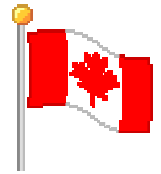




The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR



2050 Hammonds Plains Road  
Hammonds Plains, NS  
B4B 1P3

May 2021, Volume 82 Number 5

club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



## Due to Covid-19 the HARC Monthly Meetings Continue to be Virtual

HARC Club Station phone number - 902-490-6421

### Executive

|   |          |                                |
|---|----------|--------------------------------|
| President - Brian Allen, VA1CC          | 489-4656 | basailor@eastlink.ca           |
| First V.P. - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE     | 292-9924 | VE1PYE@bellaliant.net          |
| 2nd V.P. - VACANT                       |          |                                |
| Secretary - Roger Stein, VA1RST         | 403-3738 | burch.craft@gmail.com          |
| Treasurer - Bill Simm, VA1ALW           |          | williamrham@live.ca            |
| Member-at-Large: -John Bignell, VE1JMB  |          | johnmbignell@gmail.com         |
| Station Manager: - Don Trotter, VE1DTR  |          | don_trotter@hotmail.com        |
| Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR    | 865-8567 | bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca |
| Director Emeritus - Bill Elliott, VE1MR | 865-8567 | bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca |

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government & Media Relations - Gary Murphy VA1GGM, 461-9416  
garygmurphy@gmail.com

QSL Bureau Mgr - Murray MacDonald (VE1BB)  
twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca

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

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

Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT 865-8567  
bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Reflector Hardcopy Dist. - Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF 240-4302  
ve1jhf@gmail.com

Membership - Vacant

Reflector electronic Dist

Web site content Manager - John Bignell, VE1JMB  
johnmbignell@gmail.com

Basic ham course - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE 292-9924  
VE1PYE@bellaliant.net

2021 Flea Market Chair - Vacant

2021 Field Day Coordinator - Vacant

Safety Officer - VACANT

VA1MMA Project Manager - Dick Grantham, VE1AI  
rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca

NSARA Director - Bill Elliott, VE1MR 865-8567  
bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH

### Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Al Penny, VO1NO  
dir.atlantic@rac.ca

RAC Section Manager - Dave Hull, VE1HUL  
d.hull@ns.sympatico.ca

RAC Assistant Director for HRM - John Bignell, VE1JMB  
johnmbignell@gmail.com

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

The **May, 2021 General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday May 19 at 1900 and the business portion will run to 2000. After that we will be joined by Al Penny, VO1NO RAC Atlantic Director he will give an update on what is happening with our national organization, and provide some idea of his priorities in representing us. The method (**virtual**) and time will be sent in an e-mail. Check your e-mail for details as the date approaches. Also check the web site for any other updates. **Currently there is no access to Station 50.**

**Guests are welcome but need to send an e-mail to the club to be able to be on the invitee list.**

*I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.*

### 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

### Take-15 Net Controllers

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



|         |      |        |
|---------|------|--------|
| May 16  | Bill | VA1ALW |
| May 23  | Gary | VA1GGM |
| May 30  | Bill | VA1ALW |
| June 6  | Cam  | VE1BIT |
| June 13 | Gary | VA1GGM |

*Marriage Counsellor: Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true?*

*Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.*

**Deadline for submissions to the June 2021 Reflector is Saturday June 5, 2021**

*I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.*

**Generic ARRL Contest Calendar**

**JUNE**

June VHF QSO Party: Second full weekend in June, 1800 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday.

Kids Day: Third Saturday in June, 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC

Field Day: Fourth full weekend in June, 1800 UTC Saturday through 2059 UTC Sunday.

**JULY**

IARU HF World Championships: The second full weekend of July, 1200 UTC Saturday through 1159 UTC Sunday.

**AUGUST**

10 GHz & Up Contest - Leg 1: Third full weekend of August, 6:00AM local time Saturday through 11:59pm local time Sunday.

Rookie Roundup: Third Sunday, 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.

**SEPTEMBER**

September VHF QSO Party: Second full weekend of Sept., 1800 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday

10 GHz & Up Contest - Leg 2: Third full weekend of August, 6:00AM local time Saturday through 11:59pm local time Sunday.

**OCTOBER**

School Club Roundup: Third full school week of October

**NOVEMBER**

November Sweepstakes - CW: First full weekend in November, 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday.

November Sweepstakes - Phone: Third full weekend in November, 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday.

**DECEMBER**

ARRL 160 Meter Contest: First full weekend in Dec., 2200 UTC Friday through 1559 UTC Sunday.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest: Second full weekend in Dec., 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.

Rookie Roundup: Third Sunday, 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.

**HATS NEWS**

As you are all aware we are again locked down. It has been a year since we have been able to have meetings and I expect you are curious as to what is happening.

Recently David Musgrave has retired from running the Winlink Net that he has championed on every other Sunday night, We must recognize his many years of service and expertise on this method of emergency communication. Thank you so very much David.

Having said that, I am looking for someone to pick up his torch and continue with the net.

The last Tuesday of each month is Exercise Handshake at 1900h. This is a testing of the repeaters and TMR to ensure that EMO has access province wide in a disaster.

Don Mosher and I have been working on replacing the VE1DAR tower on Dustin Street in Dartmouth as the current one has reached the end of its expected life span. An application for a community grant has been submitted.

Here are the links to a couple of Emergency courses that you can complete to keep the information fresh and keep ourselves engaged in Emergency Communications. The

Hurricane season will be starting again in a month and a bit and forest fire season is already here. With the light snowfall this year the woods are starting out dry. I anticipate that we may have to help during fire season.

Radio Amateurs Canada has an Emergency Communicator course. The course is free but there is a \$5 charge for the exam. It is an amazing course.

<https://www.rac.ca/certified-emergency-coordinator/>

FEMA in the USA has many Independent Learning courses that are free to take.

The Telecommunicator Emergency Course is a great one to start.

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-144>

FEMA IS Community Hurricane Preparedness is also a free course and pertinent to us here in HRM as the season starts again in June.

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-324.a>

Thank you everyone for hanging tough as we wait out the pandemic.

73, Gary Murphy, VA1GGM  
phone:902.461.9416  
cell: 902.229.4658  
31 Tremont Street  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1X1

**NOTES:**  
EME Contest dates are determined year to year based on optimum EME conditions. See the EME Contest Rules for this year's specific dates.

For those folks that enter into fire stations to participate. You can not enter this month due to new Covid restrictions  
Sorry

You folks have been doing an amazing job participating.  
Stay safe.

Don Mosher

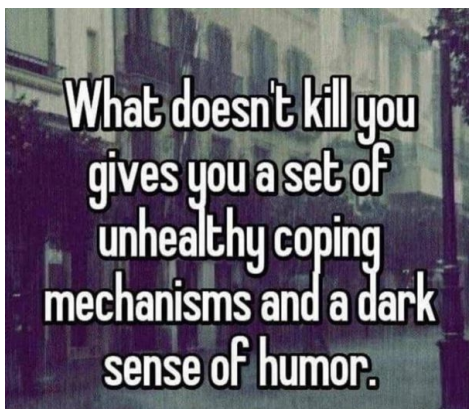
*Drink wine.  
It isn't good to keep things bottled up.*

**Puzzler - Do you know?**

Where did 73 and 88 come from?



*Answer to puzzler see pg. 4*



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for May, 2021**

Good evening all amateurs and enthusiasts of radio, I'm just sitting here at the radio waiting for the CQ-M INTERNATIONAL contest to start. I am hoping that the propagation is better than it was during today and that the bands will open up. As you know the A and K factors were ideal, however the SFI was only 71 and things would be much better if that number was 114 as an example. I certainly hope you are all taking advantage of this lock down by getting lots of radio time whether it is practicing cw or honing your hf skills on sideband: some of you by now are digital experts at using ft4 /ft8 and are making many contacts that way. There is something for each of you to get at and practice.

Club news is very simply "very quiet" there is nothing new since last message not even the mail as it has slowed to nothing as well. Sometime later this summer we will start to put up our satellite tower and get that in place along with its antenna system and rotors. We have suspended the Operation Handshake from the club station on the last Tuesday of each month until further notice. With Covid cases on the rise ( 227) as I write this note, activities will be severely restricted and or cancelled.

I would like to thank Scott, VE1QD for arranging our guest speaker for last month's meeting. Alan did a super job on his presentation even though he was on Manitoulin Island in northern Ontario. Don's, VE1DTR effort at bringing in the Lunenburg club members through Zoom was well managed and has prospects for future presentations- thank you Don.

Along with the Zoom presentation we have been doing a cw class hosted by Dick and set up by again Don and Jason using Zoom. There are about 10 people taking Dick's cw course and speeds are approaching 10/12 wpm, this is going really well and now about to go live via radio and making real contacts.

Once again we are having success with the open sessions discussing many topics in a very relaxed atmosphere, lots of questions and positive feedback. Bill, VE1MR put on a presentation regarding our 2 meter network for the Maritimes. Bill was able to keep the material understandable even as complex this network can be with routing variables and connectivity.

I doubt very much if we will get into the museum again this summer due to Covid rules,

Field Day as we know it will most likely be from home again with a combined score of the HALIFAX ARC MEMBERS,

I am not sure that even the Greenwood Flea Market will take place; however, it is off in the future and JUST may be possible.

The Shearwater Hobby show will not happen again this year as our presence has been in the past...

The 2 MS "THONS" (WALK AND BIKE) have not requested our participation as in years past..

We have not heard about the rally races and our participation in them yet

There is no decision whether or not Halifax Waterfront days or Museum Ships weekend will go ahead.

I'm not sure if I missed any events but this is a rough summary of what is NOT happening so far this summer.

And the cruise ship industry is not scheduled to come to Halifax as a port of call.

The good news is that VACCINES are available to just about everyone now; however, most or all of us won't get second shots till July or August which for me puts any involvement in any event impossible till much later in the year. It is almost impossible to run an event not knowing who has or not have their shots thus jeopardising all other participants especially where we are all (majority) senior people in age and have underlying conditions. I will not put any member in harm's way – this is a hobby; HOWEVER, if there is an emergency call out I know we will respond accordingly

That's all for now. I will keep everyone up to date as new info comes along. With that, please, everyone be safe, stay home, no parties and above all PLEASE GET YOUR SHOTS WHEN YOU ARE ABLE TO DO SO. This is important to you as well as your family, friends and FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS.

- Respectfully, Brian Allen, VA1CC, President of the HARC

**MORE HATS NEWS**

Hello again. Things are moving along with HATS. Although we have been unable to have a general meeting I am attempting to have a zoom meeting in the very near future with the HATS members.

The Winlink Net has experienced a stoppage. David Musgrave VE1EDA who has been running the Winlink Net every other Sunday night for many years has decided it is time for him to take a break. I thank him for his many years of service and dedication to this method of emergency communications.

Having said that, we are now looking for someone to take on this task. Neil Hughs is willing to train the person whomever will be taking it on. Please send me an email if you wish to take on this endeavour.

For those that are RAC members the RAC will be running an official CAN-WARN (CANadian Weather Amateur Radio Network) course at the end of this month. It will help you in preparedness, awareness, and official message handling so it would be a great course to take.

I will be sending out again the HRM Telecommunications Book and the Message Handling book with the sample messages and we will once again start monthly voice practice on the last Sunday night at 2030 of each month with a hiatus on the summer months of June, July, and August (So really it will only be a "soft" opening of May.)

Our members have been great at checking in with the Exercise Handshake on the last Tuesday of each month. There really is no requirement to be checking in from our clubs and it is quite appropriate to check in from elsewhere as in reality, in a disaster we will likely be operating from sites other than our club.

This would be a great time to check out your Go Bag as we have experienced very little in the way of snowpack this past winter so this coming summer's wildfire season may be very active and that brings us evacuations, and thus evacuation centers requiring staffing and communications. Not to mention that the Atlantic Hurricane season starts in just a few weeks and we have seen them start earlier in the past few years.

Thank you for staying engaged with HATS while we have all been in COVID distancing.

Gary Murphy, VA1GGM  
 phone:902.461.9416 cell: 902.229.4658  
 31 Tremont Street, Dartmouth, NS, Canada B2Y 1X1  
 garygmurphy@gmail.com

Visit: <http://spaceweather.com> for information about space weather that affects radio propagation.



MY MIND IS LIKE MY INTERNET BROWSER.  
*19 tabs open, 3 of them are frozen and I have no idea where the music is coming from.*

**Needed**

The H.A.R.C. needs a new Safety Officer  
 Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PK has withdrawn from this position due to health issues.

Please contact President Brian if you are interested in taking on this position.

Pat will help you with the transition.

**Answer to puzzler on page 2**



Where did 73 and 88 come from?

They are abbreviations from the land telegraph. They come from the 1859 Western Union "92 Code" and the 1864 Wood's "Telegraphic Numerals" code. See:

<http://www.civilwarsignals.org/pages/tele/wurules1866/92code.html>

This also explains where -30- comes from. The abbreviation -30- means "the end" and is still used by newspaper people and in press releases. Not common on CW.

Paul Robinson, VE1AVD

**The Atlantic Amateur**

Ham Radio for the **Atlantic Provinces**

[www.atlanticamateur.ca](http://www.atlanticamateur.ca)

*What are you vacating when you go on a vacation?*

The HARC Reflector is "your" local ham radio club publication. Want to share any information, pictures, articles, URL's questions, etc. please title "for Reflector" and send to editor Lynn, VE1ENT at

[bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca)

Any changes for publication will be because your editor altered grammar, spelling, or due space constraints or for diplomatic or risk of law suit reasons.



### Halifax Amateur Radio Club Virtual General Meeting Minutes 21 April 2021

1. Welcome to the HARC virtual monthly meeting for April 21, 2021: The virtual meeting was called to order by President Brian, VA1CC at approximately 1835.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda: A request was made to accept the April agenda as presented by Brian, VA1CC; Scott, VE1QD moved the agenda to be accepted, Bill, VE1MR seconded. The motion was approved virtually.

3. Approval of the Minutes for March 2021 as printed in the April Reflector: A motion was made by Fraser, VE1WO to approve the minutes, seconded by Don, VE1DTR. The motion was approved by virtual vote of 16/19.

4. Report of any Silent Keys: The following amateurs in the Maritimes have passed since the last club meeting of 17 March 2021.

John Daniel "Dan" Hubert. VE9DAN  
Mar. 26, 2021, Chance Harbour, NB  
Shirley J. Trites, VE1AZY

April 6th, 2021, Kentville, NS

Note: Shirley had been a HARC club member in the past per Bill VE1MR

Additional information can be viewed at: [maritimeamateur.ca](http://maritimeamateur.ca)

5. Correspondence: Brian, VA1CC reported there were 2 pieces of correspondence, one membership, one note from HRM stating the Grant application has been received and that HRM will be in touch with the outcome when known.

6. President's Report: Brian, VA1CC reported the Carribean Emergency Network requested the frequencies of 7188 and 3815 be kept clear for emergency traffic due to the volcanic eruption. Brian has two exams to administer. Brian received a licensing inquiry from a student studying Emergency Management.

The HATS organization has slowed significantly. Brian will contact Gary, VE1GGM about rejuvenating the operation. Scott, VE1QD, former HATS liaison indicated he would assist with any needed HATS indoctrination. This meeting will end just prior to 7:30 pm to enjoy a joint presentation with the Lunenburg Amateur Radio Club via Zoom.

7. Treasurer Report: Bill, VA1ALW gave a detailed report of the monthly income and expenses as well as reporting the opening balance and closing balance for March. Bill, VA1ALW moved that the financial report for March be approved. It was seconded by Jeff, VE1JF. The motion was approved by virtual vote 17-0.

8. Station Manager Report: Don, VE1DTR reported in Old Business.

9. Education/Membership Report: Jason, VE1PYE reported an apology for spamming with his test message! He chose the wrong list to test with. Due to email problems the membership list is not up to date and will be remedied soon. Thanks everyone for your patience.

#### 10. Old Business:

Grant submission preparations: Brian, VA1CC reported the Grant has been submitted and the club is waiting to hear back from HRM. In answer to a question about what the Grant monies, if successful, would be used for, it would be used for an upgrade of the Clubs laptops and the purchase of an antenna analyzer that can operate to 1296 MHz for satellite antenna work once the satellite tower is installed at Station 50.

Station 50 tower install: Brian reported the satellite tower is still scheduled for this Spring once some approvals by HRM are resolved.

HARC Web site update: Don, VE1DTR reported John, VE1JMB is going to help with the website update, namely to shorten up the

opening page and add menu items for some of the information contained on the current front page.

#### 11. New Business:

QSL Bureau: Only 2 people out of the list of 146 people who have cards being held for them at the QSL Bureau responded to the listing placed in the Reflector. The list is going to be sent to the other clubs within the Bureaus jurisdiction, thanks John, VE1JMB. Typically worldwide, QSL Bureaus hold on to cards for 3 years before disposal. Murray, VE1BB has held on to them for 5 years. When Murray took over the Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau, there were over 20,000 unclaimed cards in 5 boxes, it is now down to about a box and a half! Good work Murray! Fraser, VE1WO reported that QSLs that arrived for the Guides on the Air activity have been submitted to the Guides.

Cowie Hill Tower audit and loading analysis: Note: edited by Roger, VA1RST, the estimated cost for an antenna and supports inventory climb of the tower and then the subsequent loading analysis of the tower was quoted at \$4850 plus HST. Brian, VA1CC has been discussing potential HRM cost participation with Don Mosher, EMO coordinator, in this project.

Future Speaker: Al Penny, VO1NO RAC Atlantic director will be a guest speaker in May. Scott, VE1QD, said he has a couple of prospects for September and October.

June is Field Day month followed by July and August when the club takes a break.

Open sessions via Zoom will be on Wednesday, see article elsewhere in the Reflector.

The CW class by Dick, VE1AI, is doing very well with 11 participants.

2 meter network: The Sunday night Take 15 net is in need of Net Control

(Continued on page 6)

*March General Meeting Minutes  
(Continued from page 5)*

operators. There is a single page to follow as Net Control to manage the check-ins. Please sign up and have a good time improving your skill level. Bill, VE1MR will be happy to provide the Net Control data for you. A great way for HATS individuals to obtain the needed exposure to procedures. Contact Bill, VE1MR. Make use of the 2 meter network, it is there for your use.

12. Round Table: Roger, VA1RST gave an update on the ARRL QST subscription. He had a conversation with a real person! at the ARRL headquarters and the address had not been updated from the old PO Box number. The PO forwarding option had expired.

13. Motion for Adjournment: Jason, VE1PYE, motioning to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at approx 7:25 pm.

Thanks to all for coming out!

Respectfully submitted by Roger Stein, VA1RST, HARC Secretary

## HARC members form a team to compete in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest.

By Roger VA1RST

HARC members Jeff Smith, VE1ZU, of Wentzells Lake, Mike Costelo, VE1ANU, of Eastern Passage and Roger Stein, VA1RST, of Halifax along with Bob, VE1RSM, of Hantsport and Joshua, VE1CEN, of East Dover led by Captain Jeff, VE1ZU, formed a team named the Atlantic A1A's to combine their scores in the 84th running of this contest. The team placed 5th out of 10 team entries, narrowly outpacing a talented team from New Brunswick. This is a CW competition and Commonwealth countries only which means you can leave the receive filter a little wider as there are no US stations to compete with! It was a great opportunity to pull in VK's and ZL's on 80, 40, and 20 meters as all members of the team reported doing so.

About the Commonwealth Contest and BERU

The challenge of amateur radio contests has endured from the earliest days of radio communication...

The competitive side of amateur radio has always been the spur to improve knowledge of receivers, transmitters, antennas and propagation as well as the quality and efficiency of communication skills.

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) created the British Empire Radio Union (BERU) in the late 1920s to support radio amateurs in the Empire. In 1930 a New Zealand radio amateur suggested that a week should be set aside as an 'Empire Radio Week' and that this should be held in February 1931. This was the first BERU Contest. The contest proved to be very popular and has been held annually since then. It became known as the Commonwealth Contest in 1973.

Commonwealth Contest 2021.

### HELP

We are developing a team to help take care of the web page but need a dedicated web master to oversee the web site.

### *Silent Key*

Merle Taylor VE1VCI (SK)  
VE1VCI  
April 22, 2021  
Antigonish NS

**Deadline for submissions to the June 2021 Reflector is Saturday June 5, 2021**

"Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision."

~Unknown~

SHARED ON I'M NOT RIGHT IN THE HEAD.COM

### NOTICE

We are in desperate need of net controllers for the Take-15 Net on Sunday evenings. This task does not take a lot of time and is good practice for doing net control that might be needed during an emergency.

### 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 membership@halifax-arc.org of any address changes

Do you have pictures, an interesting or funny radio-related story, an article or a question or news you would like to share via the HARC Reflector? Please send it/them to Lynn at bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Please show "For Reflector" on the "Subject" line so I don't miss it.

Thanks!.-ed