

Remembering

by Mardy, VE3QEE



David Locke, VE3DLK, SK

David was an active member of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club who will be sadly missed. David had been a Radio Amateur only a few years, since taking the Basic Course in the Fall of 2000. At that time he was retired, and looking for an additional hobby to satisfy his appetite for involvement, for learning, and for tinkering, all of which he loved to do. David had other hobbies too that he actively pursued, chief among these was making and operating radio controlled boats and cars, Ham radio fit nicely with that. David was an able machinist, with a metal lathe and drill press in his basement, and a radio broadcast enthusiast, with a complete professional broadcast booth, circa 1960s, installed at his home. On more than one occasion David remarked to me that getting involved in HAM radio had been the best thing for him because each day it gave him something to look forward to when he got up in the morning.

You get out of an activity what you put into it. David put a lot into the hobby he loved. A regular participant at the Canadian Warplane Museum, David loved talking to the visitors, and hearing what they had to tell of their experiences during the war, and about the equipment on display that they knew so well. David became quite knowledgeable about the old equipment from his contact with the veterans. He also helped set up the station at VA3CWM, and enjoyed operating, especially the digital modes on computer.

David was elected a club director, and at the time his illness began, was serving as Vice-President. At that time he acted as sort of an ambassador-on-the-air, talking every day and making contacts with all the groups he could talk to from Oshawa through Brantford around to Niagara Falls. He was actively involved in the TechNet and I guess you could say was one of the founding members. At flea markets David loved to meet face-to-face the people he spoke to on the air. He was always willing to help solve a technical problem by explaining how he had done something, or by putting you in contact with a person who could help.

David was a band captain on Field day and hosted the UHF/VHF group operating from his van, complete with home brew gain antennas comfortable shelter and sleeping accommodation. He also looked forward to attending the annual Christmas parties, and it was he who originated the much quoted phrase, "They clean up good," when commenting on a photograph of our members dressed up for dinner at the Yacht Club.

I liked David a lot because of his positive attitude, his acceptance of everyone, his quiet dignity in the face of hardship, and his love of life. It was hard to watch him go downhill over a period of several years. His association is one I shall not forget. In my mind, David demonstrated the very best qualities we admire in a Radio Amateur. I truly will miss his presence.



Norman Avery, VE3BVU, SK.

Norm was licenced in Amateur Radio less than a year. He had studied on his own and qualified well enough to gain HF privileges under the new upgraded system. Norm was not new to using the radio. In his job driving taxi in the city, and also as a recreational CBer, Norm enjoyed radio, but the Amateur Bands were, for him, a new adventure. In the time since earning his licence Norm pulled together an effective station at his residence, complete with balcony antennas and a desk lined with transceivers. His friends will attest that he was proud to demonstrate the hobby and explain how the apparatus worked. He had found a satisfying outlet for his energies.

Norm joined the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club and regularly attended meetings. Just a day or so before hearing the sad news of his passing the executive had been discussing the idea of inviting him to volunteer for a job to help the club.

I am sorry that Norm had so little time to enjoy the hobby, but from what I learned talking to others at his memorial service, he was well on his way to becoming one of us when his time was cut short.

