.

Club meetings are being held online via Zoom and Murray said that the virtual meetings tend to be sparse as most members seem to prefer in-person club meetings.

Looking to the future, the club scheduled its social luncheons at the End Zone Bar and Grill and has its 2021 Christmas party booked at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. The next Field Day will be done from home, and although this year's fleamarket had to be cancelled, the next one is set for October 2022. The club also runs two repeaters that cover the entire city of Hamilton and beyond. They are the VE3NCF repeaters, one on 146.760- MHz and the other on 444.075+ MHz, with a tone of 131.8.

I also talked to Rick Danby, VE3BK about the club's activities during the pandemic. He sent me the following information, and even though both the Field Day and the RAC Canada Day Contest had to be conducted from participants' homes under COVID rules in 2021, as you can see it did not prevent contestants from working towards those points and awards.

What We Did This Summer #1:

Field Day Operators and Preliminary Score for Hamilton (ON) ARC for 2021 (Aggregate Station)

Spencer Nelson, VA3SPN

Spencer did Digital for us on FT8 and FT4 using battery power, 269 contacts x 2 for digital = 538 x2 for power multiplier = 1076 + 100 for 100 % emergency power + 50 points for entry via web = 1226 points. Way to go Spencer!

Rick Danby, VE3BK

Rick did SSB on most bands. 165 QSOs x 2 power multiplier = 330 + 100 Bulletin

bonus (John did no contacts) + 50 Bonus for entry via web = 480 points total.

John Hudack, VE3CXB

John copied down the bulletin for us for 100 Bonus points but no entry, no QSOs. Thanks for coming through for us again John.

Sherry Goeller, VE3DCU

Sherry only had Saturday available and was not able to get any contacts on 2 and 6m for us, so no entry no QSOs. Thanks for trying for us Sherry.

Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

Mardy did very well for the time he could spend and his antenna limitation. He had 113 QSOs x 2 power multiplier = 226 + 50 Bonus for entry via web = 276 points. Good job Mardy.

Christian Angelakis, VE3QYV

Christian only had Saturday evening to help us out. He did 12 QSOs x 2 power mult = 24 + 50 entry web bonus = 74 points. Thanks Christian.

Andrew Best, VE3RIA

Andrew did CW for us and was able to make many QSOs considering his antenna limitations. He had 213 QSOs x 2 for CW = 426 x 2 for power multiplier = 864 + 50 for web entry = 914 points. Good job Andrew.

Mark Proctor, VE3RYI

Mark is a past Executive member of the Club and did 174 QSOs x 2 power multiplier = 348 + 50 entry on web bonus = 398 points. Thank you Mark.

John Garry, VE3XBF

John did very well, doing his logging on paper. I received his log the night before deadline because he had no logging



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software and did his log in a document for them. He did well though, with 106 QSOs X 2 power mult = 212 + 50 bonus points for web entry = 262 + 100 bonus for 100% emergency power for a total of 362 points. Thank you John.

Preliminary Score: 1226 + 480 + 276 + 74 + 914 + 398 + 362 = 3,730 with a total of 9 operators or loggers.

Thanks to everyone who helped out and to all the stations that worked us for the 2021 Field Day.

– 73 Rick, VE3BK – Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Contest Group VE3DC

What We Did This Summer #2: 2021 RAC Canada Day Contest

Province: ON | **Call used:** VE3DC

Call Of Operators: VE3BK, VE3QEE, VE3RIA

Band	CW			Phone		
	QSOs	Points	Multipliers	QSOs	Points	Multipliers
160	0	0	0	0	0	0
80	0	0	0	3	50	2
40	56	234	5	99	636	6
20	81	340	5	111	700	10
15	0	0	0	36	186	6
10	0	0	0	88	392	7
6	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total: 2538 x 41 = 104058						

Soapbox: Great contest! We enjoy the RAC Canada Day Contest and it was fun working all the bands we did. Thunderstorms moved in in the evening so we had to shut down a little bit early because of lightning. Thanks to all that worked us.

– 73 Rick, VE3BK – Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Contest Group VE3DC

If you would like your Amateur Radio Club showcased in the column, just send me a message to discuss, or include the information you want to get out there in an email.

Let us know how you are handling club activities and services currently and what are the future plans for your club?

Profiles of club members who have done something unique, unusual, impressive. Have you seen an article or heard a story about a club or an operator that moved you, or made you take notice?

I'm also looking for articles, stories and items about Amateurs such as how you first became interested in Amateur Radio and if you had an Elmer who guided you and your experiences. Articles on youth, seniors, or others in the hobby? Let me know so we can feature them in the column.

Send in your bits and pieces, tales and adventures, and articles for inclusion in the column. You can write me via the magazine, or at phillipjboucher@gmail.com using the online form at <https://www.rac.ca/member-stories/>.



Santa's Specials

Cushcraft Antennas

ARX-2, ARX-2B, A124WB, A13B2
A148-10S, A-270-10S, A-3WS, A-4S
Refurbished Hy-Gain Rotors

Trylon Self-Supporting Towers in Stock

450 ohm ladder line .59/ft, 200 feet \$99
RG-8X mini coax .65/ft, 200 feet \$109
RG-213 coax \$1.15/ft, 200 feet \$209
LMR-400 low loss cable \$1.39/ft
Hy-Gain Yaesu Rotor Cable .85/ft
#14/7 HD copper .25/ft, 12/9 .29/ft
Dacron rope 1/8" – .15/ft
Dacron rope 5/32" – .18/ft
Dacron rope 3/16" – .20/ft

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