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## Chapter 73 Newsletter for Spring 2005

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Our Spring meeting will be held on Saturday, 7 May 2005 at The Plainsman Restaurant. Coffee will be available from 9.00AM onwards, and the meeting will start at 10.00 AM.

### **New Members**

We are pleased to welcome new members: Paul Kovac VE3HFM, Bill McHugh VE3NH and Len Dodds VE3GHN. We also have a new chapter membership category called Friends of Fred Hammond QCWA Chapter 73. This category is open to interested amateurs who are not eligible for membership in QCWA because of not being licensed for 25 years. They can join as a "Friend" on payment of special chapter dues. They will receive all chapter publications but will not be entitled to vote. Friends will be expected to join QCWA once they become eligible. Our first Friend is Bob Pelling, VE3XNB of Waterloo.

### **Silent Keys**

Regretfully, we have to announce the following silent keys: Norm Weedmark VE3NFW, Ernie Hanson VE3FX and Al d'Eon VE3AND.

### **Hearing Enhancement**

For those who are hard of hearing, we will have a flea power Transmitter on 146.625 MHz. Bring your handheld with earphone.

### **QCWA Journal**

HQ has asked us to check with those of you who are life members and have paid for lifetime copies of the journal, but who are not receiving them. If you have this

problem, please advise Chapter Secretary, VE3DHL.

### **Guest Speaker**

The highlight of the meeting will be Chapter President Tom Atkin's photographic presentation about the International Polar Expedition as described below in Tom's words:

#### **CANADA /USSR TRANS POLAR SKI TREK EXPEDITION**

"Seventeen years ago in February 1988, a joint Soviet/Canadian expedition left the Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago to cross the North Pole to Canada by ski. This long and dangerous journey ended successfully 1435 UTC June 1, 1988 at Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island after a 90 day journey.

It is an historic story about courage and endurance, and is a lasting tribute to the skiers themselves, assisted by Canadian and Soviet amateur radio operators and some other amateurs around the world, who provided constant communications with the "Moving Group" ie the Skiers, throughout the 90 days of the long journey across the most hostile environment in the world.

The amateur radio communications network was the safety and logistical lifeline for this truly epic journey, and is a tribute to all those amateurs who participated throughout the three months of the Expedition in establishing and maintaining this unique amateur radio communications network. It is truly a piece of Amateur Radio history which at the time was extensively featured by amateur

publications round the world, as well as extensive coverage in the international media

Tom Atkins, VE3CDM/VE8UA, together with Chief Operator Barry Garrett, VE3CDX/VE8CDX/4K0DX, assisted by a dedicated team of Canadian radio amateurs who performed flawlessly throughout this most challenging international expedition.

This is their story."

Chapter members are asked to bring along any friends who might be interested in this topic and particularly anyone who participated in the event. We have invited some of the local ham clubs.

### **SCHOLARSHIP REPORT**

The members of the Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce that we will be continuing our successful scholarship program that we started last year! This year it is our intention to once again provide financial assistance to students who are continuing their education at the post secondary level and we encourage all eligible students to apply for one of our Fred Hammond Chapter 73 QCWA Scholarships. Applications, which can be obtained on our web site, [www.qcwa.ca](http://www.qcwa.ca), are due on April 15, 2005. Scholarship Committee: Mary Card (Chair), Jim Cull, Jack McQuarrie and Earl Mann

Application forms for the 2005/6 school year are also enclosed with this newsletter.

### Highlights of the last meeting

George Roach, VE3BNO gave a quick presentation about the coming convention in Ottawa and asked for our support by attending. Mary Card advised us that 5 scholarship recipients had been chosen, funded by generous donations from the estate of the late Eric Enns, VE3BB, and the Hammond Manufacturing Company.

Our speaker was Fergus Kyle, VE3LVO, who gave us a fascinating and humorous illustrated talk about his project of building a real airplane. In addition to the pictures, Ferg brought several pieces of the aircraft. **Mid way through his presentation, the lights went out!** The restaurant staff rushed around with candles for all of the tables, and we carried on mostly in the

dark. Fortunately there was a big flashlight on the prize table, so we were able to illuminate the airplane parts as Ferg talked about them.

Since the buffet lunch was cooked with gas, we didn't have to eat cold food. Some of us had to eat by candle light (no champagne), as illustrated at left below from left to right, our guest speaker, Fergus Kyle, VE3LVO, Mary Card, VE3FEB, and new member, Paul Kovac, VE3HFM

Not everyone had to eat by candle light. Below on right the Nutters, Ann VE3HAI and Barc VE3HAH, along with George Roach, VE3BNO enjoy a "light" lunch in the part of the restaurant which has windows.

By the time lunch was over, the power was back on, Fergus was

able to show us the rest of his pictures, and we were able to see the prize table. Prizes were donated by Electrosonic, Larry Parker, VE3EDY, Ernie Crump, VE3OU, Tom Atkins, VE3CDM, Len Dodds, VE3GHN and Mr. V. J. Currigan, a neighbour of Jim Traves, VE3FMT.

### Next Meeting

Don't forget to send in your reply to the next luncheon invitation. Since we hope to have a larger attendance than we usually have, it is important that we inform The Plainsman as accurately as possible regarding the numbers. Please fill in your e-mail address in the space provided. Members are encouraged to use the RAC alias as instructed on the RAC web site: <http://www.rac.ca>.



(L-R) Fergus Kyle, VE3LVO, Mary Card, VE3FEB, and new member Paul Kovac, VE3HFM



(L-R) The Nutters, Ann VE3HAI and Barc VE3HAH, along with George Roach, VE3BNO

## WEB SITES OF INTEREST

QCWA HQ Homepage  
<http://www.qcwa.org>

QCWA Chapter 73 Web Site  
<http://qcwa.ca>

Hammond Museum of Radio  
<http://www.hammondmuseumofradio.org>