



# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

June 2008 Volume 69 Number 6  
club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)

**Early Bird Registration deadline is Sunday June 22  
Register Now for HARC Hamfest 75 Aug.21, 22, 23 & 24**

HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

### Executive

President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
2nd V.P. - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Helen MacRae, VE1HMR	422-7119	ve1hmr@rac.ca
Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Director-at-Large: - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL	465-4665	leblanc@accesscable.net
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ	860-4454	bob_swinwood@hotmail.com

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
75th Anniversary Chair - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave 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	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
2008 Flea market Chair - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Field Day coordinator - John Bartlett, VE1OZ	832-2119	johnbartlett@eastlink.ca
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@eastlink.ca
NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH		

### Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Len Morgan, VE9MY	(506) 847-5656	lmorgan@nbnet.nb.ca
RAC Section Manager - Jim Langille, VE1JBL	(902) 667-1485	ve1jbl@ns.sympatico.ca
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD,	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca

### Take-15 Net Controllers

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



June 15	Pierre	VE1PTR	August 10	Pierre	VE1PTR
June 22	Win	VE1WIN	August 17	Win	VE1WIN
June 29	Emil	VE1ESP	August 24	Emil	VE1ESP
July 6	Herb	VE1HX	August 31	Chris	VA1CDB
July 13	Chris	VA1CDB	Sept. 7	Herb	VE1HX
July 20	Charles	VE1MCR	Sept. 14	Charles	VE1MCR
July 27	Doug	VE1LDL	Sept. 21	Doug	VE1LDL
August 3	Herb	VE1HX			

The **regular Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the new club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**. Directions to the St. Andrews Center are on page 10.

The evening's program:  
Field Day Planning with Field Day co-ordinator John, VE1OZ.

Guests are welcome

### Notice of motion

To move the Down-East Flea Market to early August with the intent to improve it.  
See page 5 for details

### Jungle Rule:

*Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.*



### Puzzler - Do you know?

The J-pole is a popular VHF antenna. By what other name is it commonly known?



Answer is on page 8

### GENERAL INFORMATION



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

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

PACKET:  
VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE

*Events for Your Calendar*

June 28 & 29 – the ARRL Field Day.

July 16 & August 20 – Pizza Nights

July 26 - 27 – Volunteers are needed to provide ham radio communications for the MS Bike Tour.

The route is the same as last year - Windsor to Wolfville (Acadia) with a tour around the Canning area.

Contact Rick Gardiner:

rsgardiner@eastlink.ca

July 26 - 27 – IOTA Contest

August 16/17 – Scottish Lighthouse/Lightship Society weekend – The 7th International Lighthouse Day is intended to raise the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids, promoting our maritime heritage.

Reserve August 21,22,23 & 24 for taking part in the **HARC 75th Anniversary Hamfest. See page 9.**

Friday, August 22, 2008 — The Fifth Annual MARITIME DX FORUM

**HARC75 Flea Market Update**

Two Commercial Vendors are confirmed at this time. Durham Radio and MacFarland Electronics will be here.

The two will be in attendance and they would / can accept pre-orders to save on shipping costs if anyone is or wants to pre-order. They can be contacted at :

Durham Radio: e-mail address  
contact\_us@durhamradio.com  
Phone (888 ) 426-1688 (toll free)  
note: that is (contact underscore us)

MacFarland Electronics: e-mail  
macfltd@kos.net  
Phone (613) 353-2800

The list of confirmed as of May 5:

RAC Canada  
Mac Farland Electronics  
Jentronics Supply  
Durham Radio  
Brillance Computers  
Atlantic Badges  
Viderotron Vacuum Tubes  
HARC QSL Bureau

**Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 2008 activating Sambro Light**

This year – 2008 – is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of a light at Sambro Head here in Nova Scotia, and it turns out that the Sambro Light is the oldest, continuously-operating lighthouse in North America. It has been suggested, and I agree, that the Halifax Club should activate the Sambro Lighthouse this summer as part of the HARC 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Fortuitously, the Scottish Lighthouse/Lightship Society weekend (August 16/17) occurs the weekend before the HARC 75<sup>th</sup> Hamfest events (August 21-24). Therefore, it would seem to me to be a natural fit for HARC members to activate the Sambro Light that weekend and to take advantage of the contacts we make to publicize our 75<sup>th</sup> Hamfest events that will take place the following weekend.

Since HARC members will be allowed to use special prefixes – VX1 and VG1 – during these two weekends, VX1FO should attract additional attention if we were to use it at the Sambro Light.

If you are interesting in participating in the Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend at Sambro Light please let me know – VE1DHD@RAC.ca. Being on the Anniversary Planning Committee and Callbook Editor, I will have a lot on my plate in August, so it would be nice if someone would step forward and agree to take on the coordination of this event. Please let me know.

Howrad Dickson – VE1DHD

If you have First Aid Training you could save someone's life! Go to <http://stjohnambulance.ns.ca> to find out what courses St. John Ambulance offer.

*All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.*

On May 10, 1985, LeBreton J. W. (Brit) Fader, VE1FQ, was honoured and roasted by his fellow amateurs during a banquet in celebration of his 50 years of contribution to and involvement with amateur radio. It was during this evening that the L.J. Fader Scholarship Trust Fund was established. Jim Cleveland, VE1CHI attended that banquet and made a cassette recording of the evening's proceedings. Jim has produced 50 CD copies of that recording which will be available for sale at \$5.00 each at the 75th Anniversary Banquet on Friday, August 22nd. and during the Downeast Fleamarket the following day. ALL of \$5.00 price of these CD's will go in to the L. J. Fader Scholarship Trust Fund.

**Brit Fader Scholarship Deadline**

*Howard has e-mailed this reminder to various ham clubs.*

*Please remind your contacts. -ed.*

I am writing to remind you that the deadline for submission of applications to the Brit Fader Scholarship is fast approaching – July 1st., 2008.

The first \$1000 scholarship will be awarded in 2008 and announced at the HARC Anniversary Hamfest banquet on Friday, August 22nd.

PLEASE draw this notice to the attention of all members of your Club so that all eligible candidates will have an opportunity to apply.

Interested parties are referred to the home page of the Halifax Club website – [www.Halifax-arc.org](http://www.Halifax-arc.org) – where a link to the Brit Fader Scholarship is located.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

73. Howard – VE1DHD, HARC Anniversary Committee

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well I think summer has arrived, although officially it will not be here until after the next HARC meeting. Preparations for Field Day are well under way and it looks like it will be a great event this year with some changes in the form of Educational Activities. Perhaps you might give a try at making a satellite contact or there may be some other activity you can participate in with a hands on approach.

The planning for the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration is entering its final stages and you will see a lot of information in this edition of the newsletter. Also you can see what is happening at [www.harc75.org](http://www.harc75.org) the anniversary web site. There will be a special edition of the Reflector in July to bring you up to date on the 75<sup>th</sup> activities. Also note that the deadline for the Early Bird registration for the Hamfest has been extended by a week to June 22, partly because the HARC meeting is June 18<sup>th</sup>. Are you aware of the prizes available to be won for the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration: a 2M handheld for Early Bird registration for the full weekend, a dual band handheld or a mobile 2M rig for full registration, an antenna for registration for the DX Forum, a GPS for registration at the Far Side of Amateur Radio and a mobile HF set for the flea market. There will be other prizes as well. There will also be branded items available for purchase. Also don't forget about the special prefix you as a club member can use from July 25<sup>th</sup> until August 24<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully you will get on the air using the prefix and attract some interest in the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration from Amateurs around the world. We are also hoping the club station can be on a fair bit during this period as well.

You will notice elsewhere in this newsletter the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sambro Lighthouse. We hope someone will want to activate this lighthouse and also use our special prefix.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The deadline for Early Bird Registration for the Halifax Amateur Radio Club 75th Anniversary HamFest has been extended by one week.

The final date now for Early Bird Registration will be Sunday June 22nd 2008. Registering by this date will get you into the draw for a new HT radio as well as a significant reduction in the overall registration fee.

For programme details and to register for the HamFest, go to:

**[www.HARC75.org](http://www.HARC75.org)**

PLEASE NOTE – this is your birthday party and planning for this very special event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our Club has been underway now for over two years. Much effort has gone into this effort. We have booked quality space at the university to accommodate everyone and as a result, the Club will have some fixed costs to cover regardless of the attendance. So PLEASE, support your Club and join your friends – August 21 – 24, 2008 – to Celebrate our Past.

73 – Bill - VE1MR, Chair - HARC Anniversary Planning committee

*You find out interesting things when you have young sons, like...  
A king size waterbed holds enough water  
to fill a 2000 sq. ft house 4 inches deep.*

**Hello****DXers, Contesters and HF Enthusiasts:**

I am very pleased to announce that we have finalized the 2008 MDF program. It will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Friday, 22 August 2008. However, this year we will be a part of the larger Down East Ham Festival from 21 - 24 August. The Hamfest will celebrate the Halifax Amateur Radio Club's 75th Anniversary of continuous operation and community service. We strongly urge you not only to attend the MDF's outstanding program but to join in all the other Hamfest activities as well. The details of the Hamfest program and the registration materials can be found at our website:

[www.harc75.org](http://www.harc75.org).

The MDF program this year features some of the very most outstanding people in Ham Radio presenting on a fascinating set of topics This is a not to miss program!

This year you will need to register through the Hamfest registration system. Do so early and take advantage of the early bird savings. HOWEVER, I also want all those who register, or intend to register for the MDF, to contact me directly so that I can keep track of expected participation.

I also ask each of you to circulate program material to others you believe will be interested in our program. This is a wonderful time of year in Nova Scotia so come for awhile and make it a family holiday.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon and to seeing you in August.

73, Scott VE1QD

E-mail: [VE1QD@RAC.CA](mailto:VE1QD@RAC.CA)

P.S. Those of you coming from outside the Halifax area and wishing relatively inexpensive accommodations please contact Mt. St. Vincent University's Conference Scheduler, Patricia Drake at:

Tele (902) 457-6355 or

E-mail: [patricia.drake@msvu.ca](mailto:patricia.drake@msvu.ca) Since there are a limited number of rooms, you should do this sooner rather than later.

## HARC Field Day 2008 Safety & Environmental Plan

19 May 2008

HARC is required to provide a Safety Environmental Plan to Parks Canada this year since we are conducting our Field Day operations at a federal facility, York Redoubt.

Since the site is a public area, it is necessary to take extra steps to ensure the safety of any visitors to the site at all times, particularly during set up and tear down.

Other hazards, such as rf safety, electrical, tripping, elevated structures, wire, ropes, and fire must be minimized as much as reasonably possible.

Up to date emergency first aid response is also necessary.

The Safety Environmental Plan submitted to Parks Canada should include;

- identification of Safety Officers,
- on site personnel trained in CPR and first aid,
- up to date first aid kits on site,
- planned method for erecting, and securing the towers to maximize safety,
- identification of fall zones for erected structures
- what would be used for shelters,
- the use of propane BBQ,
- food preparation and storage,
- any other safety considerations,
- environmental issues such as fuel spill response.

There were a number of safety and environment issues identified during the 2006 field day weekend, most of which were dealt with in a timely manner and none of which interrupted the weekend operations.

### Issues identified:

#### 1.Designated Safety Officer

- Terry Bigelow VE1TRB
- Pat Kavanaugh VE1PHK
- Dave Charbonneau VE1DDC

#### 2. First Aid and CPR

- The above three safety officers are qualified First Aid and at least one will be on site during set up and tear down operations.

- There will be a safety officer on site during visitor hours to administer first aid, and other club members that are able to administer first aid will cover quiet times.

- A first aid station will be set up in the tent, and will be equipped with a first aid kit.

- Consideration should be made for an eye wash station.

- In the event of an emergency, there will be people available with cell phones to summon help if there is a need.

- The first aid station is to be clearly identified using signage and the location of the first aid station is to be known by all on site.

- It is necessary to post who is available to administer First Aid & CPR at the first aid station.

#### 3.Tower, Antenna, and RF Safety

- There is a requirement to identify "fall zones" around all towers to ensure tents and the general public are kept a safe distance.

- The safe distance is considered to be 50 feet from the base of guyed towers.

- Towers and elevated structures are to be raised in the safest method possible, with consideration of the number of people available to do the work. To avoid confusion and maximize safety, one person should be designated as foreman for raising and lowering towers.

- helmets are to be made available and used where there is a potential of falling objects.

- All low lying guy wires are to be clearly marked with fluorescent tape to at least 8 feet to ensure maximum visibility.

- All radiating wires are to be elevated at least 10 feet and clearly marked to ensure there will be no physical contact by visitors to the

site. With this in mind there should be no concerns about rf contact burns.

- All HF directional antennas will be erected well above ground, and VHF UHF directional antennas will normally be inclined above 90 degrees so as to minimize any rf radiation concerns.

- All wires and antenna that traverse any roadway or parking area must be elevated to a height of 14 feet and clearly marked with fluorescent tape to identify their presence to high sided emergency or service vehicles.

- When securing towers, ropes are to be secured with the possibility of vandalism in mind, particularly where rope is being extended outside the park, or through wall openings

#### 4. Environmental concerns

Environmental stewardship is of growing concern and must be addressed proactively at - all times. With the use of fuels and lubricants we must be able to respond quickly to all situations.

- Portable generators are to be positioned and operated on a containment device such as a tarpaulin, in the event of a fuel or oil leaks or a spill.

- Fuelling of generators should be conducted employing two people so as to ensure full control of fuelling nozzles, and to quickly respond to any accident. Consideration should be made to use a "flow and go" type fuelling hand pump.

- Kitty litter or other absorbent material is to be on site for fuel or oil clean up if the need arises.

#### 5. Fire Fighting Equipment

- The Search and Rescue Command Bus is equipped with ABC type extinguishers along with the portable repeater trailer.

- Appropriate Fire Fighting equipment such as ABC fire extinguishers to be made available when any generators are being fuelled, and when the BBQ is in operation.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

### **6. Other Safety concerns**

Clearance requirements are to be adhered to when the BBQ is in use,

Proper handling and storage of food on site is to be considered

### **7. Conclusions**

The Safety Officer position holds the responsibility to ensure and cause all reasonable safety and the environment concerns are dealt with in a timely manner. If safety or environmental are not being met, those we work with are entrusting us to stop work until we are satisfied concerns are addressed appropriately.

This report identifies a number of issues that were raised during field day 2006. The club executive and 2006 field day chair were to have reviewed and addressed these recommendations.

Respectfully submitted  
Terry Bigelow VE1TRB,  
Safety Officer HARC

### **HARC75 Golf Shirts & Hats**

Helen, VE1HMR, has researched golf shirts & hats "branded" with the HARC logo. Golf shirts will be one of two men's units (both cotton - one pique, the other ring-spun) and the cost will reflect that difference. Please note that the same "styles" will be available in women's sizing. Women's and men's shirts are separate products of the same essential style. In '94 all were men's style, but now we can offer women their "own" cut/shaping. Several hat styles will be on hand and members will be asked to "vote" (mark a sheet) for their preferred style during the break (okay?) - most votes wins!

*Think you're having a bad day? ...  
Iraqi terrorist Khay Rahnajet didn't  
pay enough postage on a letter  
bomb. It came back with  
"return to sender" stamped on  
it. Forgetting it was the bomb,  
he opened it and was blown to  
bits.*



### **Improving the Down-East Flea Market**

I was working my way through the April 2008 edition of *CQ* magazine recently and came across an article by Michael Crestohl – W1RC – entitled "**Keeping the Regional Hamfest Alive**". It was an interesting article, and while the advice for organizers of regional flea markets and hamfests was quite good, it was not by any means new – I have thinking myself for several years now about several of the tips he gave.

When I got into Ham radio in 1994 and attended my first flea market at Exhibition Park the lineup to get into the event seemed to go on forever, and once inside the building the place was absolutely packed with Hams eager to buy anything and everything. I would guess that the attendance that day exceeded seven hundred. Roll forward to 2007 and I doubt that there were more than 350 in attendance at the old Forum Annex. So why the decline? Clearly it is not that there are any fewer Hams in the region, in fact there are a lot more. But, many, like me, are that new breed of Ham who have come into the hobby without the technical expertise to build their own gear, or for that matter, the desire to do so. These new Hams are interested in buying good reliable used or preferably new gear, and when you look around at what is on many of the flea market tables, there is very little quality used equipment and little or no new gear because we have a hard time attracting commercial suppliers. The result is that fewer and fewer Hams attend the Down-East Flea Market – unless they simply want to come and socialize – and many more are logging on to the websites of the big commercial suppliers and ordering their new gear online.

So, how do we improve attendance at our Flea Market and at the same time provide a better experience overall for attendees?

Well, we might start by considering the implication of having the two big events that HARC sponsors – the DX Forum and the Down East Flea Market – occurring at different times of the year (except for this year when they are being held together as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Hamfest celebrations). In case you have not noticed, the cost of travelling is getting to be very expensive. As a result, how likely is it that individuals will travel, say from NB or PEI, both in May for the Flea Market and again in August for the DX Forum? Not high I would guess and as the cost of gas increases the likelihood of this happening will be further reduced.

My suggestion then for improving the Flea Market is to make a commitment – at least for the next three years – to move it from the May slot where it has traditionally been held, to Saturday on the first weekend in August so that it can be co-located with the DX Forum that occurs on Friday. That way, participants would only have to make one trip to take in both events. And since this is the Natal Day weekend, visitors and locals alike would get an even bigger bang for the travelling bucks. I believe that commercial suppliers would also be much more willing to support us by attending these events if they knew that they were coming down from Ontario or Quebec for a concentrated weekend of Amateur Radio activity, and not just a three-hour flea market.

**I gave notice of motion at the May HARC meeting to have the Flea Market moved as outlined above, and I would like to encourage you to think about the possibility of how such a move might improve the Down-East Flea Market and I would ask you to support the motion when it comes up for a vote at the June Club meeting.**

Howard, VE1DHD

## Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting May 21 2008

**Welcome:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD, opened the meeting at 19:35.

**Silent keys:** Nil

**Approval of the Agenda: Motion:** THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Moved by Peter, VE1PJW  
Seconded by Terry, VE1TRB

**Guests/visitors:** Visitors and members introduced themselves

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April 2008, as printed in The Reflector incorrectly named a son of Sidney Hatcher to be the grandson. This error had been corrected after publication prior and is correct in records.

**Motion:** THAT the minutes of the APRIL regular meeting be approved as noted amended.

Moved by Doug, VE1LDL Seconded by Win, VE1WIN Motion carried.

## REPORTS

### Treasurer:

Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO, reported expenses totalling \$292.04, income of \$2,648.07 and a balance of \$13,750.18. See detailed copy attached.

**Motion:** THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

Moved by David, VE1EDA. Seconded by Peter, VE1PJW. Motion carried.

**Secretary:** Helen, VE1HMR, reported that 2 more registrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations have been received for a total of 10 registered for the DX Form, 2 for the Far Side of Amateur Radio for a total to date of \$1,695.00. The QST magazine and mail for the QSL bureau have arrived. Quotes for branded products are in process and information will be posted in June's Reflector regarding golf shirt sizing so members can confirm sizing before placing orders. Sample will be available at the June meeting. Report attached.

**President:** Regrets

**Past President:** No Report

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:** Murray, VE1MMD, stated that his report would be nested within agenda items.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:** Murray, VE1MMD, advised that Tom, VE1BMJ, is away. Larry Hicks, V01HL will be presenting software-defined radio later this evening. The door prize is a hat and LED light.

**Director at large:** No Report

**Station Manager:** Brian Allen, VE1AZV, reported that Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF, is currently installing the club door locks upstairs. They will be completed tomorrow. PC access for Windows DX is available now and Barry Diggins, VE1TRI, will organize a training session for DX for Win. Murray added that two electronic latches were back-ordered and that contributed to the delay.

### Committee reports:

**Membership:** Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported 4 life, 18 associate and 116 full memberships for a total of 137.

**Callbook:** Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported that the Callbook is proceeding well and that the next major task is to add the main database Bill, VE1MR, is working on the database while travelling.

Howard expects the database will be received at the end of the week. The book goes to the printer mid-June and, at present, 254 pages are expected. The selling price will be \$15.00. Sales will begin at the Flea Market. Pre-orders are possible and clubs may pre-order through Fraser, who advised 178 books have been confirmed to date.

**Flea Market 2009 and Beyond:** Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported on an article read in the current QST magazine regarding heightening event attendance, which promotes marrying events to reduce travel time to enhance viability. When considering the Flea Markets in the future, Howard asks members to consider that this year's DX Forum and the Far Side of Amateur Radio, in conjunction with the Flea Market may indicate increased value for time and travel. We have an opportunity while completing the Callbook to capture such added-value for future through advertising, if we were to link the Flea Market with the DX forum in August next year. Given that the Callbook life will be ei-

ther 3 or 4 years, it becomes a venue for us to advertise club events. Howard recommends that for 2009, 10 and 11, that the Dx Forum and Flea Market be combined to create a mini-hamfest on the 1<sup>st</sup> w/end of August. It is possible HARC will develop other activities within that mix. Note that Natal Day, a civic holiday, adds a further attraction when considering a jaunt to Halifax. Scott, VE1QD, spoke of reactions encountered while attending the Dayton Hamfest, where he was promoting the Dx Forum. People liked the program (handout cards with program information listed) and the Flea Market combination. Amateurs from New England and Ontario with whom he spoke mentioned that they have been thinking of bringing family to Nova Scotia. Scott feels his experience represents a good response to marketing. Howard noted that we have had difficulty drawing vendors to the Flea Market, but that an expanded event will enhance the opportunity for vendors. Win, VE1WIN, stated that he has been advertising the events on the Gore Net and, also, through Percy's Trans-Canada Net. Noting that the Flea Market has always been a "Downeast" event, Fraser, VE1WO, reported that he has spoken with John Brady, VE1WZ, of the DARC, who indicated that DARC would support HARC in this venture.

**Motion:** THAT the HARC, in conjunction with DARC, hold the Down East Flea Market in the early part of August for the next 3 years - 2009, 2010 and 2011, in conjunction with the DX Forum and any other related activity.

Moved by: Howard, VE1DHD Seconded by Scott, VE1QD

**Discussion:** Clarification was wanted as to whether the date change is being suggested due to perceived needs of the Callbook, and/or, if members have had sufficient time to consider ramifications of such change.

**Amendment to the motion:** THAT a *Notice of Motion* be published in the June Reflector to be presented at the June general meeting. Motion Carried.

**Club Survey:** Murray, VE1MMD, will process the information provided by members. In total there have been 88 valid returns, 3 with incorrect addresses and 1 unsigned - therefore - invalid completed questionnaire for a return of 55% of the members holding full membership.

(Continued on page 7)

*I had amnesia once...or twice.*

**Minutes** (Continued from page 6)

**QSL Bureau: Bureau Status:** Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, reported that Murray, VE1MMD; Brian, VE1AZV, and he, with many other members offering assistance, have worked on establishing the on site QSL Bureau. Tom noted that he'd taken on the management of the bureau in June/July last year and that most of 2007 had been spent familiarizing himself with the data. To date, 6591 cards have come in 2008; 1400 were sent out over the week-end and 7421 have been given out. The database documents a total 19,378 cards, but this number is questioned due to glitches encountered. The bureau needs a person familiar with Dbase III to assist in the updating of the database program. Specific objectives include clearing out the backlog – cards remaining on site for amateurs having no money in their bureau account, or, who owe the bureau money for previous send-outs. The bureau is set up in the club's general office and maintains security by using a locked cabinet. Tom is negotiating with Wayne Catchpugh, VE1TTT, to design an appropriate cabinet.

**Bureau users:** Tom stated that it is necessary to clarify who is a member of the bureau. Cards are arriving from newly licensed people with no reference on them. Tom asks that if members know of new hams on the air, that they are told to make contact with the club (Tom) and to send \$5 to hold on deposit. The bureau does require an account to be set up. Tom will send letters to those in default asking how they wish to deal with cards and, if necessary, obtain consent to destroy unwanted cards. He is also looking for a new database, as the current program, noting that Dbase III does not converse with Dbase V. The bureau's bank balance (on deposit) is \$4935.55. The bureau assigns a surcharge of \$ .50 which goes towards general costs. Tom requests that hams that don't want to exchange QSL cards, tell other amateurs at the time of contact.

**Basic Course :** Barry Diggins, VE1TRI, asks that members think of prospective candidates for the course in the fall, which will start Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. Barry will ensure information on how to utilize the QSL Bureau is added to the program.

**EMO:** Dave George, VE1AJP, reported that there has now been a 15-year involvement of emergency communications with Capitol District Health. Currently

there are three radio kits installed in the QEII New Infirmary including portables, j-pole antennas and commercial radios ready for deployment, and three more in the Bethune Building. Those in the Bethune Building will be going into portable kits so there will be 6 kits available. Capitol Health certainly understands what the amateur community does and the contribution of amateurs during an emergency. There will be upcoming exercises that members will be advised of in the future.

**Search and Rescue:** Dave George, VE1AJP, reported that the new logistics bus would debut at the Field Day site. SAR has been testing new equipment resulting in good and not-so-good times. He related that one 16,500 watt generator would start and stop – that was fixed with a couple of alligator clips and it has been working fine since. SAR has raised money for maintenance during past 10 years by hosting bingo nights; however, after losing the use of the Masonic Hall and relocating to Woodside, this has been a struggle. On the weekend, they ended all bingo operations having invested \$60,000 since August 2007 to get up and running at their new location but seeing no return on that investment. EMO increased their grant to SAR from \$1000 to \$3000 per team, which goes towards an operating budget of \$84,000. Amateur radio has always played a key role in SAR.

**Field Day:** Chairman John Bartlett, VE1OZ, reported that the Field Day Committee has been active and key team leaders are organizing their participation and volunteers. (See attached report). Terry, VE1TRB's Safety report will be posted in The Reflector. David, VE1EDA, will be out of town requiring an alternate person to ensure the EMO trailer arrives on site. Barry Diggins, VE1TRI, will submit an explanation of bonus points to The Reflector and Bill, VE1MR, will require volunteers to assist with scoring tabulation.

**Status:** There is 1 month and 10 days until Field Day. Team Leaders are carrying on in detail planning. John requested that e-mail notes be sent to keep him updated and permitting the compilation of written documentation of progress. John will be out of town, returning June 18<sup>th</sup> and will make a final report to the club at the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. He emphasized Dave George's reminder

that anything installed utilizing the SAR bus must be able to be removed within 30 minutes should the bus be needed to dispatch to a SAR site. Due to new tower design, planners must revisit the 6-meter antenna placement. Also, as learned at a recent EMO meeting, HRM is now bound by new health and safety requirements. Everything must be grounded, including the trailer. With an 8-foot ground rod recommended, specifications of requirements should be forwarded to John, who will distribute copies to the Team Leaders.

**Work shifts:** Brian, VE1AVZ, stated that sign-up sheets are on the back table for hours of operation and places; members were asked to please sign up.

**HARC/CRC:** Herb Doane, VE1HTD CRC reiterated that the amateur radio group SARA was disbanded and reverted to being part of HARC and the equipment SARA had is now under HARC ownership. Herb's meeting yesterday with CRC was not satisfactory. It was quite clearly indicated that they do not want to sign a MOU with HARC and feel that any response to emergency would be through EMO for amateur operators if and when needed. The situation is still in flux. As of now, if CRC continue not to want to have an MOU it appears that the club will withdraw the equipment. This would include all the HF equipment, which will eliminate their HF capability.

**Other:** Terry, VE1TRB, reported that the MS Walk was well covered in The Reflector. He noted that the vests were perfect and will be used for the MS Bike Tour. Rick, VE1RGG, is coordinating the bike tour and has a team in place but could still use a couple of people. If interested, please contact Rick, ve1rgg@rac.ca. Terry noted that David, VE1EDA, won't be available to tow the trailer and that Rick is aware of that fact.

#### **Old business:**

**Branded Product::** Helen, VE1HMR, will submit golf shirt size measurements for posting in The Reflector and asks that members measure a favourite tee shirt before ordering so as not to be disappointed with fit. Orders will be taken in June, at which time the club will also determine exactly what branded product is wished to be available for HARC75 celebrations.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

**New Business:** VE1PS, Peter Service, noted that the Sambro Lighthouse will be celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer, identifying its credentials as being the oldest, continuous lighthouse in North America. Peter contacted Howard, VE1DHD, wondering if this might be an opportunity for HARC to promote its own 75<sup>th</sup> celebration. Howard agreed that participation in the lighthouse celebrations could be a prelude and noted that the official Lighthouse DX weekend will be held one week prior to our own event at MSVU. HARC members would be able to use the special call signs allocated for our celebrations. The logistics of not being physically on the island is not prohibitive as Scott, VE1QD, stated that rules state as long as amateurs are "within sight" of the lighthouse we could participate from the mainland – Crystal Crescent Beach. This suggestion will be brought to the executive in June.

**Committee Descriptions:** Murray, VE1MMD, asked that members review the committee descriptions as posted in the clubroom. If willing to participate, he asked that members make their interest known

There being no further business, Scott, VE1QD, moved the meeting be adjourned at 20:50 hours.

**50/50 Draw:** The draw was won by Randall King, VE1RO, Total: \$30.50

**Door Prize:** Peter Service, VE1PS, won the door prize of hat and LED light.

Larry Hicks, V01HL, gave a much-anticipated presentation about software-defined radio.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen MacRae, VE1HMR,  
Secretary

**Nametags** bearing the club logo are available for \$5.00. If interested, please contact Dave, VE1NN



### Answer to Puzzler on page 1

Answer: The J-pole antenna is also known as the Zepp or Slim Jim.

*Forgive your enemies -  
it messes with their heads*

Hello to all,

The HARC is participating in this year's 2008 ARRL Field Day from York Redout just before Herring Cove on Saturday the 28th of June. There is a GOTA station in which only newly licensed amateurs or youths (18 and under) without a licence under the control of a GOTA "coach" may make operate make QSOs which are counted in our overall score as they are logged.

The GOTA station is also or has been for very inactive amateurs who wish to get on the air again. The station gives the club a significant number of points in the field day competition. If each operator can make 20 contacts the number is doubled and if a designated passive coach is present me or Scott or other we can qualify for even more points.

With the operation of the GOTA station I would like to go over the procedural Field Day exchange we will be using also with one of the radios we will be using during Field day, the Yaesu FT-990. There will be a lap top with a logging program running. We can also set up a GOTA station schedule if you would like to operate at specific times.

To coordinate our activities I would like to set up a hands on tutorial at the club station on Wednesday evening the 11th June, at 7:15 for 7:30 pm one week before our monthly meeting. To all the candidates in our fall course, this would be a good opportunity to use your skill and make contacts in an interesting setting. You would also see first hand what field day is all about and to see stations under fun contesting conditions.

Remember this is a GOTA station and it is for the new people to try their hand. Scott Wood and myself will be on hand to talk you through anything and to explain but we are not allowed to log or make the contact.

Please let me know if you can attend.

Thanks and 73, Barry VE1TRI  
861-3719 or bdiggin@chebucto.ns.ca

P. S. Also if any of the people who took the course last year know of any prospective students for next fall, please refer them to me. Please advise them that the information on the club website HARC.org is relevant according to the dates. We also need young people 18 and under at Field Day.

### Early Canadian radio clubs:

Belleville and District Amateur Radio Club, VE3BSQ had its inception in 1946

Sudbury District Amateur Radio Club, VE3SRS, was formed March, 18, 1948

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, VE3ZCD, was formed May 1934.

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Association. There are indications that a club was formed in Winnipeg in the early 1920's

The Dauphin Amateur Radio Club was organized in 1949.

*Source – From Spark to Space*

### SPECIAL PREFIXES

To commemorate the HARC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we have applied for and been granted special prefixes. These will be available for all club members to use for the period of July 25<sup>th</sup> until August 24<sup>th</sup>.

If your prefix is VE1 you can use VX1 and if our prefix is VA1 you can use VG1. An example would be:

VE1FA becomes VX1FA

VA1YL becomes VG1YL

Club members using the special prefix can enter a couple of competitions. Details and rules of these competitions and awards are on the 75<sup>th</sup> web site:

**[www.harc75.org](http://www.harc75.org)**

A generic club card for the special prefixes will be available to members who use the prefixes



## The HARC 75th Anniversary Hamfest Programme

Thursday August 21, 2008

- 1600 to 2100 Hamfest Registration in the foyer of Rosaria Hall, MSVU  
 1900-2100 Reception with cash bar



Friday August 22, 2008

- 0800-0900 Hamfest Registration
- 08:30-1215 **Maritime DX Forum** – the 5th annual DX forum
- 0915 - 1030 **Keynote Presentation: *World Class Radio Competition & Contesting***  
 John Sluymmer, VE3EJ, Grimsby, Ontario
- 1100– 1215 Presentation: ***Understanding Marconi's 1901 Transatlantic Wireless Feat***  
 Jeff Briggs, K1ZM/VY2ZM, Hopewell Junction, New York and PEI
- 0900-1215 ***The Far Side of Amateur Radio***, organized by David George, VE1AJP, is for those hams who have an interest in VHF/UHF, APRS, Fox Hunting, Geocaching, and other “cutting edge” aspects of Amateur Radio. **NOTE: the Far Side program is not fully finalized.**
- 0915 - 1030 Presentation: ***Geo-Haming*** - Combining the excitement of treasure hunting with the love of HAM radio using the latest in GPS technologies. Jim Cyr, VE1CYR.
- 1100 - 1215 Presentation: ***Making Music for your Ham Radio*** - What can you do after your last QSO, make music of course. How to use your computer to make and record music, clean up and put your old vinyl on CD's, remove noise from old cassettes and have some fun in the process. David George, VE1AJP

1215-1315 Lunch in the Rosaria Centre cafeteria

1315-1630 **Maritime DX Forum**

- 1315 – 1330 ***A RAC Moment***  
 Dave Goodwin, VO1AU, President of Radio Amateurs of Canada
- 1330 – 1445 Presentation: ***Canadians on the DXCC Honor Roll***  
 Dave Goodwin, VO1AU, Ottawa, Ontario & Newfoundland  
 Garry Hammond, VE3XN, Listowell, Ontario
- 1515 – 1630 Presentation: ***The TX5C Clipperton Island DXpedition***  
 Anne Santos, WA1S, New Hampshire
- 16:30 Closing Words and Door Prize Draw



1315 – 1630 **The Far Side of Amateur Radio**

- 13:30 - 14:45 - Presentation: ***Software Defined Radio***: While the concept of SDR is not new, the rapidly evolving capabilities of digital electronics are making many processes that were once only theoretically possible practical. Larry Hicks, VO1HL
- 15:15 – 16:30 Continuing ***Software Defined Radio*** ( TBA ) not final.
- 16:30 Closing Words and Door Prize Draw

17:00 Reception at Rosaria Hall Banquet Room, cash bar

1800-2200 Hamfest Banquet -Speech & Award presentations

Keynote speaker David Sumner, K1ZZ, the CEO of the ARRL in Newington, Connecticut will present the after dinner address: ***Not your Grandfather's Amateur Radio***

Saturday August 23, 2008

- 1000-1500 Flea Market – Concurrent Talks ( TBA ) Tentatively 11:00 AM – NS Power RFI presentation.
- 1400-1630 Meetings and Presentations ( TBA ) Tentatively 14:00 – Fred VE1FA – A 1930's Radio Shack.
- 1800-2200 Social Event – Pizza & Bluegrass Music will take place in Vinnie's Pub with live musical entertainment by Sunrise bluegrass band



Sunday August 24, 2008

- 1000-1200 Farewell Brunch in the Rosaria Hall Dining Hall  
 Full registration includes this opportunity to eat with and say goodbye to new & old friends

The Venue for all events will be Rosaria Hall on the Campus of Mt. St. Vincent University (MSVU). It is located on the Bedford Highway, near Halifax.

Hi, folks:

We hope by now that the word is getting out that the Halifax ARC 75th Anniversary Hamfest in August is starting to look like the real deal, what with the President of RAC and CEO of ARRL both expected, the 5th Annual DX Forum agenda full of surprises and the possibility existing for a sold-out Flea Market.

Since we need all the help we can get in attracting attendance, it is requested that the attached information be provided to any and all net controllers with which you are familiar, the hope being that they will read this bulletin regularly over their established nets.

CU in Halifax at the reception on Thursday night, 21 August, at MSVU.  
Check the HARC Website for details.

73, Gary, VE1RGB

Visit the NSARA website:

<http://users.eastlink.ca/~bdeathe/NSARA/>

From the ARRL Newsletter, Vol. 27, No. 21  
A Russian rocket launched from Plesetsk on May 23 carried a number of payloads to orbit, including a **new Amateur Radio satellite** named Yubileiny -- Russian for jubilee -- since christened Radio Sputnik 30 (RS-30). Operational details are vague at this time. Amateurs throughout the world report receiving signals at 435.315 and 435.215 MHz; some report reception of CW telemetry while others report what appear to be image transmissions from the satellite. RS-30 is orbiting at a maximum altitude of 1500 km, creating a substantial communications footprint below. The satellite will broadcast audio and video about the history of the Soviet and Russian space programs, as well as signals imitating those broadcast by Sputnik I in 1957. According to the satellite's launch team, "The motive for development of the Yubileiny small spacecraft was the 50th anniversary of the first space satellite. With the help of that satellite, the new space systems and equipment are expected to get flight qualification, and radio-amateurs all over the world will be able to receive information on the history of space development and domestic cosmonautics achievements."

*Never kick a cow chip  
on a hot day. - Will Rogers*



Hello everyone, Interesting article about the Phraselator - looks (sounds!) like the foreunner to the Universal Translator of Star Trek fame.  
Cheers, Al, VO1NO

### Talk To The Machine

February 22, 2008: One of the unsung electronic heroes of the war on terror is the Phraselator. This is a (large) PDA size device that emits perfectly pronounced words and phrases when the user picks them from a list on the PDA screen, or speaks the English version into a microphone.

Phraselator has been around for a decade, and has been a lifesaver in Afghanistan and Iraq. The first models stored data on 64 megabyte Compact Flash memory cards. With those early versions, you plugged in the right memory card and you are ready to communicate in one of over 50 languages. Each memory card contained 500-1,000 phrases.

Since then, memory card capacity grew to hold a thousand times as much data, enabling all the languages to be stored in each \$2,500 Phraselator. Weighing about a pound, the Phraselator is heavy, but the battery will last over a week without a recharge. The voice recognition is pretty good if you speak clearly, and does not require any preparation by the user (like reciting a bunch of phrases so the computer can "recognize" your voice.) The phrases in the Phraselator mostly ask questions, which can be answered by yes/no, pointing somewhere, or doing something specific (as in, "put your hands up.") Civil Affairs troops like it, because they deal with people in a relaxed atmosphere where an American with yet another gadget will not produce more anxiety. Medical personnel also find Phraselator very useful.

There are special vocabulary sets in the Phraselator, like Force Protection (FP) and Medic, which make available appropriate terms in many languages like Korean, Dari (Eastern Farsi), Pashtu, Arabic (Gulf) and Urdu. There's a Maritime Intercept Operations (MIO) mode, which was developed for use in boarding operations in the Arabian Gulf. There are over 400 phrases in Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, and Hindi. There's a Debriefing Aid mode that has some 5,000 intelligence debriefing phrases and words rendered in Persian-Farsi, Singhalese, Haitian-Creole, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Cambodian, Spanish, French, Korean, and Arabic (Egyptian). There are several different medical modes. The one watt speaker on the Phraselator can be easily heard, and the unit can be plugged into a public address system as well.

The first Phraselator appeared in 1998, but the true "Phraselator" didn't appear until early 2002, when they were first used in Afghanistan. The Department of Defense has bought nearly ten thousand so far, and the troops agree that it sure beats sign language or thumbing through a phrase book. The locals like it because it's yet another neat American gadget, and one that won't kill them as well. The next generation of Phraselator will enable true two-way communication. This technology is already available, but needs a laptop computer, with a big hard drive and a fast CPU. This kind of hardware will be available in PDAs in the next few years, which will make the two way Phraselator possible. Currently, about 7,000 military Phraselators are in use, mainly in Iraq and Afghanistan.