



The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter - 81 Years of Amateur Radio
1932 - 2013

H.A.R.C. 117-350 King St. East, P.O. Box 75073 Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 4G6

H.A.R.C. Essentials

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club operates the **VE3NCF** repeater, **146.760-** and **444.075+MHz, tone 131.8.** **VE3NCF** is now part of the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). Special features are a privilege of membership in H.A.R.C.. The club web site is located at: <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca>

Tuesday 2m H.A.R.C. Check-in Net

Join in the H.A.R.C. Check-In net Tuesdays at 19:30 on 2m, 146.760 (-), 131.8Hz tone. Bring a topic to the net, maybe your latest DX contact details, that special deal you picked up at the flea market and let the Net controller, Allan Gammon VA3ALZ talk it up!

Monday 75m Net

We have the 75m net on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. local time, on 3.693 MHz This is an informal chat net where SSB & C.W. are welcome.

Club Meetings

The H.A.R.C. meets the third Wednesday of every month (except July and August) at 7:30 pm. Our meeting location is at 284 Concession St., Hamilton, Ontario. With coffee and treats we serve smiling faces and great guest speakers.

Executive Meeting

The H.A.R.C executive meets every second Wednesday of every month. Our meeting location is at 284 Concession St., Hamilton, Ontario. Members interested in attending the executive meeting are welcome.



H.A.R.C Executive

Roger Pimm, VE3UFZ - President
VE3UFZ@hamiltonarc.ca

Mike Krebs - VA3WXS - Past President
VA3WXS@hamiltonarc.ca

John Boswell, VA3BOZ - 1st Vice President
VA3BOZ@hamiltonarc.ca

Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE - 2nd Vice President
VE3QEE@hamiltonarc.ca

Jim Sawadski, VE3EEZ- Secretary
VE3EEZ@hamiltonarc.ca

Dave Bruton, VE3DWJ - Treasurer
VE3DWJ@hamiltonarc.ca

Paul Fleck, VE3HTF - Director
VE3HTF@hamiltonarc.ca

H.A.R.C. Chairs / Volunteers

Awards
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Membership Chairperson
Sherry Goeller VE3DCU
VE3DCU@hamiltonarc.ca

Contesting / Property Manager
Rick Danby VE3BK
VE3BK@hamiltonarc.ca

Repeater Chairman, John Vandenberg VE3DVV
VE3DVV@hamiltonarc.ca

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Club License Administrator
Rick Danby VE3BK
VE3BK@hamiltonarc.ca



Presidents Message

Season's Greetings to all.

I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and fully prepared for the Christmas and New Year madness soon upon us. There have been so many major projects undertaken by your executive and I would just like to draw your attention to some of those projects and their impact on our club and hobby. The successful planning and execution of our annual Flea Market started our club year with a bang. RAC was ecstatic about the venue we recommended to them for their Annual General Meeting, Marritt Hall, and the turnout of RAC members that remained after our Flea Market to attend the meeting exceeded everyone's expectation. Starting now, I think we can honestly begin to refer to our Flea Market as a major HAM event in South West Ontario, in fact, I recommend we begin calling it the HARC Hamfest (look out Dayton, here we come). Incidentally, while on the subject of Hamfest's, take a look at the May 15 to 18, 2014 Dayton Hamfest package that Jim VE3EEZ has organized with a well-established tour company out of Toronto. If you have ever been to Dayton you will already know that the rates and travel plan offered in this package are bargain basement priced. If you haven't been to Dayton, then maybe this is the year for you to visit the Mecca of HAM interests.

Next is the direction that your executive are taking in starting out the new year with the potential to teach Basic, Advanced and Code in a formal school atmosphere. We have successfully negotiated subsidized accommodation at Westdale Secondary School for our monthly executive meetings, general meetings, and an additional 1 evening per week for teaching. If our needs change over time, will be able to expand the number of classrooms we need with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. The cost to HARC for this new facility will be a fraction of what we pay now. Yes, it may be confusing for the first couple of times you make the journey to West Hamilton, but the end result will give us much more flexibility in meetings and training. The cost for this accommodation is subsidized by your Provincial and Municipal tax dollars. When we get the bottom line cost from the school board we promise that you will be pleasantly surprised.

Don't forget our annual Christmas Party at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. This year promises to be another fun event at a really pleasant venue (of course I am prejudiced, being an avid sailor).

We have completed our application for liability insurance with RAC and have again insured those valuable club assets at the repeater site from loss. The RAC insurance process is by no means a simple procedure. All in all it takes the filling out of 10 individual forms/reports/applications to finalize liability and loss insurance, as well as renewal of our RAC affiliation application.

I am looking forward to a successful 2014. I am anticipating lots of new ideas on how to grow our clubs membership and notoriety. We have a long way to go in setting up and executing training and then capturing new members. I entreat you to consider offering your HAM expertise as an instructor. We don't know yet how we can offer training, but one option is to break the basic course up into manageable segments and having different HAMS lead a single evening class. Think about it please; be brave and come forward. A famous educator once told me that the only way to ensure that you have learned a subject is to teach it – and I know it can be fun.

Something to think about; the executive, prefer not to think we run the club **for** you, we prefer to think that the club is run **by** you.

Best wishes for the holiday season...

Roger, VE3UFZ



Vice Presidents Message

Hi All

Hard to believe but I have very little to say this month other than, and I hope I don't ruffle any feathers, but I still say MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Don't forget, if you indulge don't DRIVE leave your keys at home.

John Boswell,
V.P.
VA3BOZ

Introducing The Fun Cube Dongle

by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

The fun cube dongle is not much larger than a thumb drive and it plugs into the USB port of any computer. It has one other connection, that being an antenna input. With this device you can receive radio signals from Broadcast band up into the Gigahertz range. Note that the Fun Cube Dongle is a receiver only.

Two free third-party programs, SDR Sharp (SDR #) and HDSDR (High Definition SDR) are designed for the Windows operating system. Either of these programs can decode the "I" and "Q" signals from an SDR source so they can be viewed on a computer running Windows. The Fun Cube Dongle provides "I" and "Q" signals. Hook it up to a suitable antenna and stick it in your computer's USB port, and bingo, you have an SDR receiver that can tune a broad range of frequencies and different modes.

The technology should be considered experimental, at this point. It does require some trial and error to get to know the software and how to work it.

Read about the Fun Cube Dongle on the web site: <http://www.funcubedongle.com>
Read about using the Fun Cube Dongle by viewing the PDF authored by Nills Schiffhauer, DK8OK, available on the web site: <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/50169507/Funcube.pdf>

This is "leading edge" radio at the moment.

Did You Know...??

Our very own **Donald Grisenthwaite VE3DDQ** VE3DDQ@rac.ca has managed the eQSL database for the H.A.R.C. since 2002? Don has been a member of the H.A.R.C. since 2001.

Don explained to me in detail how eQSL works and as a result I found out my own eQSL account was not properly set up, nor was my subscription up to date! I was later able to Authenticate my account and start clearing up my log book. Aside from the valuable knowledge Don shared with me, he also provided me a statistic that was astounding. The eQSL database for the club from June 1987 thru to Nov 27, 2013 processed 21,818 cards! Don has been instrumental in keeping eQSL for our club and the station at the Canadian War Plane heritage up to date and accurate by checking and working the database every day! **Rick Danby VE3BK** who looks after the "paper" QSL side of the business and works with Don is kept "Honest" by Don's diligence and dedication to verifying every logged report!!

Next time you see Don, take a moment to thank him for a job **VERY WELL DONE!**

Thank-you Don!



DAYTON HAMVENTION 2014

MAY 15-18, 2014

4 DAYS – 3 NIGHTS

Hello and Welcome Our HAM Radio friends! We hope you will enjoy this Tour Package that we have put together for you.

This fully escorted tour includes:

Refreshments, snacks and movies on the bus

3 Nights hotel accommodations with indoor pool, fitness centre and wi-fi

3 Deluxe continental breakfasts (hot and cold) and 2 Dinner buffets

Daily Transportation to the Hamvention and return to the hotel

Transportation to the Outlet Mall and other Shopping Malls for those not attending the Hamvention

We may also visit the **National Museum of the US Air Force**

Duty free shopping both ways

All taxes included

All this for only:

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Secretary's Report

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club General Meeting Minutes 11/20/2013

I. Call to order

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ called to order the regular meeting of the **HARC** at **19:26** on November 20, 2013 at The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON.

II. Sign In

Attendance was conducted by the circulation of the members sign in sheet. Attending were 27 members / guests were present. Visiting was Fergus Kyle VE3LVO our guest speaker.

III. Speakers

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ and John Kassay VE3FDK each took a turn at an introduced our guest speaker, Fergus Kyle VE3LVO. A retired commercial airline pilot from the Burlington Area. Fergus began the evening with a topic on local weather. Speaking to the reasons that we experience the weather we get. An interesting subject that held the interest of the membership. Thank you Fergus for coming out and meeting fellow hams and sharing your knowledge on the subject matter.

IV. Health and Welfare

Joe Urbanski VE3OCD was absent tonight, and is reportedly not doing well as he is bothered by cataracts. We are pleased to announce Tom Feeney VE3KTA has accepted the chair as Health and Welfare ambassador. If you know someone in the ham community who is or perhaps was a member of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, who is not well or should be acknowledged by the club, please contact Tom and let him know so that accurate information can be passed along to the rest of us. You can reach Tom at ve3kta@hamiltonarc.ca

V. Repeater

John VE3DVV spoke of perhaps programing the UHF side of VE3NCF to automatically connect to some nets i.e., the Trans-Canada IRLP NET. Mixed discussion of the use of the repeater ensued and Roger VE3UFZ asked that we table this discussion before any action takes place, as discussion was leading to the fact that when the repeater is pre-programed, it may cut out any conversations that may already ongoing and causing interference in itself. Al VA3ALZ has experienced bleed through from the UHF side to the 2 meter side of the club repeater when in conversations on the VHF frequency. If you experience these anomalies please note times that this happens and send John a note. ve3dvv@hamiltonarc.ca

VI. Membership

Sherry VE3DCU was absent this evening, but had reported 47 paid memberships. Please take a few minutes to fill in your 2013-14 membership application. You can find them at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/ourclub/membership/>



VII. Contesting

Rick has been busy with a vendor taking orders of "T" Shirts, Club Badges, Coasters, and Mouse Pads. Anyone wishing to order some of this merchandise supporting club events contact Rick ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca. Pricing in effect until Feb 1 2014.

Rick drew attention to the TCA magazine Nov-Dec issue for the rules for the 2013 RAC WINTER contest. The RAC winter contest begins Dec 28 @ 7pm Dec 28, a 24 hr. contest where VE3DC has been given the privilege of using the VA3RAC call sign. Anyone wishing to assist in any contest please contact Rick as above and check the Club Web site "Events Calendar" for the schedule of contests VE3DC is participating in. Also of mention were articles on page 23-4-5 on ¼ wave slopers and pg. 13 on a 3/8 wave dipole -small city lot antennas. QST magazine made mention of VE3DC Field day exercise 2013 as 4th in Canada in our class. 45 visitors were recorded at that event, which says something about our location being in the public eye. December 14 & 15 is a 10 meter contest. Tune in to those frequencies for some 10 meter action. 10 meters has been open lately.

VIII. Hamilton ARC Flea market

The 2014 Hamilton ARC Hamfest will take place October 4th. A new venue which will take place in the bldg. south of the concessions building. The Concessions building was unavailable at the time of booking and this rental is at a reduced cost. A catering truck will be pursued, as one currently services other events in the fairground complex. More information will be available as the committee continues to work out the details.

IX. Awards

Paul Fleck VE3HTF reminded members to submit their logs for their copy of the "Worked all Hamilton Award." To qualify only 25 direct "City Contacts" are required as per the rules found on the website at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/activities/harc-awards/worked-all-hamilton-award-rules/>. A new award has been added to the Awards Section "The Spouse Award" in recognition of those spouses who are not hams but have contributed to the hobby in one way or another see details at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/2013/12/01/the-h-a-r-c-spouse-award/>

No nominations were received for the Art Ferguson Award in 2013.

X. Treasurers Report

Dave VE3DWJ reported a September opening balance of \$2,344.51 and a November 2013 closing balance of \$6,004.13

New Business

Casey VE3CVP began the evening with an acknowledgement of two hams that gave him a hand with some antenna work to get him back on the air. Acknowledgments went to Mark Gibson VE3MWH and Paul Fleck VE3HTF.

1) **Events**

Hamilton Santa 1-5-10km Race Nov 24 2013 Gary Notto VE3TTO requested and received volunteers to assist in the monitoring of the race. See article and pictures submitted by Rick VE3BK and Kevin VE3HNG <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/2013/12/01/santa-claus-run-hamilton-nov-24-2013/> also see the 2013 Hanukah Shuffle <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/2013/12/01/12th-annual-hanukah-husle-2013/>

2) **Education**

Roger VE3UFZ is continuing to pursue the Hamilton Wentworth Board of Education for a possible site for future meetings and possible class time to begin the BASIC Amateur Radio Classes and testing. The site being "Westdale High School". If you could assist in donating some of your time to Educate / Elmer a prospective HAM please contact exec@hamiltonarc.ca.

Dave Bruton VE3DWJ was asked by Roger to pick up the mail more often during this time period as discussions are underway and we can't afford to miss out on correspondence.



3) **Newsletter articles needed**

Paul VE3HTF is looking for technical articles or practical lessons learned in your hobby. If you can pen them down and send them off, Paul will gladly publish them.

Next meeting_

January 15, 2014 The Hamilton Mountain Seventh - day Adventist Church, 284 Concession St., Hamilton, ON. Unless otherwise posted on your website.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:45
Moved by John VE3FDK
Motion seconded by Paul VE3HTF
Thanks to all in attendance
Minutes submitted by: Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ

Show Your Face – Flaunt Your Shack

In our hobby it's not always easy to put a face to all the fellow hams you talk to on the air. To help us all figure who's who, the H.A.R.C. invites its members to submit digital photos of yourself and / or your shack to be published on the membership page of our newsletter / web site. Purely voluntary of course, and if you prefer you can submit just one (depending on whether you think your face or your shack is more presentable).

How will it work? On the membership page, we'll attach your own picture where your first name appears, and the picture of your shack to your call sign. How do you submit your pictures?

Just email them to the our Membership Chairperson, Sherry at VE3DCU@hamiltonarc.ca





Membership Chair Report

The current status of membership in the club stands at 48 primary members with at least 2 more on their way. So, if you are somehow reading this newsletter and you are not a member, please renew ASAP and you will be a member of a great club. The membership forms are on the HARC web site at www.hamiltonarc.ca All the effort that the club members do, really make this club to be what it is. If you look around you will see there is practically everyone doing their little bit for the club. If you are not currently involved, feel free to lend a helping hand in something.

As for me, I am now in the process of studying for my advanced ticket. I suppose since I have it now published, I'd better follow through with it. I have the RAC guide and learning material and am studying on my own free time. So far it looks okay and the stuff is all making sense. So hopefully I will have it in the new year. My goal is to get my advanced and then operate a remote station on some land that I have. It seems that the noise level in the lower Hamilton area is just too much for me. Hopefully out in the country my noise level will be much less and that I can make contacts all over the world. I remember once I made a contact to Papua New Guinea during a contest a few years back. The contact was short of course but it still amazes me on what a 100W radio can do with a good antenna.

On another note, I am looking forward to the RAC winter contest and Rick VE3BK will most likely talk about that in the next while. He has organized it so that we are a RAC station this year. It should be exciting and the pile ups should be huge.

So this is usually a quite time for membership but if you anyone, feel free to ask them to join. We have a deal where if you sign up two new members, you receive a free membership for the next year.

One more topic and I hope this will not offend anyone but it has to do with RAC membership. I know there are folks out there that are adamantly against them but for those that are okay with them, they have varying membership rates. So if you cannot afford the full 56\$ rate, they have a 48\$ rate that emails the TCA magazine to you. They also have a blind person membership rate at 25\$. There is another class called Full – Limited and I cannot find any other info on it via the RAC web site. So I sent an email out to RAC to get more info on that membership class and will report back in the next newsletter. As you know, being a member of RAC reduces your rate for HARC membership.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah!

Sherry Goeller
Membership Chair
ve3dcu@hamiltonarc.ca



The DX Code Of Conduct

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

The H.A.R.C. executive thanks Rick Danby VE3BK for submitting the DX Code of Conduct for review, adoption and approval as the H.A.R.C.'s guideline for DX operation. The executive voted in unanimous consent for the acceptance of these guidelines. Members of the H.A.R.C. are encouraged to engage in all communications using these guidelines in promoting courteous and engaging amateur radio communications.

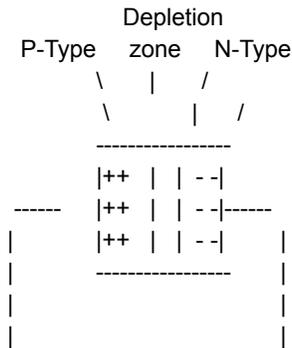


How a diode works

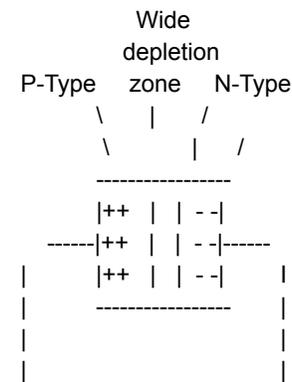
I am sure this is basic stuff for most people but I thought I would put out an article on our friend the diode.

To start off with, we have to remind everyone that we have two types of diode material. One is P-Type and the other is N-Type. The N-type has excess electrons, and the P-type has excess "holes". This means an absence of an electron on the shell of the atom. Remember, the last ring on an atom is the area where we can manipulate the atoms. If memory serves me right, copper is a excellent conductor as it only has one valence electron and it does not take much to move it and also replace it. I digress. To make this P and N type material, silicon and geranium can be used and the process of doing this is called doping and done in a manufacturing plant.

So, a diode is when these two materials are put together to make one diode and we form a P-N junction. At this junction some of the excess electrons mover over and fill in the holes on the P-Type material and this is now a depletion zone. It actually creates a voltage potential. Now that there is a depletion zone nothing gets through the diode and is considered non-conductive. An example is shown below.



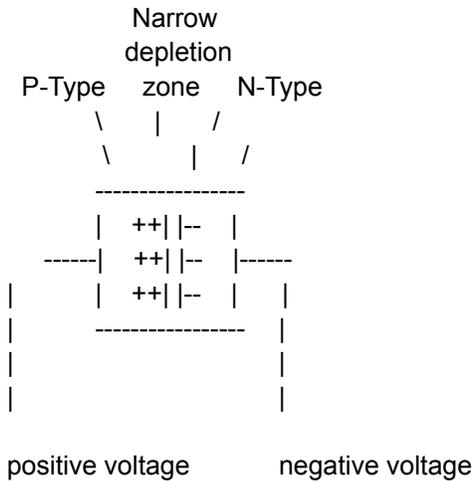
Now if we applied a voltage to this diode, we can either widen or narrow the depletion zone. For example, if we applied a negative voltage to the P junction, the negative voltage attracts the P-Type charge to it. The same idea on the other end. If we apply a positive voltage to the N junction, the N-Type charge is attracted to it. so the depletion zone is wide and there is no conduction. We call this reverse biased.



negative voltage

positive voltage

Now if we reverse the scenario and apply a positive voltage to the P-Type material, the existing P charge is repelled by the positive voltage. The negative voltage also repels the N-Type material and the depletion zone narrows. Now as the depletion zone narrows, there will be a certain point (0.7 volts for silicon and 0.3 volts for germanium) that the excess electrons in the N-Type material will cross over to the P-Type material. Remember, the P-Type material has holes and they are willing to accept these electrons that cross the depletion zone. At this point we are now conducting through the diode and we call this forward bias.



So there are many uses for this conduction and non-conduction. One of them being able to rectify AC voltage. Imagine the above two scenarios of conduction and non-conduction and apply an AC voltage through the diode. Well, the diode would conduct on the positive cycle of the AC waveform and not the negative part of the waveform. Therefore, we now only have DC getting through the diode. Granted this DC is still a "pulse" but that can be smoothed out with a capacitor and now you have DC voltage.

73's
Sherry,
VE3DCU

"The Hamilton Amateur" Feb. 1975 edition had a simplified write up on solid state theory, author unknown! Some things just never change, nice refresher for us Sherry! Thanks...



The R.A.C. Canada Winter Contest 2013 !!

This is just a reminder to mark your calendars *NOW* for "The RAC Canada Winter Contest 2013" The significance of this contest is that the club has been given the privilege of using the VA3RAC call for this contest.

This year the contest will start December 28th, 2013 0:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC, this translates to Friday night December 27th to Saturday at 7p.m.. This is a 24 hour contest. This year the contest doesn't interfere with any of the Holiday Festivities you may have planned for.

The official contest rules for 2013 will be on the RAC web site or check your November/December TCA magazine from R.A.C. The VA3RAC call sign will be in great demand, being worth more at 20 points in this contest, so that is why I am sending this early reminder to mark your calendars. We will need all the help we can get, so if you want to run a station or just be an operator, let me know. My email is ve3bk@hamiltonarc.ca.

Let's put on a good showing this year! We have won this contest in the past and even have trophies to show for it.

Let's see what we can do using the RAC official call sign. <https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests>

73's

Rick VE3BK

Santa Claus Run Hamilton Nov. 24, 2013

by Rick VE3BK

This years run came a week after the Hanukah Hustle with over 600 runners. This race was done along the Bay Front, starting out at The Royal Hamilton Yacht Club and ending at Williams Fresh Café at Discovery Dr. on the Bay Front. Williams sponsored the race with coffee and wraps after the race finish.

The same Hams were helping out at this one. There was Kevin VA3KRA, Gary VE3TTO, Peter VA3PRE, Joan VA3JNX, David VE3DWJ, Rick VE3BK, Norm VE3ZKO, Stan VE3SBB, and Kevin VE3HNG taking the pictures. David and I wore our Santa Suits as was everyone involved in the race was supposed to do. I didn't need the beard though, as my natural one did fine and I looked like the real Santa, at least one of the challenged racers thought so, he patted my beard with glee.

For additional information and pictures visit the H.A.R.C. web site at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca>

12th Annual Hanukah Hustle November 17th 2013

by Rick VE3BK

The race started out with no problems for the 1K runners, 5K runners and the 10K runners. They all had different colour numbers to identify which length race they were participating in. 1K entrants had black on white, 5K entrants had black on blue and the 10K runners had black on red. David Bruton and myself were at the last station for the 10K runners and found that this colour combination was a lot easier to pick out for us than in previous years. Present were **Kevin VA3KRA** from the Burlington Club, **Gary Notto VE3TTO** who **organized things from our club**, **Peter VA3PRE** all the way from Milton, **Joan VE3JNX** who helps out a lot on many of these events, **Norm VE3ZKO**, **David VE3DWJ**, **Rick VE3BK**, **Stan VA3SSB** and **Kevin VE3HNG**, who took great pictures for us.

Another great assistance given by the Hams of the area to make this another great event.

For information and pictures, visit the H.A.R.C. web site at <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca>



Awards Chair Report

No, I didn't miss my appointment with the barber, but I thought this fellow would catch your attention! He is a cutie and a resident of the Toledo zoo.

The Art Ferguson award nominations for 2013 have closed with no nominations submitted by members. Our previous winner of this prestigious award was Gary Notto, VE3TTO. Gary has been a staunch supporter of community events, Thank-you Gary for your continued support of our community engagements.

We have an award that you can garner any time of the year and that is our ***“Worked All Hamilton”*** award. It's simple really! Look back over your logs and identify 25 Hamilton ham's you have worked directly without the aid of a repeater, submit those logs to me for verification and you will be recognized as one of the elite members of the W.A.H. family! To cover the cost of producing the award I ask for a Toonie to cover expenses.

We also have the Digital Award coming up in February and currently Rick Danby, VE3BK is the sole owner of this new award! I am looking for some competition here.... Can I look forward to obtaining at least 15 member submissions for the 2014 Digital Award? A digital contact can be C.W. and/or any digital mode. Visit the H.A.R.C. Awards page for the contest details.

Our newest addition to the awards family for our club is the ***“Spouses Award”*** I mentioned the formation of this award in the November newsletter and at the November general meeting.

Club members couldn't enjoy our hobby without the support of our spouses or significant others. For details on the “Spouses Award” please visit the Awards section on the H.A.R.C. web site.

On the horizon I am looking to introduce a new award for those of us that like to tinker with small stuff! For those big guns, the boys with the big toys like amplifiers, sorry this award is not for you...

I'm talking QRP. This newest award is called ***“The Little Squirt”*** award.

Christmas Surprise!!! The Little Squirt Award category is up and running!!! Yeppers, you can start collecting those points to-day. Visit the H.A.R.C. web site - AWARDS section for details to-day!! *Merry Christmas O.M...*

The new year is fast approaching and many of us are blessed with family, friends and a great hobby! Others are not as fortunate and I would invite you to “pay it forward” to others. When you pass a Salvation Army kettle, drop in some loose change, or bring a dried good to the clubs Christmas Dinner. Everyone deserves some Christmas cheer.

73's

Paul



Ferg Kyle

VE3LVO

November 2013 Guest Speaker

At the November H.A.R.C. General Meeting we had the honour of having Ferg Kyle VE3LVO present members with a fascinating talk on the weather! Yes weather...and how it impacts flight.

Ferg's experience with flying military aircraft thru to commercial aircraft in particular the Lockheed 1011 was exceptional. Members, my self included garnered a significant amount of knowledge on storm fronts, cold air and warm air mass effects on storm activity, flight dangers, and jet streams! I was particularly interested in the fact that Jet Streams actually fluctuate and that each hemisphere has several streams!

The question of ducting came to mind and if UHF / VHF communications could be enhanced within the Jet Stream....the answer was YES!

I know Roger, VE3UFZ was acknowledging Ferg's material as it directly impacts not just flight but sailors and land lovers alike.

I told my wife about Ferg's presentation and she told me she had just watched a program on NOVA that same night that she found just as interesting..."Weather, cold fronts, cloud formations, etc.."

Roger thanked Ferg for his presentation and the sharing of his experience and knowledge.

Ferg, it was indeed a pleasure and a learning experience for all of us, your art work was amazing and your knowledge and indeed your "stories" fascinating.

Thank-you from the members of the H.A.R.C.

The Supreme Court has ruled that there cannot be a Nativity Scene on Parliament Hill this Christmas season. This isn't for any religious reason.

They simply have not been able to find Three Wise Men in the Nation's Capitol. A search for a Virgin continues. There was no problem, however, finding enough asses to fill the stable.



Radio Amateurs Up Their Game In Philippines Typhoon Response

Nearly 2 weeks after Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) hit the Central Philippines in one of the worst natural disasters in modern history, survivors are slowly getting food, water, and medical attention and supplies, along with shelter, communication, and electrical power. Now, the Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA <http://www.para.org.ph/>) is hoping that requests for emergency communication gear will provide the means for PARA's Ham Emergency Radio Operations (HERO) network to enhance its presence and efforts -- especially in less-populated and harder-to-reach areas. At the request of communication authorities in the Philippines, PARA has begun expanding locations and facilities. PARA Vice CEO Ramon Anquilan, DU1UGZ, said PARA has been working with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). "The NTC has requested that the coverage from Borongan be expanded, to the adjacent town and so on. The idea is to set up an HF station in the farthest town that can be accessed," Anquilan said. "Given the new task that NTC wants us to do, we will be needing stations that can be deployed and dismantled at a moment's notice."

Anquilan said discussion at the meeting focused on putting assets on the ground to fill the gaps. "It seems only PARA has a local station -- Lester, DV5PO -- in the capital town of Borongan, East of Samar," he said. DV5PO is expected to be given more diesel fuel for his generator, so he can continue supplying vital information -- a request agreed to at the NTC meeting.

"This is going now into the difficult phase," Anquilan said. "The operators that are needed should come from the outside, because our locals will not budge from their locations as they have to fend for themselves and their families -- they too are victims of this disaster." He said other radio amateurs are willing but don't have the necessary equipment.

In Tacloban, where 90 percent of the buildings were destroyed, the Negros Oriental Radio Assistance Dumaguete (NORAD 7 <http://norad7-dx7nrd.ning.com/>) team is on its way to provide an additional HF station. "The team is bringing much needed relief goods, and Rey Boy Manaay, 4D7DSW, and Eric Mite, DW7DTR, who are trained in rescue," Anquilan said. He's hoping to replace the old equipment Nathan, DU5AOK, is using with gear provided from the outside.

He said Darwin Torres, 4F1FZE, an experienced operator, will join the effort at Tacloban. PARA is hoping to improve VHF coverage of the area, with HF remaining a critical component. Torres is embedded in a relief team arriving from Manila.

Anquilan said there are two repeaters in Tacloban with no power, "so we need alternative energy -- batteries and solar power." He said a team can be deployed to Samar, perhaps Guiuan or further west. "We need equipment to link Samar to Tacloban. This will mean a VHF repeater available to a large portion of the affected site of Samar." The farthest affected place is Coron in Palawan, a famous tourist spot. Clifford Certeza, DU1CC, is headed there to set up an HF station. Anquilan said that there was no relay station from Palo down the coastal municipalities on the eastern seaboard of Leyte. A HERO station, part of the club ACCESS 5 in that area, has not been heard from since the typhoon hit. Another station is needed to provide the link, he said.

"PARA and its HERO network have a long task ahead, as it slowly gains the necessary resources and recognition for the emergency communications," Anquilan said.

Jojo, DU1VHY, NTS Chairman and CFO of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association pointed out this week that the CQ World Wide DX CW contest is coming up this weekend, and excitement is growing. "However, here in the Philippines, our enthusiasm is a bit tempered," he said. "[H]ams in the Philippines are using the frequencies 7.095, 7.119, and 7.151 MHz for emergency operations." DU1VHY expressed the hope that contesters and others will avoid these frequencies in deference to emergency traffic. -- Thanks to Jim Linton, VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee.

Have you worked RSGB stations yet??

Members of the UK HQ team (GR2HQ) will be active signing G100C, at weekends only, throughout 2013.

Depending on the DXCC location of the station, the call-sign will be G100C, GM100C, GW100C, GD100C or GJ100C.

This call-sign is partly to provide essential pile-up training for our national team and partly to celebrate 100 years since the founding of the Radio Society of Great Britain.

Please visit www.qsl.net/gm3woj/g_100c.htm for information about the station you worked, and information about activity on future weekends.

G100C is part of the RSGB Centenary Challenge Awards Scheme - you can find details of this here : <http://www.rsgb.org/aboutrsgb/rsgbcentenary2013/?id=rsgb-centenary-challenge>



The VE3ISX HF remote control system:

I basically set up the remote control HF operation for amateur radio “down the road” when I no longer had the ability of erecting an HF antenna. A lot of seniors move into apartments or condos where there are limitations to amateur radio. So...here in a nutshell is how I did it.

Full HF control:

Note: The remote operator **MUST** have the license to operate phone on the amateur bands as well as an **ADVANCED** license. Basic Plus doesn't cut it.

There are five essential parts to HF amateur remote control.

- 1) The transceiver must have the ability to be controlled via serial/usb interface.
- 2) The operator must install a dedicated “computer server” at the site to control the above radio.
- 3) **FREE SKYPE™** must be installed in an auto answer mode to hear and answer your calls.
- 4) **FREE Ham Radio Deluxe** control software capable of running in the background for control.
- 5) A site where you have Internet connectivity and of course a place to erect your antennae.

The interface hardware:

There are many products that connect the computer to the radio for the audio rx/tx component. Unfortunately a lot of them produce a ground loop or “hum” in the audio transmission. The new **SignalLink™ USB** interface from Tigertronics solves all those problems and provides the operator with the necessary front panel controls to adjust the station as necessary. This USB sound card is recognized by **SKYPE** and works every time. Rather than plug the audio in and out from the computer into the radio's mike and external speaker lines, the **SignalLink™ USB** interfaces directly into the rear panel of the HF radio. **SignalLink™** provides the exact plug for your transceiver. Audio in/out of the transceiver is thus at flat level and allows the transceiver to be used in conjunction with the remote settings.

The only down side of the **SignalLink™ USB** sound card interface was that it “keyed” the transmitter on any sound that the computer generated. Example: As the computer boots, it plays welcome music. To overcome this potential problem, I broke the PTT line going to the radio back panel with a DPDT on/off switch in the PTT line going to the transceiver. The other side of the switch is used to turn on an LED on the front panel of the SignalLink to indicate that the system is hot. (vox enabled)

With Ham Radio Deluxe operating in the “remote” mode, you supply an IP address of your home server and connect the remote laptop or desktop using this protocol. Levels of user preferences are available for invited guests. The novice user is permitted to listen, change frequencies and move around the parameters of the particular radio. The expert is given the ability to actually transmit. Not required in Canada, but worthy of consideration is a transceiver **TIME OUT TIMER**...just in case of Internet loss.

Finally, and for security purposes, I used a **FREE** program called Hamachi...a virtual private network client that emulates a Network Interface Card in your computer and remote desktop. This adds an extra level of security from hackers and uninvited guests. The other benefit is that once you have Hamachi setup, you can **SEE** via the status screen if your HF server is **ONLINE!**

The iPhone connection:

You are away on holidays and want to chat on your favourite HF net. All you have is your iPhone or laptop equipped with SKYPE. NO PROBLEM. If you are the only user on the HF Server/SKYPE setup back home, you simply call it. SKYPE answers automatically and you hear the traffic on the net. You keep your SKYPE microphone muted because you have left that DPDT switch in the "HOT or VOX" position. Anything you say will go out over the air. If the transceiver is capable of multi-band operation (VHF/HF/UHF/6M) you can simply leave it set to that frequency and go on holidays. If you are hosting a remote station, you can offer this service to a friend who is traveling anywhere in the world with his iPhone or laptop. All he has to do is talk. SKYPE will also allow "conference calls", and with their yearly phone plan, you can conference into the regular home phone line of an amateur providing VOX transmission of anything he says. As soon as he stops speaking, the Signalink will put the remote transceiver into receive!

Latest development for the iPhone experience:

Just when I thought I had all the enhancements possible, the new iPhone 4S presented me with streaming video from my SKYPE remote HF server. As above, a human being had to switch the HOT switch on the Signalink USB to allow VOX from the iPhone. Out of the "junk box" I cobbled up a DTMF decoder made by Motron (model AUTOKALL AC-1C) which basically plugged into the "monitor jack" on the Signalink USB. Thus any DTMF that I typed into the iPhone 4S would be decoded by the Motron. Suddenly, with the rest was easy. The Motron provided a set a dry contacts either Normally Open or Closed. I chose the Normally Open, and when the proper DTMF sequence came in and "latched" the decoder, the missing human to flip the HOT switch on the Signalink USB was solved. With many variations of the programming, the Motron could be programmed to stay on until programmed off, or just enabled for anywhere from 1 second to 60 minutes. A few dollar store RJ-45 headers and a simple utility box finished the project. Now the HF Remote Station server could sit with streaming audio for anyone wanting to listen or with a few keystrokes, I could get in and do full RX/TX then log off with security of the station in mind. With the SKYPE camera looking at the decoder face plate, I would know exactly the state of things back home in the shack. You can check all the specs on the Motron website: http://www.motron.com/product_info.php/products_id/105

Enhancements:

A bonus SKYPE™ camera function will show video of your station transceiver status. In my case while I am away, we monitor critical shack heating and air conditioning set points. Yes, thanks to my Hydro provider I can even change the temperature of the house before we arrive home.

So there it is...the perfect solution to remote control. As mentioned above, I use Hamachi as the secure link to the HF radio. During that time the Signalink™ USB switch is still in the OFF position and I control HF transceiver PTT with Ham Radio Deluxe! The perfect setup.

Acknowledgements:

- Signalink™ USB..... <http://www.tigertronics.com>
- Motron Electronics http://www.motron.com/product_info.php/products_id/105
- Hamachi VPN virtual network card: <https://secure.logmein.com/products/hamachi/download.aspx>
- WA2EHI Ham Radio Deluxe Setup: <http://www.mmsn.org.RemoteControl.pdf>
- Barry VE3ISX /remote_hf_basics_2012 7 March 2012

Editor's note:

Thank-you Barry VE3ISX, for sharing this article on how you remote operate your station. I had e-mailed Barry and caught up with him in Rochester N.Y. last week. Barry allowed us to include his article in our club newsletter and then proceeded to tell me he had just checked into his remote H.F. site via his iPhone while in Rochester!

A nice touch Barry!!! Safe journey..

73's from "The Desk"

Paul

VE3HTF



Editor's Review

Well 2013 is drawing to a close and members of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club have enjoyed a full year of activities. Members have participated in the outdoor activities of Field Day, and Fox Hunting. Our members participated in running the HAMFEST at the Ancaster fairgrounds and with the permission of our spouses we spent some loose change to buy even MORE STUFF for the shack!

The participants of the Contest group have been active and securing various awards using the clubs VE3DC call sign. VE3DC is well known throughout the contesting community.

The club members elected a new set of officers to guide the club into 2014, our constitution has been modified to reflect several changes. One of those changes is the term of office for elected club officers from one year to a two year term. It is the belief of the executive that this will enhance continuity or programs, transfer of skills and a focus on developing a working club strategy that will bring education, membership, and continued growth both for the club and its members.

Newsletter archives have been growing with the help of **Frank Love (VE3FWL)** and his collection. This month we have been able to scan and secure the entire newsletter collection for 2002 & 2003. Additional newsletter material from the 1970's & 80's has been supplied by **Rick Danby (VE3BK)**. There is a lot more to collect, as we are missing a vast number of newsletters. So if you have newsletters pre-dating 2002, please let me know. I will arrange pick-up and return of any material you can help with. The digital copies of all newsletters are being sent to the Hamilton Public Library for printing and storage, our H.A.R.C. will have links to all categorized newsletters and a digital copy will be stored off site as well. Depending on web site storage abilities these articles might be available on line, but for now the priority is the safe keeping of our history in newsletters. If you wish to help in this mission, I am looking for someone who has a scanner and can help with the scanning of material. This is not a one time activity as I am looking over time to scan approximately 4860 pages of material....lucky for me it's spread out over a long period of time!

Many hands make light work of the tasks at hand, this encompasses the Chairpeople and Volunteers of the H.A.R.C. that ALWAYS answer the call for help. To those special people, THANK-YOU.

Best wishes for the holiday season to you and your families.

73's
Paul
VE3HTF

Editor's note:

Jim VE3EEZ advised the executive to-day (December 5th) that Anita Thomas, VA3ANI recently lost her father. The club has sent condolences to Anita and her family in this time of sorrow.