



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR



2050 Hammonds Plains Road  
Hammonds Plains NS  
B4B 1P3

February 2020, Volume 81 Number 2  
club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



**Only Six More Weeks of Winter.  
Have a Happy and Healthy Year!!!**



HARC Club Station phone number - 902-490-6421

### Executive

President - Brian Allen, VA1CC 489-4656 [basailor@eastlink.ca](mailto:basailor@eastlink.ca)  
First V.P. - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE 292-9924 [VE1PYE@bellaliant.net](mailto:VE1PYE@bellaliant.net)  
2nd V.P. - VACANT  
Secretary - Roger Stein, VA1RST 403-3738 [burch.craft@gmail.com](mailto:burch.craft@gmail.com)  
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Member-at-Large: -John Bignell [johnmbignell@gmail.com](mailto:johnmbignell@gmail.com)  
Station Manager: - Don Trotter, VE1DTR [dontrotter@hotmail.com](mailto:dontrotter@hotmail.com)  
Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR 865-8567 [bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.c](mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.c)  
Director Emeritus - Bill Elliott, VE1MR 865-8567 [bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.c](mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.c)

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

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[garygmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:garygmurphy@gmail.com)  
QSL Bureau Mgr - Murray MacDonald (VE1BB) [twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca)  
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2020 Fleamarket Chair - John Bignell, VE1JMB 902-223-1945 [johnmbignell@gmail.com](mailto:johnmbignell@gmail.com)  
2020 Field Day Coordinator - VACANT  
Safety Officer - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PK [ve1phk@rac.ca](mailto:ve1phk@rac.ca)  
VA1MMA Project Manager - Dick Grantham, VE1AI [rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca)  
NSARA Director - Bill Elliott, VE1MR 865-8567 [bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca)  
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH

### Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Dave Goodwin, VE9CB [ve9cb@rac.ca](mailto:ve9cb@rac.ca)  
RAC Section Manager - Dave Hull, VE1HUL [d.hull@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:d.hull@ns.sympatico.ca)  
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2191 [ve1qd@rac.ca](mailto:ve1qd@rac.ca)

### Take-15 Net Controllers

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



Feb. 16	Bill	VA1ALW
Feb. 23	Cam	VE1BIT
March 1	Peter	VE1WIN
March 8	Gary	VA1GGM
March 15	Bill	VA1ALW

Please send any issues (broken links, missing information, etc.) found on the H.A.R.C. Website to our Website Manager, Brandon Fowler, VE1BMF, at [bmfowler95@gmail.com](mailto:bmfowler95@gmail.com)

*I always wondered what the job application is like at Hooters. Do they just give you a bra and say, "Here, fill this out?"*

All phone numbers must be preceded by area code 902 when dialling, unless otherwise indicated

The **February, 2020 General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, February 19 in the training room at Fire Station 50 in Hammonds Plains.

6:30-7:00pm - Social half-hour with refreshments.

7:00-7:45pm - Presentation:

Winter Social and Swap Shop

8:00-9:30pm - General meeting

Guests are welcome



*A 'gimme' can best be defined as an agreement between two golfers ... neither of whom can putt very well.*

**Deadline for submissions to the March 2020 Reflector is Saturday March 7, 2020**

### 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 and TX tone 151.4 Hz  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5  
PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz  
LAN NODE

*Event for Your Calendar*

Ham Breakfast: February 22, 2020 at the Steak and Stein on Yonge St. time will be for 10am. Please E-mail Brian at basailor@eastlink.ca if you plan to attend.

February 22 – Guides on the Air 2- 4 pm at the club station. Contact Dick, VE1AI rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca

As a trial the **NSARA Contest** will take place this year on **March 22, 2020**.

I received an email about the Shearwater Hobby Show on the 18th and 19th of April. Craig is happy to coordinate again but he needs some help and some new ideas for a display. Please contact Craig at cjmackinnon@gmail.com if you want to help out.

SMART 2020 - April 25 in Springhill, NS.

Registration is now open so go to the website below and join fellow HAM's at Atlantic Canada's premier amateur radio event

<https://www.westcumb.ca/s-m-a-r-t-2020>  
or <https://atlanticamateur.ca/2020/01/09/s-m-a-r-t-20-registration/>

May 23, - the **2020 Downeast Fleamarket** will be held again this year at the Lower Sackville Legion, Calais Branch 162, 45 Sackville Cross Road, Lower Sackville.

Join us Saturday, May 23, 2020 when the doors open at 10:00 am with a general admission of \$5.00

Field Day 2020 – June 27-28  
And we need a Chair'man

TK0C 2019 CQWW DX CW Contest video released

The 'Team Charlie' (S5 Team) that as TK0C from Sant Ambroggio, Corsica, during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) as a Multi-Single entry, has released an interesting video of their operation. To view it, see:

<https://vimeo.com/379807649>  
Enjoy - Ken, VY2RU

Greetings all, I am sending this letter out to everyone on my contact list looking for information and suggestions.

The organizing committee for SMART 20 has been getting requests about having a booth set up for lady amateurs who attend the event.

George Dewar VY2GF has been in touch with Therese Mair VY2TAM who has offered to set up a table to promote lady amateurs in our hobby.

She has only had her license for a couple of years and is looking for any help in looking after the table and any other thoughts on how to promote this at SMART.

I have given her information about CLARA ( Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association) but if you all could spread the word about this it would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to help Therese out with this project you can contact here at tamair@hotmail.com

As always if you do not want to be on this contact list send me a email to be taken off.

Thanks,  
Jim Langille VE1JBL

*Why is it called  
'Rush Hour' when  
traffic moves at its  
slowest then?*

**The 2020 Downeast Fleamarket**

will be held again this year at the Lower Sackville Legion, Calais Branch 162, 45 Sackville Cross Road, Lower Sackville.

Join us Saturday, May 23, 2020 when the doors open at 10:00 am with a general admission of \$5.00. Don't forget to pick up your 50/50 tickets with money going to HARC. For people interested in setting up a seller's table they can arrive at 8:00 am to begin setting up. Each 3x6 foot table is \$10.00, and on request, we can provide power. Space is limited so book your table as soon as possible.


The Halifax Amateur Radio Club Downeast Fleamarket Committee is always looking for volunteers to help sell tickets, provide security, and help manage the entrance table. For more information on volunteering contact John Bignell (VE1JMB) by email at johnmbignell@gmail.com or text at 902-223-1945. The talk frequency for the event will be on 146.97 VE1CDN.

*When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.*

**NOTICE**

The club has purchased a new supply of Anderson Power Pole connectors and we need to count, bag and insert an instruction sheet into bags of 10 sets of connectors. Each connector set consists of a Red body, a Black body and 2 contacts. A small group of people can do this task in a fairly short time. If you are interested in helping please let Bill, VE1MR know by e-mail at: [bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca)

**Meeting Cancellation Notification Policy & Procedure:**

In the future, if the weather looks bad,  before you set out under potentially risky conditions, check the Home Page of the HARC website. If the Executive decides to cancel a meeting, we will activate our streaming red banner on the top of the HARC website Home Page. It will let you know of meeting cancellation and/or other important information for Club members. So, if the weather is bad on Meeting night, before you leave home for the Club meeting, check the Home Page of the HARC website for any update.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for February, 2020**

Welcome all amateur radio operators to the February edition of the Reflector. This morning I woke up to the sound of freezing rain and instinctively went to the window to see if my Gap Eagle antenna was still vertical. And it was. It had a thick coating of ice on it but there was no wind and it stayed straight. I hope everyone's antenna stayed up in this mess of freezing rain, snow and up coming wind event.

For those of you who watch and work DX, there are several really good stations to work. Just to mention a couple there is 5I5TT in Tanzania: TI9A in Cocos Island, HU1DL in El Salvador: also Ghana, Senegal & South Africa. It takes a while for the bands to open in the morning but certainly alive & well. Download DX WORLD.Com for all the latest DX

For contesters there are always several good contests each weekend to take advantage of and work toward your DXCC award. You could easily get 100 countries in a contest for this award. There are contests that take advantage of ssb, cw & ft8. There are short sprints lasting from as little as an hour to as much as several hours. Then there are the special events stations world wide to add to your log. I use WA7BNM CONTEST Calendar to know what is on and what requirements they are looking for as a report or serial number or other info, read the rules for each event as this is a lot of fun.

We have the following events that need your assistance to make them successful:

1 - Ham Breakfast: February 22 at the Steak and Stein on Yonge St., time will be for 10am. Please SEND ME an E-MAIL at basailor@eastlink.ca if you plan to come out. Always a good time to catch up as we all have the winter blues and good

conversation is good for the soul. It is good to let the restaurant know how many to expect.

2 - Shearwater hobby show: Craig is looking for help with this annual event over the April 18/19 weekend: Please let Craig know if you can help him out by sending him an Email at: cjmackinnon@gmail.com

3 - We have a Girl Guides group of up to 16 and 2 leaders who are interested in coming to the club to participate in activities including on air time. I was thinking of doing their name in phonetics and then in Morse code having provided the necessary sheets to help them and allow them to keep the sheets. I would like to have them there from 2- 4 pm on the 22nd: If YOU CAN HELP OUT the guides would really appreciate your effort. There will be a CW oscillator available for their names. Please contact Dick, VE1AI e-mail is: rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca

4 - And lastly: John Bignell will need several hands to help him with this years Flea Market at the Sackville Legion. Please let him know if you can help him, again this is always a fun event almost like ole home week. email: johnmbignell@gmail.com

As you can see from what is happening that you are part of a very active club and so much depends on your participation to make these events a success. There is something that can be fun for everyone's interest and age. I would like to see more of our members come out to meetings as it is a social event as well as entertaining with speakers and the short business meeting. Really a chance to meet fellow hams and talk about a lot of different topics of interest, always something new to learn in this hobby or even more about our HATS PROGRAM.

Well that's all for now and hope to hear you on the bands whether rag chewing or working rare DX.

Everyone take care and be safe.

Thank you all,

Brian Allen, VA1CC – President of the HARC

**Report From our Station Manager**

It has been a busy couple of months around the HARC station – the following projects have been completed or are underway:

1 - High Speed Internet from Eastlink was installed on Jan 27. Download speed is now ~300mb/s +, Upload is ~11Mb/s

2 - Station cleanup has been largely

completed and things are starting to look quite orderly

3 - Network reconfiguration complete but still requires updated documentation. This will be completed by the end of this month. Many thanks to Greg Estabrooks VE1GFX for all the donated network gear and taking the lead on deploying and configuring the new network components.

4 - The HARC wireless router has been replaced with a new access point. There will be a new wireless network SSID introduced this week (HARC2) with a new, more 'memory-friendly' password. Both will run in parallel until the end of April when HARC will be converted to the new password and HARC2 will be decommissioned. The new

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Station Manager's Report (Continued from pg.3)*

pass phrase for HARC2 will be available at meetings during February, March & April.

5 - The RigPi has been deployed and is now online to provide remote access to one of the new FTdx3000s in the Radio Room at the Club. Fraser MacDougall VE1WO has been testing the setup and it should be ready to enroll new users on or after the meeting on February 19th. Provisioning users has been documented and we still have to complete a user guide. A rotor control hardware kit has been constructed by Bill VE1MR and will be added to the rotor control box to allow the beam to be turned remotely using the RigPi. Note that remote users must hold an Advanced qualification. If anyone is interested in gaining access to the RigPi for remote operation, please contact Fraser at [fmac@eastlink.ca](mailto:fmac@eastlink.ca).

6 - A new tower for the satellite antennae has been approved by HRM and should be delivered by the end of March.

7 - Projects are planned for the spring to improve things at the VE1PSR repeater site.

8 - Jason, VE1PYE is working on deployment of a new digital repeater.

There are more projects 'in the hopper' and these will be presented as they are closer to being executed.

73, Don, VE1DTR  
[Ve1dtr@rac.ca](mailto:Ve1dtr@rac.ca)

**CubeSats Set for Deployment from the ISS**

from the ARRL web site 02/11/2020

Several CubeSats are scheduled to be deployed from the ISS on February 12, including Phoenix, a 3U CubeSat developed by Arizona State University (ASU) to study the effects of urban heat islands through remote infrared sensing. The ASU operations team would appreciate help from the

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Stories from the Museum**

Last season I heard a story, on the media, about Romania. It caught my ear as we don't often hear much about that country. The prefix for Romania is YO. There is a fair bit of amateur radio activity from there but it is not heard as much as some of the other European countries.

Anyway this story is not about radio but about driving there. They do not publicize traffic accidents there nor do they track accident statistics. This particular story made the news as it involved a tourist bus and a train at a crossing that had a signal but no barrier. The story continued saying that traffic signals there are sometimes, not working properly or even disregarded, which contributes to the driving problems and safety issues.

Well that was of passing interest to me as I do not have any plans to visit Romania.

However, and I must say ... strange coincidences do occur at the Museum at VA1MMA. Only a week or so after hearing that story, I was on shift at the museum one morning, and a gentleman sat down, earned his museum certificate, and I noticed he had a very pronounced eastern European accent. I asked, as I most often do, where he was visiting from. He said he was on a cruise ship and that he was from Romania. We then got into a discussion about driving in Romania and I said to him that I had heard that there some problems driving there especially regarding the various traffic signals on the road. He smiled quite a broad smile, chuckled, sat back and said....." Well in Romania.....a traffic light ..... is .....more of .....a suggestion".....we smiled, shook hands and he continued his tour.

Dick Grantham, VE1AI

*A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.*

**NOTICE**

Here is a list of returned QSL cards. The reason that they were returned is due to incorrect addresses and some have no money left in their accounts for a re-mailing. It may be that some of these hams do not wish to receive cards. In any case, PLEASE contact Murray MacDonald, VE1BB, if some wish to continue to receive cards, or if they do NOT want to receive cards or if they wish to refresh their account and provide a correct address. Also we have recently received a number of cards for hams for which we have no information. New hams or those who do not wish to receive cards should advise those with whom they have a QSO that they do not wish to exchange cards and to let the bureau know of their wishes.

If you know any of these people let them know they must send the QSL Bureau their new address and change the address at ISED. Or if you know their new address please let Murray MacDonald, VE1BB know. The QSL Bureau address is the same as the club address and Murray's E-mail is:

[twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca)

- VE1AKE VE1AKT VE1AN
- VE1AX VE1AYY VE1BT
- VE1JOT VE1KC VE1KCO
- VE1KRE VE1KTB VE1LS
- VE1LPL VE1MEA VE1OZ
- VE1RAB VE1RST VE1RX
- VE1UY

**QSLs ON HAND – NO RECORD IN SYSTEM (IF THESE BELONG TO YOU PLEASE ADVISE BUREAU MANAGER OR CARDS WILL BE DESTROYED.**

- VA1CN VE1TB VA1DER
- VA1PR VA1RG VA1RJR
- VA1TIM VA1VC VA1VM
- VA1AAY
- VE1ASL VE1AY VE1ASQ
- VE1BAC VE1CME VE1ECA
- VE1EM VE1HW VE1JEC
- VE1JJP VE1JXT VE1PIE
- VE1SPI VE1SVP VE1ZZN



# Canadian National Parks ON THE AIR 2019



The **2019 CNPOTA** event is now over and we had a great successful year. Usually an event of this magnitude is developed in other Countries but this program was started, manage and brought to the world stage right here is the Maritimes. Thank you to all those who helped in anyway to make this event a success. Congratulations to VE2GT, **Pierre Jolin** who placed first with 85 “ **confirmed activations** “. We also congratulate **Carl Durnavich** W9OO who was the “ **top chaser** “ in our event. Congratulations to those who achieved “ **Honour Roll**”. **K0BAK, NO2C, VE2GT, W8ZST, WD0ACB, K9OD, KD4TTP, K2RYD, KO4SB, K8HQ, W2VDZ & NE1D**. Congratulations to the “**5 Star Achievers**”. **K0BAK, VO1NAR, VE1GPY, VE2GT, VC7FL, VE9MY & VE1JMB**.

A big shout out to our local programmes who designed the software so that within hours of the closing, all of the certificates were ready for pickup on our web page for self downloading and printing. My take on that is, where else can you go to get such a high end event software locally written, produced and managed. to such a high level..... **NOWHERE !! ..... CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU !!!**

Doug Grace, VE1DFG

### From the ARRL website **The Doctor is In**

After almost four years, ARRL's The Doctor is In podcast ended on December 19, 2019.

The complete podcast archive is available on this page for your listening pleasure.

Go to <http://www.arrl.org/doctor#top>

Click on the links on the webpage to download or listen.

Archived items of 2019 are

Month	Date	Topic	Date	Topic
January	3	Log Periodic Antennas	17	Life Above 50 MHz
	31	FT8		
February	14	Maunder Minimum	28	Raspberry Pi
March	14	SWR Simplified	28	WSPR
April	11	Listening Outside the Ham Bands		
	25	Handheld Transceivers		
May	9	It's About Time!	23	Do Dipoles Have to be Straight?
June	6	Stringing Wire Antennas	20	Listener Mailbag
July	4	Selecting Coaxial Cable	18	Antenna Polarization
August	1	Noise Blankers and Noise Reduction		
	15	The Legendary G5RV Antenna	29	Different Grounds
September	12	Coaxial Cable Connectors		
	26	Keeping Water out of Coaxial Cable		
October	10	Antenna Traps	24	Beverage Antennas
November	7	Antenna Switches	21	Big Wire Antennas
December	5	VHF/UHF Propagation	19	Listener Mailbag



*Cube Sats (Continued from page 4)*

amateur satellite community with identifying the spacecraft and verifying that it is operational following its deployment at 0830 UTC.

Two CubeSats being deployed on February 12 — Phoenix and QARMAN — share the frequency of 437.35 MHz and utilize an AX.25 9,600-baud protocol with GMSK modulation. Because both CubeSats will be deployed within an hour and a half of each other, they will be close to each other in orbit.

More information is available on the Phoenix website. — Thanks to Phoenix Project Manager Sarah Rogers, KI7OY



## Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting 15 January 2020

1. Welcome to the HARC monthly meeting for January 15, 2020: The meeting was called to order by President VA1CC Brian at 1930 hours.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda: A motion was made to accept the agenda by VE1WO Fraser, seconded by VE1AI Dick, the motion passed.

3. Roll Call: 27 members and visitors were in attendance.

4. Report of any Silent Keys: None to report.

5. Approval of Minutes of November 2019 as printed in the Reflector: A motion was made by VE1DTR Don, seconded by Doug VE1LDL, motion carried.

6. Correspondence: 3 memberships arrived for Jim, the trailer license tabs arrived as well as QST magazine.

7. President's Report: A new technical committee has been established, VE1DTR Don Station will be giving a report. There are two Chairmanship positions that need to be filled, namely the Flea Market in May and Field Day in June.

Keep an eye on the Reflector and the HARC website for other items.

8. Treasurer's Report: The income from the period of December 1 to December 31 was in the amount of \$390.00. Expenses for the same period came to \$163.35 for a net of \$265.65. The opening balance was \$9067.34 and the closing balance for the period was \$9193.99. A motion was made by VA1ALW Bill to accept the report. VE1LDL Doug seconded the motion, motion carried.

### 9. Other Executive Reports:

10. Committee, Event and Special Projects Reports:

1. Membership Report – Jim,

VE1PPA, reported for 2020 there are 38 Full, 2 Associate, 4 Life and 18 associate (complimentary) members for a total of 62 members. Compared to last year at this time full membership is down 63 members, please send in dues. Thank you! Also to report, VE1CHW Robert Steenweg is a new member here tonight, welcome Robert!

2. SAR/EMO - Dave George, VE1AJP was absent, nothing to report tonight from George VE1CAW.

3. Station Manager Report – Don, VE1DTR solicited input for for creating a new Technical Committee. They are VE1DTR Don, VE1WO Fraser, Jason VE1PYE, Steve George, VE1GFX Greg, and VE1YZ Neill. A list of 19 projects was created with first being updated security. A full list will be presented next meeting with descriptions, priority and target completion dates. Dick VE1AI reported that several hams in the club need assistance with getting antennas up. This was well received. The technical committee will add it to the list! Some list items are weather permitting!

### 4. Other reports –

MMA (Maritime Museum of the Atlantic) VE1AI Dick reported that this is now the off season and that there are 6 Museum staff that would like to get their licenses!

QSL Bureau, a 16 lb box of cards came in, some 10,000 cards! Murray is busy getting them distributed.

HATS' Gary Murphy VA1GGM was not present, Scott VE1QD reported there is a meeting this January 22 at Station 50.

### 11. Old Business:

1. 2nd reading of Budget: explained and presented to members for any questions, a brief discussion was

held with motion made to accept by Bill VE1MR, seconded by Scott VE1QD. Passed unanimously

2. Digital Repeater: Jason reported that the digital repeater is in his basement awaiting better weather and work at PSR site. The 6 meter repeater is running from Jason's QTH also awaiting better weather to do antenna work.

3. Flea Market Chair/Field Day Chair: The Flea Market chair responsibilities were presented by Brian VA1CC, the Lower Sackville site is already secured. John VE1BJM with assistants will be leading the effort, Thanks John!

Field Day site of Citadel Hill will be explored by the club. Sheldon VE1GPY has been very successful from there activating Parks on the Air. Dick and Brian VA1CC will investigate.

12. Round Table - Member News: the brief sharing of important personal news:

The Fusion Repeater is working, Jason VE1PYE reported. Roger VA1RST presented the QRP labs QCX cw transceiver. A surplus equipment list discussed and will be e-mailed out to membership, lots of Collins equipment, list will have suggested bid amounts.

13. 50:50 Draw: \$18.50 is the amount tonight, Sheldon VE1GPY was the winner!

14. Motion for Adjournment: Scott VE1QD, motioned, meeting adjourned 2015 hours.

Respectfully submitted by  
Roger Stein, VA1RST  
HARC Secretary



*O'Hare Approach Control to a 747:  
"United 329 heavy, your traffic is a  
Fokker, one o'clock, three miles,  
Eastbound."  
United 329:"Approach,  
I've always wanted to  
say this...I've got the lit-  
tle Fokker in sight."*



**REPEATER WORK**

Late in 2019 the NSARA made a decision to upgrade VE1CDN and VE1PKT to hard link the 2 repeaters and reconfigure the linking. Preparations continued through December and January and in late January of 2020 a team was assembled to do the upgrades. The team was Jason, VE1PYE, Neil, VE1YZ, Tom, VE1TA and Bill, VE1MR.

The equipment, test gear and team went to the VE1PKT site and replaced the VHF repeater, installed a full duplex link to go to VE1CDN and replaced the controller. After installation the audio levels were set and tested. The installation went very well with the 4 technicians working together. Testing between VE1PKT and VE1CDN showed the audio levels were very good between the 2 repeaters.

The next week in early February the upgrade was done at VE1CDN. The former UHF hub repeater was replaced with a much newer (and much smaller) UHF unit. Some difficulties were found with the new controller and another controller was installed temporarily until issues with the new controller could be resolved. Again, testing the audio levels between the 2 repeaters, it was found that the hard link was working very well.

With these upgrades the VE1CDN repeater is now always linked to VE1PKT and to access the Mavcom system the only code to use is for VE1PKT to bring both repeaters on to the link system. The VE1CDN code is now non opera-



Jason, VE1PYE; Bill, VE1MR; Tom, VE1TA and Neil, VE1YZ

tional.

When using these repeaters you will probably not know which repeater is being used by another person you are talking to unless you pay attention to the courtesy beep. Currently there will be a normal courtesy beep on either repeater when you stop transmission on that repeater but the will be a double beep if the transmission is from the other repeater to let you know when another person stops transmitting.. Currently with the temporary controller at VE1CDN there is no courtesy beep heard when someone stops transmitting on VE1PKT (or the link system.

There is still work to be done at both sites but that will probably be later in the Spring.

Bill, VE1MR

IARU Region 1 Youngsters on the Air Summer Camp 2020 will be in Croatia

From the ARRL website 02/05/2020

The 10th annual Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) camp will be held this summer in Karlovac, Croatia — not far from the capital city of Zagreb, International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 Youth Working Group Chair Lisa Leenders, PA2LS, has announced. The Croatian Amateur Radio Association — Croatia’s IARU member-society — will serve as host of the August 8 – 15 event. Participation is aimed at young radio amateurs living in IARU Region 1 (Europe, Africa, & the Middle East).

“In this YOTA Camp we will be continuing with our train-the-trainer (TTT) program, which will be the main theme of the week,” Leenders said. “Participants will be working on the future of amateur radio and will be involved in workshops where they gain skills to start similar amateur radio youth events when they are back home. With this we are aiming to create a snowball effect, there will be more & more YOTA events all over the world. This also allows other youngsters & newcomers to enjoy amateur radio.”

Leenders said camp participants will be able to enjoy getting on the air, as well as building electronic kits.

Each IARU member-society in Region 1 is invited to sponsor teams of up to four camp participants. Team members will be age 15 to 25 and not have attended a previous YOTA camp. Overall participation is limited to 80 campers.

The inaugural Youth on the Air Camp in the Americas will take place this June 21 – 26 at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township, Ohio. For more information on this activity, email Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, or call (812) 327-0749.

While no fall arrest course is currently scheduled, anyone wanting fall arrest training should contact Safety Officer Pat Cavanaugh, VE1PHK, at ve1phk@rac.ca to reserve a spot on the next course when it’s scheduled.



When Insults Had Class...

*"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it."*

*-Groucho Marx*

**HATS NEWS: February 2020**

*The Halifax Auxiliary Telecommunications Service (HATS) is an operational vehicle through which HARC and DARC contribute to emergency telecommunications when a man-made or natural disaster strikes our community. This service is a joint effort of amateur radio clubs in the Halifax region and functions under the direction of the Emergency Management Division of Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency (HRFE)*

**WHAT'S NEW?**

HATS had its first general meeting of the New Year on 22 January. Our guest speaker was Alishia Ivany, an Emergency Preparedness Advisor with the Nova Scotia Health Authority. She spoke about the emergency preparedness environment in hospitals and how HATS may be able to assist them in times of crisis or disaster. Don Mosher also spoke about how we interact with HRFE's Emergency Management Division (EMD) during emergencies.

John Bignell, VE1JMB, who has an excellent background as a first responder with the Emergency Health Service, has stepped forward to take over the role of the HATS Training Officer. We welcome him on-board! This means that all our key leadership positions are now filled. Training plans are being worked on with a spring roll out as a target.

Jeremy Fowler, our Membership Officer, is updating the information that HATS maintains on each member such as contact information, courses completed, and communication equipment owned and available in an emergency. This data base will help us to identify the role that would best suit your skill set

and equipment in a crisis.

There have been two standby call outs in a 30-day period. This underlines the need for each of us to organize a go bag with personal supplies and radio equipment. HRFE-EMD is now reviewing its emergency communications options, and I am hoping that we will be getting called out often. I believe that this is good practise for us and an opportunity for them to see the value in us.

When bad weather is anticipated, please start assembling or checking your gear and considering when you can be available, if requested. EMO does have a reasonable expectation that we will be able to meet their man/woman power needs, when they are requested of us. To reiterate some points posted on Facebook:

- \* Do not self-activate
- \* Let the Duty Officer know about your availability. Letting the DO know that you are not available is just as important!
- \* Let the Duty Officer know if you are willing but have an issue, such as needing a ride, or whatever. If the emergency is grave and you are urgently needed, the issue will be resolved.

I am currently away from Halifax on a clinical trial (No, not going to jail but just trying a new medication). Jeremy Fowler is our Duty Officer. As we move forward, the DO position will be rotated to trained people, EMO has several duty kits that will be distributed to DOs.

**UP COMING EVENTS:**

- \* Every Sunday at 1930 hrs. the WinLink Express Practice Net holds its weekly schedule on 146.685 MHz. If you want more information about the net, please contact David Musgrave: ve1eda@bellalianat.net .
- \* The last Tuesday of the month at

1900 hrs. Exercise Handshake takes place. It provides a monthly opportunity for new and experienced TMR2 users to familiarize themselves with that radio's functionality, test ham radio equipment and practice passing communications traffic in a non-emergency environment. More details can be found at <https://beta.novascotia.ca/documents/exercise-tmr2-users-exercise-handshake>

- \* 12 February (Wednesday) at 1000 hrs., the HRFE/EMO - Amateur Radio Advisory Committee Meeting at the Eric Spicer Building, 21 Mt. Hope Avenue in Dartmouth
- \* 2 May (Saturday) from 1000 - 1400 hrs. HRFE-EMD is inviting us all to A Volunteer Appreciation Event at the NSCC Waterfront campus. Invitations with details will be sent out soon.
- \* 3 - 9 May will be Canadian Emergency Preparedness Week. A suitable HATS exercise is being planned.

**ACTION:**

Remember to submit your HATS monthly volunteer time and travel data to Jim Calvesbert, VE1PPA - [jim.calvesbert@gmail.com](mailto:jim.calvesbert@gmail.com)

Do you want membership information? Please contact Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF. He is our membership officer and will see that you get the necessary information and application forms. His contact information is via email: [ve1jhf@gmail.com](mailto:ve1jhf@gmail.com)

73 de Gary  
Gary Murphy, VA1GGM  
Coordinator Halifax Auxiliary Telecommunication Service (HATS)  
Email: [garygmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:garygmurphy@gmail.com)  
Tele: 902 229-4658

*"I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire. Dammit, I'm a billionaire." ~ Howard Hughes...*



*Definition - COMMITTEE:  
A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.*



**REMINDER**

Have you renewed your membership for 2020? Have you changed your mailing address? Your E-mail address? Got a new call sign? We need to know your correct address to get the newsletter to you. Please inform Membership chair Jim Calvesbert, VE1PPA jim.calvesbert@gmail.com of any address changes

Check out the RAC blog at: <http://racblog.wordpress.com/transforming-radio-amateurs-of-canada-introduction/>

Want to check road conditions before driving?

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: <https://www.tourismpei.com/pei-webcams>

Halifax's Armdale Rotary <http://www.novascotiawebcams.com/halifax/armdale-rotary.html#axzz1AmMziRUo>



*Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.*



**HALIFAX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP - For 2020**

- Same address as last year     New address
- I would like newsletter as PDF E-Mail (Please note by taking the newsletter online you save the Club significant mailing and printing costs )
- I would prefer to have the newsletter mailed to my home **at an additional cost of \$10.00 to the regular membership fee structure below..**



E Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ ( Please provide for our files )

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Are you currently a RAC member? \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (Mailing) \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Fees     Full Member, must be a licensed Amateur (\$30.00)\*     Associate member (Non Voting) (\$20.00)  
 Family membership (one newsletter) (\$30.00)\* + \$20.00\* each additional person.\* Amount submitted \$\_\_\_\_\_.

The membership year is from January 1 to December 31.

**All members receive the newsletter, which is also available on the HARC website.**

Please fill in method of payment     cheque     cash     Interac/e-transfer

✉ Mail to: Membership Chair    CARD \_\_\_\_\_

Halifax Amateur Radio Club    ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_  
 2050 Hammonds Plains Road  
 Hammonds Plains NS B4B 1P3

Or if using Interac e-transfer to pay, please follow the instructions on the HARC website's Membership page for e-mailing this form and your Interac funds.

**Payment Options ...** In addition to mailing a cheque to the Club mailing address along with the application form, or paying at the January Club meeting, we have set up an electronic money transfer process. Go to the H.A.R.C. Website's membership page at <http://www.halifax-arc.org/pages/membership.html> for more details.