



REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

May 2009, Volume 70 Number 5
club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Hope you enjoyed the 2009 DownEast Fleamarket



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	826-7831	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Dick, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
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Treasurer - Rod Padmore, VE1BSK	443-7181	rodpadmore@ns.sympatico.ca
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Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
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EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
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Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
2009 Flea market Chair - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Field Day coordinator - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@eastlink.ca
NSARA Director - Bob Petitpas, VE1RHP	876-1643	VIE@eastlink.ca
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH		

Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Len Morgan, VE9MY	(506) 847-5656	lmorgan@nbnet.nb.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

The Monthly General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**.

The speaker will be Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ on the Avro Arrow

Guests are welcome

Check out the news on the Maritime Amateur Web site at

<http://www.freewebs.com/ve1jbl/maritimeneews.htm>

DownEast FleaMarket pictures in this issue are by Tom, VE1BMJ.

HARC's 2009 Amateur Radio course will start Thursday, September 17, 2009

From Murphy's Lesser Known Law & Truths:

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, **or you want to join**, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



May	17	Chris	VA1CDB
May	24	Doug	VE1LDL
May	31	Bruce	VE1MLW
June	7	Win	VE1WIN
June	14	Charles	VE1MCR
June	21	Chris	VA1CDB

Deadline for submissions to the June Reflector is Saturday, June 6, 2009

Tools Explained:

HAMMER:
Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.



GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:
EMO Net: at 7:30 PM on 147.270 +
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM on
147.270 + (VE1PSR/VHF)

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 -

PACKET:
VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE

Events Committee Report

The Events Committee is just getting started for 2009 and several people have volunteered to help out. I'm planning to have the first meeting a little later in March for the committee to get together and review the requirements for each of these events. The following list outlines the potential activities that the Club will participate in during 2009.

Downeast Flea Market	2009-05-09
MS Walk	2009-05-24
Museum Ships	2009-06-06 to 07
Field Day	2009-06-25 to 27
Northern Lights Lantern Festival	2009-07-11
Tall Ships 2009	2009-07-16 to 20
Waterfront Days	2009-07
MS Bike Tour	2009-07-25 to 26
Lighthouse Weekend	2009-08-15 to 16
JOTA – Jamboree on the Air	2009-10

If you are interested in helping out with event planning or participating in any of these events, please contact the Events Committee Chair, Don – VE1DTR at: ve1dtr@rac.ca or Home (902) 823-1888 or cell (902) 497-5244

THE HALIFAX MS WALK 2009

Sunday 24 May 2009 1130 - 1300---

Terry, VE1TRB, is representing HARC at all MS Society planning meetings to coordinate amateur radio communications for this event.

While Terry reported he has enough communications volunteers for this event, there is a need for people to come early to help set up tables & chairs and unload trucks at the Dalhousie Arena. If you are able to help with this it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Terry email if you can help and want to help at: trbigelow@eastlink.ca

The Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club [1937] is having its annual Hamfest and Flea Market

Date; Saturday May 30th starting at 9:30 AM

Place; in the Quispamsis Middle School, 189 Pettingill Road, Quispamsis.

Admission: \$4 includes free ticket for grand prize & door prizes
The Grand Prize will be a 2-meter handheld transceiver.

This year ICOM will be sending factory representatives and equipment to demonstrate the D-Star digital radio system.

There will be commercial vendors, QSL Bureau, model rocket launch with CW Beacon, OSCAR Satellite demo, APRS demo, WINLINK packet to e-mail demo, amateur license examinations, RAC representatives, DXCC card checking, canteen and eyeball QSO area.

Visit the club web page: <http://www.lcarc.ca/>

PEI Amateur Radio Flea Market

Sponsored by the Summerside Amateur Radio Club (SPARC).

Where: Wilmot Community Centre,

110 Gillespie Ave, Summerside, PE

(Behind the Shell Station on Water Street East off Hwy 1A)

When: **Saturday July 11, 2009**

Doors open to the public at 9:00 AM

How Much: Price at the door is \$5.00 per person and includes breakfast.

Tables for sellers, both private and commercial are free.

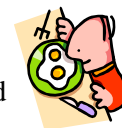
Talk in repeater will be VE1CFR on 146.850 (-)

Please contact Rodney, VY2CGA, by email to reserve table space.

There will also be a social Friday evening July 10, 2009 at 8:00 PM at the Wilmot Community Centre.

Please visit website regularly for updates and special notices.

<http://www.summersidearc.com/fleamarket2009.htm>

**Field Day 2009**

Field day is rapidly approaching and as always will be one of the clubs most popular activities. It follows after a very successful flea market this year. Support for the event has been super, as always.

When: the last full weekend of June, 27 and 28

Where: we will be 'F' Class this year from either our backup emergency communications facility at the HARC Club station; or from the EOC in Dartmouth.

(there is a possibility that the Dartmouth site could be undergoing extensive renovations) the final decision will be made before the May club meeting and will be announced then.

Who: everyone is welcome to participate, the more the merrier.

Other activities: we are planning to have extra activities this year for those who are not operating on the air at the time to have some fun, and generate more interest in the mid field day hours.

To help out, please contact me by

phone 434-8046 or e-mail ve1ai@rac.ca.

Lets all turn out and do it up big time again, as is our tradition.

Dick VE1AI

Do you realize that in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos? (And rap music will be the Golden Oldies!)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – May

The sending of QSL cards has been a distinctive part of the hobby for a long time with the earliest record dating back to 1916 when 8VX in Buffalo sent a card to 3TQ in Philadelphia to confirm their recent contact. Since then, the sending of QSL cards has flourished and is eagerly awaited. The sending of a QSL card has been described as “the final handshake of a contact”.

Recently I have noticed a number of disturbing trends surrounding QSL cards, and I am certain many of you have also. Let us not forget the numerous hams throughout the world that “play by the rules” and promptly respond to your request for their card in a timely fashion whether it be direct or via a bureau. However recently, there is a growing number of hams who go outside the parameters of good QSLing etiquette and fall into at least three main categories – those to whom a QSL card, complete with either green stamps or IRCs are sent, and no card is ever received; those to whom either green stamps or IRCs are sent and a QSL card is received eventually via the bureau; and those who simply take your card, stamp it “verified by xxxxx” and returned to you, generally via the bureau. I recently heard two “hams” talking about QSL cards and green stamps – one said to the other – “The money keeps coming in but I don’t send out cards. I keep the money”. Of course, this does not include those sent via a bureau which you never receive the courtesy of a reply.

This seems to be a growing problem, one that we may play a role in, even innocently. Recently, Tom (VE1GTC), Brian (VE1AZV) and I were getting ready to take the Britt Fader QSL Bureau to the Moncton Mini Fest. We pulled the envelopes containing cards for hams living in New Brunswick – there were 235 hams holding VE1 call signs having cards on hand and generally no money in their account to cover the distribution of these cards to them. They are not alone, the same can be said for a large number of other Maritime hams in the same circumstances, The Bureau has cards on hand for hundreds of hams that just sit there because either there is no money in the account, the ham does not know there are cards there for them or that they do not want cards! Unclaimed cards for local hams in our Bureau range from 1 card to almost 500. Please, if you do not want cards, let your fellow ham know that you do not exchange QSL cards and let your bureau know. If you think you have cards on file or want to find out the status of your account, simply check by simply going to the HARC website – www.halifax-arc.org/ and clicking on the Brit Fader memorial QSL Bureau.


73, Murray, VE1MMD

Silent Key

John M. Doull, VE1WC, became a silent key on April 21, 2008 at 0115 ADT.

John joined the group here in Halifax in 1933 (he then held callsign VE1FN) along with Doug Smith, VE1FO. Doug was at the meeting that renamed MARA the HARC but John was not at that meeting. John was at Moose River with Art Crowell, VE1DQ, in 1936. John was an officer in the RCNVR and sailed in British warships during World War II. After the war he was posted to Ottawa as a naval engineer. He received call sign VE3ZW in 1948. He returned to Halifax and received the call sign VE1WC. He worked as an engineer until he was 75 years old. Working on Purdy's Wharf was one of his last projects. He retired from the navy as a Commodore.

John died at home.

Historical notes courtesy  of Spud, VE1BC -ed.

I regret to inform you that **Gary Foster Lloyd, VE1JB**, age 69 of Cambridge, NS, is a **Silent Key**. His daughter phoned late last evening to advise he had passed away in his sleep. Gary joined the Dominion Atlantic Railway in 1956. After a decade with them he took over the family wood working business in Cambridge that had been operated for many years by his father and grandfather. He was first licensed as an amateur radio operator in 1980 with call sign VE1BZD. He was a good CW operator and made quite an impression with three full log books for his six month endorsement. He was a Masonic Mason and past president of the Kings County Amateur Radio Club. His daughter is Tanya Schofield, Cambridge, NS

73, Spurgeon G. Roscoe, VE1BC

There will be a Graveside Service for Gary Lloyd, VE1JB, on May 19th at 2 PM in the Cambridge Cemetery.

Puzzler - Do you know?

What callsign should a qualified amateur radio operator use when operating from a station not his/her own (i.e. another individual ham’s, or a Club’s, or other organization’s station)?

Answer is on pg. 10



Tools Explained: DRILL PRESS:
tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.



Amateur Radio Celebrating Navy Centennial

The Canadian Navy will be one hundred years old on May 10th, 2010. During World War II the Navy had stations set-up around our coasts known as Port Wave Stations. These stations were CW and transmitted and received on 425 kilohertz in today's terminology. The following list of these stations is from my years of research. I feel it would be nice to see an amateur radio station set-up at each location with a special amateur radio call sign. A special prefix that is the same across the country and the suffix of the original station in each location for the month of May only. These stations should be set-up and operated by members of the amateur radio club nearest each location.

The Lists of World War II stations provide the following possible Port Wave Stations on 425 kcs:

- CFH Halifax, Nova Scotia
 - CFI Quebec City, Quebec
 - CFL Gaspé, Quebec
 - CFS St. John's, Newfoundland – this call sign was changed to CZP in November 1942
 - CGH Rigolet, Labrador (Lake Melville - Goose Bay area)
 - CKH Toronto, Ontario
 - CKK Shelburne, Nova Scotia (The transmitter was probably a PV500L and it probably had a leaky condenser in the power supply. They could tell it was Shelburne simply by the hum on his transmission.)
 - CKR Mulgrave, Nova Scotia (Canso Strait)
 - CZC Saint John, New Brunswick
 - CZD Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
 - CZE Sydney, Nova Scotia
 - CZI Sheet Harbour, Nova Scotia
 - CZJ Quoddy, Nova Scotia (Eastern Halifax County)
 - CZP St. John's, Newfoundland
 - CZR Rimouski, Quebec
 - CZS Bridgewater, Nova Scotia
- The ones we know for certain are CFH, CKK and CFL

Do you have a radio-related story, question, answer, article, notice, picture or letter to the editor that you would like to share by having it published in the HARC Reflector? Get them to HARC Reflector editor, Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT ve1ent@rac.ca

Always be yourself. Because the people that matter, don't mind. And the ones who mind, don't matter.

West Coast:

- CFV York Island, British Columbia (on the North East Coast of Vancouver Island)
- CKE Discovery Island, British Columbia (Discovery and Chatham Islands lie just a mile or so west of Victoria in Haro Strait, off Oak Bay).
- CKF Vancouver, British Columbia
- CKG Prince Rupert, British Columbia
- CKL Esquimalt, British Columbia
- CZM Alliford Bay, British Columbia
- CZN Bella Bella, British Columbia – The RCAF had a main station in this area
- CZY Ucluelet, British Columbia
- CZZ Coal Harbour, British Columbia (Coal Harbour is in Vancouver harbour, right next to Deadman's Island, the site of HMCS DISCOVERY).

73 S. G. "Spud" Roscoe VE1BC

To all members of amateur radio clubs in Nova Scotia.

I have often heard amateur radio operators in Nova Scotia asking why they should bother to be a member of the **NSARA**. Each time I attempt to explain my thoughts about membership, I am sure I leave something out or the ham I am talking to stops paying attention after a few seconds so here we go with some of the most obvious reasons.

Here is a brief description of NSARA activities that you might describe to your members. Hopefully someone in your Club might take a bit of time to make sure your members get a chance to hear about these activities.

One of the projects that almost all amateurs should be aware of is the Nova Scotia amateur callsign licence plates.

The NSARA has worked very diligently over the years with the Motor Vehicle Branch of the Province of Nova Scotia, to make it possible for Nova Scotia amateurs to have callsign plates for their vehicles. The NSARA has a coordinator who looks after the administration from the amateur radio side of things. This is presently:

John Brown, VE1CZC, P.O. BOX 131
NEW GERMANY, NS, B0R 1E0
email: j.brown@ns.sympatico.ca

The NSARA maintains a web page. It is looked after by Eric Smith, VE1CFY, 1780 Bishop Mt. Road, RR#1, Kingston, NS, B0P 1R0,
email: ve1cfy@rac.ca

(Continued on page 5)

The NSARA (Continued from page 4)

The NSARA offers a certificate for the Worked All Nova Scotia Counties Award and for the VHF Century Club Award and the NSARA Contest

The NSARA has been working with the Emergency Measures Organization to increase the preparedness of radio amateurs for times when amateur radio is needed during emergencies. The most important aspect of the NSARA activity is probably the courses that Jim Hannon and others have conducted for message handling and proper operating procedures. One such course was conducted in the New Glasgow area a few years ago. I know several Truro area amateurs attended the course. I think that was conducted by Jim, VE1AFH. I'm not sure who in the PCARC might have attended.

The NSARA has a director who has taken on the responsibility of frequency coordination of repeaters in Nova Scotia. Mainly this involves the VHF frequency repeaters, but we offer advice also on the UHF repeater frequencies. Bev Reynolds, VE1TL has been the coordinator for the last several years.

The NSARA has been very helpful in assisting to establish several of the IRLP systems in Nova Scotia. The NSARA has actually purchased several of the IRLP interface boards and offered them to groups to help in getting the area set up. I know that an offer was made to at least one Cape Breton area to provide the IRLP board free of cost. Unfortunately I don't think we had anyone interested enough to set up a system.

One of the most obvious involvements of the NSARA that I am aware of has been in helping to provide funding for major equipment purchases for provincial groups that are setting up or up-grading repeater sites. The NSARA policy has been to help with 50% of the cost of an item. I know that the Truro Club has

had such assistance on two occasions. The last time was when the Truro Club needed to purchase a new repeater controller.

I know also that the Greenwood Club has purchased a controller with assistance from the NSARA and also the Cumberland county club has had assistance on a project. There are others of course, but these come to memory.

Along with this type of financial assistance the NSARA has provided at very reasonable cost, lots of repeater equipment to the various repeater sites across the province.

This has been made possible by an NSARA project that has possibly no equal in any of the other provinces.

The NSARA has made arrangements with several government agencies, to receive surplus radio equipment from them when they up-grade equipment.

This equipment is then very carefully cleaned and properly tested and inventoried.

Much of the equipment has then been provided to volunteer services such as fire departments and such to help them in having the needed communications equipment.

I know that many fire departments have likely received communications equipment that they would not have been able to purchase any other way.

A lot of the equipment has been put into amateur use for repeater site use and also some has at times been sold to amateurs for their use.

I know that some of the multicouplers that the Truro Club has at Nuttby, were made available by the NSARA.

Some of the antennas used on club repeater sites have come through the NSARA activities.

Along with this work on equipment that is put back into service somewhere, members of the team actually have taken equipment apart to

be able to sell aluminum metal, etc. This has provided some of the funding that the NSARA has been able to make available to Clubs.

The government has been so impressed with this service that test equipment has been purchased for the alignment, etc.

The place where the work is done has been affectionately dubbed "The Radio Factory" by the volunteers who have worked there. Bill, VE1MR and Tom, VE1TA, have put in hundreds of hours on this project alone, along with many others. They have made themselves available, to be there when groups of amateurs from various clubs have visited and spent a day or what-ever to help with the cleaning or what ever needed to be done. This work has been done at Miller Lake. If a Club is interested, they can contact Bill or Tom to work out a mutually convenient time for the group to come to help out. It is a great way to have a "club outing"! :-)

The NSARA has been very active in setting up a provincial repeater linking system. There is a linking system in the western part of the province, where several repeater sites are being linked via UHF radios with the hub of the system being at Springfield, NS. This system is almost complete. Some sections are already up and some will be later in the spring.

I have been with the NSARA team during installation of the link and VHF repeater at North Range, near Digby, and I was there for some of the installation at the Bridgetown, Natural Resource repeater site of VE1BO. I was also with them at Springfield and at the Dalhousie repeater sites.

It is certainly impressive to see the degree of volunteer service some of these guys give. I know I got home on a couple of occasions, in the wee hours of the morning, and they still had a couple of hours of driving to get to their homes. This at times has

(Continued on page 7)

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting April 15, 2009

President Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD opened the meeting at 1931 hours.

Silent Keys: None identified

Agenda: Murray, VE1MMD requested approval of the agenda.

Motion: THAT the meeting agenda be approved as amended.

Moved by Bruce VE1MLW. Seconded by Doug, VE1LDL.

Motion carried.

Guests/Visitors –

Mark Hemphill VE1BEL

Introductions

Regrets: VE1AI Tom VE1BMJ
Helen VE1HMR

Amended to reflect that Dick VE1AI had nominated Brian VE1AZV as Station Manager

VE1MMD asked for approval of the minutes as posted in the Reflector.

Motion THAT the minutes of the March regular meeting be accepted as printed in the April Reflector. Moved by Sheldon seconded by Howard, VE1DHD. Motion carried.

Petty Cash Fund

Policy proposal – 01-09 Petty Cash Fund Policy Questions from the floor on the signing authority and that the treasurer will maintain control of the fund. The items paid out of petty cash will continue to be accounted for under the existing.

Motion THAT the Petty Cash Fund Policy be adopted as proposed. Moved by Howard, VE1DHD seconded Bill VE1MR. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Rod, VE1BSK reported an income of \$455.02 during March, with expenses totaling \$1883.18 and an overall closing balance of \$11907.46.

Motion THAT the Treasurer's Report be accepted as delivered. Moved by Dave, VE1DDC seconded by Scott VE1QD. Motion carried.

Executive Reports

Tall Ships – No new information

2011 Games – No new information

Events committee will add the Titanic event in 2012 the potential event list.

Trailer – need location for fabrication and storage. Location has been identified by Fraser VE1WO. Short term storage before flea market and field day.

Membership: Life - 4
Full – 114
Associate – 20

Total: 138

DX4WIN

Intro course held on April 9th
Next session on May 7th for more advanced features

Howard will look into licensing costs.

Thanks from 26th Halifax Cubs noted by Murray VE1MMD for tour of the Club

Basic Course

VE1TRI – Dates set for fall 2009

Instructor led Basic Course will start Sept 17th

Barry will look into getting the course in the HRM Recreation Guide for the fall

EMO – Search & Rescue

VE1AJP – David provided updates on two searches conducted recently.

Training – VE1GTC

Nothing new

RAC – VE1QD

Scott noted the low participation rate RAC and encouraged members to join.

DXForum – Scott provided an update on promotion activities for the forum.

Club Access Door entry card programming and radio room access have been successful, current list held by the front desk will be discontinued on April 18th.

RCI Visit – VE1KS provided an

update – total of 11 including some from Truro and Amherst.

Flea Market – Bob VE1PQ gave an update on the new building location at the forum scheduled for May 9. Sellers 7AM-9AM Buyers 9AM – 1PM Cafeteria will be open at 8AM. Admission is \$4, no charge for tables. Power is on the perimeter only. Kids under 12 free accompanied by an adult.

NSARA will meet at 1PM

Field Day – Dick is still looking for volunteers. HARC will operate out of the EOC for the contest (2F).

New Business

VE1TRB has accepted the position of Safety Officer for the Club. 5 club members participated and were qualified.

Antenna building kits

3x20 1x80 – will be held on a Saturday in the future – Brian will order on April 16th

Jim Langille has a new site “The Maritime Amateur”. Jim is interested in contacting someone about HRM packet facilities. Don VE1DTR will follow up with Jim and Neil, VE1YZ.

50/50 draw: The 50/50 draw was won by Fred, VE1FA.

Door prize: The door prize, (T-shirt and set of flashlights) won by VE1GTC.

Motion: There being no further business, Doug, VE1LDL moved the meeting be adjourned at 2032 hours. Seconded by Dave VE1DDC. Motion carried.

The evening program was a social night.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Trotter, VE1DTR
for Helen MacRae, VE1HMR,
HARC Secretary

Tools Explained: TABLE SAW:
A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

The NSARA (Continued from page 5)

seen them active for days on end mainly on week-ends after a busy week at the office for some of them. Links are in place near Yarmouth and along the South Shore and the Western part of Nova Scotia is well linked together.

I have two APRS nodes installed, one is at the Bridgetown repeater site and the other is at the Springfield site. The NSARA has arranged for these nodes to be at the Natural Resource sites, and has provided a set of multicouplers for each installation.

Another NSARA project has been the setting up of the repeater site at Kedgie, VE1KEJ, which was completed in 2006 and is a solar powered repeater.

They worked with members of the Queens County Club and others to get this installation done. Much work was done before the physical work was even started, because permission had to be given by Parks Canada and all sorts of arrangements had to be finalized.

The NSARA is also presently working on a project to establish a linking path to Cape Breton. The system is established as far as Nuttby Mt. and plans are to continue further as soon as possible and eventually get to the Sydney area.

The NSARA was a founding member and is active on the Provincial (Vols Comm /IWAN/TMR) Including . Fire, RCMP, TOPW. This committee has been involved in many of the communications issues of the various agencies in the province. Part of our interest is in continuing to maintain the Provincial Grid sites which is where much of the amateur repeaters are located.

The NSARA has been active in supporting opportunities for students to communicate with the International Space Station. One such session was conducted in the Halifax area recently.

One other NSARA project that has been ongoing for several years has been the supporting of student bursaries. This was started a few years ago after Jim Hannon, VE1AFH, proposed the idea. Basically it was set up to help to make the community a bit more aware of the NSARA and amateur radio in general.

If a local club is interested in the project and is willing to pay half of the cost, they can offer a \$100 bursary to a graduating student who is planning to pursue an education in an area of communications. Science degree, engineering degree, electronics, etc. The NSARA will provide \$50 and the local club \$50. This is limited to one per year. It might not seem like much, but to a student, it might be a book cost or something, so it helps. The local club would likely talk about the bursary with the school principal or guidance councillor, and when the school decides which student will get the bursary, the Club would make out a cheque for the student. The NSARA would then give \$50 to the club. I must say that this bursary project has not been used very often; probably due to lack of involvement by the local clubs. I know that every year, Jim has a student from the Cumberland area! Other clubs should consider this.

Of course the NSARA always appears at Provincial flea markets with a table and someone is available to chat about activities, or whatever.

Also, the NSARA has a picnic each year which provides amateurs with an opportunity to gather and renew acquaintances. (to many hams, if you mention NSARA, the only thing they seem to be aware of is the picnic) Hams don't seem to really communicate very well! Directors are appointed so that the clubs can be made aware of the activities of the NSARA, but I won-

der how many care enough to spend some time relating info to their members.

Hams are often, of course, a bit piggy, so mention food and their eyes open up! :-)

One incentive to encouraging your club members to maintain a yearly membership in the NSARA is that if your club collects the \$10 membership fee from a member, your club can retain \$5 of the fee and only send \$5 to the NSARA for each member who signs up. This way your club does a bit for the NSARA and it also gets a bit back.

I hope this gives you some fuel for a report or discussion or whatever. As President of the NSARA, Tom, VE1TA, is personally active on almost all of the activities of the NSARA, so you can see from the above that he often is a very busy man! Along with his involvement on provincial committees he is one of the main technical wizards and I suppose he is like a hummingbird and never sits still!

I hope you have managed to read this far! Good luck in your adventures in amateur radio and hopefully you will consider becoming a member of the NSARA.

Sincerely, Bruce Harvey, VE1II
Secretary, NSARA

*From a Southwest Airlines employee:
"Welcome aboard Southwest Flight
XXX to YYY. To operate your seat-
belt, insert the metal tab into the
buckle, and pull tight. It works just
like every other seatbelt and if you
don't know how to operate one, you
probably shouldn't be out in public
unsupervised. In the event of a sud-
den loss of cabin pressure, oxygen
masks will descend from the ceiling.
Stop screaming, grab the mask, and
pull it over your face. If you have a
small child traveling with you, se-
cure your mask before assisting with
theirs. If you are traveling with two
small children, decide now which
one you love more."*

CW Strikes Again

May 8, 2009

This past week the students of the Halifax Metro Schools put on a mass band, and mass choir concert at the Dartmouth Sportplex. The floor of the arena was covered with hundreds of students with their instruments all neatly grouped into a large string orchestra, and three very large bands. The choir was seated in the seats directly opposite us on the other side of the sportplex.

My granddaughter was in the mass choir, seated directly across the arena, and near the top. They were all dressed with bright white tops, and some had school sashes over their shoulder. She was easy to pick out with my small binoculars, with her bright red hair white top and purple sash. But how could she see us? Students are always eager and proud to show their talents and their work. They also like the reassurance that their parents (and grandparents) are in the audience.

Well, I had been teaching my 9 year old granddaughter how to send her name in Morse code. We were sitting on the far side of the arena where it was the lights were slightly dimmed. I took out my cell phone, and when you open it, the light from the screen is quite bright. I aimed it across the arena, and started flashing her name in CW with the light from the screen by flipping the cover on the cell phone, like a navy signaling light.

I saw that she was engaged in conversation with her friend, and then saw her, almost unconsciously, glance across the arena. On my third attempt at sending her name, her eye caught my message, she bounced once in her chair and we got a small exuberant wave. Her parents, grandparents and younger sister all waved back enthusiastically.

I turned off my cell phone, folded it up, put it in my pocket and sat back in my chair. The concert could now begin. Everyone was in their place.

Richard (Dick) Grantham, VE1AI

I received the following email yesterday from HMS Belfast. Together with an item in April's "CQ", on operating from RMS Queen Mary, suggestion for an article on ship operating for local amateurs going on vacation either to London, England or the US.

Nigel, VE1NPS

Hi Nigel, Thanks for your E-mail and interest in operating GB2RN from HMS Belfast.

The short answer is, "Yes, we do welcome guest Radio Amateurs who have the appropriate licence".

The Bridge Wireless Office (the GB2RN station) is not manned all the time, so please let me know when you would like to operate and we will endeavour to ensure a member of the Group will be on board that day.

If you haven't done so already, please visit our website at www.gb2rn.org.uk where you will find more info on the RNARS London HMS Belfast Group.

VY 73 de Tom / GOPSE



DownEast Fleamarket's grand prize winner was Judy Sutherby, VE1NAN. Seen here receiving her prize, a Kenwood THK2AT, 2 meter transceiver, from Murray, VE1MMD.

From Len VE9MY Apr.12th/09:

I wanted to take a minute to update you on some changes at RAC HQ that happened just this past week. Probably the most important development is that we now have Guy Charron at the office 5 hours per day. 10AM to 3PM Ottawa time to answer the telephone, answer e-mails and do some other things around the office. Guy was there before for a few years and knows the office operation pretty well. There will no longer be a Call Center answering any of our calls. Most of the complaints that we have received are over the poor service offered at HQ. I am confident that things will be much better now. The office manager will still oversee other office details for now. We are addressing the RAC insurance issue and hope to have something by early June. It is being discussed at the Board meeting in May, so I expect shortly after that some news will be released. The (new) RAC Study Guide and (new) Operating Manual will be available again within a short time directly from RAC HQ, as well as from some dealers in Ont and PQ.

Things are progressing very well with the RAC web site changes and things like renewal of membership and ordering of supplies are available online and other things are in the works.

Please let me know if there are any issues that you are aware of and in particular regarding services to RAC members.

Thanks, Len Morgan, VE9MY, Atlantic Region Director, Radio Amateurs of Canada.

Tel # (506) 696-5279



There were lots of buyers & sellers at the 2009 DownEast FleaMarket. We were in the Forum Bingo Hall this year. This venue seemed pleasing to a good crowd of buyers & sellers.



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 13
ARRL Releases 2009-2010 Repeater
Directory

With more than 20,000 listings for VHF/UHF repeaters across the US and Canada, "The ARRL Repeater Directory 2009-2010" is a must have. Again, the ARRL is offering two sizes of the "Repeater Directory" -- pocket size <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1288>> and desktop <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1318>>.

Both editions feature indexing tabs on the cover, easier to read listings and a "Key to Repeater Notes" located up front in the Directory. Both editions have the features as in prior years: Repeater operating practices, repeater lingo & hints for newly licensed hams; Frequency Coordinator contact info; listings for D-STAR and APCO 25 repeaters; a guide to using CTCSS tones and Digital Coded Squelch (DCS); VHF/UHF band plans and a 2 meter channel-spacing map; IRLP (Internet linked) nodes; tips for handling interference; listings for IRLP, WIRES-II and EchoLink (Internet linked) nodes; emergency message handling procedures, and a transceiver memory log.

Order your copy of "The ARRL Repeater Directory 2009-2010" at the ARRL Online Store <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=Wha>

Brit Fader Scholarship

This scholarship is granted in memory of Brit Fader, VE1FQ, by the Brit Fader Scholarship Trust, a Canada Revenue Agency registered charity whose trustees are appointed by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. The first grant was awarded in 2008

Applicant must be a licensed Canadian radio amateur who has made some contribution to amateur radio. The scholarship is to assist in cost of pursuing post-secondary education in a technical field, in electronics or electrical engineering. An application and one or two Referee's forms must be submitted to constitute a complete

application. Both forms are downloadable from the RAC website and from the website of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club

www.halifax-harc.org

To apply, send in the application and at least one completed referee forms to Brit Fader Scholarship Trust, c/o Paul Radford, 208-5880 Spring Garden Road, Halifax. Nova Scotia B3H 1Y1.

Does the scholarship fund accept contributions? Yes. We prefer to receive donations to build an endowment by investing the principal and paying scholarships out of income. To do this, donations must

be made on the basis of what Canada Revenue Agency calls a "10 year grant", which requires the donor to complete the attached authorization form, which we ask you to complete and enclose with your donation.

To donate, make cheques payable to Brit Fader Scholarship Trust and mail to the attention of Paul Radford, c/o Coady Filliter, Barristers & Solicitors, Suite 208, 5880 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 1Y1.

Donations are tax deductible. We are a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency (registration # 0984971-25).

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 13 April 3,
German AMSAT Team Transmits & Receives Signals
from Venus

On March 25, a group from AMSAT-DL bounced radio signals off the surface of Venus, marking the first time Amateur Radio operators have bounced radio signals off another planet

<http://www.amsat-dl.org/pic/gallery2/main.php?g2_view=core.DownloadItem&g2_itemId=7561>.

According to AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, the Earth-Venus-Earth (EVE) transmission is another step in preparing for a mission to Mars. According to an AMSAT-DL press release, the team's transmitter was generating about 6 kW CW on 2.4 GHz.

Guelzow said that signals were sent from a ground control station at the IUZ Sternwarte observatory in Bochum: "After traveling almost 100 million kilometers and a round trip delay of about 5 minutes, they were clearly received as echoes from the surface of Venus." This first German success receiving echoes of other planets is also the farthest distance crossed by radio amateurs, over 100 times further than echoes from the moon (EME reflections).

The EVE experiment was repeated on March 26 for several hours with "good echoes" from Venus, Guelzow said. "Morse code was used to transmit the 'HI' signature known from the AMSAT OSCAR satellites."

For receiving the EVE reflections, Guelzow said that the team used a fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis with an integration time of 5 minutes. "After integrating for 2 minutes only, the reflected signals were clearly visible in the display."

Guelzow explained that with the EVE reflections, the high power amplifier "has therefore passed this crucial test as a final key component for the planned P5-A Mars mission. By receiving generated echoes from Venus, the ground and command station for the Mars probe has been cleared for operational use and the AMSAT-DL team is now gearing up for building the P5-A space probe. AMSAT-DL wants to show that low-budget interplanetary exploration is possible with its approach."

-- Information provided by AMSAT-DL

Answer to Puzzler on page 3

The callsign to be used when operating from a station that is not your own is the callsign of that station. For example, when operating from HARC's Club Station it is correct to use one of the Club's calls, preferably VE1FQ. Callsigns held on behalf of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club are:

VE1FO in memory of Doug Smith (killed fighting in World War II)

VE1FQ in memory of Brit Fader

VE0MMA for the Acadia; **VE0CNM** for the Sackville.

ARRL DXCC CARD CHECKING GUIDELINES

John Scott - VE1JS DXCC Card Checker

email: ve1js@rac.ca

Phone: 902-834-2681

BASICS:

- Use ARRL-DXCC application form - download the latest version from www.arrl.org.
- You may submit an application using QSOs from Logbook of the World (LoTW) at the same time; indicate that you are doing so in the space provided on the application form.
- Use data sheet or equivalent to list entities in band order first, then mode. Save multiple QSOs on 1 card for the end. You must list the entity name and the entity name **must** be printed on the card. Dates must be dd/mm/yyyy
- Sign the application.
- Provide Credit Card information for fees, **or**, bring cheque or money order (in US Funds) made out to ARRL for correct amount (not recommended).
- **Provide a stamped envelope addressed to ARRL** in which to mail the application & data sheets. Be sure to include enough postage.
- DXCC requires 100 *different* entity confirmations. Ex: VU7 on 40 & 80 = 1 entity!

CURRENT RULES FOR CHECKER:

- I cannot check deleted entities or 160 m QSOs.
- I am now permitted to check WAS (Worked All States) and VUCC (VHF/UHF Century Club) applications.

IN CASE OF DISPUTES:

- Any disputes may be sent to the DXCC desk on your next application; i.e. if the applicant feels I have incorrectly disallowed any QSOs. The DXCC desk is the "Final Answer"!

DXCC FEES ARE:

- \$12 for first ever application plus \$12 for 1st application per year (up to 120 QSOs). \$0.15 for each QSO after 120. \$22 for 2nd application in the same year. QSO numbers still apply. Add \$10 to each fee for Non-US, Non-ARRL members.

REQUEST & DISCLAIMER:

- Please do not ask me to do 5 Band DXCC at radio club meetings or Flea Markets. I will also accept applications by mail. Ask me.

I check the cards you present as to their authenticity. Any changes, alterations or misrepresentations may disqualify a QSO. I make no determinations as to the validity of any operation. But, I do know Romeo's P5RS7 card is bogus!