



The Monitor

Official Newsletter of the Brantford Amateur Radio Club

September/October 2003

Edited by Ken Dobson VA3DDB

No Issue for May/June

Although plenty of information was available to compile a newsletter, the May/June issue of The Monitor was never to be. The editor, Ken Dobson VA3DDB, stated his work has been the interfering culprit as to why no issue was available.

Some of the articles in this issue are taken from the incomplete May/June issue. It is noted that BARC's newest novice member, Deb Jackson has agreed to join Ken as an editor for The Monitor.

"Welcome aboard Deb and Thanks for your efforts thus far.", Ken Dobson VA3DDB

Hamfest 2003 Rescheduled!

The Brantford Amateur Radio Clubs' 2003 Hamfest is rescheduled for Saturday October 4th, 2003.

"It was a tough decision to make, however it was also clearly the right decision.", said Ken Dobson VA3DDB after most of the province was left in the dark. Once a state of emergency was declared both locally and provincially, the clubs resources were drained to assist in radio communications or family matters.

All efforts were made to quickly spread the word of the cancelled event. Area repeaters, IRLP, email, telephone and even APRS were utilized to inform others. As a result, most people received word of the cancellation very quickly. "I was getting calls late into the evening on Friday, asking to confirm it had been cancelled." This demonstrated other amateurs were passing the message along. Very few people actually made the trip to the Burford Fair Grounds on Saturday morning, in which they were greeted by Ken Dobson VA3DDB, Kim Watson VE3KMW, Ebe Habing VE3EBH and/or the club's president, Bill Cunliffe VA3WRC.



(Marven VE3MWF, Red Cross and Keri VE3KGE at Hamfest 2002)

The rescheduled event promises to be even better. The extra time was taken for granted and additional features have been added. A RDF contest will be held near the end of the Hamfest with winners recognized both by certificate and prizes. Ken VA3DDB will be speaking on APRS and has obtained additional door prizes related to APRS.

Please visit our website at: <http://comdir.bfree.on.ca> for more information.

Hamvention Reports Attendance Down in 2003

Hamvention reported June 4 that attendance for this year's 52nd show was 22,168, down a bit more than 10 percent from last year's crowd. "This is based on the number of admission tickets issued and exhibitor and staff badges issued," said a statement from the office of Hamvention Production Manager Garry Matthews, KB8GOL. Matthews told ARRL that weather played a big factor in attendance this year.

"Our biggest contributing factor to the drop was the near-constant rain on Saturday," he said. "We had a whole day washed out."

On the plus side, Matthews said, Hamvention 2003 came close to selling out vendor spaces, and many vendors reported that they had a good year, despite the smaller crowd.

The 2003 number marks the third year in a row that Hamvention's attendance had dipped. Attendance at last year's 50th anniversary event was 24,832, down about 5 percent from 2001's crowd of 26,151. The crowd size climbed to 28,804 in 2000, the year of the ARRL National Convention at Hamvention.

Matthews said Hamvention expects to wrap up negotiations within the next three weeks on a new, two-year contract with Hara Arena, Hamvention's home since the 1960s. The anticipated contract, in conjunction with support from local hotels and motels and area municipalities, "would allow Hamvention to stay in the Dayton area for the foreseeable future," Matthews' office said.

Hamvention 2004 will be held May 14-16.

For more information, visit the Hamvention Web site at: <http://www.hamvention.org>

Source:

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Silent Key Remembered



The Brantford Amateur Radio Club has lost a good friend and so has the Paris Community. Bob McKellar, VA3BIK, who also used the call sign, VE3CRM, died in hospital June 14th, 2003 after a long illness.

Bob had been actively involved in radio club activities. Together with his XYL, Isobel, he helped organize the Paris July 1st parade and celebrations. He also arranged for the BARC to provide communications as the parade floats were being positioned and then, while the parade was on. Bob did the same for the Paris Christmas parade, using the resources of the radio club. He also participated in many other club events.

Recently the club declared Bob an Honorary Life Member and presented his certificate to Isobel and daughter Kim.

In recent years, a series of tragic events plagued Bob & Isobel, including Isobel's serious automobile accident, and another involving Bob.

The Brantford Amateur Radio Club extends its sympathy and appreciation all his family and friends.



Thanks For The Contact, Jack

It's the kind of thing Citizens Band operators were not supposed to do. I was "DXing". It's almost impossible to avoid...or resist...when you have a 4-element, 11 metre yagi. Suddenly, there he was...a friendly voice with a southern drawl, calling for me. I yielded to temptation and the first of, what was to become many fine QSOs, began. For many ensuing years, I had countless conversations with "Jack". Then, one summer, while on a driving trip through the southern US, we decided to see if we could locate him for an eyeball meeting. As we approached the little town of Piedmont, Alabama, I gave a call on the usual channel. Jack came back to me, totally surprised that I was actually in his neighborhood and not DXing from Canada. Moments later we met and he invited us to his home where we spent 4 delightful hours getting to know Jack, his wife, Ethelene, and his daughters, Karen and Emily. After our return to Canada, there were more occasional QSOs, until the band closed for many months. At that point, I lost track of Jack, but I had heard that he obtained his Amateur Radio ticket, licensed as N4KMJ. Shortly afterwards, I did the same.

A few years later I saw a news story on TV about how a tornado had struck a church in Piedmont, Alabama, killing several people. I kept wondering if Jack had known any of them, and if, as an amateur radio operator, he had been involved in the emergency response.

I later learned that the Amateur Radio feature, "Newslines", carried the following account of the 1994 Piedmont tornado:

Some chilling moments from the March 27th tornado outbreak that killed more than 40 people in the Southeastern U.S. Amateur radio operators helped the public by providing Skywarn and other emergency communications. Alabama was hardest hit by the storms. Some dramatic storm spotting and damage reports were captured on tape:

"This is N4KMJ, Jack in Goshen Valley at the Goshen Methodist Church. The roof has exploded. I see one house, the top all gone. Power lines down. Vehicles wrecked. I am approaching the church more now. N4KMJ, rescue squad is on scene."

That was one of the first reports coming from the Goshen Methodist Church near Piedmont, Alabama. That's where 21 people -- including six children -- died when a tornado slammed into the church during Palm Sunday services.

The tornadoes in Alabama also brought personal tragedy to Jack Blair, N4KMJ. He's the ham who made the first report you just heard in the story about damage to the Goshen Methodist Church. As Jack moved closer to the church, he learned that his daughter had been injured, and his wife was among those killed when the building collapsed.

My friend, Jack, exchanged a couple of e-mails with me in the following years, but I hadn't heard from him in a long time. Towards the end of January, 2003, I emailed him, asking if he had Echolink capabilities, with the hopes that we might, once again, have a QSO. There was no response, until about 6 weeks later, when I received the following response:

**"Dear Pete,
This is Karen Jack's daughter. Sorry to tell you but Daddy passed away on 02/14. Just now getting his computer back up and checking email.
...Karen"**

73, Jack. Thanks for the memories and some great chats.

Source:
Peter Byerlay VE3NIX



Did you know ? ...

Industry Canada provides free exam software. This software package can produce a unique examination for either a basic or advanced amateur certificate.



The software can assist persons interested in obtaining their amateur certificate or an administrative tool for accredited examiners.

You can download this software and install it on Windows 95/98/ME/2000/XP. It contains operating instructions and documentation.

Check out this useful tool and information at:

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/h_sf05378e.html



QRZ.com - Ham Radio Trivia!

What is the name of Indonesian Amateur Radio?

1. Orari
2. Bdara
3. Rapi
4. Ira

Answer: 1 Orari is Organisasi Radio Amatir Indonesia

What does the acronym "MUF" stand for?

1. Minimum Useable Frequency
2. Maximum Useable Frequency
3. Multi-user Frequency
4. Military Used Frequency

Answer: 2 MUF stands for Maximum Useable Frequency for skip.



Ham Radio Humor

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"Mr. Nelson...I'm afraid you will have to leave the air for a while during this procedure."

Please visit: <http://incolor.inetnebr.com/n0ujr/> for additional information about Greg Trook's N0UJR cartoon book.

Source:

<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/n0ujr/>

Please check our website for upcoming social events.



Coming Events

Hamilton Tec-Net Breakfast and Fox Hunt

Egg and I Restaurant
1760 Upper James, Hamilton
Sunday, September 28, 2003 at 8:00am

Brantford Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2003

Burford Fairgrounds
Saturday, October 4th, 2003
Burford, Ontario

HARC Hamfest 2003

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Saturday, October 18, 2003
Ancaster, Ontario

ESSENTIAL CLUB INFORMATION

President: Bill Cunliffe, VA3WRC
Vice-President: Bob Moore, VE3AVU
Secretary: Ken Dobson, VA3DDB
Treasurer: Paul Tourangeau, VE3IUA

Past President: Marven Ford VE3MWF

Directors:
Pete Byerlay VE3NIX
William Thorpe VE3WXT
George Howarth VA3GLH
Kim Watson VE3KMW
Dave Amies VE3ZVR
Deborah Jackson (Novice)

MEETINGS: Every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.
Business meeting, second Tuesday of the month

LOCATION: Canadian Red Cross Society, 25
William St. 1st Floor, Brantford.

MAILING: Brantford Amateur Radio Club, P.O.
Box 25036, Brantford, ON, N3T 6K5

REPEATERS: VE3TCR 147.150 MHz+600
KHz & 443.025+5 MHz

IRLP NODE: 1590

INTERNET WEB SITE: <http://comdir.bfree.on.ca/ve3ba/>

EMAIL: ve3ba@bfree.on.ca

