



Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,
 117 - 350 King Street East,
 P.O. Box 75073,
 Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 4G6
 Est. 1932 Inc. 1956
<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/>

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The Hamilton Amateur

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Newsletter ~ 83 Years of Amateur Radio 1932-2015

The Next Meeting

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday, April 15th at 7:00 P.M. in the Cafeteria of Westdale Secondary School (Main West at Longwood). Visitors welcome.

The topic of the meeting features the equipment and techniques of transmitter hunting. Our club runs monthly "Fox Hunting" events during the warmer months. The "Fox" or "Foxes" are hidden low power transmitters, and the activity consists of going about in pairs by car using your VHF radio receivers and directional antennas to find the Fox. It is great fun. At the meeting experienced Fox hunters will be demonstrating their techniques and equipment to those attending. There may even be some hidden Foxes in and around the meeting location to hunt. The goal is good fellowship and fun, plus, you may pick up a few ideas along the way. Join us on the 15th. from 7:00 PM 'till 9:00 PM Hope to see you there.



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.

Brass Pounder and Wave Rider Social

On Tuesday April 14th the *Brass Pounder and Wave Rider Social* will be taking place at Breezy Corner Restaurant 1480 Highway 6 at Freulton, on the corner of Carlisle Road and Highway 6, north of Clappison Corners. Everyone is invited. This will be a tri-club event with members from Hamilton, Guelph and Burlington Amateur Radio Clubs attending. Tickets for the buffet are \$24 from Paul, Ron, or Roger, and there are a large number of hams from all three clubs attending. Come and find out what the other clubs are up to, and enjoy that eyeball QSO with nearby hams you may not have seen for quite a while. It should be good fun.

Advanced Class

Because of the Brass Pounder and Wave Rider Social, the Advanced class will be moved that week from Tuesday April 14th to Thursday April 16th and will begin following the regular half-hour CW class in the same room, #124. You are welcome to join in and brush up on your CW skills before the lesson.

CANWARN Training Session

information
forwarded by Roger
Pimm VE3UFZ



Just a note to announce the date of this year's free CANWARN training session for any interested person. Each year Environment Canada sponsors a series of training sessions throughout Ontario to explain severe weather conditions and the CANWARN system for observing and reporting severe weather events. This training is open to anyone, not just the Amateur Radio community.

Here is Roger's note:
You may have already received this invitation from Geoff Coulson but in case you did not, I am forwarding my comments.

I think we should support this activity, CANWARN, as a valuable contribution of Amateur Radio to our community's security. The date and time of the session is: May 9 at 9:00am until about noon, Nash Auditorium, Wilcox Building, Chedoke Hospital. I attended a session some years ago and found it motivating and informative. This is just another activity that our members should be encouraged to participate in, especially new hams since the activity doesn't require anything more than a Handi-Talky radio. As always, Geoff requires individual RSVP's for our session, sent to canwarn.ontario@ec.gc.ca. Our Tornado season is approaching.

Roger VE3UFZ, HARC President

Letters To The Editor

In my days editing The Hamilton Amateur we have not had letters to the editor. However, one came in by e-mail that may be appropriate to publish. Who knows, maybe this will start a tradition.

The Meaning of a Club

By Jack, VE3WBT

CLUB:

"A club is an association of two or more people united by a common interest or goal. A service club, for example, exists for voluntary or charitable activities; there are clubs devoted to hobbies and sports, social activities clubs, political and religious clubs, and so forth."



Last night I received an email from our club membership director with an attachment from the 1st Vice President. The S.W.O.T. analysis of H.A.R.C.

I must say I was taken aback by the well written (inaccurate) words in this document. It is fairly easy to critic our club, without understanding its history, maybe this individual should speak to the membership that has past history in the club, not only current members. It is fairly easy to find the words to say "Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; Threats" to make bullet point

summaries, without understanding our history.

It is time that our membership, you, and I, reflect on why we got involved in Amateur Radio in the first place, why we got involved in the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club! The S.W.O.T. analysis reads like a due diligent report, something that a company would order for corporate re-org. Are we a club or a company?? Ask yourself these questions, just don't follow the leader. As the presumed leader/leaders has their own agenda. Possibly it will come to light at the next election? Hamilton Amateur Radio club is your club, not solely mine not solely yours, but a collective of all

HARC 2014-2015 Executive

President

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ
ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca

Past President

Mike Krebs
va3wxs@hamiltonarc.ca

First Vice President

Paul Fleck VE3HTF
ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca

Second Vice President

Mardy Eedson VE3QEE
ve3qee@hamiltonarc.ca

Secretary

Jim Sawadski VE3JS
ve3js@hamiltonarc.ca

Treasurer

David Bruton VE3DWJ
ve3dwj@hamiltonarc.ca

Director

Ron Pereira VE3RTJ
ve3rtj@hamiltonarc.ca

members. We had previous leadership try to take away activities from our club, such as “homebrew night”, it was the membership in a collective voice that prevented this from happening, the following meeting John Hudack won the Ferguson award for his creativity. Your voice means something don’t sit on the fence.

Our club, is for a common hobby “Amateur Radio”. Within our hobby we branch off into other common interests related to our hobby. We meet, discuss, listen and learn. From these social evenings we meet new individuals, build new friendships with common interests. Some of us are competitive, so we involve ourselves in contesting, some have interests in community service, so they get involved with ARES etc... There are many facets to our hobby.

So again, I ask you our membership, are we a club? Or are we a corporation that requires present/former middle managers with corporate mind-sets to do analysis on what Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, is; was; will be!

YES, we need guidance, a set of rules to govern our behavior and laws to provide order. This is a couple of reasons for the Charter. Has the membership read the charter, do you know the history of how the charter was written, do you know who wrote the charter for our club? Maybe you’re not interested in these facts, but the charter was written so

“we” would have structure. The S.W.O.T. analysis and path our club leadership are embarking on is to say a path of good intentions, but lacks substance and thought. Our “Mission Statement” is all nice and wonderful, but without sounding callus, what does it truly mean, does it really have any meaning at all or are they simply words to project a “company” image. I joined our club in the early 2000’s. We met in the St. John’s Ambulance building on the mountain. Our membership was strong and activities and monthly speakers were plenty.

The membership dropped for multiple reasons. A lot has to do with attrition. With that said, when membership drops so does revenues. We had at that time a co-founder of the club who had a keen investment strategy that invested our funds in the bank so we had on going revenues, he has since left the club. Our field day activities were not as the S.W.O.T analysis states, but an activity that promoted and fostered “Amateur Radio” to the general public. Provide a practicing day for emergency communications and comradery amongst our membership and yes a competitive edge. We had in the past Television and commercial radio, news print exposure to the public, what amateur radio was/is all about as well as public involvement. We as a club did this!

We did this because the club was a club, active in all regards from public service to competitive contesting to learning new and exciting

topics about our hobby. We did not need a S.W.O.T. analysis or mission statement or any of the corporate bull. What we had was *“A club of two or more people united by a common interest or goal.”*

It is time our membership takes a deep breath, and ask yourself “Why am I here”.

Editor’s Response

by Mardy Eedson,
VE3QEE



Hi Jack:

I got your newsletter article and read it carefully.

There is a lot of thought in the way you responded to reading the SWOT report. I am glad you read the SWOT report and I am glad you took time to respond to it in writing. Many of the feelings you expressed I have also felt. However, I was involved in answering questions during the SWOT analysis over a period of a year. I think this process represents a way forward, and a way to make the club better. The analysis was a lot of work for some people. I believe it was well intentioned. For example several interviewers took time to meet with other members of the club, ask them questions and write down their ideas. After that, some people read the responses and put together the results which have been circulated for our comments. Your newsletter article expresses your own heartfelt personal response which I respect greatly and your willingness to share this response with the club in good faith shows a level of trust in the HARC membership which I also respect greatly.

Picking up on what you said, I agree that our club is more than a "corporate entity" it is a group of people like the two of us with history, common experiences, a level of trust, and the ability to work together. I really believe that the SWOT process can lead to improvements to our club over time. I think it already has. But other things need time to change, generations even. And some things, like trust, cannot be gained by applying a corporate process, only by nurturing interpersonal relationships and enjoying common experiences and growing deep roots over the years.

Thanks for the letter Jack. I hear you. I feel some of the same things you express. At the same time I want change to come if it is better for the group. I also feel we need to let willing workers make their contribution and learn their own lessons from their own triumphs and mistakes, like we did over the years. Thanks for the article, Jack, and the level of trust it represents.

Results of the 2015 CQ World-Wide WPX Contest

by Rick Danby, VE3BK

What WPX stands for is different prefixes. This means that for every prefix you get, it is another multiplier, increasing your score significantly. For example: VA3 is a prefix and so is VE3. The idea of the WPX contest is to work as many prefixes as you can in any country you can work. We did that and had a blast working all those DX countries and



Andrew VE3RIA and Rick VE3BK
in the CQ WPX Contest

territories as well as small countries and Islands.

This year, the contest period for SSB ran on: March 28-29, 2015 from: 0000 UTC Saturday Friday night at 8pm local to 2359 UTC Sunday or 8pm local time. The objective was for amateurs worldwide to contact as many amateurs and prefixes as possible during the contest period. We quit in the afternoon on the Sunday as we had more than achieved our goals for this contest and wanted to get home for supper.

This was a 48 hours contest, which we could have operated all 48 hours if we had enough people to schedule, because we were a Multi-two class. This means we ran 2 stations that could operate on any of the contest bands, as long as they were not on the same band as the other station. Only the 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands could be used. The exchange was a simple RS report plus a progressive contact serial number starting with 001 for the first contact. We just took turns and operated less time than we could have.

Our operators this time were Scott VE3QU, Andrew VE3RIA, Jack VE3WBT and myself Rick VE3BK. Once before, we had run a Multi-Two in 2012, so the idea was to beat our score from

HARC Chairs 2014 – 2015

Health / Welfare
Tom Feeney VE3KTP

Contesting / Property Manager
Rick Danby VE3BK

Membership
Sherry Goeller VE3DCU

Education
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Newsletter
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Examiner Volunteers
Mike Christmas VE3XMS
Paul Fleck VE3HTF
Roger Pimm VE3UFZ

Repeater Admin. / QSL Manager
Rick Danby VE3BK

Repeater Technician
John Vandenberg VE3DVB

EQSL Manager
(VE3DC & VA3CWM)
Don Grisenthwait VE3DDQ

Field Day Coordinator
Ginette Pereira VA3SEW

Tuesday 2m Check-in Net
Controller
Mike Krebs VA3WXS

Flea market Coordinator
Paul Fleck VE3HTF

Public Relations/Communication
Ron Pereira VE3RTJ

Flea market Vendor Contact
Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

Webmaster
Jim Sawadski VE3EEZ

before. We certainly did that and increased our multipliers so that our 2015 score was over 3 million with over 1300 contacts. What a lot of fun working all the DX.

The next contest will be the Ontario QSO Party on the third weekend of April. We will be running a Multi-multi setup using the Club call sign VE3DC, so we need as many stations on the air as we can get. Plan to come out and run a station or be an operator. All the students are welcome to see us in action and get an idea of what this part of the hobby is like.

Announcing The 18th Annual Ontario QSO Party 2015

by Rick Danby
VE3BK, Contesting
Manager for
VE3DC



The Ontario QSO Party is coming up this month! Please clear your calendars for the weekend of April 18/19. Held on the third full weekend of April, this contest is run in two daytime sessions with sleep time in between: 1st Part is 1800Z April 18 to 0500Z April 19, this means 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon and evening until 1 a.m. Sunday and 2nd Part is 1200Z to 1800Z April 19 which means 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The snow should be all gone and the mobiles and rovers will be in full operation, enjoying the

Springtime conditions we usually have this time of year. Tom and Tracy VanWort will likely be one of the rover teams again this year, maybe working 3 counties at once. Tracy wants to earn a plaque with her new call, VA3XU. We all like working the mobiles and rovers especially from our Multi-op Multi-radio setup. Also on the air will be the three bonus-point stations VE3ODX, (Ontario DX Association) VA3RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) and VA3CCO (Contest Club Ontario) which make this an interesting contest. Each bonus station is worth 20 points. Let me know if you are interested in running a station or plan on coming out to operate VE3DC. We plan on having as many stations on the air as possible. The new to ham radio people are more than welcome to come and see how we do it. Regretfully, Dan VA3DJ will likely only make a visit to the Contest site as he did last year, but may do some operating for us as he is looking better. This means that someone will be able to run Dan's favourite band (75 meters) with help from Dan and whoever else wants to get in there.

This event is held annually on the third full weekend of April. Beginning in 1998 under the thoughtful guidance of Bob Chandler VE3SRE it quickly became a popular event among Ontario hams and beyond. VE3DC has been involved since the beginning and have many plaques and certificates from this event. In 2006 the organization of the party was turned over to Contest Club Ontario (CCO) who now manages the event. Our own club sponsors a plaque for top Single Operator Low Power, yet to be

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 \$31 per person, per year, 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>.

won by someone in our Club.

In the contest, stations outside Ontario make as many contacts with Ontario amateur radio stations as possible. Ontario stations contact as many amateur radio stations as possible both in Ontario and world-wide. Please check the rules at <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm> for the contest exchange, frequencies, modes and categories.

The contest will be here soon so let me know if you want to be a part of this great Ontario event. Anyone can help out. We have fun on this one and get to talk to many Canadians. We find out the weather in all parts of Canada and we even get some sleep on the Saturday night. Many of our American friends check in to give us a contact. Lots of fun. Hope to CU there.

73, Rick

HARC Minutes for the Monthly Meeting on 11 March 2015

by Secretary, Jim Sawadski VE3JS



I. Call to order.

Roger Pimm VE3UFZ called to order the General Meeting at 19:00 on 03/11/2015 at Westdale Secondary School, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

Roger began the meeting by asking members and visitors alike to introduce themselves.

II. Sign In. Attendance was conducted by the circulation of a sign-in sheet. A total of 25 members / visitors were present. Welcome was extended to visitors, and our guest speaker Gordon Murray VE3JSJ, with his associate Robert James VE3FRJ to whom Gordon credited much of the mentoring that enabled Gord to volunteer for the IHS expedition. Also present, Brent Michaluk, an inquiring new SWL who is eager to get his license.

III. Membership Report

Sherry VE3DCU reported membership at 63 Primary members, 12 Student, and 2 family, for a total of 77. Sherry reminded everyone that the 2015-16 membership drive will be starting shortly with the April general meeting. Get your dues in early to be eligible for the early bird draw. A free year's membership will go to the lucky winner.

IV. Speakers

Gordon Murray VE3JSJ was introduced by Ron VE3ZX as our guest speaker this evening. Gordon was a past member of HARC and a recent volunteer with the International Health Services (IHS) based in Minnesota. Gord's interests are QRP HF Radio, SSB & digital PACTOR modes. Gord was stationed in the Tocoa Honduras, providing communications to the various parts of the country with his station set up with HF Pactor. Emails were then forwarded to the various contacts via the internet. Good showed some of the station equipment that he packed for his trip to the remote location in Honduras. Two 40 lb

parcels of luggage, carrying two of everything. Power was provided by both generators and batteries. Rigs of choice were two Yaesu FT-857s, end fed dipoles and RG175 coax. Thanks to Gord for sharing an interesting adventure and treating us to a very enjoyable topic for the evening.

V. Education

In Mardy's absence tonight Roger commented on the success of our advanced classes as well as the ongoing CW practice night, happening from 7-7:30 each Thursday evening.

VI. Contesting

Rick VE3BK presented John VE3CXB, with a certificate of participation in the RAC Canada Winter 2013. Rick asked the membership if they would like any "T" shirts, club badges, etc to contact him before the orders are sent in for purchase. Rick reminded the membership of the upcoming Ontario QSO Party contest. Rick reminded us that VE3DC sponsors a plaque in this contest which is awarded for single operator low power. A nice contest to run from home. Get your home station humming and see if you can bring this plaque home as a club member.

VII. Treasurer's Report

Dave Bruton reported on the clubs finances to date. The report was accepted as delivered.

VIII. Repeater

John VE3DVV reported trouble with the modem at the repeater site, the reason IRLP was unavailable. The club has purchased a Nano-Node from Mico-Node International and Paul will be picking it up soon in Ohio.

VIX Program:

Ron is looking for technical night topics of interest to members. If you have a topic that would benefit others or you feel you could lead someone on a topic of interest please send Ron a note at VE3ZX@hamiltonarc.ca

A Northern Adventure is being planned for April 17-18-19 at the hunting camp run by our friends Paulette and Pierre (you met them at the Christmas Party). Interested operators will be driving to a remote area north of North Bay Ontario to set up a station from which to participate in the Ontario QSO Party using call sign VE3RCB. Plans are underway but there are still places for participants. Interested parties can contact Paul VE3HTF.

Paul noted that the Monthly breakfast group had it's largest sitting in March, with 18 people out. Three free breakfasts were given away. Two of them offered by The West Side Dinner.

New Business

1. Paul VE3HTF announced the date for the TRI Club Social taking place at the Breezy Corners Restraunt on April 14 2015. To get your tickets by contacting either Roger ve3ufz@hamiltonarc.ca, Paul ve3htf@hamiltonarc.ca, Ron ve3rtj@hamiltonarc.ca or Jim ve3js@hamiltonarc.ca
2. Paul VE3HTF had asked for volunteers to step forward to assist in taking chair positions of Awards, Public Relations manager.
3. Jim VE3JS announced that the digital award is up for grabs this year. Submit your log to be

eligible. See more here <http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/awards/february-digital-operating-award/>

4. Jim VE3JS announced the 2015 Hidden Transmitter hunts will be starting soon. Check the HARC website for details as the dates will soon be posted.

Next meeting

April 15, 2015 @ the Westdale Secondary School cafeteria, 700 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:00. Moved by Roger VE3UFZ Motion seconded by Sherry VEDCU.

Thanks to all in attendance

Minutes submitted by Secretary:
Jim Sawadski VE3JS

Vice President's Message

by Paul Fleck VE3HTF

Welcome Spring!

That was until I woke up on Easter Sunday to find 2 inches of snow on the ground! But spring is here and we are welcoming it in with our Brass Pounder & Wave Rider dinner on April 14th. Fellow hams and friends from the Guelph, Burlington and Hamilton clubs will be iHamming it up at the Breezy Corners restaurant.

Posters for this Annual event are on our club web site and there are some tickets still available! Be sure to come on out and join in the fellowship and banter that all Hams enjoy when they get together.



Our March club breakfast was a blow-out get together with 18 attendees. The staff at the restaurant enjoyed having us and gave us two free breakfasts along with our regular club draw for a free breakfast. April's winner was Ron, VE3RTJ. Congrats Ron!

Be sure to come out to the April meeting as Fox Hunting is on the agenda and Jim, VE3EEZ is busy getting the club Fox Hunt schedule put together for 2015.

I am pleased to announce that I had the pleasure of invigilating an exam in March. Our newest ham is Mr. Brent Michulak with his new call-sign VA3XWZ. I heard Brent on the club repeater last week and he was having fun using his new handheld! Welcome Brent to a great hobby and our club!

Our hobby is a great source of learning and fellowship and as such we are looking for "Elmers" to assist newcomers interested in obtaining their license. I have one such candidate who needs help to secure their license. If you have some time to help coach and support a new student, please drop me a line.

Be sure to come out to the April meeting on April 15th and enjoy the fellowship and our Fox Hunt night.

73s, Paul, VE3HTF

Builders' Corner

by Mardy Eedson, VE3QEE

The May monthly HARC meeting has traditionally been the annual Homebrew meeting.



For those new to the club here is how the Homebrew meeting works. Members are invited to bring in something they have completed in the last 12 months to put on the table for inspection during the home-brew session. Each builder will have an opportunity to explain their project to the group and a committee of the whole will judge the projects using a judging sheet. When the numbers are added a winner will be declared. The winner will have their name engraved on the Crawford Trophy and take the trophy home for a year and enjoy bragging rights.

Along with the homebrew demonstration, there can also be a show and tell demonstration where members can show and tell about something which they did not build, but which they feel can benefit others in the hobby.

You are invited to participate in either the home-brew competition and/or the show and tell session. It should be an interesting evening.

A note to those who took home a circuit board project to construct at the September meeting. If you have not completed your circuit board there is still time to get it done before the May meeting. Parts are available at Newtech or Sayal. Give it a try.



Crawford Trophy

Beware Those April Issues

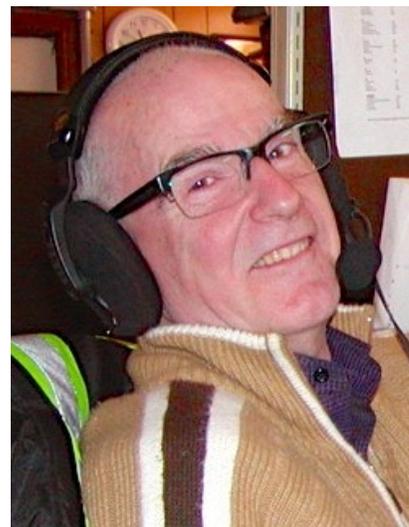
by Mardy Eedson VE3QEE

April Fools' Day has come and gone. I hope you had a few harmless smiles along the way. Sometimes, we have managed to slip an April Fool article in *The Hamilton Amateur*, but that requires inspiration and this year the magic escaped me. There was no April Fool article for THA this year. Apologies.

However, I did come across some April Fools material from other sources that I could mention by way of warning.

Albert Ersser, VA3ERE sent me an e-mail message reporting that the magazine *Nuts And Volts* starting with the January issue, will now be including a column dedicated to Amateur Radio. Seriously, check it out. (*Nuts and Volts* is a magazine for the electronics hobbyist.) Getting curious, I looked up the magazine on the web.

First thing I saw on the web page was an advertisement for "bovine-based anti vibration shock mounts" to protect equipment from vibration. These shock mounts were made from a product called Gell-Low™. That's where I got suspicious. (Actually if you read the label Jello is a pork product.). Farther along in the article the author mentions that



Jack Gauthier VE3WBT at the CQ WPX contest. I can't show you what he is holding in his left hand but his smile could give it all away.

in times of emergency you can use the mounts as a nourishing food source. Suspicions confirmed. Another one of those April Fools articles.

I also got an e-mail from one of the Peel Builders who claimed to have ordered 200 chips in error and asked if anyone might be able to use some. He sent along the specification sheet, which of course was totally bogus but very realistic. The chips were "Write Only Memory" types and apparently required cooling. The spec sheet said you would have no trouble cooling the chip if you placed a 6 foot fan 1/3 of an inch from the heat sink. Right.

I have not yet looked at all the material in QST this month or in *The Canadian Amateur*. So I can't report on any suspicious material in those publications. If you find something let us know at the April 15th meeting. In the mean time enjoy the rest of April and keep your fingers crossed for warmer weather.