



# The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter 74 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2006

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club  
 PO Box 91215, Effort Square PO  
 Hamilton, ON L8N 4G4  
 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956  
<http://www.hwcn.org/link/harc/>

## In This Issue

Next Meeting----- 1  
 Christmas Party----- 1  
 Minutes for the Oct 18th  
 General Meeting----- 1  
 HARC Executive----- 2  
 Contest Report----- 2  
 Farewell to Big Joe  
 VE3BWZ — SK----- 3  
 HARC Chairs-----3  
 Dueling Dxpeditions--- 4  
 Important Points----- 4  
 Solar Update-----4  
 Pictorial-----5  
 From the President's  
 Desk-----6

### Rumor Has It ...

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was terrific.

A jumper cable walked into a bar. The bartender says "I'll serve you, but don't start anything!"

## Next Meeting

Wednesday November 15th. Because November began on Wednesday the monthly meeting occurs at the earliest possible time. Our own Fred Robinson will be guest speaker. Fred will entertain us with a power point presentation on The Highest Point in Ontario relating his experiences some years ago blazing a trail through the bush for the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Bring a friend and join us for a tale of adventure.

## Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 13, (the second Wednesday in December) you and your friends are invited to attend the annual HARC Christmas Party at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. The evening features a social hour from 6:00 p.m. followed by traditional turkey Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, served at 7:00 p.m. Join us in the comfortable surroundings of the RHYC overlooking the Harbour. Tell the ladies it is a "dressy casual" festive affair. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. Fred, VE3GCP is keeping track of those attending so let Fred know your intentions so he can tell the chef how many are coming. Payment can be accepted in advance, or at the door.

The Yacht Club is at the foot of McNab Street North, (turn west from the foot of James Street -or- east from the foot of Bay Street). Both James and Bay streets end at

Guise Street. The parking lot for the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club is accessed off Guise. It is well signed, and parking is free.

## October 18, 2006 General Meeting Minutes

by Secretary Roger, VE3UFZ

The General Meeting was called to order by President Mardy VE3QEE. Lorraine VA3NZ moved that the minutes of the September 20, 2006 General Meeting be adopted as written in the club bulletin, seconded and carried.

Reports from executive and select committees.

### Hamfest 2006

Mardy thanked all who helped with this year's Flea Market.



Club meetings – 3rd Wednesday each  
 month – 8 pm (except July and August)  
 at Hamilton District Christian High School, 92 Glanaster Road  
 corner of Rymal Road (Hwy. #53) and Glanaster Road.

Treasurers Report

There were no problems with security this year and admittance levels were within 10% of previous years. Fred VE3GCP thanked all who helped him set up the cash, ticket sales and door prize. We were within \$15 of last years receipts. Indications are that all Flea Markets are down about 10% this year. A security deposit has been left with The Ancaster Agricultural Society to secure our October 13, 2007 date. The annual Christmas Party will be held at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club with a ticket cost of \$30.00 per person. All HAMS are invited to attend this annual gala.

Membership

Emsley VE3JAI reported that we currently have 48 members paid up this far. Membership cards are available from Emsley for those who have paid.

Education

Currently there are 4 in the Basic class which is being taught at Mohawk College. Mike VE3MHX has plans for an Advanced Course. Anyone else interested in an advanced class should contact Mike directly.

Health and Welfare

Past member Kirt VE3PUI passed away. He was a member from 1992 to 1996. RAC will be informed for publication as a silent key in the RAC magazine.

Repeater

There is a hum on our club repeater. John VE3DVB will look into and rectify the problem. Mardy reported that there is an informal net on Monday evenings on 14.135 MHz. This is a local rag-chew as well as a test of local 20M propagation. Contacts are more than likely made via ground wave rather than sky wave.

ARES

Lorraine VA3NZ reported that the next ARES meeting at Dofasco will be held on Tuesday October 31, 2006. Club executive meetings have been moved to the Wednesdays following the regular General Meeting so as to

## HARC 2006-2007 Executive

**President**

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE  
905-648-0187 ve3qee@rac.ca  
meedson@cogeco.ca

**First Vice President**

Brian Bowie VA3BMB  
905-521-5729

**Second Vice President**

Mike Hewitt VE3MHX  
n8tdd@netscape.net

**Secretary & Past President**

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ  
905-560-2628  
rpimm@cogeco.ca

**Treasurer**

Fred Robinson VE3GCP  
905-575-5197  
FredRobinson@MountainCable.net

**Repeater Chairman**

John Vandenberg VE3DVB  
905-692-3802  
JVandenberg@mountaincable.net

**Director**

Paul Selvey, VE3XPS  
pselvey@cogeco.ca

not interfere with the ARES meetings. Several of the club executive are involved in ARES and were unable to attend meetings. Changing our executive meeting night eliminated this conflict. ARES checkin is held on Thursday evenings at 8:00pm using VE3ZOE repeater facilities (443.075Mhz).

Contest Group

Rick VE3BK was unable to attend the Flea Market and the General Meeting due to back problems. Rick asked Mardy to promote the annual CQWWDX contest being held on the weekend of October 28-29. For details, please contact Rick directly.

Volunteer operators would be greatly appreciated.

New Business

The Secretary was requested to send a formal letter of appreciation to the Pathfinders, thanking them for their contribution to our Flea Market and requesting that they continue to participate in future years.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Lorraine VE3NZ, carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

## CQWWSSB 2006 CONTEST

by Contest Manager Rick, VE3BK

Depending on your outlook of "Ham Radio", this contest can be a lot of fun working all that "DX". Just ask Mardy VE3QEE. From that aspect we will look at this contest. It was FUN, FUN, FUN!!!!

I showed up about 4:15 p.m. at the contest site to meet Dan VA3DJ, who had beat me there by a few minutes to drop off his amp for us to use. We loaded his amp and my radio stuff into the operating trailer to get setup. Many thanks to Dan for doing all the heavy lifting as my back was just getting better. Dan left, Mark VE3RYI showed up and we set up station 1.

Sometime later, before the contest, Fred VE3GCP arrived and set up his station for radio 2. We are allowed 2 radios in this M2 setup for this contest. We were a little late for the 8pm start, but once we did, lookout, DX everywhere. Joe VE3OCD showed up to join in the fun and helped us work all that DX. We were having so much fun, breaks and all, that we were up till 5 am before Fred decided to go home. He was surprised he lasted that long.

The next morning Ian Smith VA3SOF had about 3 coffee runs to Tim Horton's, as he didn't want to disturb Mark and I, but about 9:30 a.m. I heard him and we set him up on the

main station. John VE3CXB showed up for the fun and helped put many QSO's in the log. Dan VA3DJ came to help later and so did Fred VE3GCP. Mark VE3RYI and myself, worked on the radios when we could.

Sunday morning Mardy VE3QEE arrived, got Mark and I moving and we set him up on the main radio. Mardy worked Australia for the first time on HF sometime during his time there. Fred came back again for some more fun, but we had to leave finally when darkness came early from changing the clocks back on Sunday morning. Also the rain had stopped and we took the opportunity to make a quick departure. I think it was about 6 or 6:30pm when we left with the contest lasting till 7 p.m.

The story wouldn't be complete without mentioning the terrible weather we had. On the Friday night, it was raining heavily and very windy. Fred had to borrow Mark's boots to go to his car at one point because of the flooding of the contest property. Fred commented that he had never seen it so bad at the site before. When Joe showed up he was telling us about the difficult driving to get there. It rained a lot while we were there. The sun came out on Saturday morning but started raining again, and we even saw some snow that melted as soon as it hit the ground. On Sunday, the weather seemed to improve somewhat as the property wasn't flooded anymore.

When all this rain and wind was happening, we were "snug as a bug" working DX when we weren't ragchewing to each other. I think that we all fun, even though Murphy got Fred's amp, and the final number of contacts wasn't as high as in some years. Well I hope that some of you that didn't come can join us in the fun next time. We certainly don't blame any of you for not coming out in that weather, even though you certainly missed a good contest. Hope to see you next time.

73 Rick VE3BK

*Incidentally, Mardy was just talking to Fred on the telephone and his amplifier*

## HARC 2006-2007 Chairs

### Awards Chairman

Casey VanBroekhoven VE3CVP  
905-385-8724 <ve3cvp@gmail.com>

### Contesting Manager/Property

Rick Danby VE3BK  
905-544-3253 <rdanby@sympatico.ca>

### Education Chair /Flea Market

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE  
<meedson@cogeco.ca>

### Volunteer Examiners

Lorraine MacPherson VA3NZ  
905-389-7653 <va3nz@rac.ca> and  
Bernard Granby VA3XJ  
905-527-7175 <berngran@hwcen.org>

### Field Day Co-ordinator

David Bruton VE3DWJ  
905-383-9808 <am983@hwcen.org>

### Repeater Chairman

John Vandenberg VE3DVV  
905-692-3802  
<JVandenberg@mountaincable.net>

### Health & Welfare Chairperson

Mary Urbanski VE3OGQ  
905-388-8383

### Hospitality

Bernie Granby VA3XJ  
905-527-7175 <berngran@hwcen.org>

### Membership Chair/Web Page

Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI  
905-627-0333 <eamitch@mcmaster.ca>

### Newsletter Editor

John Hudak VE3CXB  
905-627-9475 <hudakjm@mcmaster.ca>

### Public Liaison Co-Chair

Stanley Bolibruch VE3GFE  
905-528-4002 and  
Neil Galloway VE3VNG  
905-383-6986

### Swap Net Controller

Don Grisenthwaite VE3DDQ  
905-388-1365 <ve3ddq@cogeco.ca>

### Communication

Michael Kerbs VA3WXS  
905-523-9005  
<mkrebs@sympatico.ca>

*is A-OK. Fred tested the amp at home on a dummy load and on the new beam and everything works fine. Instead, Murphy may have gotten to a contest site feedline which could have been under water during the contest. - ed.*

## Farewell Big Joe

*by Rick Danby VE3BK, a friend.*

I was sorry to read in the newspaper, the passing of Joe Bienkiewicz. I first met him on the radio as "Big Joe". He was a very likable fellow that was more than accommodating in letting me visit him on Kinrad Avenue, not far from me. He and I shared in the fact that we were both taken advantage of by a "CB" shyster, for hundreds of dollars. I took the shyster to court and won, Joe didn't like the legal system and didn't bother. I think this is why his wife did not like anyone from the radio. I later became a ham and later on, so did Joe. His wife still did not like anyone from the radio. He had moved to Connaught Avenue just before he became a ham.

Joe joined the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club some time ago, and was active as a Parking Attendant at some of the Clubs fleamarkets in Ancaster and could be heard mostly on NCF.

In recent years I wondered what had happened to Joe, as he seemed to have disappeared from Amateur Radio. His Obituary in the November 3, 2006 Spectator tells it all. He was getting very forgetful when I had seen him last. His wife died and his daughter Krystina had put him in a Home in Oakville. It says that donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society. He used to joke about both our daughters having the same name. I would say that he is one Ham that had influenced my life. May VE3BWZ rest in peace.

*Details from the RAC database*

Callsign: VE3BWZ Name: Joseph Bienkiewicz (+) Address: 18 CONNAUGHT AVENUE NORTH HAMILTON, ON L8L 6Y7 Qualifications: BASIC

*Joe's Obituary from the Spectator*

BIENKIEWICZ, Josef- Peacefully on November 2, 2006 at the Wyndham Manor, Oakville, in his 80th year. Beloved husband of the late Stanislaw and loving father of Krystyna and her husband David Chan. Dear grandfather of Leah and Jordan. Also survived by family in Poland. Josef was a member of the Holy Name Society at St. Stanislaus Church and was retired from Stelco after 35 years of service. The family will receive friends and family at TRUSCOTT, BROWN & DWYER FUNERAL CHAPEL, 1309 King Street East (at the Delta, opposite Gage Park) 905-549-2417 on Sunday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Rosary Sunday at 3 p.m. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, November 6 at 10 a.m. at St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church. Entombment in Our Lady of Victory Mausoleum at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society. Spectator November 3, 2006

## Dueling DXpeditions Two Groups Set to Descend on Rare Lakshadweep Islands

*News report courtesy of the ARRL e-newsletter for Nov. 3 2006.*

The second most-wanted DXCC entity, Lakshadweep Islands (VU7) may host two separate DXpeditions during December. A team sponsored by the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) -- the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society for India -- will operate as VU7LD <<http://arsi.info/vu7/index.html>>. A second group, under the auspices of the National Institute for Amateur Radio (NIAR), has announced plans to operate as VU7RG <<http://www.vu7.in/>>, in honor of the late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, VU2RG. While the two DXpeditions would have multiple stations on the air

## Important Points

### Executive Meetings

HARC Executive committee meets each month, except July and August. Members are invited to attend and participate. The meetings are on the Tuesday following the club General Meeting each month.

### VE3NCF 146.760 - & 444.075 +

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 Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. HARC "swap net" follows at 8 p.m. All contacts are welcome.

### Examinations

Amateur radio license examinations are conducted the second Wednesday of each month, except July and August. Contact the voluntary examiners to make an appointment. There will be a fee for each examination.

### Membership Information

Club membership, including all privileges, is \$25 per person, per year, Sept 1 to Aug 31. Additional membership, for immediate family living in the same home, is \$1 per person. One newsletter sent to each address.

### 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, John Hudak VE3CXB, <[judakjm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:judakjm@mcmaster.ca)>

simultaneously on various HF bands and modes for at least the first part of December; the Web sites for the respective DXpeditions do not mention the other's planned operation. The Daily DX and QST "How's DX?" Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, has cautioned that the two highly competitive organizations carefully coordinate their on-air activities to avoid chaos.

ARSI's VU7LD DXpedition will run from December 1 until December 30, while NIAR's VU7RG DXpedition is set for December 1 until December 10.

Fifty or more hams from India and elsewhere -- including a number of well-known DXers -- are said to have signed on to fill the VU7RG operating positions. Approximately two dozen radio amateurs from India will handle VU7LD operations on CW, SSB and digital modes.

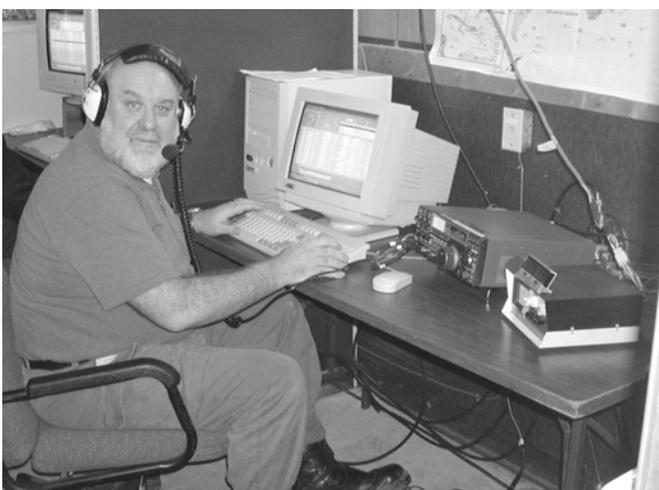
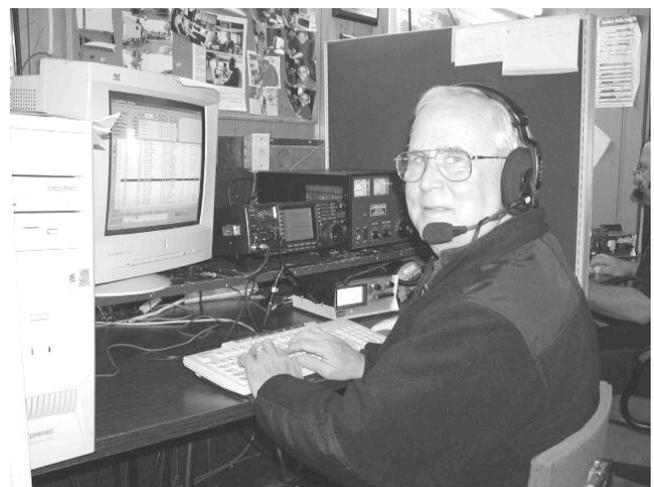
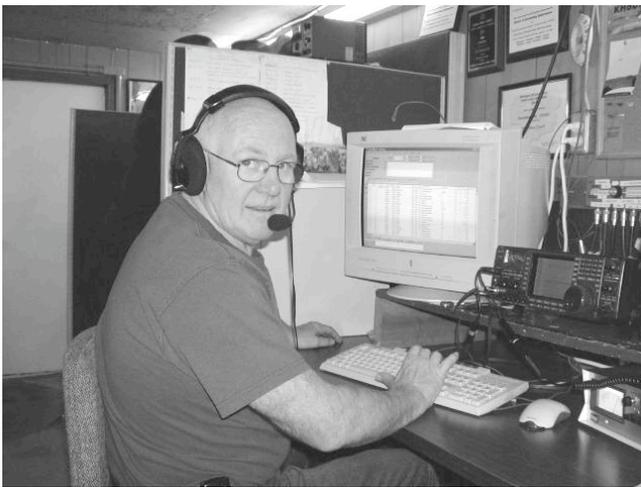
Part of the Laccadive Islands, Lakshadweep -- the smallest union territory of India -- is located in the Arabian Sea some 200 to 300 km off the southwestern coast of India. The territory marks its 50th anniversary this year. The VU7LD team will operate from Kavaratti Island, while the VU7RG DXpedition will take place from sites on Agatti, Bangaram and Kadmat islands.

## Solar Update

*Excerpts from the weekly propagation report from ARRL.*

Astral aficionado Tad "Let the Sunshine In" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: Sunspot numbers the week of October 11th were zero on every day. In fact, zero was the sunspot number for eight days in a row: October 11 through 18. On October 19 a single sunspot appeared, Sunspot 917, in the center of the solar disc as seen from Earth. This resulted in a sunspot number of 14.

We should observe longer periods of no sunspots -- several weeks in a



**Pictures from the 2006 World Wide DX Sideband contest sponsored by CQ Magazine.**

Top left, Fred, VE3GCP; top right Ian VA3SOF; center left, Mark VE3RYI; center right, Mardy VE3QEE  
 bottom left, Rick, VE3BK; bottom right shows the VE3DC contest site with trailer containing eight operating  
 positions and several of the beam antennas. Dark building contains washroom and storage. John, VE3CXB, Joe,  
 VE30CD, and Dan VA3DJ also helped out but no picture is available. Thanks to all who came to participate.

row, or perhaps a month or more. So far October 2006 has an average daily sunspot number of 13.1, so we have a bit to go before we see a typical bottom-of-the-cycle month of no sunspots. The predicted sunspot minimum is still about six months away.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>.

## From the President's Desk

by Mardy, VE3QEE

Once again the Hamfest was a success, thanks to the efforts of a great many members who pitched in and worked the event. Fred looked after security and had a team of able workers helping including David Bruton, VE3DWJ who headed up the group managing the parking lot Emsley Mitchell VE3JAI and Ron Ouwehand VA3OUW, who spent hours on the front door selling tickets and stamping hands. Mike Krebs VA3WXS, was busy in the back room running the talk-in net. Walter Bayliss, VA3WWB, worked as event treasurer, handing out float money and collecting counting and reconciling all the receipts, a monumental job. Thanks Walter. Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE, Don Roop, VE3EIR, and Frank Love, VA3FWL, admitted all the vendors and sold tables and tickets at the vendors' door. Most of the helpers, in fact, did double or even triple duty beginning by helping out with setup and cleanup in addition to their other jobs. Special thanks to Brian Bowie, VA3BMB, Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ, Bernie Granby, VA3XJ, Wojtek Rusin, VA3WVR, Klaas Dekens VA3KWD, Kevin Barker, VE3HNG, Neil Galloway, VE3VNG, Vic Spafford, VE3VMO, Bill Pleydon VE3KYC, most of whom wound up doing several jobs. Many many thanks to all the volunteers because the success would not happen without you.

Results were interesting. There were slightly fewer people coming in the front door, this year, a common condition at all flea markets according to the organizers we have talked to. On the other hand, there were slightly more vendors this year. Overall we earned very close to the exact amount earned last year. Incredible.

An amusing thread of e-mail correspondence occurred during the process of signing up vendors. Here is how it went:

*This note came in really early, August 13th, before I had got things off the ground for accepting bookings.*

Hello,  
I would like to book a table for your hamfest. I would prefer it to be next to Lee Andrews as we will help each other, and he is a distributor of my products. I will only need one trestle. Sorry I am so late in booking.  
Regards, Mark Rawlings. VK3 MOA.  
Rawmar Enterprises. 40 Blackburn Street, STRATFORD. Victoria. 3862 Australia.

*I filed the letter under Fleamarket Vendors 2006, without really noticing the address and fired back a quick reply:*

I have put you down for a table Mark. I have not really got the booking machine rolling yet, so I'll get back to you by e-mail as soon as I have things organized.  
Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

*Later, when I did get the booking machine rolling I sent Mark the standard reply to a request for tables.*

Dear Mark:  
Thank you for your request for one table and one admission next to Lee Andrews. It seems a long way to come for a Hamfest!

I am reserving a spot for you at the HARC Hamfest 2006 at Marritt Hall in Ancaster on Saturday October 14th. Tables will be \$10.00 each for a standard 8-foot size, and admissions are \$6.00 each. To complete the registration now, please send a cheque for \$16.00 payable to Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (or

simply HARC) to the club post box at this address:

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club  
P. O. Box 91215 Effort Square Postal Outlet, Hamilton, ON, Canada, L8N 4G4

Vendor doors are open from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m.

I look forward to seeing you then.  
Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE  
Vendor Liaison

*As you might expect I got a prompt response which went like this:*

Sorry Mardy,  
I thought things were looking funny and map was not fitting. I went to a hamfest in Hamilton, New Zealand, not Canada. You're right, it is a long way, and I am sorry that I won't be coming, although I would like to. Sorry for the confusion.  
Mark.

Too bad! I looked up the web site on the internet and saw that his company has several types of antenna for sale. It would have been nice to have his stuff for sale at the Hamfest. If you want to see his products look up <<http://www.tet-emtron.com/>>

I sent Mark a couple of copies of our newsletter and invited him to keep in touch - maybe down the log we'll hear from him again.

On another matter, consideration is being given to the idea of sending out future issues of the HARC newsletter in standard white #10 business envelopes instead of the brown catalogue envelopes to which you are accustomed. The reason is economic. The latest price paid for a box of 250 catalogue envelopes has risen to around \$25 plus tax. A viable alternative would be to buy a box of 500 #10 business envelopes which sell for about half that price. The down side to using business envelopes is that your newsletter would have to be folded twice, creating more work and having less appeal. We won't be making any changes until the current supply of brown envelopes is used up. In the meantime, let us know what you think about the idea of using business envelopes instead.