

Part 3 the 1980's -- a time of change, prosperity and a large numbers of 'boomers' looking for a hobby.

For amateurs in general, newly designed VHF and HF transceivers boasted solid state power amplifiers, digital displays with PLL frequency stability, a wider range of models and new manufacturers. The "banned countries" list started to decrease in the number of countries who forbade communication with Canadian amateurs and the passing of 'third party' messages. Three new bands were added to the HF allocation to amateurs. This decade is also the beginning of personal computer availability and use by amateurs. Very few of us had access to the developing internet.

For SWARC, the late 1970's saw a small increase in club membership as a result of the code and theory class conducted by Joe Ketchabaw VE3BGJ and Doug Pattengale VE3BIT at Preston High School in the spring of 1977. To assist the class, a CW net was run Thursdays on 28.550 MHz for practice. 1979 saw a new course run by Rex Hygate VE3IXC and others. It is interesting to note that a few of the new members were from points south of Cambridge. This may be due to the display of amateur radio that was set up at the Rockton World's Fair where George Collins VE3FXT made SWARC known to current and prospective amateurs. Further efforts to bolster the membership were in the form of a regular September display at the John Galt Mall (now Cambridge Center Mall) during Amateur Radio week as proclaimed by the mayor's office and regular displays at the local Radio Shack store. Meetings in the early 80's now averaged 14 to 17 members attending meetings and getting involved in the monthly activities. Call to order was by the use of a gavel. Jim Sweet VE3AAI finely crafted this instrument and presented it to then president Joe Ketchabaw VE3BGJ.

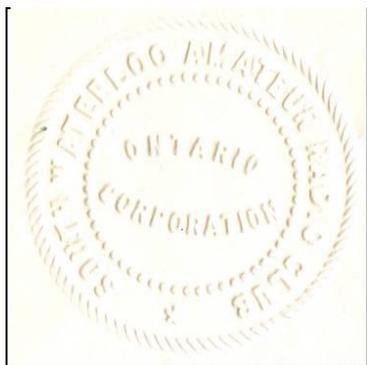
Speaking of meetings – Back to the annual problem of where to meet. The city was somewhat helpful in allowing meetings to take place firstly at Dickson Centre Arena board room (if it was not occupied by someone else) and the Central Park Centre (old Preston Town Hall). Unfortunately all of this fell apart when the city workers went on an extended strike in the spring of 1979. Finally, the January 1983 meeting was held at the Dickson Centre boardroom, with fees being paid for the first time to the city to guarantee availability. Now that the city was more organised – we were moved between Dickson Centre and the Preston Arena with little notice eventually landing in Preston for the duration.

With the number of displays and public activities members enjoyed, the inevitable problem of liability insurance arose. The situation of the day was the fact that more and more people were being sued for ridiculous sums for negligence. Do you remember questioning yourself about what you would do if you came across, say an accident victim who needed artificial respiration; you are fully trained and competent, but what if something went wrong and you were sued! An example I remember was a company in the US being sued over a farmer with boots covered in sh*t, slipping off of a ladder and injuring himself. The ladder company was successfully sued for not having a warning sticker on the ladder to cover such a case. Swarc investigated and purchased various types of liability insurance for a number of years and events. Prices ranged from \$50 to \$100 per year and \$15 per member per event. The best part of this was that in the event of an accident, members of SWARC would be covered for personal injury or loss but the club executive and each individual member could still be held financially responsible in any dispute with the public

Under the guidance of newly elected President Eric Kernohan VE3MF and assistance from Ann Ketchabaw VE3KVY, Mr Ron Zorbil, a lawyer from Preston spoke to the club members in September of 1980 about the intricacies of incorporating a not for profit organisation such as ours. One of the main benefits of incorporating was to limit the financial liability of the club to the value of assets held at the time and remove any financial liability from club executive and members. Corporations paid between seven and nine hundred dollars for this

basic service. At the time Ann worked for Mr. Zorbil and I'm guessing the large discount the club received was due in large to this fact and perhaps because the club bank account was valued at \$559.95. The final bill to the club was three hundred dollars, plus fifty or so to purchase a corporate seal and an estimated fifty dollars per year to have the required audit done. It took 5 months for the paper to be processed with the first official meeting as an incorporated organisation taking place in March of 1981. We were and are South Waterloo Amateur Radio Club Incorporated with all of the legal rights and responsibilities of any corporation in the province of Ontario. The first Directors of SWARC inc. were Eric Kernohan VE3MF, Joe Ketchabaw VE3BJJ/VE3JWK and Fraser Cooper VE3IZB/VE3FC.

Official club seal.



While the club had run code and theory classes in the mid and late 1970's, a more formal approach was taken during this time period. A formal class was arranged for 2 nights per week for 20 weeks to be held at Preston High School. As an incentive to participants, 1 year of membership (a five dollar value) was included in the forty dollar course fee. Successful graduates then received an additional year of SWARC inc. membership. If you look at the membership for the years after formal courses started you will notice a large number of 'M', 'N', 'O' and 'P' calls. Many of these are graduates of one of the courses offered through SWARC Inc. Through the efforts of Rex Hygate VE3IXW, Wayne Waddington VE3IZY, Fraser Cooper VE3IZB/VE3FC, Tom Franks VE3MAH and others, membership during the 80's and into the '90's swelled.

There were so many activities during this time period that I'll hold some of them for a future column. One area of concern was sporadic bulletin publishing, the cost to print and mail and regular lack of a bulletin editor. Instead I'll leave you with a short poem from Eric Kernohan VE3MF. I'm not sure if he was the author but in his words "*Think it over, and see how it fits.*"

Are you an active member, the kind who would be missed,
or are you just content that your name is on the list.

Do you take an active part to help things move along,
or are you quite well satisfied to only just belong.

Do you ever take a stand for things you think are right,
or leave the work to just a few, and talk instead of fight?

Think it over, member, you know what's right and wrong,
are you an ACTIVE member, or do you just belong.

From the last column – Did You Know –

The QSL card of Stan Jackson VE3IC is a picture (probably taken by my uncle) of a portion of Queen Street in the old town of Hespeler. You are standing at the corner of Queen Street and Tannery Street looking east. Directly ahead is the Hespeler Post Office; St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church is on the left and, to the right a row of stores including Stan's Drug Store, a hardware store, a dairy bar and lunch counter, jewelry store, grocery store and butcher shop. Stan moved sometime after this picture was taken to a larger store across the street and a block to the west.

That handsome fellow operating Field Day from the luxury suite is Ron Reyn VE3IVJ. Ron moved to Cambridge from Moose Jaw Saskatchewan to take a new job at Reuter Stokes and joined SWARC in June of 1983. In Moose Jaw, Ron worked for the Canadian military as a mechanical and electrical repair technician. I do not know if Ron was a member of the military or a civilian employee. He was however, entitled to use the designation "C.D." after his name. This designation denotes a minimum of 12 years of service to the military. Ron was very active in amateur radio as shown by his many demonstrations to club members in the form of RTTY using ASR33 teletypes, slow scan TV and slow scan equipment construction including one of the first colour slow scan systems. A hardwire built repeater controller helped to keep VE3SWR on the air for a short time and served duty in a UHF repeater Ron sponsored. Eighty meter field day was Ron's forté. He not only logged phone contacts for the entire time the band was open but consumed a healthy number of `807`s in the process. Contacts did not have a need to ask for the call VE3SWA a second time after Ron gave the call as `Victor Echo number 3 Sexy Women Available`.

Unfortunately VE3IVJ became a silent Key in September of last year after being a 7 year survivor of lung cancer.

Who was this handsome guy? – a long time SWARC member early license VE3EOS

