



REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

March 2008 Volume 69 Number 3

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org

Come to our Hamfest August 21 to 24! Celebrate HARC's 75th Anniversary



The **regular Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, March 19, 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: Neil Hughes, VE1YZ, will present on WinLink. Tom recommends that members visit the WinLink web site to read on line material about the system prior to Neil's presentation.

Guests are welcome

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Our 1st Vice President David Nimmo, VE1NN has resigned due to other commitments on Wednesday evenings. There will be an election at the March general meeting to fill this vacancy.

Newton's First Law of Wire Dynamics - Whenever 2 wires meet they become hopelessly entangled

HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421 Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - VACANT		
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 - VACANT

Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC
477-7081 tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
2008 Flea market Chair - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Field Day coordinator - VACANT		
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@eastlink.ca
RAC Atlantic Dir. - Len, VE9MY	(506) 847-5656	lmorgan@nbnet.nb.ca
NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
Assistant Director of RAC 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.

March 16	Emil	VE1ESP
March 23	Chris	VA1CDB
March 30	Charles	VE1MCR
April 6	Herb	VE1HX
April 13	Doug	VE1LDL
April 20	Pierre	VE1PTR



Puzzler - Do you know?

If, as part of your station, you owned a Telerana, what would you have?



Answer is on page 10

Deadline for submissions to the April Reflector is Saturday, April 5, 2008

HARC 75 website is at www.harc75.org

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

End of July – IOTA

August – The 7th International Lighthouse Day is intended to raise the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids, promoting our maritime heritage.

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

The 2008 Callbook will feature full colour on the covers and 4 tabbed advertising leaves (8 pages) that will separate major sections in the 2008 book. The 2008 callbook advertising rates for 2008 will be:

	Regular	Colour	Tabs	Clubs
Back cover	\$750	\$850	—	—
Inside cover	\$450	\$550	—	—
Full page	\$300	—	\$375	\$150
Half page	\$175	—	\$225	\$85
1/4 page	\$125	—	\$150	\$65
Buss. Card	\$90	—	\$110	\$45

Please be sure to let Scott know who you are planning to approach with respect to advertising BEFORE you talk with them, just to make sure that he or someone else has not already made the ask.

Thanks & 73 Howard, VE1DHD

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 6 Notes for Amateurs Visiting Australia: According to the Australian Communications & Media Authority (ACMA), Amateur Radio operators traveling to Australia who wish to operate in that country do not need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. This new policy, effective Feb.15, 2008, allows amateurs who hold a non-Australian Amateur Radio license to operate up to 90 days under a Class Licence <http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_1311>; licensees who will be in Australia for more than 90 days will need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. -- Information provided by Roger Hickey, W6MSC

Greetings to all,

Now that my term has begun, I am sending you this message to let you all know I am looking for many positions to fill in this section. The first positions I need are Assistant Section Managers. You would be my contact in your area and advise me of any happenings to keep the section up to date. I would also advise you of important info from the RAC to send out to the members in your area.

I would like to have 3 assistants in New Brunswick: Northern N.B., Fredericton, and Southern N.B. One assistant in Prince Edward Island and 3 assistants in Nova Scotia: Cape Breton, HRM and the Mainland. These are volunteer positions, but you have to be a full member of the RAC. If you would like to find out more about this position, read the Section Manager and Assistant Section Manager page on the website. If you would like to help out your section, please let me know.

These and other positions to fill are on the Maritime Section website. www.maritimeamateur.ca

Thanks, James (Jim) Langille VE1JBL

RAC Section Manager: Maritimes

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

Visit the NSARA web site at...
<http://users.eastlink.ca/~bdeathe/NSARA/>

Local DX Concerns

There is a disturbing trend happening with some local DXers. Some have more than one call sign. This apparently is possible under some change in the regulations in the past. Regulations do not allow a call sign to "owned by" contest clubs, or repeaters, etc. Only an individual ham can hold a call sign. It used to be that second calls were assigned to contest clubs, or repeaters, etc. by the custodian of that call. I have no problem with this.

However, what has been happening is that some of these people are chasing the DXpeditions with two or more callsigns and working expeditions multiple times on the same band, same mode. All DXpeditions "without exception" strongly disapprove of multiple QSO's on the SAME BAND and SAME MODE. WHY? because they have a limited amount of time on their expedition, and they do it to give as many people as humanly possible a QSO. Multiple contacts on multiple bands is fair sportsmanship. I again will say that the problem only applies to say making 2 (and in one case as many as 4 or even 5) contacts with the same DXpedition on 20 meter SSB. If you use the same call you will be chastised by the operator of the DX station as he will see it on his computer. But you can still get away with using a different call. That is NOT sportsmanship. It is not ethical DX practice. It is not fair, or proper. Each time a QSO is made someone else will not have a QSO. That person, might be a new ham, a ham on a very limited budget, a disabled person, or a QRP or mobile operator working on his personal awards program.

We here in VE1 land enjoy one of the worlds best reputations for ethics, sportsmanship and fair play. These actions could tarnish this for all of us. If an operator violates the ethics he runs the risk of spoiling it for others. Lets be good sports out there!

Dick, VE1AI

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope no one forgot to set their clocks forward this year. Spring is nearly here and time to start thinking of antenna projects, as well as yard clean up, income taxes and other delightful chores.

Things are progressing well with the new call book and the 75th celebrations. Please check the web site: harc75.org for details and remember to register early for the celebrations. There will be an early bird prize drawn from those registered by June 15th.

Please fill out your questionnaire and send it in, response so far has been good, but the more responses received the better the recommendations for changes. The club needs your input as well as your participation.

The Saturday morning get together at the club is going well with about 12 to 20 people dropping by to socialize, help with historical research, operate and help with other activities. The club is open Saturday mornings from 9 AM to noon and sometimes longer. We soon hope to have some workshops or seminars on various topics starting up once we have some idea of people's interests. We also hope you might invite out of town Amateurs to join us on Saturday mornings.

The Brit Fader Scholarship information is up on the club web site and we are getting some interest already. Hopefully we will have a successful applicant and be able to award the first scholarship at the 75th Anniversary banquet.

Please keep an eye on upcoming events (page 2) to see what you can participate in. There will be the MS Walk in early May, the Museum ship weekend in June and of course the ARRL Field Day in June.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club is preparing for **an expanded role in the ARISS** (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) educational outreach program.

HARC has been approached by ARISS Operations to submit a proposal to establish a ground station to support ARISS telebridge operations as well as NASA emergency communications supporting the International Space Station. This comes as a result of the HARC's continued support of ARISS activities since March 2003 (IMAX Space Station 3D promotion, <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-news/news/viewBrowse.php?>).

As project lead I would be very interested in hearing from individuals who are fluent in a language other than English who might be interested in taking part in this international partnership. Full training and operational details will be provided.

Since November 2000 the ARISS volunteer effort has completed over 337 successful contacts involving 30 countries.

I encourage individuals who might be able to contribute to contact me at ve1wph@amsat.org or (902) 835-4865 at their earliest convenience

73, Wayne, VE1WPH, VE1ISS
ARISS School Technical Support"

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 5 FIELD DAY 2008 Rules & Forms

Field Day is held the 4th full weekend in June. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rule changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. Look for the 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site .

GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only one band, the 2008 rules state that these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Note - only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time.

Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class.

For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. Questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus should be submitted via e-mail to <fdinfo@arrl.org>.

Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. The 2008 Field Day Packet also includes an expanded Press Kit which includes a sample "Field Day Proclamation" for those groups who work with local city or town officials toward getting a Field Day Week declared in their location.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted doing it. Now do you know why his father didn't punish him?

JOHNNY: Because George still had the axe in his hand.



On 31 January 2007, on behalf of the HARC, Murray, VE1MMD, HARC's Government Liaison Officer, sent the following letter.

The Honourable Murray K. Scott
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
PO Box 186
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2N2

Dear Minister Scott:

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) specifically, and Nova Scotia Amateur Radio operators (hams) in general.

Recently the House passed Bill #7 that contained amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act, specifically the addition of Section 100D. We note that Section 100D (2) contains the following "This Section does not apply to a person who uses a hand-held cellular telephone or *other communications device* to report an immediate emergency situation."

As you are possibly aware, amateur radio operators provide communication services to a number of organizations and events, both emergency and public service. Our Club was active in the Swiss Aid disaster and the 911 event providing emergency communication services, as well as communications to such events as the MS Walk-A-Thon, the MS Bike-A-Thon and numerous other events on a regular basis.

HARC is the back up communication source for the Emergency Operations Centre, HRM EMO. I am certain that other hams and their clubs also provide the same level of service and commitment to emergency providers within their communities. It is necessary that our members have the ability to communicate, not only in "immediate emergency situations" but also at various other times. It is of utmost necessity that our members have the ability to communicate whether from their homes, their club stations or from their vehicles. It is necessary that members be able to hone their skills to be able to provide service when called upon – whether it is in an emergency situation or in a public service situation.

We note the Section refers to "*other communication device*" which could possibly be interpreted by some to include amateur radios.

Is it the intent, now or in the future, to restrict the use of amateur radio equipment by competent operators while in their vehicles?

Thank you, G. Murray Mac Donald
137 Ashdale Crescent
Timberlea, Nova Scotia, B3T 1K1
(902) 876-0661
Government Liaison Officer - HARC

On March 4, 2008 Murray received this letter in response

Mr. G. Murray MacDonald
Halifax Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 663
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T3

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

The Honourable Murray Scott, Minister Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, asked that I reply to your letter of January 31, 2008, regarding Bill 7 and the use of hand-held cell phones and other communications devices in reporting of an emergency.

The ban will apply only to the use of hand-held cell phone or engaging in text messaging on any communications device while operating a motor vehicle on a highway. It does not address the use of two-way radios in vehicles nor their use in reporting an emergency situation.

At present there is no intention to restrict competent operators from using two-way radios for legitimate purposes. On a related issue, driver distraction is one of the leading contributors to motor vehicle collisions and injuries, and with its emergence as a significant road safety issue, driver distraction has become the subject of national and international attention. Any activity that takes the drivers attention away from the task of driving; the use of CD players, tuning radios, etc., is a source of distraction. The Province will be reviewing this issue in more detail to develop a strategy to broadly address driver distraction and road safety.

Sincerely,
original signed by:
Kent Speiran, P. Eng.
Manager, Road Safety

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 5

The March issue of QST, the annual antenna issue, is packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs from product reviews to experiments to contesting.

Senior Assistant Tech. Editor Dean Straw, N6BV, discusses what to consider when picking out your first vertical antenna for 20 and 40 meters. L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, & Bob Cerreto, WA1FXT, tell about a new take on a three dipole array for 2 meters. Dick Jansson, KD1K, gives advice on how to "downshift" to stealth operating on the HF bands when you are restricted in your living arrangements.

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Assistant Manager for ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department, reviews the Yaesu FT-950 HF and 6 meter transceiver. ARRL Product Review Editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, reviews the Array Solutions AS-AYL-4 receiving antenna, saying this antenna "is an effective way to improve your listening experience on the low bands, especially if space is limited."

Fall Protection Training

The HARC sponsored a Fall Protection Course Sunday 02 Mar 2008 from 0900 to 1445. The course was attended by 6 HARC members, plus 2 invited members of the South Shore Club. The instructor was Mr John Logan, who is a trainer certified by the Nova Scotia Safety Council.

This training is a requirement for anyone working on property owned by any level of government, in a position where fall protection is required, . With this training, participants will be able to make sound decisions in purchasing, inspecting, adjusting, and using their own fall protection equipment. There was also valuable information provided on Post Fall Suspension Trauma, and High Angle Rescue.

Terry R. Bigelow CD CPO2 Ret'd



Attentive students: at the Fall Protection Course: Sheldon Page VE1SJP, Colleen Prentice VE1PIE, Dave Charbonneau VE1DDC, Shelley Smith VA1CAT, Tim Smith VE1VWV, John Bartlett VE1OZ, Tom Cohoon VE1TA, & Wayne Harasimovitch VE1WPH.

Report & photo by Terry, VE1TRB

*Protons have mass???
I didn't even know they were Catholic.*

Safety Corner March 2008 By Terry, VE1TRB

Exploding batteries

References:<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2008/01/04/exploding-battery.html>

I got an email from someone a while ago regarding "C" cell batteries in a child's toy. The battery was apparently installed in a toy, and when the toy stopped operating, the parent opened the toy, and the battery apparently exploded when it was being removed from the toy. The parent said that the carbon rod (inside the battery) went flying across the living room with enough force to hurt a small child. The parent stated there was an extremely loud bang followed by an explosion. Health Canada is presently investigating this and other similar incidents.

The batteries are labelled "Sunbeam Mighty Cell" and can be purchased at various dollar type stores locally. You may want to take a second look at your batteries you have kicking around the house and see if they match the picture in the above reference.

REMEMBER SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

If you have any comments or questions that you would like to see addressed in this column, please feel free to send me an email at ve1trb@eastlink.ca

IT AIN'T AMATEUR RADIO?

Courtesy of Rob, VE1KS

"That ain't amateur radio". That's what some hams, mostly oldtimers, say about the new digital and VOIP communication modes. They forget one thing... and this brings back a story from many years ago. A ham in Wadena named Andy Malowanchuck VE5MA, came on the air one day using Taylor Modulation. Today it is known more by its function than by its developer. We refer to it as single sideband. There was an uproar on the bands. "Sounds like Donald Duck", "It's impossible to tune it in", "It ruins the band for the rest of us", "Who would ever want to use it?" were some of the tamer comments. Despite the naysayers, SSB took off and soon it became the defacto voice mode on HF radio, and this was long before the commercial communicators took notice of the benefits. The purpose of this story is to illustrate that some things that may seem detrimental at first may turn out to be very beneficial. We are at another crossroads with the advent of the digital revolution. Digital and VOIP modes are here whether we use

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Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Monthly General Meeting February 20, 2008

Welcome: President Bill Elliott, VE1MR called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Silent keys:

Cyril Boudreau, VE1AFB, advised members of the death of Bill Delahay, VE1APZ, on February 19th. A service will be held at Snow's Funeral Home on Friday.

Approval of the Agenda: Corrections and an addition were made to the Agenda.

Motion: THAT the agenda be accepted. Moved by Howard Dickson, VE1DHD. Seconded by Terry Bigalow, VE1TRB. Approved.

Guests/visitors: No guests being present, members introduced themselves.

Minutes: There were no errors or omissions noted for the minutes of January 16.

Motion: THAT the minutes of the January regular meeting be approved as printed in the February Reflector.

Moved by Doug Leblanc, VE1LDL
Seconded by Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD. Approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer: Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO, reported an income of \$1,764.50, expenses of \$832.75, with a balance of \$10,055.66. See attached report for details.

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

Moved by David Musgrave, VE1EDA.
Seconded by Don Watters, VE1BN. Approved.

Secretary: Helen MacRae, VE1HMR, reported that a card of condolence was sent to Betty Caithness, VE1BSW, on behalf of club members.

President: Bill Elliott, VE1MR, advised that 1st Vice-President, David Nimmo, VE1NN, has, with regrets, resigned due to his obligations as Pipe Major for the Clan Farquharson Pipes and Drums. David will continue to serve HARC in other capacities. The filling of this position will be dealt with by the 2007 nominating committee.

1st Vice-President: Position Vacant

2nd Vice-President: Tom Gaum,

VE1BMJ, reminded members of the upcoming Ham Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 23rd, at the Steak and Stein Restaurant. Approximately 40 people were confirmed during the meeting. Tom will advise the restaurant of estimated numbers on Tuesday.

The door prize this evening will be an LED flashlight.

Station Manager: - Brian Allen, VE1AZV - Two Girl Guide groups, Troops 36 and 18 were on site for GOTA. With 14 guides in the 09:00 group and 25 attending the 13:00 session, the day was very successful. Brian reported that while the guides were active, HARC members were working on club history in the library while others were working at the QSL bureau. Coffee and snack foods were available. Brian reported that the new site facilitated several groups simultaneously. Murray, VE1MMD, stayed for half of Saturday and worked with the guides; Tom, VE1GTC, gave the guides a talk about the QSL bureau and showed them how it functions and David, VE1EDA, came in for the afternoon and assisted. Many thanks to all members who participated. Pictures have already been forwarded for the Reflector.

Brian requesting that members sign the security list to obtain an access code to the other door and the computer system. There will be only one logbook, which will be on the server, which will enable HARC to apply for multiple categories when contesting. Generic passwords will be assigned, after which members will be able to effect a change to a more personal password for their ongoing use.

The door lock mechanism will be set up with the security system.

Director at large: Doug Leblanc, VE1LDL, commented on the GOTA event on Saturday, which he attended and the guides enjoyed.

Past President: - No report (away)

Committee reports:

Membership: Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported the club currently has 4 life members, 93, full memberships and 11 associate memberships for a total of 108.

Call book: Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, showed members the cover designed for HARC's 2008 call book.

Divider pages will have tabs that will be utilized to designate sections. These tab pages make excellent locations for advertisers. The new publication will be larger given that there are more than 400 new amateurs in the region. Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, has written 90 pages of history that have been condensed for the call book and will be included with selected photographs. The history, in its entirety, with photos will be available as a PDF file. Other content includes sections on radio sports such as contesting and geocaching, information on coax and connectors and worldwide ARLP codes. Due to increased production costs, the purchase price has been set to \$15.00.

Howard noted that HARC is fortunate being one of the few clubs in the country with an endowment that brings in revenue, as do the donations of equipment to the club that have been sold. The other major source of income for HARC is through sales of the call book. With significantly increased production cost, and a "shelf life" of 3 years (2011), Howard asks members to actively assist increasing the advertising base. VE1QD, has sold over \$6000 to date, VE1WIN has sold almost \$900. If each member in attendance were to sell one single business card size advertisement at a fee of \$90 for an inside page or \$110 on a high profile tabbed divider, the club would meet the projected publication cost. To ensure no duplication of contact, members were asked to forward a list of potential advertisers to Howard, who will clarify whether or not any company ought not to be contacted by the member. Closing date for advertising submissions is April 1st; however, sooner is preferred to facilitate layout. Distribution will be throughout the Maritimes with a print run of 1200.

Take 30: Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD provided an overview of the Take 30 process, the focus group and questionnaire. Questionnaires have been mailed to members. Murray said it was designed to take 30 minutes or less to complete and asked for everyone's cooperation for returning their completed surveys so we can understand what people want for the club. Murray affirmed that he will be the only one to see the raw data and that afterwards they will be shredded and not retained on file. However, he again specified that members must sign either their

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Minutes (Continued from page 6)

name or call sign as unsigned responses will not be included in the analysis.

Cell phone legislation: Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD, noted that further to the January minutes, he has written the Minister of Transportation in reference to the term "electronic devices", but has yet to receive a reply.

HRM Community Grants: Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD, advised that he will be meeting with representatives regarding the grants program the next day. He asked that members be sure to advise executive of their ideas that may prove suitable for a one-time grant of up to \$5000.

.75th Anniversary: No further update.

Basic Amateur Radio Course: Barry Diggins, VE1TRI, advised that one of the students in attendance this evening will be writing his exam at the end of the month.

HARC Breakfast: As per his previous report, Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ, will advise the restaurant of numbers expected on Saturday.

Search and Rescue – ave George, VE1AJP, reported that the HRM's SAR team received a grant to complete the inside of the new SAR vehicle. The newly installed GPS Tracking system had one positive testing and will undergo another test on Mar 10, at which time mock search will take place. Eighteen GPS-equipped radios will be involved.

The SAR-sponsored bingo's were not making money and actually were losing; however, this is changing and the group no longer loses (on weekly bingos).

The team was called out on two searches – one for an elderly woman, who was not found alive, the other for a 29 year old father and his 2 year old daughter out. The father, an avid geocacher, went into the woods with his palm pilot that stopped working after being dropped in water. Dave commented that many people are depending on new technology for which they have little understanding. The father and daughter duo were able to take shelter in a trailer where they were found later.

EMO – Dave George, VE1AJP – Nothing to report.

Old business:

Fall Protection Program: Terry Bigalow, VR1TRB, advised members that a sec-

ond Fall Protection program will be held for 3-10 people at a cost of \$300 (noting the group fee is usually \$700) on Sunday, March 2nd, from 09:00 to 14:00, at the club site. Eight people have expressed interest and Terry reiterated that this program is to newly certify individuals, not a re-certification course. Accreditation will remain valid for 3 years. Tom VE1TA has requested one or two seats for Lunenburg members. For members certified previously, their certification will remain in effect until November 2008. Terry plans to arrange recertification for them at a later date. He also noted that newly certified individuals are not expected to work on their own but to be accompanied by experienced climbers.

New Business:

Survey Costs: **Motion:** THAT members approve up to \$300 for costs involved in the printing, mail out and return mailing of the survey questionnaires.

Moved by Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD. Seconded by Rod Padmore, VE1BSK. Approved, noting that costs are not expected to reach that limit. ACTION: VE1MMD

Club Antenna Addition: Dick Grantham, VE1AI stated that the club station is progressing nicely but that we need to expand our antenna capability. HARC has never had 160 Meter capability and he recommended that a DX-A Twin Sloper be purchased. This will

give 160-80-40 Meters. The site roof is structurally sound for it to be mounted (it requires an inverted-V configuration). ACTION: VE1AI

Motion: THAT up to \$175.00 be approved for the purchase of a DX-A, Twin Sloper antenna for the club. Moved by Dick Grantham, VE1AI. Seconded by Howard Dickson, VE1DHD. Approved.

Equipment in Storage: Wayne Catchpugh, VE1TTT inquired what will be happening with equipment and other materials remaining at the Bloomfield School site, whether there is a site identified for storage and if work parties will be arranged for its removal. Discussion clarified that there will likely be a requirement to build storage after which work parties will be coordinated for materials transfer. ACTION: VE1MR

Door Prize: Don Watters, VE1BN, won the LED flash light, this evening's door prize.

50/50 – Draw: Sheldon Pace, VE1SJP, won the 50/50 draw.

There being no further business Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD, moved the meeting be adjourned at 20:30. There was a break after which Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, gave a presentation to members on "Celebrating Our Past", an interesting presentation about HARC's documented history since 1932.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen MacRae, VE1HMR, Secretary

(IT AIN'T AMATEUR RADIO? Continued from page 5)

them or not. The challenge is going to be to integrate ham radio into the digital world in such a way as ham radio continues to be relevant. Work on radios strengths. Modes such as PSK are prime examples of how well this can be done and how useful it can be. When it comes to VOIP modes we have to be more careful. A ham talking on his computer to another ham on a computer leaves the Radio out of Ham Radio. Many commercial interests are eyeing our ham bands. Our 2 meter band is smack between two crowded commercial bands and most commercial equipment built to operate on those bands will work just as well on 2 meters. It would be very easy for them to move in. Let us not give them the opportunity to say "those hams aren't using those frequencies anyway, they are all talking on the internet". We must use and develop the new technology and integrate ham radio into it. PSK and IRLP, both radio-to-radio modes are excellent examples. Mostly, we must use our bands, all of them. Like they say "Use them or lose them". Keep our hobby vital. "That's Ham Radio".

Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.



The HARC station was a busy spot for the **GOTA 2008** event. Some of the guides & guide leaders from Troops 18 & 36 can be seen in these pictures learning something about amateur radio from Win, VE1WIN; Terry, VE1TRB; David, VE1EDA; Brian VE1AZV; Murray, VE1MMD; & Doug, VE1LDL (who shot these photos). Meanwhile, Spud, VE1BC; Sam, VE1YVN; & Wayne, VE1TTT, were researching in the library and Tom, VE1GTC; was working in the QSL



Bureau. From their expressions, the Guides appear to be taking their involvement seriously; however, they and their leaders sure seemed to enjoy themselves.

TEACHER: *What is the chemical formula for water?*
SARAH: *H I J K L M N O!!*
TEACHER: *What are you talking about?*
SARAH: *Yesterday you said it's H to O!*

The Marconi memorial station on Signal Hill, St John's, Newfoundland, marks the location where reception of the first transatlantic wireless transmission occurred in 1901.

Part 1 - Touch Lamp Interference Solution

by H. Paul Robinson, VE1AVD

Introduction:

Touch-controlled lamps are becoming popular in homes. These lamps use a module in the base of the lamp to control the lamp intensity. The module has a sense lead, which is usually attached to the lamp metal base. The lamp responds to touches to the base to turn on, off, and dim the lamp intensity.

One such lamp caused noise every 220 kHz on the low Ham Radio HF bands. At one location, a noise of S9+5 dB was observed at more than one spot on the 80-meter band. The noise was high enough to make these frequencies unusable. This article presents a modification to a typical module, solving this interference problem.

The problem:

A search on the Internet uncovered a few articles explaining the problem and suggesting solutions. The literature suggests that the interference signal comes from the touch terminal ‘lead’ connected to the base of the lamp. Tests verified that this was indeed the case. Disconnecting the touch terminal circuit (at R3 in figure 1), or by disconnecting the touch terminal lead from the lamp base, eliminated the problem, verifying that the touch terminal circuit is the source of the interference.



Figure 1: Unmodified touch terminal circuit - simplified diagram.

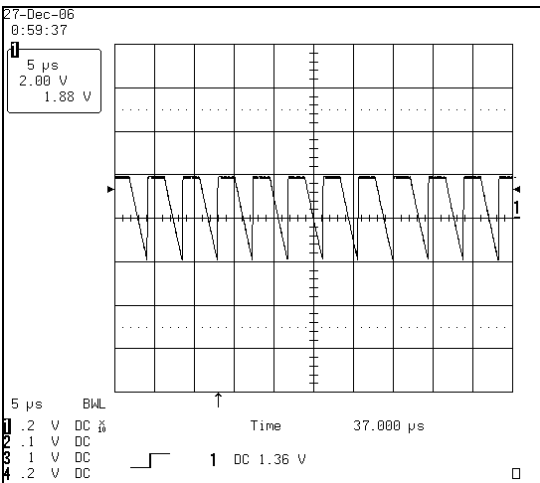


Figure 2: 220 kHz pulses at touch terminal - unmodified.

The IC in the module generates a 220 kHz signal on the ‘touch’ lead to detect the touch. The signal is generated even when the lamp is off. In figure 2 the sharp switching waveform of the 220 kHz signal can be seen. This waveform produces harmonics well into the HF band.

The modification

A filter to the touch lead is proposed by Leo G. Birgenheier, AC4DA, of Florida (QST Hints and Kinks, April 1995, page 72). The author suggests adding a three-component low pass filter to the touch terminal circuit to remove the HF harmonics. The filter components are located at the touch terminal lead.

The location of the filter in the circuit exposes the components to potential high voltages (as noted by the editor) and also exposes the user to potential line voltage should one of the capacitors fail. The circuit proposed here avoids both of these problems by locating the filter components within the low voltage section of the touch lead circuit, on the chip side of capacitor C4. See figure 3.

The solution proposed here is to purchase the module listed in the appendix and to modify it by adding the filter. The modification details are

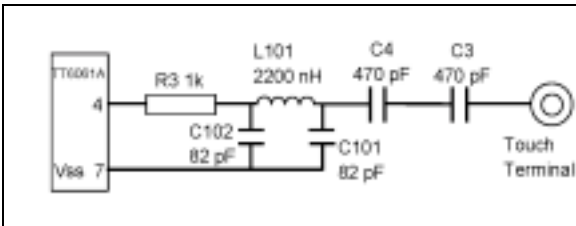


Figure 3: Touch circuit filter components after modification.

Results

The modification eliminates the interference. No sign of the interference can be seen on the 160-meter, or 80-meter bands. (The station dipole antenna is located less than 20 feet from the lamp.)

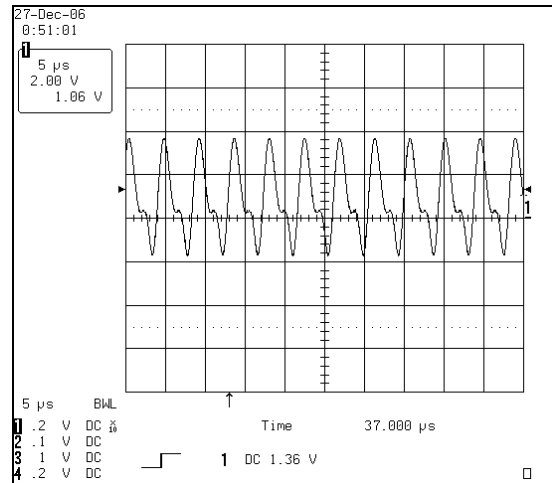


Figure 4: 220 kHz pulses at touch terminal - after modification.

(Continued on Page 10)

(Touch Lamp Interference Solution Continued from page 9)

Computer simulations show that the filter attenuates the noise on the 160-meter band by 30 dB. The attenuation is greater on the higher bands.

The attenuation at 220 kHz is negligible, and after the modifications, no effect on the operation of the touch lamp was noticed.

Although not observed, this modification may also reduce lamp faulty operation in high RF fields.

Overall, the filter design work by AC4DA was well done. Further analysis shows that values as low as 1000 μ H and 47 pF will still provide in excess of 14 dB at 160 meters and above.

Also, although there was no AC line filter on most modules examined, no interference was observed on 80 meters from the switching of the AC power by the module TRIAC (controlling the power to the lamp bulb).

End of Part 1. Part 2 describes and illustrates "Modifications to TP-01 Touch Lamp Control Module" -ed.



The VE1CFR MSR-2000 repeater duo with the UHF bottom, VHF top, RLC Controller in the center and GE Phoenix with power supply on top of the cabinet installed 2008-03-01
Photo taken by Ron VE1AIC.

This link was passed on to me and I thought it might be of interest to

some of the members; especially a new one who was at the station on Sat 01 Mar 08

http://www.w8ji.com/vacuum_tubes_and_vacuum_tube_failures.htm

Jim, VE1JIM

The **upgrade at Summerside**, VE1CFR 146.850 was completed on Saturday March 1st by Ron VE1AIC, Rodney, VY2CGA and myself Ken, VY2RU. The upgrade consisted of the replacing the VHF repeater and the UHF Hub repeater with Motorola MSR-2000 units. The UHF GE Phoenix link radio to Cavendish and O'Leary was tweaked as well as the duplexers and multicouplers. The equipment was relocated to a room on the main floor of the Central St. Water Tank building so that we no longer have to climb a ladder to gain access to the equipment. The autopatch, IRLP Node 2363, EchoLink Node 351306 and Cavendish VY2PEI 145.150 link are all in service as of Saturday. Unfortunately the link to O'Leary VY2CFB 147.120 is down due to a problem at the O'Leary site but the repeater is working as a stand alone at present.

More photos will be on the Summerside site
<http://www.summersidearc.com/>
under "Photo Gallery" at a later date.

73 - Ken, VY2RU

DIRECTIONS to the HARC at the St. Andrews Center

The driveway is located a very short distance past the intersection of Bayers Road outbound and Romans Ave. You must be in the right hand lane on **Bayers Rd outbound** when you cross Romans Ave. If you see the Bayers Rd. Shopping Center directly to your left you have come too far!!

If you come in from the highway toward Bayers Road inbound you have some choices.

1/ Take Exit 0; turn right on to Dutch Village Rd; go to the lights and turn left onto Mumford Rd; turn left onto Romans Ave.; turn left onto Bayers Rd and get in the right lane and then right into the driveway of the Recreation Center.

2/ Go straight in Bayers Rd (inbound); just before the Halifax Shopping Center turn right onto Vaughan Avenue and follow it to Romans Avenue, turn right onto Romans Avenue; go right along Romans to Bayers Road turn left onto Bayers Rd and get in the right lane and then right into the driveway of the Recreation Center.

3/ Coming from Bedford or the McKay Bridge? Follow Connaught Ave to Bayers Rd.; turn and go outbound on Bayers Rd. in the right lane and turn right into the driveway of the Recreation Center.

Hopefully you will have no trouble getting there – we will try to have someone monitoring 147.270 + for anyone who gets into difficulty.



Answer to Puzzler on page 1

The Telerana is very light-weight wire LPDA (Log Periodic Dipole Array) antenna with elements bent forward into Vees. The original design emerged from work by George Smith, W4AEO, and Ansyl Eckols, YV5DLT. A modified hybrid, consisting of the basic Telerana with parasitic reflectors.

Some days are a total waste of makeup