



# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895  
HALIFAX NS  
B3K 5M5

February 2017, Volume 78 Number 2  
club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



## Happy Valentine's Day



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

HARC Club Station phone number - 902-490-6421

### Executive

President - Brian Allen, VA1CC	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
First V.P. - Don Trotter, VE1DTR	823-1888	ve1dtr@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL	465-4665	igpearce@hotmail.com
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@eastlink.ca
Treasurer - Jim Guilford, VE1JG	466-2124	jimguilford@gmail.com
Director-at-Large: - Craig MacKinnon, VE1JMA	463-8517	cjmackinnon@gmail.com
- Ian Pearce, VE1IGP	469-3474	igpearce@hotmail.com
Station Manager: - Alex Tikhomirov, VE1RUS	444-1271	a.texer@gmail.com
Past President - Murray MacDonald, VE1BB	876-0661	twomacds@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 garygmurphy@gmail.com  
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 EMO Coordinator - David George, VE1AJP 466-8723 dgeorge@dal.ca  
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 2017 Flea market Chair - VACANT  
 2017 Field Day Coordinator - VACANT  
 Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB ve1trb@eastlink.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 - Dave Goodwin, VE9CB ve9cb@rac.ca  
 RAC Section Manager - Craig Seaboyer, VE1DSS cseaboye@stfx.ca  
 RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca

**The February 2017 General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, February 15, in the Senior's Room on the 1st floor of the St. Andrew's Centre, 3380 Barnstead Lane, Halifax.

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

7:00-8:30pm - Presentation: Getting the Most from Our Regional Repeater Network  
Speaker: Rob Ewert, VE1KS and Bill Elliott, VE1MR

8:30-9:30pm Regular Monthly Business Meeting

Guests are welcome

*"Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river."*  
~Nikita Khrushchev

**Deadline for submissions to the February Reflector is Saturday March 4, 2017**

### GENERAL INFORMATION



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

**CLUB REPEATERS:**  
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz + TX=82.5  
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +  
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -  
access tone 151.4 Hz  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5

PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz  
LAN NODE

### Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. We need a few more.

**If you want to join**, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



Feb. 12	Gary	VA1GGM
Feb. 19	Win	VE1WIN
Feb. 26	Doug	VE1LDL
March 5	Bruce	VE1MLW
March 12	Gary	VA1GGM
March 19	Win	VE1WIN

*Senior Citizens Are more valuable than any of the younger generations.*



*We have silver in our hair.  
We have gold in our teeth.  
We have stones in our kidneys.  
We have lead in our feet and,  
We are loaded with natural gas!*

*Event for Your Calendar*

VY0ERC will be active from Eureka, Ellesmere Island (NA-008), Nunavut when time permits starting from January 22, 2017 probably till beginning of March.  
Please, follow us on Twitter and QRZ.com

<https://twitter.com/vy0erc>

<https://www.qrz.com/db/VY0ERC>  
E-mail: [vy0erc@gmail.com](mailto:vy0erc@gmail.com)

Thanks, Alex, VE1RUS

February 25, 2017, 9am - 1pm -  
fall protection course  
Contact Terry, VE1TRB

This years Ham Breakfast will be held at Steak and Stein on Young St., Halifax, on Saturday Feb 18th, at 10 am.



As I need to know numbers, you can contact me (Amanda) at [halimonkey1@gmail.com](mailto:halimonkey1@gmail.com) and just let me know how many people are coming with you! (Please do not just hit reply to this message) Also, if you have any questions, ask away at the same email.

See you all at the next meeting, and at the breakfast!

Feb. 18 - Guides On The Air (GOTA) - GOTA is an opportunity for Members of Guiding - from Sparks to Guiders - to talk to other Members of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world via amateur radio. GOTA is held every year on the third full weekend in February.

If you get a few free minutes, get on the air on February 18th or 19th to provide a few GOTA contacts. For more information have a look at the GOTA web page:

<http://www.clarayl.ca/index.php/whatisgota>  
or contact Helen, VA1YL@rac.ca

**Surplus Club Item for Sale**

From time to time, the HARC offers to sell surplus equipment to the membership. We are working on a list of smaller items that will be offered by means of a silent auction at club meetings. This month's item is a used Kenwood TH-28A Handheld Radio with speaker mic. It is an older 2m radio. It does seem to function, however the battery pack is not serviceable, and will need to be rebuilt. The radio and auction sheet should be located near the sign-in sheet at the February monthly meeting.

-Ian, VE1IGP

**REMINDER**

Have you renewed your membership for 2017? 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 chairman Howard Dickson, VE1DHD at [dhickson@eastlink.ca](mailto:dhickson@eastlink.ca) of any address changes

Is your address correct in Industry Canada's database? It's important that you inform Industry Canada of any change to your address.

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities. **Please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Alex, VE1RUS by e-mail at [a.texer@gmail.com](mailto:a.texer@gmail.com)  
Or phone 902-444-1271

The 2016 Darwin Awards:  
*Fifth Place*

*Santiago Alvarado, 24, was killed as he fell through the ceiling of a bicycle shop he was burglarizing. Death was caused when the long flashlight he had placed in his mouth to keep his hands free rammed into the base of his skull as he hit the floor.*

**Canada 150: Special Event Prefixes for Canada's Sesquicentennial**

R.A.C. has secured permission for all Canadian Radio Amateurs to use special call sign prefixes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation. Events will take place throughout 2017 to celebrate the anniversary.

These special prefixes are optional. Amateurs can choose if & when to use the special prefix vs their normal prefix at any time during the year. Stay tuned to the RAC website for additional information

For more information on Canada150 visit

<http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1342792785740>.

**Message handling practice nets**

On VE1PSR 147.270 + Sundays at 1930

Anyone wishing to become involved with the emergency communication message handling please contact

Tom Caithness for voice practice.

[Tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:Tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca)

or Dave Musgrave for digital

[david.musgrave@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:david.musgrave@ns.sympatico.ca)

**The Maritime Amateur**

Ham Radio  
for Maritimers by Maritimers  
[www.maritimeamateur.ca](http://www.maritimeamateur.ca)

**The HARC Website - Policy & Procedure**

Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, is the person to whom all website-related materials are to be sent, Howard will do his best to keep the site current. Send material to Howard at [dhickson@eastlink.ca](mailto:dhickson@eastlink.ca)

Please, help us to keep our website a current and valuable asset to our members as well as the rest of the world and check out recent HARC activity photos on our web site.

## President's Message for February, 2017

Hello cq cq cq? is there any propagation out there these days? Band conditions are really terrible now, however, I hope things improve for the mid February and March contests. It's really hard to hear countries we took for granted even in contest mode now and a country like Scotland is rare dx! I thought this sun spot cycle 23 was supposed to be a good thing for any time dx to any where in the world but apparently it has not happened as expected.

I have had a number of phone calls concerning the interference happening on the Red Cross Net on both the vhf frequency – 146.970 and the hf frequency of 3675 khz. As we all know, interfering with another station is a federal offence and carries some stiff penalties.. Amateur radio has always been a self policing hobby and I am sure this it will stop one way or another. Amateurs should listen to these frequencies when possible to identify the source and let me know or Industry Canada. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT HANDLED INTERNALLY AS OPPOSED TO BY I.C. or to just stop .

Since the wx has been pretty good without much snow so far, every one should have had the chance to get all their antenna work completed. Let it be known that I saw my shadow on Ground Hog day ... So, don't put your shovel or snow blower to far away.

From what I see for activities this year it's going to be a busy time again. February 18 is our breakfast social: our annual Flea Market is scheduled for June as is Field Day Summer will bring major cruise ship and tourist traffic to the Museum of the Atlantic project. For which volunteers are needed to help spread the amount of time actually on site. There will be a Museum Ships weekend event as well as Waterfront Days. We also support the MS Walk and Bike Tour and the Ledwidge Car Rally. So, we have lots of activities ahead for this year.

We do need leadership in some of these events: A project manager for the Flea Market and a project manager for Field day - two chances to show off your organizational skills and leadership capabilities and make each of these events a another success. There is always lots of help once things get going and it is always a great time with our fellow members. Everyone, PLEASE, think about these very important tasks and step up to the challenge of taking on a project. We have the expertise and, the manpower.

We had a great meeting last month and I would like to thank everyone who came out and got to see a good movie: lots of memberships were taken and we had a short business meeting. The 50/50 draw paid almost \$38.00...I think everyone had a good time and we all hope it continues for the February meeting (weather permitting of course).

I hope to see you at the general meeting on the 15th of February.. in the meantime , I wish all of you good health and good dx .

73 - Brian Allen-VA1CC, President - HARC

*Silent Key*

Don Bower, VE1AMC, life member and past-president of the HARC

From his published obituary:

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Donald Crowell Bower announce his sudden passing Jan. 29, 2017 at Roseway Hospital. Don was born in Shelburne June 20, 1942. He graduated from Ryerson Technical College as an electrical engineer and was employed with Maritime Tel & Tel (Bell Aliant) in Halifax until he retired. He moved back to his family's homestead on Bower's Road where he operated his company, Coastal Resources Ltd. He became a tremendous volunteer in his community, especially with the Eastern Shelburne County Emergency Measures Organization and Barrington Ground Search and Rescue He was a founding member of the Waverley Ground Search & Rescue (Halifax Ground Search & Rescue) and an avid Amateur Radio Operator. He was a strong voice on the board of the Southwest Regional Health Authority and the Community Health Board, working toward maintaining services at Roseway Hospital. Always positive, Don was the problem solver, whether it was setting up a communications system for the fire department, getting mice out of the recreation hall, county-wide emergency preparedness or placing a 1,000-pound bell in the steeple of the Lower Ohio Union Church. The church was his anchor. Don was always ready to offer his help, advice & support. Don could speak about any topic, from quantum physics to the weather and his Letters to the Editor on issues that were important to him were legendary. He took great pride in using every day to make a positive difference. Don is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Rhuland) Bower and sister Elizabeth (Betty) and many nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his first wife, Katherine (Kay) Bower and brother, Lester Bower. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held Thursday, February 2 at 2p.m. at the Lower Ohio Union Church. Donations may be made to the Lower Ohio Union Church, Lower Ohio Cemetery Committee, Roseway Hospital Foundation, Middle and Upper Ohio Fire Department or a charity of your choice. On line condolences may be sent to [hmskilson@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:hmskilson@ns.aliantzinc.ca) or you may sign the guest book at [www.huskilson.net](http://www.huskilson.net)

*Halifax area Amateur Radio, Ground Search & Rescue, and friends were well represented at Don's funeral. -ed.*

Saving & Remembering Our History's Radios and More

To the President of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club:

For your information, the Quebec Museum of Radio has donated \$500.00 to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic (MMA). This donation is part of their non-profit corporation liquidation of assets and was made to MMA because of the efforts by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club to refurbish and make operational at the Halifax museum two Marconi CM-11 transceivers which came from the Quebec museum's collection.

As some of you know, I coordinated the donation of these two Marconi CM-11 transceivers in 2015 to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic via the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. The two CM-11s were refurbished by Fred Archibald, VE1FA. One unit was made operational using parts from the other and was installed by members of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club at Ham Radio Station VA1MMA located inside the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

Since the Museum did not expect this donation, I suggest to the Halifax Amateur Radio Club that they contact the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and request that the \$500.00 donation from the Quebec Museum of Radio be assigned to the improvement or operation of Ham Radio Station VA1MMA.

The demise of the fledging Quebec Museum of Radio is a real tragedy for the history of radio in Canada. The efforts to establish a permanent radio museum began in 2000 under the guidance of Jacques Hamel, VE2DJQ. While attempts were being made to find a fixed and permanent location for the museum, the collection began to grow and to expand. During a 15-year period, surplus commercial, amateur, naval and military equipment was found and brought to the warehouse.

As an early supporter of the museum, I became involved in building up the collection. When I was working for Industry Canada Spectrum Management in Toronto, Moncton and Montreal, I coordinated the donation of surplus radio and test equipment to the Museum, such as receivers, spectrum analyzers, field intensity meters, frequency counters, etc. Much of that equipment had been used for Radio Inspections and interference investigations by Radio Inspectors of the former Department of Transport (DOT), the former Department of Communications (DOC) before radio regulations and spectrum management was transferred to Industry Canada in 1994. Some of that equipment was familiar to me since I had used it when I worked as a Radio Inspector in the Department of Communications (DOC) office in Sydney, Nova Scotia in the 1970s. On a summer day in 2005, Jacques Hamel VE2DJQ and Jean Massicotte, VE2JM

showed up at Industry Canada's District Office in Toronto with a rented 24' truck to make a pick up. I took them to the basement at 55 St. Clair Avenue East and we spent the rest of the day transferring to the truck Industry Canada's surplus radio and test equipment which had been donated to the museum through an asset disposal order. I can tell you that the truck was full when they left Toronto.

Over the years, the collection grew to over 1600 + pieces of equipment. During a period when the museum had lost their warehouse, it took more than 6 tractor trailers to store the collection. After failing to find a permanent location to establish the museum over a period of 15 years, it became evident that the project would not fly so the Board of Directors decided to liquidate the collection and to shut down the corporation. Some equipment was donated to museums around the world; some equipment was sold by auctions; there were a few open houses where equipment was sold; some equipment was sold at Ham Radio Flea Markets and Hamfests; and the rest of the equipment was sold on line.

I personally coordinated the donation of some of that equipment during the liquidation of the collection, including the donation of two Marconi CM-11 Transceivers to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic via the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, I also personally delivered a Navy SU Radar to Ship Museum HMCS HAIDA in Hamilton, Ontario. It was quite a job to load the radar onboard my rented cube van.

I had initiated a project a few years ago to convert the radio room onboard Submarine Museum HMCS ONONDAGA in Rimouski, Quebec. The international call sign had been CGNQ when HMCS ONONDAGA was commissioned in the Navy so call sign VA2GNQ was chosen for the new Submarine Ham Radio Station. The original plan was to restore the radio room to the way it was during the cold war in the late 1960s and early 1970s when I was a Naval Radioman in the submarine service. By going back that far in time, it allowed us to display crypto equipment and other equipment which were no longer in use and which had been declassified for many years. So I was able to find in the collection and personally deliver the following equipment to the submarine museum in Rimouski: two complete LF-MF-HF AN/URR 502A receivers containing Racal-17 receivers along with the CV5046 Converter extending the coverage down to 10 kHz, as well a a complete ASR Model 28 teletype unit (including tape perforator and tape reader) which was used with the KWR-37 in-line crypto machine to send and receive encrypted teletype traffic at 100 WPM. The search for equipment continues for this

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project. The list can be seen on the following page of my Naval Radioman website [www.sparker.ca/equipment.htm](http://www.sparker.ca/equipment.htm)

I miss those days when submarine morse code (CW) traffic was sent every 4 hours on the main Naval Broadcast at 100 WPM. Each new message had a serial number and was sent on 4 separate schedules so it was not necessary for submarines to come up every 4 hours to copy traffic. The submarine captain decided if & when it was operationally possible to go up to copy the submarine CW schedule. When the Captain gave the OK, the submarine came up to periscope depth and extended the main LF-MF-HF communication mast above the surface to copy submarine CW traffic on LF (116.3 kHz) or on HF (4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 22 or 25 MHz). We had ionospheric condition predictions manuals to help us choose in advance which frequency to be on when arriving at periscope depth because we had no idea of the actual ionospheric conditions when we were below periscope depth. Since the CW speed was 100 WPM, it was also essential that the traffic be recorded at a very high pitch to

make it easier to copy when the tape was slowed down to 25 WPM which also lowered the pitch. When the time came to begin the submarine schedule, traffic being sent to the surface fleet at 22 WPM was stopped by the radio operator at Albro Lake or Mill Cove and submarine CW traffic began at 100 WPM. Once the submarine schedule was over, the submarine went back to the deep and the submarine Radioman slowed down the tape recorder to 25 WPM in order to copy the messages. Classified messages sent on the CW submarine schedule were received in 5-letter groups and the KL-7 crypto machine with rotors (similar to the German Enigma machine) was used to convert the 5-letter groups to plain language.

Those were the days.

73, Donald Courcy, VE1CG, Halifax, NS

My Naval Radioman Website: [www.sparker.ca](http://www.sparker.ca)

My Radio Alumni Website: [www.RadioAlumni.ca](http://www.RadioAlumni.ca)

Webmaster: Quebec Museum of Radio:

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

Email: [doncourcy@aol.com](mailto:doncourcy@aol.com)

### **The Raft L'EGARE DEUX**

This raft was towed out of Halifax on May 24th, 1956 and was towed in to Falmouth, England on August 21st, 1956. This is a fascinating and amazing sea record. In the October issue of the Reflector I stated the name of the vessel that towed the raft out of Halifax was the PRIMROSE. How in the world I made such a stupid mistake actually scares me. I was looking at the vessel's name when I typed that. The vessel was the PROMISE. That has to be the biggest mistake I have ever made. This raft is part of the HARC history. I'm not so sure I will be able to give an accurate description of this history. Mike, VE3GFN, told me he remembers this incident but all he remembers is someone calling the raft on the Maritime Net in French. Thanks to Fred, VE1FA, we know the radio in use on the raft was a war surplus crank-generated BC654. Captain Henri Beaudout hopes to have the raft rebuilt and stored in a Maritime Museum. The raft cost \$5,000.00 in 1956 and it is hard to say what it would cost today. I have promised

Captain Beaudout that I will do everything possible to find a BC654 if he is able to have the raft rebuilt. If you know of one please keep this in mind. In Captain Beaudout's book "The Lost One" he complains of not being able to hear a time signal for navigation. The WWV time signal transmitter was still in the area of Washington, D.C., in 1956. The BC654 could tune 5000 kilocycles and they should have heard that signal especially at night. In this book he mentions communication with VIFG Sable Island. The VI prefix is Australia but there were radio operators on Sable Island operating their station VFG in 1956. Their main job was to pass all messages, mostly weather reports, to station VBQ via CW. VBQ was located in the Post Office on George Street in Halifax. How in the world did the raft learn of that station? A Mr. Patterson in charge of the Dartmouth Slips helped Captain Beaudout construct this raft and he introduced him to Aaron Solomon, VE1OC. Aaron is mentioned many times in the few records at HARC of this raft and is congratu-

lated for the fine job of public relations with this raft in QST. Aaron is not mentioned in the book "The Lost One". Gus Roblot, FP8AP, on St. Pierre stood by the Maritime Net until after their schedule with the raft and then contacted the raft nightly. The raft had no contact with anyone after they lost contact with FP8AP. Marc Modena was the radio operator on the raft. He could send CW but could not copy CW. This indicates to me that he was a signalman in the French Navy. I have seen signalmen, those who use Morse via a light transmit messages in CW but they had to have someone copy any CW they received. The BC654 let them down several times on the voyage but they managed to get it going. They transmitted several messages blind but all they had was a phone portion of the 80-meter band. The BC654 operated between 3800 and 5800 kilocycles only. There was nothing legal about this whole operation. They had no radio call sign and the crew of the PROMISE was reprimanded for towing them out of Halifax because they

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### Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting of 18 January 2017

The January HARC monthly meeting was declared open at 8:15pm with Brian, VE1AZV, in the Chair

**Self Introductions:** There were 42 members and 3 guests present.

#### Report of any Silent keys:

Brian reported the following silent keys for December and early January: Bill Gillis (VE1WG);

Tom Wilson (VE1SD);

Norris Lionel Nathanson (VE1NLN);

Arthur (Mel) Ellis (VE9KK);

Bonnie Mc VY2TY

**Motion to approval the November Monthly** meeting minutes as published in the HARC Reflector was made by Bill VE1MR; seconded by Erik VE1JEH  
Carried

**Treasures report:** In the absence of Jim (VE1JG), Howard reported the Club financials for the month of December, indicating that there was an opening balance of \$6,878.84, with an income of \$167.50 and expenses of \$129.88 and outstanding cheques of \$ 55.00; ending balance of \$6,361.46. A copy of the full report is appended to the official hard copy of these minutes.

Motion to approve the report of the Treasurer was made by Howard; seconded by Dick, VE1AI  
Carried

#### Executive Reports:

**President's Report** – Brian indicated that he has booked the Gymnasium at St. Andrew's for the Down East Flea Market for Saturday June 3rd 2017.

#### Committee/Project Reports:

- **Basic course up-date:** Dick VE1AI indicated that nine of our students have passed the Industry Canada Basic Exem so far and more are to write next week; three newly minted Hams were in attendance at the

meeting and were congratulated on their success by the Chair.

- **Brit Fader Scholarship 2017** – Howard reported that he had met with Paul Radford (VE1ARH) our honorary legal counsel and was informed that there are sufficient funds in the Trust account to offer a \$1500 scholarship again this year. Howard has sent out announcements to RAC, TCA, Maritime Clubs and the HARC email list.

- **Christmas Party Report** – Amanda reported that the Christmas Party attendance was the largest in recent years with a total of 57 members and guests attending.

- **Search and Rescue/EMO** – David (VE1AJP) reported that Dave Pike is now the chief director for the local Search and Rescue unit; he also indicated that the team has been busy with several searches over the Christmas break and into the new year, most resulting in positive outcomes.

- **Membership** – Howard indicated that there were too many renewals made this evening to come up with an accurate membership number but he will report in February.

- **Museum Wireless Room** – Dick (VE1AI) reported that the radio room has been manned by Club members for over 200 hours since opening. They have issued 3477 certificates of CW proficiency (80% adult ; 20% children). There have been ham radio visitors from all over Canada and the States and visitors in general from all over the world. Given the huge level of traffic through the MMA it was

emphasized that the Wireless Room is getting extremely well recognized.

#### Old Business:

- **St Andrews move** –Murray informed the membership that Barry Manuel (the EMO tenant on our behalf at St. Andrews) has not yet received a formal notice to leave the premises; Barry has also indicated that the coordinator of Parks and Recreation is unaware of any reason why the Club should not be welcomed back into any new facility when completed. Murray indicated that it now appears that it will be at least late March 2017 before HRM will be able to deal with the budget for a new facility. It now also appears (notice posted today at the Centre) that nothing is expected to happen to the facility before July 2018. This gives HARC much-needed space to find a temporary alternate location during construction.

- **Remote Station Move** – Fraser (VE1WO) reported that given it now appears that we will be in this location until July 2018 there is no urgency to move the remote station. However Fraser and Al Prosser are doing some advanced planning to move the station to an alternate site. They have been looking at a provincial site in Middle Sackville off Lively Rd. It appears that there is plenty of room in the building on the site for our equipment and they are looking into an internet connection as well as a way of putting up our antennas. Fraser indicated that the plan is to move forward with planning for a move in the summer of 2017 but it could be postponed until the summer of 2018.

#### New Business:

- **Ham Breakfast** – Doug reported that Amanda has agreed to organize the Ham Breakfast that will take place on Feb 18th at the Steak and Stein on Young Street in Halifax.

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*Dear Yahoo,  
I've never heard anyone say, "I don't know, let's Yahoo! it..." just saying...  
Sincerely,  
Google*

*Minutes (Continued from page 6)*

Amanda will arrange for a notice to be sent out to the email distribution list.

**- Proposed Membership Fee Increase for 2018**

– Brian and Howard reported on a recommendation made by the Executive at their January meeting that given the Club’s tight fiscal situation – there will not be any further publications of the Callbook which was the major source of Club income – there was a need for the Club to look at alternate sources of income. The recommendation will come to the February and March meetings for discussion and votes; implementation if passed will be for 2018.

**Round Table:**

Ian Pearce reported on a way that HARC might generate funds in lieu of a Callbook, by encouraging members to make donations of surplus equipment to the Club where smaller pieces of equipment would be made available each month for

silent auction at club meetings. Larger equipment items would be made know to all club members first and then more broadly before bids would be received.

Jeremy (VE1JHF) reported for Terry (VE1TRB) that a Fall Protection course will take place on 25 February in the Club Station and a \$25 donation will be required from participants.

Jason LaPierre reported that an HF radio station has been re-established and is now functional at the Red Cross; Bill indicated that he has been holding an antenna that belongs to the Red Cross. Bill and Jason to discuss transfer.

Dick asked about ordering some long-sleeved shirts for Club members; they would like to have some for members who attend at the MMA Wireless Room. Brian agreed to get some prices on shirts.

Dick indicated that we had great success using the VE100VIMY/VE1 callsign during the first week of January; Nova Scotia was the first

province to use the special-event callsign leading up to the 100th anniversary commemoration ceremonies in Vimy France in early April.

Dick suggested that HARC try to get a special callsign assigned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion and Fred VE1FA agreed to work with Dick on this project. Because of the displays at the MMA related to the Halifax Explosion, Fred hopes to involve the MMA in our efforts to publicize the explosion anniversary.

Ticket draws:

Door Prize - \$10 gift certificate from Superstore – Ralph Rosere, VE1RAR

50/50 Draw - \$36.50 – Ralph Rosere (VE1RAR)

Adjournment: On a motion by Don Trotter (VE1DTR) the meeting adjourned at 09:08pm.

Respectfully submitted –  
Howard Dickson (VE1DHD)  
HARC Secretary .

*The Raft L'EGARE DEUX (Continued from page 5)*

had not cleared Canada properly. It is very hard to get an electrical connection between a radio and the water on a wooden hull - the ground. In other words I doubt that a wire connected to the BC654 and left dragging in the water would have been much help. The other and a major problem is that in 1956 all amateur radio was either AM or CW. The BC654 would operate in the AM portion of 80-meters only. The receivers tuned for that portion would be AM only and without the BFO the 17-watt CW output of the BC654 would not be heard. Since the raft was transmitting an illegal signal no one would have paid any attention if heard. If the raft had a properly licensed amateur station the thousands of amateur stations in 1956 would have tried to contact it as we know. The rafts crew were French and landed immigrants in Montreal. If you find or know any detail on this incident please let me know. This is an amazing and fascinating record and it is part of our club history.

73/88 Spud VE1BC

*"There is no distinctly Native American criminal class ... save government."* - Mark Twain

Stuff keeps coming out...now a cell phone with built in VHF radio: <https://youtu.be/Rt5WRNXbdDI>

Ham radio smartphone! Outfone Rangerfone S15 android VHF/UHF  
HamRadioConcepts

From Ken, VY2RU



Tim Allen's character in "Last Man Standing" is an avid amateur radio operator. In September, 2014, Tim Allen took and passed the Technician Class exam to become a real ham radio operator. His FCC issued license call sign is KK60TD issued under his real name, Tim Dick.

**From the Mail Bag**

*Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.*

*If/When you come up with a good idea that you want to see happen how do you begin? E-mail recently sent by Doug, VE1DFG, to Glen, VE3XRA, (at RAC) with copies tomadeline.harvey@pc.gc.ca and ve9cb@rac.ca, etc. and replies illustrate a "how"*

*Doug puts forth an idea, a plan and an offer.*

Dear Glenn,

I'm writing to see if RAC might be interested in activating a "Parks On The Air" program similar to the USA program last year. A little bit of time and little or no money is required. I've spoken to Parks Canada and they are interested in the idea.

My vision is to designate a park info number for all parks in Canada and maybe Historic Sites. For an example "Halifax Citadel NS-01". If it's in Manitoba, MA-01 etc. Letting people know and collection of all the data is where I see RAC fitting in. A webpage / Facebook page where hams can upload their pictures and stories of their activation for everyone to see. Maybe controlling it like a competition so people will know at any given time who has activated what and how many times etc., all controlled by the RAC website.

Access to the parks this year is free if you apply on line for a pass. Everybody wins with hams getting the adventures and sharing their stories and public knowledge about Ham Radio and Parks Canada gets more visitors to the parks.

I am willing to volunteer in getting this set up but I would need a contact in RAC to be involved as well. Any thoughts or concerns on your end. I listened to US stations and collected all I could contact and enjoyed their stories this past year.

Hopefully you find this interesting and let me continue to organize on this end. To make this successful our National body must be involved to make this an official Canadian Ham Radio project.

Douglas F. Grace, VE1DFG

*Response from Dave Goodwin, VE9CB, RAC Atlantic Director*

Doug:

Thank you for including me in your e-mail to Glenn. I will take the liberty of responding on my own behalf. Doug may have views that are quite different from mine.

Like you, I was very impressed by the success of ARRL's NPOTA. I worked stations in 224 US parks, battlefields,

historic sites, parkways and trails during 2016, and I activated one US park three times. It was a fun diversion. It certainly did a lot to promote knowledge of the US National Parks system, in all of its variations, and it encouraged many Radio Amateurs to get active with portable equipment, antennas and power. It also increased use of the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LotW) with a whole clientele that might never have used it otherwise.

One important element of the success of ARRL's NPOTA event was the one-year timeline. That served to concentrate interest and activity. An open-ended, forever event might not have attracted the same attention.

For ARRL, I suspect NPOTA will prove both financially rewarding and great promotion for League membership. RAC could certainly benefit from a similar success if we could replicate it.

Canada's National Parks system is magnificent, and well worth promoting and celebrating with something similar.

Doug, if you would like to develop a plan for an NPOTA-style award programme using Canada's National Parks, I would be pleased to give you comments and advice as you move along. One small editorial suggestion is that you use Canada Post's standardised provincial abbreviations: MB is the abbreviation for Manitoba, not MA. From coast to coast to coast, these abbreviations are: NL, NS, PE, NB, QC, ON, MB, SK, AB, BC, YT, NT and NU. You can see these at

<https://www.canadapost.ca/tools/pg/manual/PGaddress-e.asp#1442131> section 4.4

RAC runs on nearly 100% volunteer labour, and RAC would likely depend on you to conceive, develop and execute this plan if we adopted it. Personally, I would hope that any new awards programme would help RAC's finances and encourage membership in RAC. We would be unlikely to take a risk on anything that would drain our scare resources.

RAC does have an awards programme. John Scott VE1JS manages our current awards, and may be a good person for you to contact to get some expert advice on award administration. I have included John in this reply.

Please let me know your ideas as you proceed with this, Doug. Thank you for a very interesting idea. Let's see where it goes.

73, Dave Goodwin , VE9CB, RAC Atlantic Director

*Response from Glenn MacDonell*

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

Hi Doug,

Thanks for your proposal and willingness to organize the event. While we often receive suggestions for something to do it is more rare and certainly more impressive when the person suggesting is willing to organize it and has already contacted the organization we'd work with!

Frequently in my meetings with Amateur Radio Clubs in different parts of Canada RAC members have mentioned their experience in the ARRL activity and suggested that RAC organize something similar. I know that there would be an enthusiastic response from Radio Amateurs in Canada and abroad.

RAC is working on several ideas to commemorate Canada 150. We have already received approval from Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada for Canadian Radio Amateurs to use special prefixes for their call signs to celebrate the year and from the Heritage Canada to use the Canada 150 logo in our announcement of this. We are working on several other ideas related to contests and awards.

Given Parks Canada decision to contribute to Canada's Sesquicentenary by waiving fees to access parks and RAC's desire to find appropriate ways to participate in Canada 150 celebrations it would make sense for us to identify this as a special activity for Canada's 150th anniversary. This would address Dave's observation that special limited duration events are likely to get more attention than ongoing activities. As well we would request approval to use the Canada 150 symbol and use it when publicising the event.

I appreciate that you developed your

initial plan with the intent of producing a useful initiative that required little time or financial resources. It may be possible to do more than your initial plan as Dave Goodwin suggested but we have to be realistic. The ARRL is a much larger organization that RAC with extensive staff and financial resources. It also operates Logbook of the World and automated computer supported awards programs like DXCC so they have resources to turn out contact confirmations and certificates much more quickly and easily than RAC. Certainly ARRL's NPOTA is a great inspiration but we would have to adapt our activity to our resources and infrastructure.

However in this special year we may get support we hadn't expected. The ARRL recently told me that they would like to assist in Canada's celebration of our Sesquicentenary. I expect this was based on their own Centennial in 2014 and NPOTA in 2016. In the near future I will speak with the CEO of the ARRL and several of his staff about some of our proposed activities to determine what we can do together. If you agree I will mention your proposed activity. At a minimum we should be able to get advice based on their experience and we may be able to get assistance in some of the areas where ARRL has more infrastructure that we do.

As Dave Goodwin noted most of our activities are organized by volunteers and so there are no problems with this being a national Amateur Radio Activity that you organize. As Dave suggested there may be possibilities to go beyond your initial suggestion. I understand that you have communicated your vision for the event and that some further fleshing out of the details may be required. Please share your ideas with Dave Goodwin as you develop them. I've

copied Alan Griffin our Director of Communications and I know that he would love to have stories (and pictures!) in our magazine and on our website of radio amateurs operating in our National Parks throughout 2017 as part of our national celebration.

We're looking forward to working with you on this.

73, Glenn MacDonell VE3XRA  
President, Radio Amateurs of Canada  
[glennmacd@rogers.com](mailto:glennmacd@rogers.com)

From: John Scott  
[scotts@sandycove-ns.ca](mailto:scotts@sandycove-ns.ca)  
Subject: Re: Parks On The Air

> I concur with Dave's assessment of the idea. It's a good one and RAC would benefit. For benefit, and for that of any future RAC Awards Manager, the following should be taken into consideration:

The certificate should be designed so that it can be completed entirely on a computer, saved as a pdf file and emailed to the recipient. If any one wants a printed certificate mailed to them, it should cost significantly more!

The fee should be reasonable and payable to RAC HQ via PayPal or similar secure, online method ONLY. The Awards Manager should not be involved in handing money in any form.

At most, there should be three levels of award. The first would be a minimum number including at least one from each province and territory, if this is possible, one more intermediate level and the last for working all of them. The last one might be impossible, but one never knows.

Just my \$0.05 worth.

John VE1JS  
RAC Awards Manager

*Fascinating Error in Judgement! "We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out" -- Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.*

*My mind not only wanders;  
sometimes it leaves completely.*

**HALIFAX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP - For 2017** 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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) (\$15.00) Family membership (one newsletter) (\$30.00)\* + \$15.00\* each additional person.\*    Amount submitted \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\* Full HARC Members will also receive full membership in the NSARA

The membership year is from January 1 to December 31.

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

✉ Mail to:    Membership Chair                      CERT \_\_\_\_\_                      CARD \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Halifax Amateur Radio Club                      SEC \_\_\_\_\_                      ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_  
                   P.O. Box 8895  
                   Halifax, NS    B3K 5M5

**Payment Options** ... In addition to mailing a cheque to the Club mailing address along with the application form, or paying at the February Club meeting, we have set up a new electronic money transfer process as outlined below:

Procedure for Paying HARC Membership Dues by electronic money transfer:

Since fewer and fewer of our members use cheques, it is becoming more difficult for some to pay their HARC dues, requiring that they come to a meeting and pay with cash. That is fine for some but for others who are for what ever reason unable to attend meetings it is a problem. However, we now have a system set up to allow HARC members to pay their 2016 membership dues using electronic money transfer. The procedure to use is as follows:

1) Send an email to Howard VE1DHD our Membership Chair at [dhickson@eastlink.ca](mailto:dhickson@eastlink.ca) and cc: Jim Guilford our Treasurer at [jimguilford@gmail.com](mailto:jimguilford@gmail.com)... with either a scanned or photo of your 2016 Membership Application Form; or, if there are no changes, simply email with your full name and callsign saying no changes; ALSO indicate that you are paying by e-money transfer.

2) Go to your on-line banking site and send an e-money transfer to our Treasurer (Jim Guilford) [jimguilford@gmail.com](mailto:jimguilford@gmail.com). Be sure to include in that email the security question that Jim will need to then make an electronic transfer into our HARC bank account.

3) Once Jim receives the money and has deposited it to the HARC account, he will confirm with you by email and he will cc: to Howard.

4) Howard will then issue a 2016 e-Membership Card (by email) confirming that your 2016 membership has been paid.

73 Howard, VE1DHD