

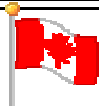


REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895
HALIFAX NS
B3K 5M5

March 2014, Volume 75 Number 3
club web site is www.halifax-arc.org

**Bad Travel Conditions on HARC Meeting Night?
Check Our Website for A Cancellation Notice**



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
First V.P. - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
2nd V.P. - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL	465-4665	leblanc@accesscable.net
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Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	VE1CDD@eastlink.ca
Co-Treasurer - Jim Guilford, VE1JG	466-2124	jimguilford@gmail.com
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Basic ham course - Scott Verge, VE1SRV		
2014 Flea market Chair - VACANT		
Youth Coordinator - Alan MacRae, VE1ABM	471-0834	ve1abmacrae@gmail.com
Field Day coordinator - Brian Allen, VE1AZV		
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NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH		

Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Everett Price, VO1DK		vo1dk@rac.ca
RAC Section Manager - Craig Seaboyer, VE1DSS		cseaboye@stfx.ca
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761		ve1qd@rac.ca

The Marh, 2014 General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, **March 19** in the Senior's Room on the 1st floor of the St. Andrew's Centre, 3380 Barnstead Lane, Halifax. Social Hour - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 pm Refreshments will be available.

Entertainment 7:30-8:30 pm.
Speaker - Al Penney - VO1NO
Topic - Chase Me Charlies (defeating German WWII radio-controlled glide bombs)

8:30-9:30pm Regular Monthly Business Meeting. The meeting agenda is on the HARC web site

Guests are welcome

Fascinating Error in Judgement

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"
- David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

GENERAL INFORMATION



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

CLUB REPEATERS:
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz + TX=82.5
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

Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation.
We need at least 2 more. If you want to join, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



March 16	Peter	VE1PJW
March 23	Win	VE1WIN
March 30	Erik	VE1JEH
April 6	Doug	VE1LDL
April 13	Bruce	VE1MLW
April 20	Emil	VE1ESP

Deadline for submissions to the April Reflector is Saturday, April 5, 2014

Puzzler - Do you know

Who invented the first cochleae implant and when was the first one implanted in a human's ear??



Answer on page 2

Events for Your Calendar

April 5, 6 10 AM to 4 PM – the Shearwater Hobby Show. We have participated for several years and have generated interest in Amateur Radio. Please contact Craig, VE1JMA, to schedule your participation. He will need people to help set up, take down and help man the table for the 2 days.

Contact Craig at cjmackinnon@gmail.com

April 12 –from 10 AM to 3 PM – an event a Rover group is organizing for Venturers. This is an opportunity to introduce some young people to Amateur Radio.

We need a coordinator for our part.

The NSARA Contest takes place each year on the second Sunday in March. For 2014 the date will be March 9. (Coincides with this year's change to Daylight Savings Time.)

May 25 – The MS Walk

May 31 – DownEast Fleamarket + the NSARA Annual General Meeting

June 28 & 29 – Field Day

Setup begins June 27 at 3pm at York Redoubt

July 26 & 27 – the MS Bike Tour

July 26 & 27 – IOTA (Islands On The Air)

Aug 2&3 - International Lighthouse & Lightship weekend

August 23rd and 24th is the weekend for the Ledwedge Lookoff Rally. Details are still being worked on, as to when support is needed etc. (last year just on Sunday)

Contact: Ian Pearce, VE1IGP



On Sunday evenings at 8:30, after you check in to the Take-15 Net, look for the new 2M, SSB NET at 8:30 PM Sundays on 144.230, SSB (horizontal - although some try vertical!)

Net control - BOB, VE1CZ, from Tatamagouche - so beam NORTH from metro; also others Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland & Westmorland Counties.

Info from Glenn, VE1GK, (VE1GK@arrl.net)

From Murphy's Lesser Known Law & Truths:


When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

From the February-2014 RAC Bulletin **RBR-4 Confirms Access to 137kHz** *George Gorsline, VE3YV RAC International Affairs*

Industry Canada approved access by Canadian Radio Amateurs to the Low Frequency (LF) band 135.7 – 137.8 kHz, subject to certain conditions in late 2009. This was a direct result of implementing changes from the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) 2007, which added Amateur use of this spectrum on a Secondary basis. This has now been included in the newly updated RBR-4 – *Standards for the Operation of Stations in the Amateur Radio Service* (<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf10650.html>).

Canadian Amateurs are reminded that the maximum emission bandwidth in this band is 100Hz (e.g., CW, BPSK31, BPSK63, etc.) as well as a maximum EIRP of 1 watt. These conditions are found in Footnote 5.67A: “*Stations in the Amateur Service using frequencies in the band 135.7 – 137.8 kHz shall not exceed a maximum radiated power of 1 W (EIRP) and shall not cause harmful interference to stations of the radionavigation service operating in countries listed in No. 5.67. (WRC-07)*”. RAC welcomes reports of activities in this band, especially reports of DX achieved and useful operating tips. We are asking those active on this band to consider writing articles for *The Canadian Amateur* magazine to help other Amateurs get started on LF, given the large differences in LF antennas, and the need for homebrew transmitters, receivers and/or transverters. Insights into propagation and other LF operating tips are also requested.

Thanks to Richard Ferch, VE3KI and Jim Dean, VE3IQ.


Answer to Puzzler on pg.1

Dr. William F. House was the medical researcher who braved scepticism to invent the cochlear implant, an electronic device considered to be the first to restore a human sense (hearing) by translating sound into mechanical vibrations.

His initial device was first implanted in 1961. His improved device (less likely to trigger rejection) was implanted in 1969.

Source – A New York Times article by Douglas Martin

Photos this issue thanks to Doug, VE1LDL; Brad, VE1ZX; and Lorne, VE1BXK.

The 2014 Brit Fader Scholarship

Howard, VE1DHD has updated and posted as a ZIP file the three forms required for the 2014 Brit Fader Scholarship application process. The 2014 award will be \$1000.

Please spread the word about this scholarship to any potential applicants.

Howard, VE1DHD // VE1ZD



The memorial service for Don Wilcox, VE1CAF, will be held at: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 216 School St., Dartmouth on Thursday May 1st at 2pm. Reception to follow.

An obituary is expected in the Chronicle Herald shortly before that. His niece will be attending from England.

This information via Dave VE1ADH
73 Marc, VE1BEL

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for March, 2014

Since Scott, VE1QD is away he has asked me to do a report. There are several event coming up in the near future but unless we get some volunteers they may not happen.

The first event is the Shearwater Hobby Show April 5 and 6, which we have attended the past several years. This is an opportunity to put Amateur Radio before the public and we believe it has resulted in several people taking the Basic courses. We need people to help with set up and take down as well as help man the table for 2 days. There is another notice elsewhere in the newsletter with contact information.

The second event involves Ventures (ages 14 to 17) sponsored by Rovers (ages 18 to 26) on Saturday April 12. This is another opportunity to introduce Amateur Radio to young people. We need a coordinator and liaison for this event. More information is also in a notice in the newsletter.

Speaking of events to showcase Amateur Radio there is always the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Over the years we have operated from the Acadia and we also have a call sign for the Sackville. If anyone has an interest in this please contact any member of the executive.

The Ham Breakfast on February 22 was well attended and a great meal and socializing was had by all who attended. Unfortunately we were all having such a good time that no one thought to take any pictures.

73 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

1st Vice President's Report

I have had only a few people contact me to help with various aspects of the technical committee. We need more volunteers regardless of their technical expertise. Some of the projects only require people to help put some things together and I suspect people are reluctant to come forward because they think they lack knowledge.

I also suspect many people have talents and knowledge that would be useful. Part of doing a project with several participants is the sharing of ideas. No one person has all the answers and a team can be very efficient.

Please consider joining the technical committee even as a complete novice. This can be a great way to learn new things.

Contact me at
bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
Thank you - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

NOTICE

We need a coordinator-liaison for an event a Rover group is organizing for Venturers. This is an opportunity to introduce some young people to Amateur Radio.

The event will take place **Saturday April 12** and be from 10 AM to 3 PM. Initial contact has been made but no firm commitments yet. There are one or two people willing to help out but we need someone to work out the details.

If you are willing to do this, please contact any member of the executive.

Definition: RAISIN:
A grape with a sunburn.

Fall Protection Training

On Saturday 22 Feb 2014, the club hosted a Fall Protection Course with the following 11 Club members attending: Dave Charboneau VE1DDC, Pat Kavanaugh VE1PHK, Bob Burns VE1VCK, Jeremy Fowler VE1JHF, Graham Fowler VE1GFA, Brandon Fowler VE1BMF, Gary Murphy VA1GGM, Lucas Damer, Paul Geddes VE1PSG, Scott Verge VE1SRV, Alexey Tikhomivov VE1RUS, Laura Muise VE1ZMB. Once again, the course was a complete success with Mr. John Logan as the instructor. This course certifies all members to wear and use fall protection equipment. The next step for the new members is to be mentored with an experienced climber. Its great to see the new younger members of the club taking on this challenge! Well done to all that participated and thank you for your support.

VE1TRB HARC Safety Officer
Terry R. Bigelow CD CPO2 Ret'd
email: trbigelow@eastlink.ca
email ve1trb@eastlink.ca

NOTICE

We have been invited to take part in the Shearwater Hobby Show Saturday, Sunday April 5, 6 10 AM to 4 PM. We have participated for several years and have generated interest in Amateur Radio.

Craig, VE1JMA, has volunteered to co-ordinate this for the club. He will need people to help set up, take down and help man the table for the 2 days.

If you are willing to do this, please contact Craig.
cjmackinnon@gmail.com

The following is an announcement from the CY0P DXpedition team.....

"Sable Island, Parks Canada & the CY0P Project"

Aaron Carpenter, VA1AXC, is now active from Sable Island, CY0. Aaron is one of two Operations Coordinators for Parks Canada at the new Sable Island National Park Reserve. Aaron has been a licensed Ham Radio operator for about eight years but is new to HF radio operating. He works a rotating schedule for Parks Canada, which consists of approximately two months on the island, then two months back in Halifax, Nova Scotia with his family. His schedule on the island keeps him very busy, but when he is "off duty", he does have some time for getting on the radio. Aaron was a tremendous asset to the CY0P DXpedition team during their October 2013 DXpedition to Sable. The CY0P team worked closely with him on flight scheduling, accommodations, placement of antennas, location of the three stations and other logistical matters. As the DXpedition progressed, the team was able to instruct Aaron during his off times on some of the intricacies of DX operating. Even though HF operating was new to him, he seemed very interested and asked many questions. The CY0P team and Aaron became quick friends. We were so appreciative for the opportunity to visit Sable Island and conduct our DXpedition that we began to think how to contribute something back to this wonderful hobby and Parks Canada. After discussions with Parks Canada, and upon the successful completion of the CY0P DXpedition, the CY0P team donated all of the antennas, antenna masts, coaxial cables, etc to Parks Canada and the Sable Station. Weeks after the DXpedition, we also obtained and shipped a Yaesu FT-897 HF transceiver to Parks Canada. Since then, Aaron has been able to experience the thrill of being DX and the CY0P team has further agreed to provide Parks Canada with an Icom all band, all mode HF transceiver, Heil Pro Headset, a Tokyo 1.1 solid state amplifier and a new all band antenna (antennas corrode very quickly in the salt spray on Sable). All of this gear will be made available to future DXpeditions and guest operators who obtain permission to visit Sable Island. Please listen out for VA1AXC on the HF bands and congratulate him as an up-and-coming DX'er!

73 from the CY0P DXpedition team,
Gary Bartlett VE1RGB
Richard Harris AI5P
Murray Adams WA4DAN



On the evening of 12 Feb we had 3 leaders and 10 Cubs visit the station. (Not related to GOTA.) We talked about Ham radio did some CW, talked on HF and Email via radio (RMS Express). *No, the picture is actually not blurred because the kids are moving so fast (though you might think so); Doug, VE1LDL, is still climbing the learning curve of his new camera. -ed.*

There's a special relationship between Park's Canada and the Queens Co. ARC that benefits both sides – the Park permits a solar powered amateur radio repeater, VE1KEJ, at the Kedgie fire tower and the solar powered Park's Canada repeater there can draw additional power from the VE1KEJ batteries when theirs become low.

VE1KEJ's original batteries that store the charge from solar panels to power the Kedgie repeater are close to the end of their useful life so Queens County Club hams looked for, located & acquired newer replacements.

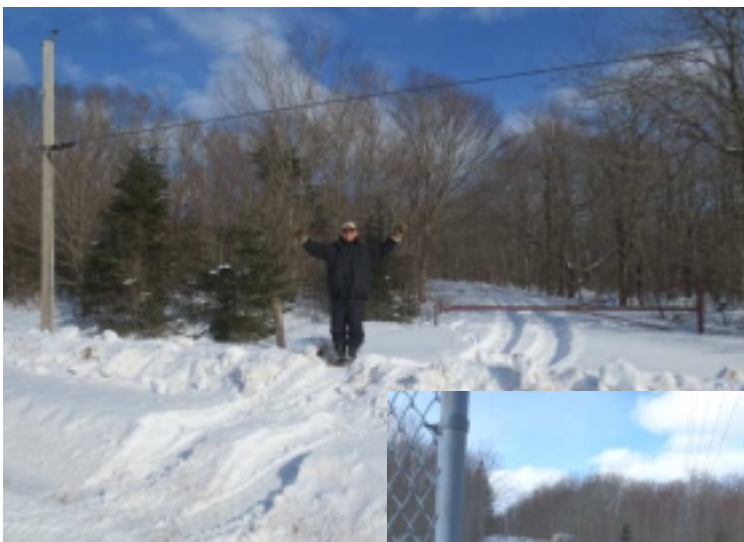


Then, with special permission to be in and travel through the Park (which is closed for the winter) on Tuesday, Feb.25, Howie, VE1FV, John, VE1CZC, and some friends from the Crossburn Snowmobile Club convoyed the replacement batteries (about 800 pounds of them) into the Kedgie repeater site.

No snow has been cleared as the park during the winter closure so this involved taking the equipment via 5 snowmobiles & 3 sleds from the Kedjimkujik Park main entrance up to the fire tower where the solar powered repeaters that serve Parks Canada and the amateur community are installed, carrying them into the repeater building and installing them.

The travel & work party consisted of:

Howard Henderson, VE1FV, Garth Bishop, Jake Penney, VA1JFP, Gerald Rhodenizer, VE1GLR, Brian Acker, and John Brown, VE1CZC



February – Lorne, VE1BXX, & Brad, VE1ZX, spent another day trekking through the snow and fixing a repeater. This time VE1SPR on Lynn Mountain



Here are some pictures Lorne & I took today at the Lynn Mtn. site (VE1SPR). We lost our link to Gore and had to replace a power supply. The audio on the VHF Repeater was bassi so Lorne removed the crystal element cleaned the pot and replaced and tweaked it with the IFR, Everything sounded great when we left. Thanks Tom & Shirley for supplying us with the Site Key. Weather was great. Brad VE1ZX.



Site visit results:
 Found DC power supply for port 3 radio was dead. Replaced with original DC supply (fixed by Lorne)
 Removed TX channel element and cleaned up IDC pot
 Re-adjusted IDC to spec and rechecked TX deviation on Port 1.
 Next visit Port 3 radio will be programmed for active high COS along with RLC controller.
 73, Lorne & Brad

If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. - Mark Twain



*Don't be irreplaceable
 If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.*



Halifax Amateur Radio Club
General Meeting Minutes
19 February 2014

Meeting called to order 2040

Meeting chaired by Bill Elliott (MR) in absence of the President, Scott Wood (QD).

Silent Keys: None to report

Approval of agenda: VE1JIM / VE1IGP

Approval of January Minutes: VE1MDO / VE1LDL ... Approved

No correspondence to report.

Presidents report:

Ham breakfast this coming Saturday, Feb 22.

Upcoming Fall Protection course on the 22nd as well.

No other Executive reports.

EMO report: Dave George had nothing to report.

Ground Search: Dave George reported that there was an upcoming mock search on Friday 21st. Nothing else to report.

Dick (AI) reported that Bryan Allen (AZV) has agreed to be Field Day manager.

He also reported that we came 3rd in North America in the 2F Class last Field Day.

Dick will be assisting with the CW tent.

He also reported that we may have a Flea Market Chair, (Jeremy JHF), but that is still up in the air.

Ian (IGP) reminded us that we will be needing some bodies soon to help move the equipment from Bloomfield to the storage container.

Jim (JIM) reported that this past Saturday we had 2 groups of Girl Guides in for GOTA and they made several contacts, and all those attending had a great time.

Erik Hein reported that he has found a replacement for the class chair, Scott Verge (SRV), and he was wel-

comed on board.

CP Allen: Paul Geddes reported that Allan has not been in touch with him as of yet.

Paul also gave a brief report on the Astronomy Club, and their interest in visiting the Club.

New Business:

The Dartmouth Rover Group (18-26 yrs), are putting on an event for the Venturers (14 - 17 yrs) on April 12th, and would like to see a working radio setup and pass some traffic between stations. Volunteers were requested to help and logistics were discussed.

Bill reported that Dave Schindler (VA3IIF) had phoned him from his hospital bed in Toronto with regards to the Radio Canada International station being dismantled, and suggested a special commemorative station be setup at RCI in conjunction with some other clubs.

There was a query for interest in the project, and there was some discussion on the subject. Interest was expressed by several members.

Shearwater Hobby Show is upcoming on April 5 and 6 and we will need an organizer if we are going to do it. A request was put to those present.

Bill mentioned the upcoming Scout Jamborees in 2015 and 2017.

Amanda Schreiber mentioned that there is an upcoming event at the Halifax Forum, March 22nd / 23rd, and that the Club has been offered a table for demonstration purposes, if the Club is interested in participating.

No other new business.

Door Prize: (300 Watt inverter): John den Hollander (JDH)

50/50: Erik Hein (JEH)

Motion to adjourn: Ian (IGP)

Meeting Adjourned 2115

Respectfully Submitted
Jeremy Fowler VE1JHF
HARC Club Secretary

**NOVA SCOTIA AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION**

Serving Amateur Radio Since 1957

The NSARA does many things for Amateur Radio in Nova Scotia

Liase between ham radio and Provincial, Municipal Governments

Emergency Measures Preparedness & Communications Training

Amateur License Plate Program

Contesting to promote Amateur Radio

Worked all Nova Scotia Counties (WARC)

VHF Century Club (VHFCC)

The NSARA Contest

School Bursaries

Frequency Co-Ordination (VHF ~ UHF)

Assistance for Provincial linking

Sponsoring of the Nova Scotia Packet Internet Gateway (VE1NSG)

Co-Sponsoring the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) Voice over Internet World Wide

Yearly Hamfest & Picnic, CW Contest, Fox Hunt, Home Brew, Distress Message Copying

Your HARC membership payment includes membership in the NSARA. For more information on how you can help promote your HOBBY please contact .

President : Tom Cohoon VE1TA

Vice-Pres: James Hannon VE1AFH

Secretary : Bruce Harvey, VE1II

Treasurer: Shirley Cohoon VE1JFG

Or any director from your club.....

The NSARA Website is

<http://nsara.ve1cfy.net/>

to send email to all directors simultaneously: nsara@yahoogroups.com

or use the RAC Mail Reflector ex:

ve1??@rac.ca

Definition: TOOTHACHE:

The pain that drives you to extraction.

February 15 – GOTA 2014 (Guides On The Air)



7 Brownies & 2 leaders took part in the afternoon session of Guides On The Air at the HARC club station



In the morning group there were about 10 girl Guides & 3 leaders. Most of the girls had not been to a GOTA event before.

In the second group there were a group of brownies and 2 leaders. It was the first time for all the brownies.

The hams who were at the HARC club station were:

Tom, VE1GTC, who did the “Introduction to Amateur Radio” and spoke about code

Jim, VE1JIM, manned the HF station where the girls talked with W1AW/9, Vallerie in Winsconsin, UT7DX, Alex in Ukraine and W1VCU, Denny in Maryland

Terry, VE1TRB, did CW

John, VE1CDD, handled Echolink (which wouldn’t cooperate to make a connection) in the morning session

Gary, VA1GGM, took pictures and helped where he could (morning session).

Doug, VE1LDL, did Winlink

Doug VE1LDL

On Saturday the 15 Feb we had two different groups in the morning we had Girl guides; 3 leaders and 9 guides.

In the Afternoon we had Brownies; 2 leaders and 7 brownies

The same topics were covered in both sessions and in the morning session John, VE1CDD, was there to try to get echolink to work (Not successful)

Club persons involved Terry TRB, Jim JIM, Doug LDL John CDD and Tom GTC.

Tom, VE1GTC

Darwin Awards Nominee -



A man who shovelled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

Unusual airport jobs:

1/ At Dorval airport – a falconer whose charges discourage birds that might damage low-flying aircraft

2/ At San Francisco airport – goat herder; about 400 goats munch the weeds by the runways as an environmentally friendly approach to fire prevention. The herder and his border collie oversee their activity.

3/ In Houston a volunteer security patrol rides around the 5,300 hectare airport grounds on horseback.

4/ In Denver a team of fiberglass fabric specialists dangle 45 meters off the ground inspecting the airport’s iconic tent-roof and fixing holes in the fabric.

5/ In Las Vegas a dump-truck-sized steam carpet cleaner is used to remove rubber that builds up on the end of the runway as planes touch down on the scorching hot concrete.

Source – The Montreal Gazette

From the Mail Bag



If you missed Tom, VE1BMJ's description of old radio at the February meeting you missed a good one. It brought back a flood of memories and Fred, VE1FA, and I had a hard time keeping quiet. A lot of his description was on Art Collins, W0CXX and the fascinating radio communications equipment he created. Art and Curtis LeMay, K0GRL were good friends. Curtis was an Air Force General and the Commander of the Strategic Air Command. Curtis did tests on Art's single sideband equipment before it was known or approved by the Air Force. One time Arleigh Burke received a phone call in the middle of the night at Washington, D.C. They claim it was a brief one like "Arleigh this is Curt how do you copy?" Arleigh replied "loud and clear." Curt "Where are you?" "I'm just climbing out of Honolulu and using this new single sideband equipment." They claim Admiral Arleigh went flying into his office the next morning claiming he did not know what single sideband was but he wanted it and wanted lots of it. The U.S. Navy now has the Arleigh Burke class of destroyer. A few years after these tests took place I was alongside Argentinia, Newfoundland. The USS PAIUTE with call sign NZNG came in on its way to Spain. Art Lionis was her radioman and after we had a few beers in the wet canteen he invited me on board. I nearly fell over when I walked into his radio room. Just inside the door was a six foot four inch standard radio rack filled with Collins 51J receivers. I asked Art what he was doing with all the 51J's and he started from top to bottom with the baseball game on that one, the football game on that one, and so on. We were using Canadian Marconi CSR5's and when at sea everyone was in use. If one quit working we had a circuit shut down until Cliff, VE1BNK had it repaired. Thanks for the memories, Tom. Spud, VE1BC

The following message was forwarded by another member of the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum - I think you'll find it interesting. *Passed along by Joe, VE1EEE*

A couple of weeks ago I posted a message on the reflector about 2 meter RFI that completely rendered the 2 meter spectrum unusable. While I got a few suggestions about common sources, this was something completely new to me at least.

At last the source of the RFI has finally been positively identified!

To recap, the wideband RFI centered on 145 MHz which began in mid-December was isolated to a specific house in Caldwell, NJ about 700 feet from my home. The RF level was about 20db over S-9, or nearly 1 millivolt, yes, "millivolt", at my receiver. It wiped out the entire 2 meter band as well as the lower portion of the public safety and aircraft spectrum.

While the RFI sounded like AC line buzz, looking at it on a spectrum analyzer showed a 20 MHz wide signal that swept and pulsated. PSEG (the local electric provider) was instrumental in first identifying that the RFI was wideband and close to the residence in question as I had determined from walking the area. I then used a 4 element, 2 meter yagi to positively identify the direction of the source.

I considered that the problem might be channel 18 leakage from Comcast cable, but that did not prove to be the case.

I was able to talk to the home owner who was very cooperative in working with me to find the source. I first thought that it was associated with TV usage but several tests did not yield the precise problem though the Comcast cable box and Samsung large screen TV were able to be heard inside the house on my Yaesu HT in AM mode but nowhere near the level I was seeing at times at my home. It seemed that when the homeowner was not home the RFI would disappear and in that case TV's were off.

Today, another test was made where the homeowner turned off all TV's and the RFI was still present. She then started tripping breakers and the RFI completely disappeared! It was now positive that the RFI was from something in the home. Further testing revealed the source as 9 LED lamps in the kitchen that had been installed in mid-December, at the time I first noticed the beginning of the problem.

The lamps were obtained at Home Depot, are the Eco-Smart brand, MR-16 halogen replacements, and are rated at 50w = 8 watts consumption. Obviously this is going to become a really big problem, not only for PSEG as people bite the bullet and purchase these things, but it will also become a FCC issue as well, as they clearly exceed any radiated emission spec's for consumer devices.

For now, since we know the source of the problem, I am working out with the homeowner a plan to perhaps go back to the halogen lamps. This problem needs to be escalated to Home Depot, the FCC, and anybody else that should be notified before the entire 2 meter spectrum is lost to licensed users in this country and others.

So, if you are thinking about LED replacements as was I, it might not be the best thing to do or if you do, make sure you can return them or take up some other hobby!

73, Roger, NJ2R

I found this rather interesting. The frequency for Marconi's first signal is different than the one Canadian Marconi gave me years ago so they must have found something to change it. I believe this one to be more accurate.

Spud VE1BC

Amateur radio from a British perspective.

<http://youtu.be/Ia5TeYPdwbY>

Listening to D-STAR with DSD 1.7

The RTL-SDR.com site has posted that D-STAR digital voice can now be decoded using DSD 1.7 software. The post says: Up until recently it was possible to decode D-STAR headers using either DSD 1.6 or dstar.exe and an RTL-SDR, but it was not possible to decode voice. Now amateur radio hobbyist PU2VLW has brought to our attention that the latest DSD development version 1.7 is capable of decoding D-STAR audio.

Read the RTL-SDR post at

<http://www.rtl-sdr.com/listening-d-star-digital-voice-dsd-1-7/>

Read the PU2VLW webpage in Google English at

<http://tinyurl.com/DecodingDSTAR>

Passed along by Ken, VY2RU

On his CBC Radio program "The Age of Persuasion" (Feb.23) Kevin O'Reilly briefly outlined how Colombian authorities used Morse code embedded in songs broadcasted on radio to send messages of hope to those captured/abducted people being held by Colombian criminal elements. O'Reilly said that of the approximately 3,000 being held at any given time, most are soldiers who have Morse code training.



*Eagles may soar,
but weasels don't
get sucked into
jet engines.*

CELL PHONE SAFETY
(Not All Criminals are Stupid)

This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her cell phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. 20 minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says 'I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago.' When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text 'hubby' in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of the lesson:

a. Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc....

b. And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back.

c. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet 'family and friends' who text you.

It's safest NOT to have 'home' listed on your cell phone.

The Maritime Amateur

Ham Radio
for Maritimers by Maritimers
www.maritimeamateur.ca

Howard, VE1DHD, forwarded this to VE1MR -ed

RAC Bulletin 2014-007E - Radio Amateurs of Canada partners up with RFinder - "The worldwide repeater directory"

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) and RFinder are excited to announce a new business partnership agreement effective March 1st. RAC endorses RFinder as the official Worldwide Repeater Directory for all Canadian amateur radio operators.

The RFinder is a steadily growing worldwide repeater directory including IRLP, Echolink, AllStar, DStar, MotoTRBO and even Winlink information. RFinder currently have over 175 countries in the directory.

Access to the World Wide Repeater Directory is provided by any version of the RFinder smartphone apps on Android, iPhone and iPad/iPod Touch. The same user-id enables access from any version of the RFinder app, the browser interface (web.rfinder.net), or through a growing list of third-party memory programming applications such as RT Systems radio programmers and CHIRP open source software. One subscription, access to worldwide repeater data from any computing device on Windows, Linux, OS X, web, Android iPhone and soon on Windows Phone!

Canadian hams purchasing the RFinder application will financially benefit the Radio Amateurs of Canada through the terms of this new agreement.

"Obviously, going forward, we encourage all Canadian Amateurs to consider RFinder as their repeater directory provider. RAC staff and volunteers will proactively work with RFinder on providing repeater directory information updates for Canada as repeater directory information is a constantly changing environment"

(Continued on page 10)

*Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray?
I don't want to have to restart my collection...again.*

(Continued from page 9)

notes Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA, RAC Vice-President.

"Our partnership with RAC and the Amateur Radio community in Canada is a milestone in the development of RFinder - The World Wide Repeater Directory. We offer the same agreement with Radio Amateur societies world wide. This is a unique opportunity for each geography on Earth to have their own branded Repeater Directory while giving their local Hams access to repeaters all over the world, and financially supporting the local Amateur Radio advocacy group. We will translate to any language" says Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator of RFinder.

Canadian RFinder users will see a new graphic feature; the RAC logo appearing on their app as well.

This is the URL to their site: <http://www.rfinder.net/blog/>

RAC is the voice of amateur radio for all Canadians and is also a member society of the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union).

Contact information: RAC: Vincent Charron, VA3GX/VE2HHH, Director Communications and Fundraising - hq.communications@rac.ca
RFinder: Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator - w2cyk@rfinder.net

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Director of Communications and Fundraising – Radio Amateurs of Canada - hq.communications@rac.ca

Vernon Ikeda - VE2MBS/VE2QQ
Pointe-Claire, Québec, RAC Blog
Editor/RAC E-News/Web News Bulletin Editor

Sent by the RAC Bulletins from RACHQ mailing list robot.

Send comments to: rachq@rac.ca
For more information about the email robot, please visit:
<http://rac.eton.ca/racbullemail.htm>

Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.

Experiments & emails then went on -ed

Hi Howard,

... I notice that RAC does not tout the many free applications that are out there for similar use.

I have the Repeaterbook App (free) on a Blackberry Playbook.

I think John, VE1CDD has the same on his Android tablet.

With the GPS enabled it will give you repeaters in your area defined by an adjustable radius.

I think the Repeaterbook is for North America only.

I looked at rfinder web site and from what I can see they seem to have almost none of the Canadian repeaters.

It may be something to look at in the future as it is developed more.

Currently they are looking for frequency coordinators which is another clue to the upkeep of the data base.

When you can download to a Garmin Nuvi or similar it may be good to have - I think this is now available or soon will be.

Interesting just the same and maybe something to keep an eye on. Currently I think users are inputting the data.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

Thanks Bill.....I did not know about Repeaterbook. I just downloaded the App for my iPad and it looks great. I don't have my iPad equipped with a phone so need to be near a WiFi site to allow it to find my location and feed the data; alternatively you can key in the Long/Lat of your location. The data for our location is certainly accurate, and I discovered a repeater in Beachville (VE1PS) that I did not know about and is not in our Maritime Repeater listing. Perhaps Lynn could put a brief note in the next Reflector with a link to the Repeaterbook site. This is certainly a "keeper". \

Thanks and 73, Howard (VE1DHD)

Hi Bill.....I logged onto my son's WiFi site and fired up RepeaterBook and you will not believe the number of 2-metre repeaters within a 50 km radius --- -- 72! Works great.

73 Howard (VE1DHD)

Hi Howard, good heavens, where are you??? Definitely not at home. Typically in a dense area you would use 25 mi or 25 km and be fairly sure of hand held coverage.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

We are in the west end of Toronto. Reducing to 25 km gives me 36 repeaters (2 m & 70 cm).

Howard (VE1DHD)

Darwin Awards Nomination – As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

