

Muskoka Amateur Radio Club History

I received my ham license in 1983, operating CW below 30mhz, voice on the higher frequencies.

The Bracebridge club was pretty well dormant at that time, the repeater on Kirk Line, VE3MRT, was maintained by Charlie VE3AYM (VA3CN).

In Huntsville a group of about a dozen of us from Kearney to Dwight would meet monthly in the High School. That died out after about six months.

Informally some of us would get together for various occasions, most notably starting about 1987, the Whipper Watson March of Dimes Snoworama , a 100 mile snowmobile run on Lake Muskoka, starting at the Fire College in Gravenhurst.

We had a meeting in Gravenhurst before our first involvement - Charlie VE3AYM, Don VE3ERB, Peter VE3FNT, and Fred VE3CLS, myself VE3NNY, and several others that have been misplaced in my memory bank. Fred CLS slipped on the ice, falling on his 2 Meter radio and smashing it on his way to the meeting.

We manned various checkpoints on Lake Muskoka, keeping track of well over 200 snowmobiles. We participated in the Snoworama for several years until it died out, the last year there were only 16 machines.

Our unnamed informal ham group would meet at various places - Tim Horton's, Children's Aid in Bracebridge, Salvation Army Citadel in Huntsville, Acme Lumber, and various other locations.

In 1991 Claude Radley VE3CRO, a radio operator at Muskoka Airport, and Frank Salter VE3FRS, a shrink at Beaver Creek, decided that we should become an organized club, and when all the hassles died down, the Muskoka Amateur Radio Club came into being in early 1992. One of our members had connections at the Huntsville Hospital and the Board Room was retained for our meeting place. The only continuous members of the charter group are Charlie VA3CN and Bruce VE3NNY.

In the spring of 1992 Claude VE3CRO and Mark Hachmer VE3TEV, a schoolteacher son of Armen VE3TEQ, began teaching ham radio to a group

of about 20 at McCauley Public School in Bracebridge. Marj VE3WSI, Ron VE3RZT, and Dave VO1MNB are graduates of that class.

The Club Presidents from the beginning were: Frank Salter VE3FRS, Mark Hachmer VE3TEV, Dave Crosby VE3VSM, Stephen Coker VE3LS, Bob Stickel VE3BKS, Dave Moublow VE3MNB, Dave Ross VE3ALR, Peter Korschevsky VE3ZKP, Bob Purvis VE3INY, Jack Bowman VE3EYQ, Peter Clarke VE3FNT, Charlie VA3CN, Earle VE3ERR, Roy VA3RMD, Nicole VE3NSB, Bob VA3FMF, and Jim VE3HJT. I may have missed one or two.

In the late '90s a ham class took place at the Huntsville Hospital. Ellen VE3ECD, Olive VA3OLV, and Leo VE3LEO were graduates of this group. Catherine VA3GCJ and Gary VE3GSS were graduates of a class in Bracebridge I believe. I don't have any info on that one.

There was a class at the Secondary School in Huntsville in 2005 where Sam VE3SRR, Gwen VA3CZF, Jamie VE3BEZ and Roy VA3RMD got their tickets. Jamie took over his grandfather's call and went on to get his CW endorsement in 2010.

Another class was held in Bracebridge at the District offices in 2009 where Roger VA3HPR, Bob VA3FMF, Kim VA3ABI, Don VA3BBV and Mark VA3MDO graduated and joined the club. Roman VE3WRQ self studied and got his ticket in 2007.

Club newsletter editors were Dave VE3DEA, Stephen VE3LS, Mark VE3TEV, Dave VE3VSM, Bob VE3BKS, Bruce VE3NNY, Nicole VE3NSB, Steve VE3SJO.

We have provided communications at various checkpoints for the Kid's Triathlon in Port Sydney for about fourteen years.

Bruce VE3NNY