



# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895  
HALIFAX NS  
B3K 5M5

January 2011, Volume 72 Number 1  
club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



## Welcome to 2011 Welcome to HARC's New Executive



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

### Executive

President - Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO	865-4198	fmac@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Rod Padmore, VE1BSK	443-7181	rodpadmore@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Betty Caithness, VE1BSW	477-7081	betty.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Treasurer - John Goddwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	goodwinj@eastlink.ca
Director-at-Large: - Sheldon Harling, VE1GPY		hartling@netpathinc.com
Club Station Mgr. - Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	835-4865	wayneph@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ		bob_swinwood@hotmail.com

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - VACANT

QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP 466-8723 dgeorge@dal.ca

EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA 435-4333 ve1eda@rac.ca

Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT 865-8567 ve1ent@rac.ca

Reflector Dist. - Frank Wilson, VE1FHW fhcb.wilson@ns.sympatico.ca

Membership - Frank Wilson, VE1FHW fhcb.wilson@ns.sympatico.ca

Web page - Frank Smith frankiansmith@gmail.com

Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 ve1tri@rac.ca

2010 Flea market Chair - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ445-8103 tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca

Field Day coordinator - VACANT

Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB ve1trb@eastlink.ca

NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 ve1tri@rac.ca

Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH

### Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Len Morgan, VE9MY 506-696-5279 morgakl@nb.sympatico.ca

RAC Section Manager - Jim Langille, VE1JBL (902) 667-1485 ve1jbl@ns.sympatico.ca

RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca

### Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. We have a new net controllers and would like at least 1 more. **If you want to join**, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



Jan. 16	Doug	VE1LDL
Jan. 23	Bruce	VE1MLW
Jan. 30	Emil	VE1ESP
Feb. 6	Bob	VE1PQ
Feb. 13	Win	VE1WIN
Feb. 20	David	VE1NN

**Please note that the club mailing address will be changing to**  
P.O. Box 8895

Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5  
We will share the QSL bureau PO Box which is more convenient for mail pick up.

**Deadline for submissions to the February Reflector is Saturday, February 5, 2011**

*If love is blind,  
why is lingerie so popular?*

The **January Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the Saint Andrews Rec Ctr.

Our speaker will be Fred Archibald, VE1FA. Is topic will be The Paraset: A WW2 Spy Radio (with demonstration)

Guests are welcome.

### SPECIAL PREFIX

For the month of February to commemorate the Canada Winter Games held in Halifax and Nova Scotia all VE1 and VA1 calls can use a special prefix - CK1 for VE1 and CJ1 for VA1.

Depending on demand the club may print some generic cards for the special prefixes. If you use this prefix and are interested in QSL cards please let the executive know how many you may want. If demand is not high enough for the club to economically do a printing then we may be able to point you in the direction of a small quantity printer.

Dec.7, 2010 was the 93rd anniversary of the Halifax Explosion

### GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:  
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM

### CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +  
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +  
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -  
access tone 151.4 Hz  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5  
PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz  
LAN NODE

*Events for Your Calendar*

February — Guides On The Air (GOTA)

May 14 - 2011 DownEast Fleamarket.. To help, contact Chairman Tom, VE1BMJ

June 25-26, 2011 - the 2011 ARRL Field Day.

Contact Helen Archibald, VA1YL, for information about the Guides on the Air (GOTA) event this **February**. Helen is the CLARA (Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association) coordinator for GOTA for all of Canada.

From the ARRL Letter, Dec.2/10

### **The Spratly Islands DXpedition Gets Wings**

The 37 operators from 15 countries who make up the DX0DX DXpedition Team that will go to the Spratly Islands is finalizing preparations for the almost month-long DXpedition that begins January 6, 2011. Instead of going by boat, the team will instead fly to Thitu Island where they will set up their operation. Thitu is the second largest island in the Spratly Islands. The Spratlys are a group of more than 750 reefs, islets, atolls, cays and islands in the South China Sea between Vietnam, the Philippines, China, Malaysia and Brunei. They comprise less than 4 square kilometers of land area, spread out over more than 425,000 square kilometers of sea.

### **The Brit Fader Scholarship**

was awarded in 2009 & 2010 in the amount of \$1,000 to assist with post-secondary education for a young Canadian Radio Amateur.

If the scholarship is to be awarded in 2011 and remain self-sustaining the fund needs some donations.

Please make an income tax deductible donation to The Brit Fader Scholarship fund.

## **BOOK the CLUB STATION DURING FEBRUARY**

A way to publicize the Canada Winter Games, Halifax and the Halifax ARC is to book the club station to operate it with the special prefix as CK1FQ. Contact John, VE1CDD.

### **RAC Bulletin 2010-032E - Vision Statement 2010-11-14**

**Vision for RAC** as unanimously agreed upon by the Board of Directors and Executive of the Radio Amateurs of Canada:

"The Board and Executive of the Radio Amateurs of Canada, committed to the future of Amateur Radio in Canada and to the future of RAC, held a planning meeting in Ottawa from October 29th to October 31st as part of a process to map the future of RAC in the 21st Century. The Board and Executive have unanimously agreed upon a draft Vision for RAC."

This Vision appears below and will be published on our website and appear in the Jan./Feb. issue of The Canadian Amateur. Comments from members & amateurs are welcomed and should be sent to Paul Burggraaf, Secretary, RAC by email to the RAC Corporate Secretary at <pburggraaf@nf.sympatico.ca>."

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) becomes an integral part of Amateur Radio culture: When a new Ham obtains his/her certification, they rush to join RAC and enjoy the benefits of the organization which is recognized both nationally and internationally as the voice of Amateur Radio in Canada. If it is an Amateur Radio question, concern or issue, RAC is the organization that addresses those concerns and supplies the answers and guidance.

We attain high service levels; we meet the needs of our members and serve as an example to other international Amateur Radio organizations on how to service their constituents. Director, Executive & Assistant Director positions are coveted by RAC members, who are equitably represented by their elected officials. The annual convention is well attended and through technology, is made available to a wider range of members who cannot attend in person.

RAC pushes communications to their members, through a variety of methods. Ham nets, local club communications, face-to-face meetings, presentations, newsletters, The Canadian Amateur magazine, social networks and e-mail/web bulletins are among the devices employed. We achieve a level of communication with the public, and the various levels of government that truly reflects our capabilities and the extent to which we can contribute to both emergency communications & public awareness of the abilities of our hobby.

RAC promotes education & mentoring to new Hams, and supports the training & coaching of RAC volunteers to achieve exemplary results, at the municipal, provincial & national levels. The new RAC Field Training program is the recognized tool leveraged by our ARES groups. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization, and we develop an appreciation program that reflects our reliance on their abilities and commitment. All RAC members recognize & appreciate what the individual volunteers contribute, and the value that RAC, as an organization, brings to Amateur Radio in Canada.

RAC achieves a stable financial position with a positive, growing membership which truly reflects the outstanding representation that RAC makes to Industry Canada and the world of Amateur Radio in Canada.

Paul Burggraaf RAC Corporate Secretary

*Thanks to the Internet you can get hopelessly in debt without ever leaving your house.*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - January 2011**

The New Year is upon us! I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and the best in 2011.

The new Executive is in place; we have had two Meetings and are getting plans in place for the upcoming year. I would like to thank the 2010 Executive for their efforts during the past year.

The Club urgently requires two Committee Chairs, a 2011 Field Day and a 2012 Call Book Project Manager. The Field Day will be held at the Club Station and we will operate in the 2F category. This decreases the workload somewhat due to the fact that less organization is required. The Call Book Project Manager is a different requirement. Although the Book will not be published until 2012, the Project Manager is required now. Many of the 2008 Committee have stated they are willing to assist but the Manager has to be in place as soon as possible. Please consider taking on these responsibilities.

The Club now has an E-Mail address, VE1FQ or VE1FO@RAC.CA. Please feel free to contact the Club via this method. The site will be checked regularly.

Remember this is your Club; please contact the Executive with your ideas, suggestions, etc. to make improvements.

73, Fraser, VE1WO



December 2, 2010 - doing work on VE1TAL at the Nuttby repeater site were (from left to right) Bruce, VE1II; Lorne, VE1BXX; Mike, VE1MBH, Bill, VE1MR; and, behind the camera, Brad, VE1ZX. Nuttby's height makes it a preferred location for wind power generation as well as for RF communications towers & antennas. Brad counted 21 windmills like the ones you can see in the background

HARC Members,

The Take 15 Net has been one of the mainstream nets in Nova Scotia for many years. Just how long it has been running certainly pre-dates me and many others, I am sure. This net, as well as many others, existed to allow local hams to touch base with others in their region to stay abreast of local news, events and technology of the time.

Technology has changed over the years and as much as we try to stay current, it becomes an impossible task for most of us. However, this does not mean the value of the net to the individual Ham has changed. As always, Hams like to talk either on the air, at flea markets or dinners. It still remains a means to stay in touch locally and enjoy the friendship of others with similar interests.

Granted, there are many arguments about the new technologies, etc, etc, as noted earlier, but nothing compares to creating your own operating environment, however you do that, and using it to communicate with others who share your enthusiasm.

Recently, it was uncertain as to whether or not the Take 15 Net would continue due to the lack of Take 15 Net Controllers and the low volume of check ins. This loss would further grease the slope into the void of oblivion for Ham Radio locally.

So, what to do? Obviously the status quo is not acceptable. We need ideas...your ideas. I am sure you have had many thoughts in this direction both positive and negative. I would like to hear or read about them.

In the meantime, I will be implementing a small change to the format of the net, at least when I host it. In addition to the usual format currently employed, it will be followed by a summary of interesting items or notices from the HARC Reflector and RAC bulletins. I will also be asking the HARC executive to check in to the NET with up-to-date news regarding HARC activities. Finally, if anyone has anything they feel might be of interest to the Take 15 Net either let me know ahead of time and it will be included in a brief notice of the upcoming Take 15 Net via email or you may bring it up at the end of the Take 15 Net.

I hope we can make this work for everyone. Your input is very much needed to make it happen.

Please take a moment to reply to this message with your thoughts.

73, Bob (VE1PQ)  
ve1pq@rac.ca 902-860-4454

### Safety Tip

A woman had an automobile accident several weeks ago.



It was raining, though not excessively and her car suddenly began to hydro-plane and literally flew through the air. She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence! When she explained to the highway patrolman what had happened.

He told her something that every driver should know - NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON. She thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain.. But the highway patrolman told her that if the cruise control is on, your car will begin to hydro-plane when the tires lose contact with the pavement, and your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you take off like an airplane.

She told the patrolman that was exactly what had occurred. The patrolman said this warning should be listed, on the driver's seat sun-visor - NEVER USE THE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE PAVEMENT IS WET OR ICY, along with the airbag warning. We tell our teenagers to set the cruise control and drive a safe speed - but we don't tell them to use the cruise control only when the pavement is dry.

The only person, the accident victim found, who knew this (besides the patrolman), was a man who had a similar accident, totalled his car and sustained severe injuries.

NOTE: Some vehicles (like the Toyota Sienna Limited XLE) will not allow you to set the cruise control when the windshield wipers are on.



### Basic Amateur Radio Licence Class 2010

This years class started earlier than previous ones because the third Thursday happened to fall on the 16th of Sept (one day after the HARC monthly meeting). It continued for thirteen consecutive sessions. There were 12 who registered for the instructed classes along with one out of town self represented from-study person for a total of thirteen students. The class was well represented as a keen knowledgeable group of mariners from various professional backgrounds.

Unfortunately three students had to withdraw because of increasing family and work commitments. All three said they would retake the course at a later date.

All of the classes were well conducted and well received. There were always alot of thank yous at the end of the evening or afternoon. A number of e-mails were received thanking the instructors and HARC for putting the course together.

The first group of five amateurs were tested on Saturday December 11 at the club classroom. **All five tested passed with honours and received their full HF privileges.** The next group of four who were away at the initial time of testing wish to be tested at the club station on Saturday the 22nd January when we hope to have four new active hams in our community.

The five beaming new amateurs in the picture from right to left are: John van-Schalkwyck, VE1BVT; Carol Wood, VE1HAZ; Erik Hein, VE1JEH; Heinz Wiele, VE1HFG; Dean Tsaltas, VE1QED; and Barry (BARL coordinator). We welcome this group of five new amateurs and HARC members. Please give them a contact and greeting when you hear their callsign on the air. Some have been interested in getting new equipment for their home/boat. Some talk already has been made among the group about studying for their advanced licence.

It is important to recognize the efforts of all the instructors and everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this years new class of hams. Special thanks to Fred Archibald VE1FA for presenting four of the units again this year.

Barry, VE1TRI

*I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather; not screaming in terror like the passengers in his car.*

**Commonwealth Medal**

*This item was sent in by Scott, VE1QD, in the RSBG On-line Magazine for August 2010*

The Commonwealth Medal is awarded each year to the entrant(s) who have, in the opinion of the members of the Contest Committee, contributed most to the Commonwealth Contest over the years. The recipients, who will be regular entrants, may have been an entrant from a more unusual Commonwealth call area, have stimulated entrants through local publicity, may have helped in running the contest, yet may not have been in a position to win one of the major trophies. It goes without saying that their operating standards and good humour will have been an example to all of us. The Commonwealth Medal 2010 was awarded to Gary, VE1RGB. The website

[www.beru.org.uk/Awards/Awards.htm](http://www.beru.org.uk/Awards/Awards.htm) contains a list of previous recipients.

The recipients of the medals are :-

- VK4OD (1994)
- VK3XB (1995)
- ZB2EO (1996)
- 9J2BO (1997)
- ZL1MH (1998)
- VE2ZP (1999)
- VK2BJ (2000)
- G2QT & VK3ZC (2001)
- G2HLU (2002)
- GM3WOJ (2003)
- VU2UR (2004)
- ZL1AZE (2005)
- K6VZ (2006)
- G3PJT (2007)
- G3LZQ (2008)
- VK4XA (2009)
- To which now add VE1RGB (2010)



THUS, Gary, VE1RGB is the 17th winner of this medal.

For each new technological innovation there's a crook finding a way to use it for criminal purposes. To learn how RFID Technology can be used to pick your pocket electronically see

<http://www.wreg.com/videobeta/?watchId=8ba6f8fc-90a2-4711-90ea-1884ec348310>

*Whatever happened to Preparations A through G ?*

RAC Bulletin 2010-034 E - CARAB News on Electrical Interference 2010-11-23

The Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board [CARAB] is a joint Radio Amateur of Canada [RAC]/Industry Canada [IC] consultation body which met last Oct.28 in Ottawa. In addition to items noted previously in a previous RAC Bulletin, RAC had raised the issue of utility electrical interference.

IC communicated the following to CARAB members after its Nov.2 meeting with the Canadian Electrical Association."

Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW, Co-Chair, CARAB / President, RAC

On November 2, 2010, the annual Transmission Telecommunications Task Group (TTTG) meeting between Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) and Industry Canada was held. Industry Canada took the opportunity to relay to the Association concerns that had been raised at the October 28, 2010 Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB) meeting relating to electrical interference.

CEA representatives were reminded of requirements under Industry Canada's Interference Causing Equipment Standards (ICES) - 004 and given examples to demonstrate that, fundamentally, a clean electrical utility is beneficial for the utility.

CEA representatives indicated that front-line electrical utility staff may not be familiar with the requirements of ICES-004. It was noted that many utilities may not always have the expertise available to locate sources of electrical interference, however, some specific utilities indicated that they do in fact have experts in this field.

Industry Canada pointed out to Association members that radio amateurs can be a resource as they may have skills that could be used to help identify sources.

The CEA thanked Industry Canada for bringing CARAB's concerns to the meeting and acknowledged that there are benefits to locating sources of electrical interference. Industry Canada indicated that the CARAB would appreciate receiving the CEA's views and reaction to this matter and the Association agreed it would respond.

For information about ARES frequencies go to <http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/public-service/ares/frequencies/>

The Web site of the ARRL is

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)  
For information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page.

**Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?**

Yearly rates are as follows:  
Full = \$25 Associate = \$15  
Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)  
Contact Membership Chair Frank Wilson, VE1FHW

**The Halifax Amateur Radio Club  
Monthly General Meeting  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
MINUTES**

President Murray (VE1MMD) opened the meeting at 19:30 hours.

Silent Keys – Jeff Wilson – VE1GW - in Sydney

Approval of Agenda

**Motion** – THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved by: Bruce (VE1MLW); Seconded by: Bill (VE1MR) Motion carried.

Introduction of new members and guests – Stephen (G7DIE) temporarily working locally and Erik Hein – HARC Associate Basic Class Member.

Approval of Minutes of September monthly meeting.

**Motion** – THAT the minutes of the October 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 monthly meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club as published in the November edition of the *Reflector* be approved.

Moved by: Howard (VE1DHD); Seconded by: Doug (VE1LDL). Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Opening bank balance - \$8605.96 with \$208.98 in outstanding cheques and \$155.15 in petty cash for an opening cash total of \$8,551.36. October monthly expenses were \$2.00 and income was \$2,357.60 for a net income of \$2,355.60 for a closing October monthly cash total of \$10,906.96, petty cash of \$155.15, and outstanding cheques of \$131.04, with \$503.47 owing to Estates from 2009/2010 and \$197.07 in 2010/2011 for a Net Club Bank Account Balance for October of \$10,379.38.

**Motion** – THAT the report of the treasurer be approved.

Moved by: Keith (VE1STN); Seconded by: Bill (VE1MR). Motion carried.

**Executive Reports:**

**Second Vice-President** – Sheldon (VE1SJP) reported that the door

prize for this evening is Kenwood "eco-friendly" shopping bag. The 50:50 draw payout would be \$21.50 The Club Christmas dinner will take place on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Steak and Stein on Young Street Halifax; members are encouraged to gather at 6:30 for 7:00pm.

**Station Manager** – Wayne (VE1WPH) indicated that he has plans to do some upgrades and consolidations in the Club satellite station; he will give an overview of these station upgrades at the January monthly meeting.

**President** - Murray (VE1MMD) – informed the membership that the CY0 Sable Island DXpedition was back on and the team would be leaving Halifax on December 5<sup>th</sup> for Sable Island.

**Committee Reports:**

**Basic Course** – Barry (VE1TRI) absent. Dave Nimmo and Bill Elliott both indicated their availability to provide testing on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**EMO** - Tom (VE1GTC) indicated that those who have been trained in emergency communications will be receiving a City Watch Survey to indicate their willingness to continue participating and to arrange for an annual refresher.

**Search & Rescue** – Dave (VE1AJP) – reported on two searches (one at Peggy's Cove and the other in Parsborough), both appear to have ended in deaths although only the body of the young man who went into the water at Peggy's Cove has been recovered.

**Old Business:**

**Red Cross First Aid Training** – Murray reminded members that the Club has budgeted \$300 to assist members to take this course. The stipulation being that the individual is willing to assist in emergency situations. Both Tom (VE1GTC) and Dick (VE1AI) indicated that they would like to take the course.

**New Business:**

**Notice of Motion re: DX Forum Advance** – Fraser (VE1WO) informed the meeting that Mount St. Vincent University has requested that we make a down payment before the first of December in order to ensure that the university will hold the venue prices at 2010 levels. While there is money in the DX Forum account that could be used to partly cover this expense, in order to save service charges on this account the account has temporarily been placed in a non-active status until the spring of 2011.

**MOTION, that** the Club approve a \$1000 advance to hold the University facilities for the 2011 MDF. Moved by Fraser and seconded by Scott. Carried.

**Nominating Committee Report –**

President – Fraser (VE1WO)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Bill (VE1MR)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Rod, VE1BSK  
Treasurer – John (VE1CDD)  
Secretary – Betty, VEBSW  
Station Manager – Wayne, VE1WPH

Director-at-Large – Sheldon Hartling, VE1GPY

50/50 Draw - \$ 21.50 was won by Doug Conrad (VE1UY)

Door prize – was won by Jim (VE1JIM).


There being no further business, on a motion by Doug (VE1LDL) the meeting was adjourned at 1958 hours.

The HARC Annual General Meeting to follow a brief social break.

Respectfully submitted  
D. Howard Dickson, VE1DHD,  
Secretary, HARC

*"Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza."*

- Dave Barry



**RAC Bulletin 2010-039E -**

Distracted Driving Legislation Continues to be on Provincial Agendas; **New Brunswick introduces Legislation Banning Cell Phone and Two Way Radio** Use 2010-12-11

Provinces have a responsibility to legislate requirements respecting road safety on public roadways and the virtually ubiquitous use of cell phones for voice and texting communication has created new challenges for legislators. RAC agrees with the need for provinces to address cell phone use.

Most provinces [eg. Nova Scotia, Manitoba, BC, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador to name five] have chosen not to restrict the operation of mobile amateur radio equipment during driving. These governments have recognized the value of amateur radio to their citizens. Amateur radio has served the citizens of Canada during such emergencies such as floods, dangerous weather and ice storms, in support of public events such as Marathons and in support of agencies such as the Red Cross and a variety of provincial and municipal agencies across Canada. The support provided by amateur radio is frequent, freely given and in the highest standard of public service.

On November 24 New Brunswick introduced a bill to control cell phone and “hand-operated electronic device” use while driving and this legislation will prevent amateurs from using our mobile radios while driving. RAC agrees with the intent of the legislation but has pointed out in a December 9th letter from the President of RAC to the New Brunswick Minister of Public Safety, Mr. Robert Trevors: [excerpts]

“Radio Amateurs have passed demanding examinations set by the Industry Canada to earn their authority to operate equipment. Federal radio regulations specifically permit Radio Amateurs to establish mobile stations.

By tradition, Radio Amateurs are public-spirited citizens, who regularly volunteer their time, skill, equipment and energy for everything from public events to providing communication in time of emergency. Radio Amateurs are often at their most useful in emergency situations when using their equipment installed in their personal vehicles.

Radio Amateurs in New Brunswick regularly and without fail respond to your citizen’s needs whether it is to help municipalities fighting flooding along the St. John River, Marathons or police on Halloween patrol you will find amateur radio operators. Banning mobile Amateur Radios for day to day use will mean that there are no experienced Amateur Radio Operators and no mobile radios available when there is a time of need. Eliminating the use of Federally Certified Radio Amateurs to use mobile radio equipment will not increase public safety but decrease it.”

Third reading on the bill is expected during the week of December 13 to 17. The Bill permits the government to proclaim the legislation at a time of its choosing anytime thereafter.

It is preferable that any exclusion for Amateur Radio operators occurs in the legislation itself and RAC has so requested. There are provisions for a regulated exclusion for Radio Amateurs in Section 265.05 [f] of Bill 4. “The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations exempting, with or without conditions, certain classes or types of devices or motor vehicles, or certain classes of persons, ...“Regulations would follow the passing of the bill and hopefully before the proclamation of the Bill into law. Legislation [Acts] are passed by Legislators while Regulations are approved by Cabinet [both require royal assent through the Lt. Governor].

RAC will: continue to work with Amateurs in New Brunswick to lobby the Province for exclusion for Amateur Radio Operators during mobile operations. Continue to work with amateurs in New Brunswick to encourage communities and served agencies to remind government of the value of amateur radio in all its forms [mobile, fixed, or portable]. Offer to work with the Government of the Province of New Brunswick to help ensure the highest quality legislation and regulation which will enhance public safety.

Amateurs and Clubs should take opportunities in their own provinces to have served agencies [public or private agencies and groups] remind provincial authorities of the continued value and relevancy of Amateur Radio. In today’s world of smart phones and the internet it is sometimes easy for officials to overlook the value of Amateur Radio and our provision of a distinctive and valuable public service.

Geoff Bawden VE4BAW  
President and Chair RAC

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has signed an order calling for the federal government to switch to Linux from proprietary operating systems such as Microsoft Windows, starting in 2Q 2012. The move to Linux is the most significant change in an edict encouraging a transition from proprietary software to free alternatives throughout the Russian government through 2015.

See <http://www.linuxfordevices.com/c/a/News/Russia-issues-order-to-switch-government-IT-to-Linux/>

With the global recession, there has been a continuing emphasis in using Linux in IT programs pushed by emerging economies. These include major efforts to switch to Linux in government and education in India and Brazil.

RAC’s web site is [www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca)

**From the Mail Bag**

An interesting read below. Several years ago, probably about 10, we had an American aircraft carrier in port. It was sending signals in a frequency that was affecting things in the Halifax area. We had locks closing on cars in Harrietsfield with no one around them. People also had their garage doors activating without being triggered locally. Frequencies for things used in the States aren't always the same in Canada. Ham radio frequencies usages are not the same around the world. So with all that in mind the item below is quite possible! Snopes Approved

Nigel, VE1NPS

#### How to Lock Your Car and Why Not a Joke!

I locked my car. As I walked away I heard my car door unlock. I went back and locked my car again three times. Each time, as soon as I started to walk away, I would hear it unlock again!! Naturally alarmed, I looked around and there were two guys sitting in a car in the fire lane next to the store. They were obviously watching me intently, and there was no doubt they were somehow involved in this very weird situation. I quickly chucked the errand I was on, jumped in my car and sped away. I went straight to the police station, told them what had happened, and found out I was part of a new, and very successful, scheme being used to gain entry into cars. Two weeks later, my friend's son had a similar happening..

While travelling, my friend's son stopped at a roadside rest to use the bathroom. When he came out to his car less than 4-5 minutes later, someone had gotten into his car and stolen his cell phone, laptop computer, GPS navigator, briefcases ... you name it He called the police and since there were no signs of his car being broken into, the police told him he had been a victim of the latest robbery tactic -- there is a device that robbers are using now to clone your security code when you lock your doors on your car using your key-chain locking device.

They sit a distance away and watch for their next victim. They know you are going inside of the store, restaurant, or bathroom and that they now have a few minutes to steal and run. The police officer said to manually lock your car door-by hitting the lock button inside the car -- that way if there is someone sitting in a parking lot watching for their next victim, it will not be you.

When you hit the lock button on your car upon exiting, it does not send the security code, but if you walk away and use the door lock on your key chain, it sends the code through the airwaves where it can be instantly stolen.

Look how many times we all lock our doors with our remote just to be sure we remembered to lock them -- and bingo, someone has our code....and whatever was in our car.

I'm very pleased to announce that our NEW site is up & running on a new server and can be accessed at <http://www.kcarc.ns.ca>

The KCARC Web Pages are best viewed at 1024 X 768 or higher resolution.

John, VE1ATT, KCARC Webmaster

#### RAC Bulletin 2010-035E - Important News About the RAC Insurance Program

For several years the Radio Amateurs of Canada has been able to offer the RAC Insurance Program to its members and incorporated Affiliated Clubs on a cost recovery basis. This program provided liability insurance coverage for participating RAC Affiliated Clubs and their members as part of the Radio Amateurs of Canada master insurance policy. The RAC has been fortunate in being able to offer this coverage without change for some time. Nothing however is ever permanent in this world and insurance is no different.

Recently, the Insurance Broker who had been providing the insurance has informed the RAC that the Insurer will no longer be offering this type of insurance coverage. As a result, the RAC Insurance Team has been scouring the market on your behalf to obtain the best coverage and value that can be found. The Team has been successful and liability insurance will continue to be available for RAC Affiliated Clubs and their members. Details for 2011 coverage are being emailed separately to participating RAC Affiliated Clubs.

The RAC members of an Affiliated Club that participates in the RAC Insurance program will receive additional liability coverage for their personal, non Club related amateur radio station activities at no extra cost. Note that to be eligible for personal coverage, RAC members must also be a member of an Affiliated Club that participates in the RAC Insurance program. This is due to changes in insurance availability and requirements of the Insurer.

An exciting new addition to the RAC Insurance Program for 2011 is radio equipment loss/damage coverage. We will now be able to offer this coverage for RAC Affiliated clubs that are participating in the liability insurance program and RAC members in the Club. This insurance will be available at extremely competitive prices and provides loss/damage coverage for amateur radio equipment such as Club repeaters and stations.

Complete details of this new Insurance Program will be posted shortly on the RAC website at [www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca). For further information or questions, please contact Jerry Beneteau, the RAC Insurance Manager, at [ve3ext@primus.ca](mailto:ve3ext@primus.ca).>  
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From the ARRL letter, Nov.18, 2010

**Hints & Kinks: Sealing PL-259 UHF Plugs and SO-239 UHF Connectors**

By Don Dorward, VA3DDN, of Pickering, Ont.

The popular and low-cost PL-259 UHF plug and its mating SO-239 UHF connector were never designed to be waterproof. In spite of this, many of us find ourselves having to use these connectors out-of-doors for an antenna or cable connection and then have the experience of trying to apply some form of weather-proofing.

If this is not done, and done well, then intermittent connections soon result, especially with wet freezing and thawing conditions, resulting in moisture and corrosion getting into the connectors and even into the coax itself.

One well-known solution is to use a bondable rubber tape wrapping. That often seems to work using one of the soft, moldable, stretchable tapes that are available for the purpose. In practice, I have found that the hardest area to seal effectively using this



Place the O-ring(s) at the base of the SO-239 barrel and use the PL-259 coupling ring to compress them into a weather-tight seal.

method is the area from the rim of the male PL-259 shell to the mating SO-239 socket face. This is especially true when the SO-239 socket is located partially inside the cowl of the antenna mount (such as the Solarcon/Antron vertical or other similar types) and it is impossible to get sealing tape up into this tight location.

To overcome this problem, simply slip as many tight fitting O-ring(s) over the SO-239 barrel (see Figure) as needed to fill the space between the base of the SO-239 and the coupling ring. Lubricate the O-rings with a generous amount of silicone grease, often sold in the automotive part stores as "dielectric tune-up grease."

Important: Check that when the mating PL-259 plug is installed and tightened down, the outer rim of the PL-259 shell butts up against and slightly compresses the "O"-ring(s). The "O"-rings I used were ones I had on hand, about 9/16 inch ID x 0.10 inch thick. I am sure anything that's a snug fit will work. Of course, you will still need to wrap the lower half of the PL-259 shell and the spot where the coax exits the connector with tape to seal that part.

*Christmas - What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?*

From the ARRL Letter, Nov.11, 2010

**The Doctor Is IN: Pacemakers and RF**

Schley Cox, W4AMW, of Owensboro, Kentucky, told the Dr. that he's headed to see the cardiologist next week about a pacemaker. He's already started researching their use around RF and says he is happy to go all low power (QRP), if that's what's called for. Schley mentioned that he might also be able to operate his rig remotely -- perhaps 20 feet away, but he needs to know how to measure stray RF in the shack itself.

Here's what the Doctor had to say:

I haven't received actual reports of any pacemaker problems and that seems to go along with the info on the ARRL Web site. Note that there are no power levels (or field strength) limits noted there, nor have I found any on manufacturers' Web sites. Thus knowing the actual field strength level in the station may not help. If it were me, I would start by talking to my physician. She won't be able to give you power limits, but perhaps could indicate symptoms to watch for while on the air so you could take appropriate action quickly if called for.

I would start with a careful RF safety evaluation, as required by the FCC anyway. While the FCC guidelines were not based on pacemaker interference, they should result in a reasonably safe environment. If your station is properly set up -- without common mode feed line current, for example -- most radiation should surround the antenna and there should not be much RF within the shack.

Calibrated RF field strength meters are available but are quite expensive. Relative measurement is pretty easy -- look at any recent ARRL Handbook. If you had a simple field strength meter running at all times in the station (I'm thinking the diode & microammeter type that doesn't require power), you could see if anything changed, and diagnose and repair as needed.

**RAC Bulletin 2010-037E - RAC is now on Twitter**

On the 29th of November Radio Amateurs of Canada opened their new Twitter Account. If you are active on Twitter you can now follow RAC at @RACTWEETS.

Up-to-date information is also available from the RAC website <http://www.rac.ca> and the RAC blog at <http://blog.rac.ca>.

James R. Hay, VE2VE [ve2ve@rac.ca](mailto:ve2ve@rac.ca)  
Vice President, Technical & Administrative Services, RAC

*A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: Keep off the Grass.*

To check road conditions before you drive  
New Brunswick Highway Cams:  
<http://www.gnb.ca/0113/cameras/allcams-e.asp>  
Nova Scotia Highway Cams:  
<http://gov.ns.ca/tran/cameras/camera.asp>  
PEI Highway Cams:  
<http://www.gov.pe.ca/tpwpei/index.php3?number=1016836&lang=E>

From the ARRL Letter Nov.24, 2010  
Hams Invited to Listen  
for New Satellites

5 research satellites were carried to orbit on Nov.19 aboard a Minotaur V rocket from Kodiak Island, Alaska. All the satellites use Amateur Radio frequencies and hams have been invited to participate in their missions by monitoring and collecting data.

2 of the satellites are FASTRACs -- relatively small "nanosatellites" -- built by students at The University of Texas in Austin. They enter orbit as a single spacecraft, but then separate into FASTRAC 1 (known as "Sara Lily") and FASTRAC 2 (referred to as "Emma"). Both satellites use 1200 or 9600 baud AX.25 digital communication and transmit at 1 Watt output, so they should be receivable with omnidirectional VHF or UHF antennas and decodable by ordinary packet radio hardware and software. After their scientific missions are complete, the satellites will be reconfigured to function as digipeater relays for Amateur Radio use, as part of the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS).

Is the aurora active in Yellowknife? You can have a Northern Lights notification sent to your cellphone or computer using AuroraMAX Alert, brainchild of Astronomy North president James Pugsley.

To sign up you'll need a twitter account. Visit

[twitter.com/AuroraMAX](https://twitter.com/AuroraMAX)

and sign up to have AuroraMAX tweets sent as text messages to your phone or as RSS feeds to your computer. If you don't live in Yellowknife the alerts only tell you when the lights are likely to be active for your location.

Source: Up Here magazine

*"Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end."*

RAC-News: Lanark ARES Balloon Launch 2010-11-20  
(Via: Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC - RAC VP Industrial Liaison)

The Lanark Amateur Space Agency comprised of members of the Lanark North Leeds ARES Group launched an Amateur High Altitude Balloon from Perth Ontario on Nov.20, 2010. This launch undertaken by VA3ZKS, VE3ZBO, VA3KAI, VE3BSB & Zach McCracken the son of VA3ZKS was an attempt at the world height record for amateur balloons.

The flight was designated LASA 8 and transmitted as VE3REX-11 via APRS. VHF transmitted flight parameters including location, height, direction & speed were picked up by the extensive network of APRS digipeaters and gated to the internet so that Amateurs could follow the flight in real time. Feed back indicates that the flight had a large following.

Following the launch, chase cars which included VA3ZKS, VA3ZBO, VE3BSB, VE3OAX, VE3ICF & VE3JGL tracked the flight on in-car computers equipped with VHF receivers, tncs & the UI View tracking program.

VA3QV of Ottawa ARES organized a group of amateurs to provide down range communication support to assist the chase cars with additional tracking & recovery. Thanks to VA3NPL of Prescott-Russell ARES, VE3AFV of Seaway Valley ARES, VE3XID & VE3RMJ for their patient monitoring of the down range repeaters & the HF comms frequency.

The tracking transmitter package included a Garmin 18 LVC GPS an Argent Data Surface Mount Open Tracker and a 300 miliwatt MX 146 transmitter. Power was provided by 3 AA batteries outputting 5.4 volts at launch.

VE3REX-11 attained a record setting altitude of 39,899 meters (130,903 feet) before bursting and descending by parachute to land in Jay, Maine. The balloon reached speeds of 256 kph and travelled a flight distance of 598 km.

VA3ZKS & VA3ZBO located the flight package during the evening by picking up beacons directly from the flight package which had landed in a tree a few meters from the edge of a river. They returned in the daylight to retrieve the package and return to Perth.

The flight package contained a picture of John W1AKV who had assisted the Vermont recovery of LASA 7 launched 7 Nov 2009. John became a silent key Nov.7 2010 at age 90. The picture is being sent as a memorial to his friend K1XV in Vermont

Many thanks to all Amateurs and Clubs that have shown an interest in this aspect of Amateur Radio and have provided financial support for the flight consumables.  
73 Barrie VE3BSB

From the ARRL Letter, Dec.9, 2010

### **ARRL Introduces Book on Selecting, Using Antenna Tuners**

Antenna tuners are devices often misunderstood in the Amateur Radio world. While not every station requires an antenna tuner to transmit radio signals, without one an incompatibility between the transmitter and the antenna system can result in poor performance. The ARRL Guide to Antenna Tuners: A Radio Amateur's Guide to Antenna Matching by Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR, will help you understand how to select the right tuner for your needs and how to use it in your shack.

The ARRL Guide to Antenna Tuners discusses the details of the different configurations and requirements of antenna tuners. It explores the design, construction and applications of the different types available. This book will give you a better understanding of your antenna system and the way it can be improved through the selection and use of the appropriate antenna tuner.