

Part 1 The Birth of SWARC

What better way to see and feel the birth of our club than to read, as it was written, the minutes of the first ever gathering of like minded individuals to form a club. Following is the transcribed minutes from the original written by Murray Fisk – a doctor whose handwriting is actually quite legible. I have corrected the spelling.

“The first meeting of the South Waterloo Amateur Radio Club was held in the Electronics shop at Southwood Secondary School on March 23 1964 at 7:30 pm. 14 charter members were present along with 2 guests.

It was moved and carried that George Jeffery be chairman and Murray Fisk be secretary.

It was then moved and carried that there be a Radio club.

It was moved by Jack Kirkham and seconded by Len Morris that the new club be called “The South Waterloo Amateur Radio Club”. This was passed unanimously.

After a short discussion, it was moved and seconded that “The South Waterloo amateur Radio Club” should hold its regular meeting on the fourth Monday of each month and that there should be weekly Monday night meetings starting next week to learn code and theory.

It was moved by Dave Dixon and seconded by J. Hewitt that a committee be formed to draw up a club constitution and that this constitution be presented at the next regular meeting. This committee to be under the chairmanship of Neil Hancock and to include the following other members – Jack Kirkham, Len Morris, Dave Dixon.

Ernie Crump VE3EGG offered to set up the code course. Ron Shindler and Jack Kirkham agreed to help with the teaching of theory.

Ralph Brubacher and friend from Elmira suggested various texts that our club might use in our training program. Ralph suggested that Dr. Carde a (undecipherable word) doctor from Hamilton might provide a very complete syllabus for our training. Ernie Crump thought he could arrange to contact the ‘DOC’ and obtain a copy of the syllabus.

A request was made that the Club would gratefully receive any oscillators that could be obtained from members.

Meeting was then adjourned

Signed George Jeffery”

So – there you have it. The South Waterloo Amateur Radio Club is formed with only a few licensed operators and a number of gentlemen eager to learn the ways of radio. From these minutes, as I have no records or membership lists, the original men sitting around the table over the next few meetings were:

Ernie Crump VE3EGG now VE3OU; Dave Dixon who became VE3DXO; Dr. Murray Fisk who became VE3FUU; Connie Gorth VE3UM; John Hewitt; Rev. Jack Hill who became VE3VH; Ed Hohertz; Cliff Ireland VE3AYI; George Jeffery who became VE3EUQ; Keith Kaufman VE3CTY; Jack Kirkham; Jim McGillvery; Jack McIntosh VE3BWP; Len Morris who became VE3FJB; Derek Poultney VE3BJJ; Ron Shindler who became VE3DXI; R. Smith; Ralph Brubacher.

The first President of SWARC was George Jeffery with a 1964/65 season executive as follows: Dr Murray Fisk VE3FUU Secretary-Treasurer looking after a 'kitty' of \$1.50, Len Morris producing the bulletin/notice of meeting, Derek Poultney VE3BJJ taking care of entertainment and Rev. Jack Hill taking care of publicity.

These guys didn't waste any time! With an executive in place and a "Constitution and Bylaws" document approved by the members, the activities were under way with the purchase of a course syllabus for the theory course and code practice sessions taking place following the meeting and weekly on Monday evenings. All active hams in the club were encouraged to find ways to attract new members. There being no permanent meeting place since Southwood School was only available through the electronics teacher Mr Westwood, meetings were to be held on a rotational basis at members homes. As no meeting was held in June, all members were invited to visit/participate in the KWARC (Kitchener Waterloo amateur Radio Club) Field Day.

September and October 1964 saw the members treated to 2 guest speakers – a Mr. J. Hughes in September and Gord Russell from KWARC presenting a film on Sound Waves and a talk on Transistors. The members took part in the Boy Scout Jamboree on the air with equipment supplied by Daystrom (Heath Kit) and space for the demonstration provided by Couch's Clothing store located on Main Street in Galt. Unfortunately, the demonstration had to "fold early" because of BCI (broadcast interference – assumed to be from the CFTJ radio station situated close by). A new member Jim McGillvray offered the use of a 'code machine' for code practice but would require permission to use it from DOT (Department of Transport) who looked after radio regulations; now under Industry Canada.

November and December meetings included 2 films on Electrostatics and Electronics. The main topics of discussion included TVI concerns, becoming affiliated with the ARRL and a reminder that dues are due. It is interesting to note that the cost of dues is set in the newly approved Constitution and By-Laws. The sum of \$3.00 is to cover mailings of 9 monthly meeting notices and bulletins. There was a junk sale in January 1965 and nominations for the 65/66 season executive taking place in February.

New DOT regulations were proposed in 1965. FM with a bandwidth of 15kc (kilo cycles – current use is hertz); an increase in power from 750 watts DC input to 1000 watts DC input; the bottom 100kc of 6 and 2 meters are to be used for CW only and a no code/Canadian novice license allowing voice use above 440mc (megacycles now MHz). SWARC members voted 1 for and 9 against this no code possibility and a letter stating as such sent to DOT.

The members must have been busy as 3 new members were added in February of 1965, Cliff Ireland VE3AYI and 2 unlicensed.

The spring saw the club get a postal box address, executive appointments increasing to a 2 year term, guest talks on sunspots and propagation, transistors and a film on CRT oscilloscope function and use. Tours of the X-ray department of the hospital and a trip with 16 guests from Brantford ARC to the Civil Defence head quarters (Freeport bunker) to see a live RTTY demonstration kept members busy and informed.

The new executive for the 1965/66 season arranged for the first SWARC Field Day to be held in a field on West River road. Owner of the field was a Mr J. Harris.

President George Jeffery VE3EUQ	Vice President Neil Hancock
Dr Murray Fisk VE3FUU Secretary-Treasurer	Ron Schindler VE3DXI Bulletin
Rev. Jack Hill VE3VH Publicity chairman	Dave Dixon VE3DXO Director

Membership in SWARC for the 1965/66 season numbered 16.

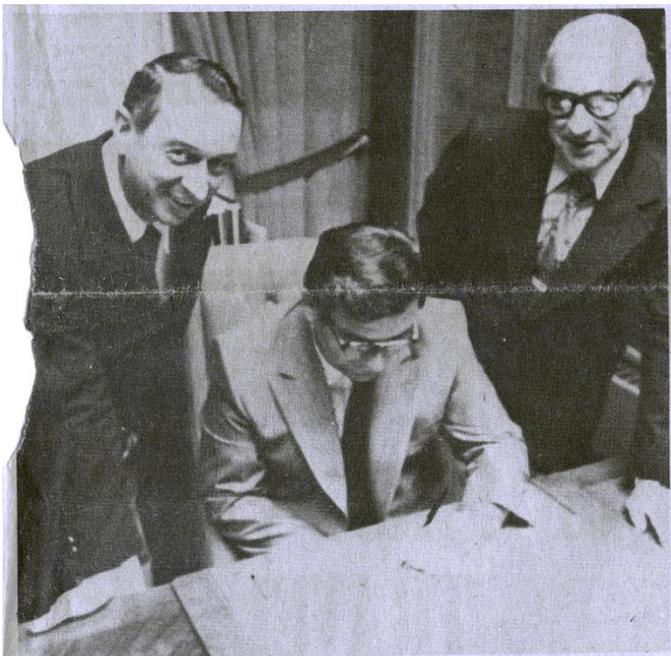
Did You Know? From the last column -- So -- who is this other 'club?'

With the passing of club member Connie Gorth in 1977, members of SWARC looked for a method to honour VE3UM, an avid DX'er. Discussions started around November 1977 about forming The Cambridge DX Society with the purpose to be to encourage amateurs around the world to contact stations in Cambridge.

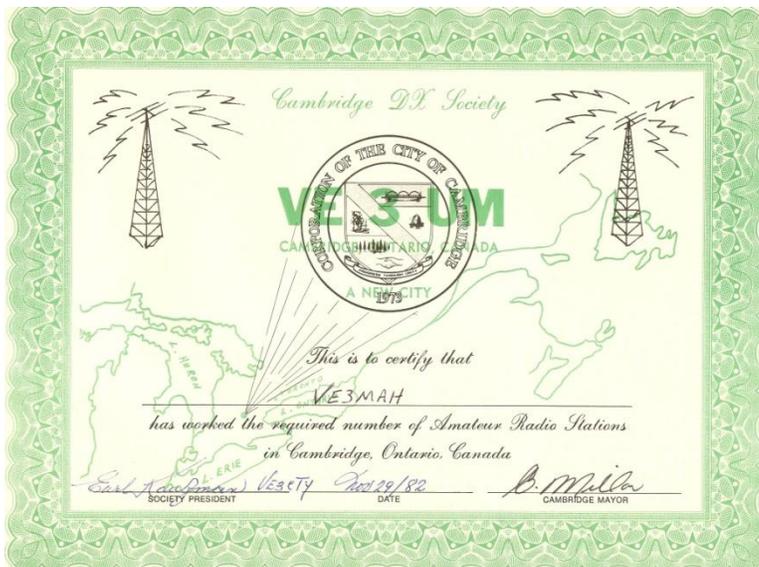
From a story in the Cambridge Daily Reporter on Wednesday September 27, 1978:
"Executive of the new club, which includes 14 members, are Earl Kaufman, president; Ernie Crump, vice-president and John Woodfield, secretary-treasurer. As one of the first projects, the new club prepared a special certificate and offered it to any amateur radio operator in the world who contacted five Cambridge stations and the new club station." The first certificate issued was to Pasi Luoma-Aho, a 19 year old Finnish amateur.

VE3UM is still registered to The Cambridge DX Society and in the care of Ernie Crump VE3OU

Note the call sign as printed by the paper -- probably why we used to call this paper the 'Galt Distorter'!

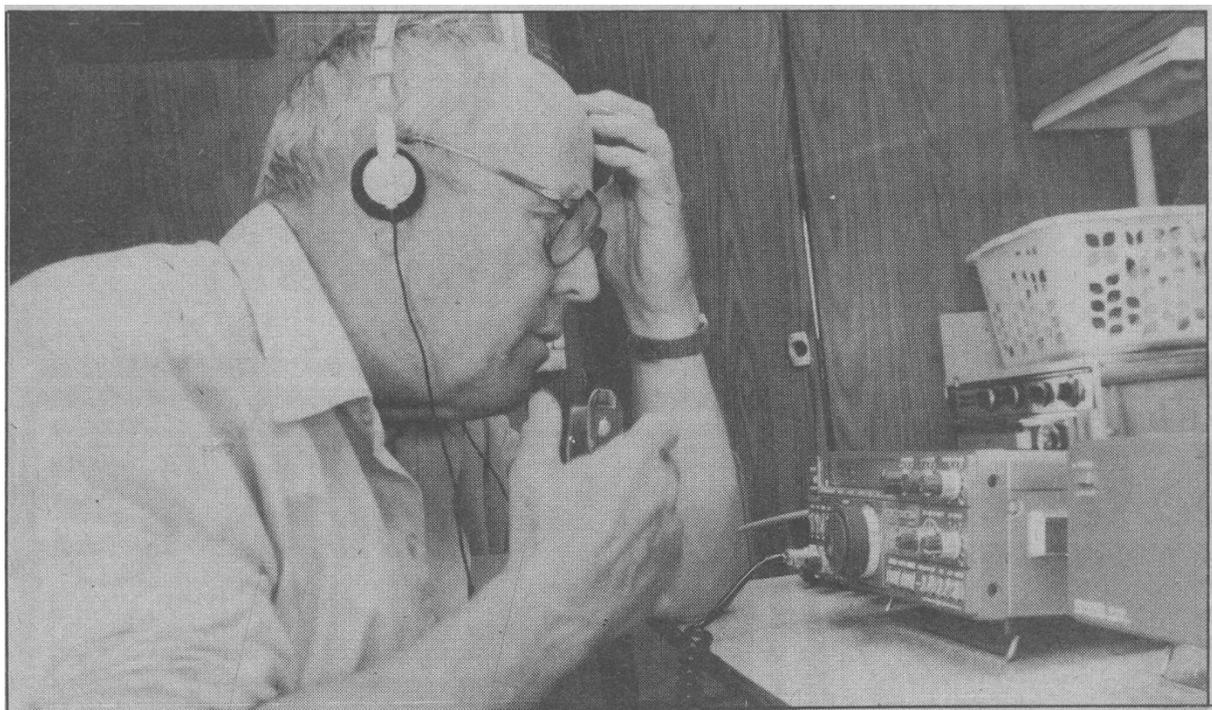


Earl Kaufman (right) and Joe Ketchabaw, stand over Mayor Erwin Nelson during the signing of the first certificate of the DE3UM Award. The award was presented to Pasi, a ham radio operator from Finland. He was the first international ham radio operator to contact five operators in Cambridge. (Times Photo)



Who is that fellow with the hat?

Dr. George Collins VE3FXT



George, working as a geologist, travelled to many parts of the world. Upon his return from his many trips to places such as the British Honduras, the south Pacific, and Africa, always made presentations to the club in the form of slide presentations and talked about his DX exploits. George operated SWARC field day often. After his trip to Africa, during FD, he was observed placing different coloured square tarps on the ground around his operating position. When I asked him their purpose, he explained in great detail how the different colours were a signal to aircraft flying over. Unfortunately, I don't remember the meanings.

See the next column to find out who these club members were.

