



...wait for this...**31 years** and still going strong...Is this not a club that needs your aid and support?

# The HAMEX 2015 edition

## The Gavel – March 2015

Welcome MARC members to another Gavel. We recently turned the corner on the seasons with the start of spring on March 20 but it sure doesn't feel like it! Oh well, we'll get through it and before you know it the birds will be singing and the trees (and our lawns!) will look green again. And spring generally brings more unusual and exotic propagation conditions. Perhaps you'll be able to bag that rare station in a far-away land!

By the time you read this missive Ham-Ex will be on our doorstep. The weather this year is looking better and hopefully cooperates with us on the big day. If you're planning to attend please be sure to buy a raffle ticket (\$5) or three (\$10) from Lorne VE3CXT for a chance at the grand prize of a \$1000 gift certificate from our favorite candy store Radioworld. Also, be sure to check out the exhibit hall for a special display and presentation on the Yaesu "Fusion" digital radio system. More on this in a minute. And in case you haven't done so please let Rick VE3IMG know if you can volunteer at the event. Not only will you have the satisfaction of knowing your efforts help MARC financially but you get free entrance to the event. What a deal!

Speaking of Yaesu Fusion, Jim VE3JIW will have made a presentation on this new digital radio mode and the features and benefits of the system. While our current repeaters are running fine business – thanks Jim and his repeater crew! – they are several decades old and won't last forever. The primary concern is that if something critical fails on the radios it will be difficult or even impossible to repair them. Here is where the Yaesu Fusion

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### And more to come in the April issue!

Don't forget, get yourself published, and submit some content to the

Communicator Newsletter, it's only as good as what is published on it's pages

The newsletter archives is running desperately short of content to fill these pages, please don't let the pages go un-filled. Submit your content and get published



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DR-1X repeater comes in. It operates in both conventional analog FM and digital C4FM modes, and can be configured to automatically switch between the two modes depending on the incoming signal. Those who are familiar with Icom's D-Star would appreciate the advantages digital operations have including being able to transmit data, images and other information that traditional analog repeaters can't handle. And to sweeten the deal, Yaesu has been offering a promotional price break on the DR-1X repeater. We look forward to Jim's presentation and discussion on this 21st century approach to amateur radio repeater technology.

Elections are looming just around the corner. The first general meeting in April is our Annual General Meeting in which some new Executive members will be elected, specifically and in no particular order First VP, Second VP and Secretary. Our current Treasurer Mike VA3EMW has agreed to continue in his position for another term as has yours truly. The time and effort required for these positions is not as daunting as it may appear. This is mostly due to the excellent support offered by the various managers in the club. Please do consider running for one of the open positions and help contribute to the continuing success of MARC.

Finally, Bread and Honey will be coming in a couple of months. Daniel VE3NI is involved in the operation of our special event station and will be looking for volunteers over the next few meetings to assist him in setup/tear down and working the radios. Stay tuned for more information.

That about wraps it up for this month. Just a reminder that elections will be coming up soon so please consider running for one of the three Executive positions that will become open this year. And don't forget that Ham-Ex will be here in less than three weeks!

73,

Jeff VA3WXM

**A few helpful hints from the editor:**

At this time I would like to take a moment to give some helpful hints when submitting articles.

- a) Text should be single spaced, with no headers or footers, as text is going to be converted into a desktop publishing format.
- b) Most fonts are fine, "Pages" (the software I'm using) has many more fonts than most, but just to be safe side just use standard fonts, like arial, helvetica, century, etc.
- c) Avoid using spaces instead of tabs. Tabs work great in conversion, spaces not so much. if in doubt, just type text unformatted, "Pages" will take care of most the mundane formatting, and the rest I'll do, I'm going to have to do it anyway. might as well make it easier for you.

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VE3MIS/VE3RCX

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March 2015

**The Editors column:  
from the keyboard of editor in chief  
Valentine Stubbs  
VE3VVS**

**MARC Members Yahoo Group**

The MARC Members Yahoo Group is the primary way to disseminate club information about upcoming events.

Join the MARC  
Members Yahoo Group

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To receive club related  
communications  
and to contact  
other club members

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marc\\_members](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marc_members)



**Club Breakfasts**

This much loved event happens the first Sunday of every month.

All you have to do is show up at Bobby's restaurant 20 Queen Street just North of Britannia Road.



This issue of the The Communicator comes hot on the heels of one the best events in the GTA, HAMEX 2015. You could hear the expectations prior days before the event on the 2m and 440 bands. One of 4 of my radios was on scan of a number of repeaters in and around Toronto, and there was a common theme, "you going to HAMEX", or "I'll see ya at HAMEX".

So, its no reason why I waited till the event to come and gone so that I could dedicate this issue re reflects on some of the fun filled, and great moments that made this years HAMEX an enjoyable event had by hundreds.

Some on mentioned to me why I didn't this months issue on the clubs exhibition table, well unless I had a time machine I would not have been able to produce this issue until today.

It remains to be seen how the numbers turn out, but regardless of how the bean counters tally up everything, I think the images that are on the pages to follow, and the even more that grace the ONTARS website, I think it is obvious everyone had a good time

Valentine Stubbs - Chief Editor - The Communicator - VE3VVS

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VE3MIS/VE3RCX

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March 2015

# The HAMEX hall of fame 2015



Hi Every one,

Yes, and thank you for all the volunteers making it a successful event with hard work and team coordination. I was recovering from open heart surgery and very recently briefly start going out with the help of others. I was there yesterday for a brief period. One of my friend drove me there, met some of the old friends from the club and picked up my Icom ID-5100 mobile radio :)

Weather was quite cold (at least with my condition) but at least it was not rainy. Yes I enjoyed it and thank you again making the event a success.

Sohail Anjum.  
VE3ITU.

*Survived, I was to able to be outside as long as other members of parking group. Many people did find goodies. A hand full of wanted crystals, an extra antenna, a coffee, a chance meet with people of the past.*

*Best find I don't know. Who had the best find?*

*Jim VE3JW*





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# The HAMEX hall of fame 2015



Did everyone enjoy HAMEX yesterday ?

Clyde VE3VOC

<editor's note: I would answer with a resounding YES,  
from what I saw there was a lot of happy faces>

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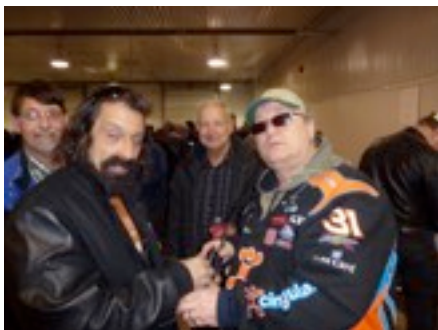
# The HAMEX hall of fame 2015





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# The HAMEX hall of fame 2015





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## Sky Power,

by George Brown, WB4CHZ,  
73 Magazine, March 1984.

*Paraphrased by Mike Wilde*

Note that the date and times for these events can vary year to year, and like all things that vary, check the web for the latest information; the dates and times mentioned here were current for 1984.

If you are a meteor-shower expert, don't read this. Otherwise, learn.

It's mid August and two in the morning. With the time clock punch in looming only six hours away the amateur radio operator creeps to the shack and powers up the rig and tunes to the agreed on frequency. He has a 'sched' – a scheduled contact to try to make distant contacts. At the allotted time he broadcasts his CQ with CW with his cleanest fist (calling to make a contact using Morse code using well-formed and timed characters in the transmission). He then pauses to listen. Nothing heard, so he transmits again. This time he hears a quick burst from the speaker in CW which equates to: "de N4"... and then it fades. Fiddling with the receiver tuning, he picks up the whole call coming back: "de N4ABY/7 ". (In Morse a lot of short forms are used for brevity, and de, drawn from French, means 'this is'. The N4 part is the call sign (radio identity) of the far end station replying.)

With this rapid burst of radio energy all thought of sleep is erased in his mind. The amateur springs to life, embarking on making rather rare long distance meteor scatter contacts on the two meter (144-148MHz) band. This sort of strange ham behavior is not a unique occurrence when the annual Perseid meteor shower is coming to a peak. Note that long haul links on 144-148MHz are not usually made using FM transmissions, the mode we most often associate with this band.

Hunting meteor scatter contacts does not need to be confined to just August though. There are several other serviceable opportunities to try your hand at distant communications to bounce signals from 50MHz and higher up off of the trails on meteors that excite the E layer of the ionosphere. Perseid is best known because it produces the most number of meteors per hour, providing the highest chance for a successful contact in the tail of a meteor. However there are a number, some 600 showers in a year. Not all are good for radio purposes though; you want ones that are predictable to a large degree, and with a fair number of meteors falling in an hour. After all, what is the use of searching for meteor bounce when there are none or not a lot falling?

Meteor showers happen when the Earth encounters chunks of nickel iron and rock that orbit the sun too. Called a meteoroid when still in space, it strikes the atmosphere of the Earth. The friction caused





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by the atmosphere heats and burns the material. The reaction can be seen optically to sky-watchers as 'falling stars'. Hams are happy to live off of the electrons excited by the interaction, though.

The ionized trail allows VHF radio signals to bounce off of it. The frequency of the signal able to be bounced off the trail depends directly on the density of the ionization. It takes a pretty big meteor to reflect signals on 144MHz and higher. That is why contacts on this frequency range concentrates on the times when large meteors are encountered, otherwise known as meteor showers, which for VHF is about seven times a year

They are:

- Quadrantid, an early January (4<sup>th</sup>) shower with a very short duration of one day period for all of the rise, peak and fall, but with 40 meteors an hour at its peak if you get there at the right time it can work.
- Eta Aquarid, 4 May peak, about 20 showers an hour on the horizon about 2:30am.
- Beta Taurids 29 June peak, between 7am and midnight local time, rising in the east and moving to a point high in the southern sky.
- Delta Aquarid 28 July peak, about 25 meteors per hour, and some ionization persisting for up to a day after the peak, and maybe even for a day before the peak.
- Perseid 11 August peak, between 50 and 60 meteors per hour (biggest of the year). Contacts possible for a day or two before or after the peak.
- Orionid 20 October peak in southeast sky, 30 meteors per hour; these meteors originated from Halley's Comet.
- Geminid 14 December peak, 60 meteors each hour; almost as good as Perseid.

The best way to hunt these dx meteor shower contacts down is to make a sched with a remote VHF operator in the right direction. If you don't succeed on the first shower contact attempt, there are 6 more to try at throughout every year. I do not know which web site would work best for this, but I am sure of one thing about the Internet: one must surely exist.



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*Note from the editing desk:* As a convenience to our current and future members I include the membership forms for the two most important Ham radio associations, RAC, (Radio Amateurs of Canada) and MARC, (The Mississauga Radio Club



Mississauga Amateur Radio Club  
 P. O. Box 2003  
 Square One Post Office  
 Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3C6  
<http://www.marc.on.ca>

<b>2014 / 2015 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM</b>				Date:	
Call Signs		Last Name		First Name	
Address Street				Apt	
City		Prov/State	Postal Code	Country	
Home Phone		Business Phone	Ext	Cell Phone	
E-mail Address			E-mail address associated with MARC_Members Yahooogroup		

Family members residing in the same household can be included in the base membership for free. Please provide the following information for interested parties:

Family	Call Sign	Name	E-mail
1			
2			
3			

<b>To conform with Canada's Anti-Spam legislation, we require your permission to provide the following club services. No response will be considered as a "No".</b>		<b>Yes / No</b>
Do you wish to receive an email notification when a club newsletter is posted to the web? Current & past newsletters can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.marc.on.ca/marc/documents/doc_news.asp">http://www.marc.on.ca/marc/documents/doc_news.asp</a> .		
Do you wish to join the MARC Members Yahooogroup? This is a forum where MARC members post information related to Amateur Radio and Club events. You receive postings by email. Access is restricted to participating club members.		
The club roster is posted to the MARC Yahooogroup. It contains personal information provided on this form. It will be available to club members who join the group. Please indicate if we can list phone, e-mail and address information in the roster. The club executive will have access to all information on this form.	Phone	
	e-mail	
	Address	
Do you wish to participate in ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services)?		

Membership Fee (One per household)			Class Fee		Course Manual		TOTAL
Regular \$40.00	RAC \$35.00	RAC Membership No. Required for discount	QTY	\$30.00 / Person	QTY	\$50.00 / Manual	
				\$30.00		\$50.00	
Office Use Only	Date Pmt Received	Cash	Cheque	PayPal	Received By Signature		

Personal information collected in accordance with Mississauga Amateur Radio Club privacy policy available at [http://www.marc.on.ca/marc/site/site\\_legal.asp](http://www.marc.on.ca/marc/site/site_legal.asp)

# Radio Amateurs of Canada

## Ontario



### Join RAC Today

Help give amateur radio a strong voice in Canada and throughout the world

Full - Regular - paper TCA \$56.00 + \$7.28 (tax) = \$63.28  
Full - Family \$25.00 + \$3.25 (tax) = \$28.25  
Full - Blind \$25.00 + \$3.25 (tax) = \$28.25  
Full - Maple Leaf Operator \$100.00 + \$13.00 (tax) = \$113.00  
Full - Limited \$38.00 + \$4.94 (tax) = \$42.94  
Full - Regular - e-TCA Only \$48.00 + \$6.24 (tax) = \$54.24

Associate - Regular - paper TCA \$56.00 + \$7.28 (tax) = \$63.28  
Associate - Family \$25.00 + \$3.25 (tax) = \$28.25  
Associate - Blind \$25.00 + \$3.25 (tax) = \$28.25  
Associate - Regular - e-TCA Only \$48.00 + \$6.24 (tax) = \$54.24  
Associate - Corporate \$150.00 + \$19.50 (tax) = \$169.50

Note that the family membership fee applies to each family member who joins in addition to the principle member.

I wish to join for 1 yr

Donations: RAC \$ \_\_\_\_\_ | ARES \$ \_\_\_\_\_ | DARF (International Use) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ | YEP \$ \_\_\_\_\_ | RAC Foundation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ |

Visa/Mastercard _____ Exp: ____ / ____ Signature _____ Join or renew online! <a href="http://www.rac.ca">www.rac.ca</a>	Paying by Cheque? Please make payable to: <b>Radio Amateurs of Canada</b> #217-720 Belfast Rd. Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5 1-877-273-8304
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If were previously a member please give your membership number  
or the callsign you held when you were previously a member \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members \_\_\_\_\_

For blind membership please provide your CNIB number \_\_\_\_\_