



# The Monitor

Official Newsletter of the Brantford Amateur Radio Club

## September/October 2004

Edited by Deborah Jackson VA3DJJ

### Hamfest 2004

Hamfest was held this year on Saturday August 21 a nice sunny day. Some of us even got to see a beautiful rainbow. I don't know if anyone tried to find the pot of gold at the end, but if you did let me know, I would like to see what it looks like. Pete VE3NIX did a good job with the call in again this year. Ken VE3DDB did a great job as usual. We had fewer vendors this year, but over all I think everything went very well. Ken did a great job talking about APRS, this year I was able to actually sit in and learn a little more on how it works. The 50/50 draw was won by Paul Golibosk, VA3PEG from Brantford. Thank you to everyone that helped with setup Friday night and with the Hamfest on Saturday. With out members help this could not have happened.

Deborah J. VA3DJJ



Ken VA3DDB during his APRS seminar

### Amateur Radio Goes to School

On Tuesday Aug 19 at about 9:15am some students at Our Lady of Providence School were treated to a short display of amateur radio.

Elaine Bushell VE3LTK is a library teacher at the school and with the help of her husband Kerry Bushell VE3KGE, Jim Maloney VE3CQM, Gary Wood VE3MWL and Scott Hamilton VE3QU.

The display was setup and a couple of the students were able to say a few words over the Brantford Repeater VE3TCR.

The students had been reading about an antenna support structure being built and found that the builder was an amateur radio operator.



**How Low Can You Go? QRP!**  
The Art of Low Power Communication

### QRP QORNER

This is the initial column of what I hope will be a monthly installment in the "Monitor". There appears to be a few club members who have an interest in QRP (low power operating) and hopefully this space can be reserved for your input.

QRP is only one facet of this hobby and worldwide, it seems to be the fastest growing segment. QRP operating on HF is normally done with 5 watts (or less) on CW and usually 10 watts on SSB. A large part of QRP operating is building your own equipment either from scratch or from one of the many kits available. You don't have to build your own transmitter to participate as a lot of modern transceivers today have the ability to turn the RF power down to QRP levels. Try it, and see how successful you can become! That's one of the thrills of QRP. Operating equipment that you put together is another satisfying part of this segment in our hobby.

QRP is also associated with portability, and it's not uncommon for QRP'ers to take their equipment on bicycles, kayaks, planes, hiking, etc. Just have a look at <http://www.hfpack.com>

There are several QRP contests out there that you can participate in. They are usually called "sprints" and some only last about four hours, so they are very easy to take part in. And of course, the major contests have QRP categories if you are so inclined.

I was bitten by the QRP bug while attending the QRP convention in Dayton one year. I will talk about this event in a

future column, but I met some fascinating people from all over the world and the seminars were top-notch. I'm still learning about this segment of our hobby and have also started building some kits. Our own member, QRP guru, Jim Maloney VE3CQM has been very helpful to me, providing some QRP advice.

Jim is inviting all QRP'ers and those interested in learning about QRP to join him for a coffee at the Tim Hortons on Paris Rd. just north of Hardy/Tollgate Rd. at 1:30 pm the last Saturday of each month. This is a QRP group, not a club, so there are no dues, nor an Executive, just an informal get-together to talk about things related to QRP. The next get-together will be Saturday October 30th. We hope to see you there around 1:30.

If there is anything you want to see in this QRP column, just let me know. Any contributions can be given to me at a Tuesday night meeting or emailed to me at richard.larose@rogers.com

73 de Richard La Rose VE3RLX

I am hoping the Richard will be a regular contributor to the Monitor and keep us up to date with QRP.

### Congratulations

Deborah Jackson VA3DJJ and Anna Fleiss VA3AOG have received their license. Listen for them on the air and give them a call.



### Ham of the Year Award 2004

West Garden Buffet Oct 31, 2004 at 12:00pm  
Please let Paul VE3IUA know if you are coming.  
Hope to see you all there.



I am looking to contributors for the Monitor. If you would like to write an article about how to do things, technical stuff, stories about Ham's. Please email them to me at [va3djj@rogers.com](mailto:va3djj@rogers.com) or give them to me Tuesday at the meetings. I want to have the Monitor out by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month no matter how small.

Deborah Jackson VA3DJJ



Net Meetings are every Sunday night at 8:00pm on 147.150 come and join in the fun. Ask or answer tech questions or just join in one of the conversation.

## ESSENTIAL CLUB INFORMATION

**President:** Scott Hamilton, VE3QU  
**Vice-President:** Bob Moore, VE3AVU  
**Secretary:** Ken Dobson, VA3DDB  
**Treasurer:** Paul Tourangeau, VE3IUA

**Past President:** Bill Cunliffe, VA3WRC

### Directors:

Pete Byerlay VE3NIX  
Fred Judd VE3SXB  
George Howarth VA3GLH  
Marven Ford VE3SXB  
Dave Amies VE3ZVR  
Anna Fleiss VA3AOG

**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](mailto:ve3ba@bfree.on.ca)

