



REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

February 2009, Volume 70 Number 2

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Had Enough Snow Yet?



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	826-7831	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
2nd V.P. - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Helen MacRae, VE1HMR	422-7119	hmacrae@ns.sympatico.ca
Treasurer - Rod Padmore, VE1BSK	443-7181	rodpadmore@ns.sympatico.ca
Director-at-Large: - Don Trotter, VE1DTR		DonTrotter@SierraSystems.com
Club Station Mgr. - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.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@eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
2009 Flea market Chair - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Field Day coordinator - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca
Safety Officer - VACANT		
NSARA Director - Bob Petitpas, VE1RHP	876-1643	VIE@eastlink.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.

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.



Feb. 15	Bruce	VE1MLW
Feb. 22	Win	VE1WIN
March 1	Charles	VE1MCR
March 8	Chris	VA1CDB
March 15	Doug	VE1LDL
March 22	Bruce	VE1MLW

Deadline for submissions to the March Reflector is Saturday, March 7, 2009

From Murphy's Lesser Known Laws

If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

HRM EMO Ham Advisory web site is at <http://www.ve1hre.ca>

The Monthly General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**.

This evening's program will be a presentation about D-Star by the rep from ICOM, Eric Meth.

Guests are welcome

Do you have any suggestions of topics and/or presenters for the entertainment portions of the HARC general meetings? V.P. Tom, VE1BMJ, wants to hear your ideas

*Do you have a radio-related story, question, answer, article, notice, picture or letter to the editor that you would like to share by having it published in the HARC Reflector? Get them to HARC Reflector editor, Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT
ve1ent@rac.ca*

The early worm gets eaten by the bird, so sleep late.



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

Coming Events

Open House/ Mini Flea Market scheduled for February 21st at the St. Andrews facility. Open house commences at 8:00 AM. with the flea market scheduled for buyers at 12 noon (11:30 for sellers). No cost. Members and non-members are invited to come, bring a family member or friend. Coffee, donuts , QSL card pick-up, operating or just socializing.

The HARC **Ham Breakfast** will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 0900 hours, in Halifax, at the Steak and Stein, Young Street, Halifax



Morse Code Training

Free club-sponsored individual CW training. Contact Gary, VE1RGB via ve1rgb@rac.ca for details

Any licensed amateur who would like to be a mentor or elmer to one of the Basic License students please give your name and how you can be contacted to Barry Diggins, VE1TRI.

Queens County ARC executive for 2009 is as follows:

President – Brian Hatt, VE1BEH
 1st V.-P. – Shane MacDougal, VE1SMC
 Secretary – Bill Corkum, VA1BC
 Treasurer Barry Whynot, VE1BAW.
 QCARC website.
<http://qcarc.ve1cfy.net/>

Dartmouth ARC executive for 2009 is as follows

President– Bill Galloway, VE1WWG
 1st V.-P. – Jon Helliwell, VE1JRH
 Secretary – George Turetzek, VE1BZF
 Treasurer – John Brady, VE1WZ
 Member at large – Jack Malloy, VE1EGM

Wanted:

Someone willing to assist on the HARC website.

Should have some background in webpage administration as well as web content management.

Please contact Rob, VE1KS ve1ks@rac.ca or (902) 229-4913

Keep our Club Station Shipshape- PLEASE!

We have a grand Club Station and I'm sure that everyone knows to clean up after yourself but also, PLEASE, any time you are the last person leaving the Club Station make sure that

- 1/ all windows are closed
- 2/ the air conditioners are off
- 3/ all radio equipment is turned off
- 4/ the lights are off
- 5/ the door is locked

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities. **Please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager John Goodwin, VE1CDD, 865-5731

E-mail: ve1cdd@eastlink.ca

The **Incoming QSL Bureau** may have cards for you. If you want them, you must have a little money deposited with the Bureau to cover the cost of envelopes, labels, postage & handling; and of course your correct mailing address. Send to the Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau
 P.O. Box 8895
 Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5

The Westcumb ARC in Amherst NS has acquired nine used Motorola MSR-2000 Repeaters. They have been checked out and are ready for sale. If you or anyone you know are interested in one of these repeaters, please get in contact with Brad Ross VE1ZX at ve1zx@eastlink.ca

MISSING RADIO

A 2M / 70cm (VHF/UHF) mobile radio and Astron power supply is missing from the Summerside A.R.C.'s Club House. If anyone knows or has any knowledge of this equipment please contact a member of the Summerside ARC executive

<http://www.summersidearc.com/aboutus.htm>)

The radio is a Yaesu FT-7100M, Serial# 1E090215 and the power supply is a 20 Amp Astron. The Summerside ARC would like to have the radio and power supply returned with no questions asked.

- The Summerside ARC Executive

Jim Hannon, VE1AFH, became RAC Emergency Coordinator for Cumberland County, N.S. as of January 22, 2008. See the Feb.2009 issue of the Tantramar.

Jim will be working at getting members to help him get this ARES group up and running in Northern Nova Scotia

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 50

The January/February NCJ is loaded with everything today's contester needs. After you check out a solution for a vertical array for your next DXpeditions, take a peek inside the files of the N3HBHX antenna case in Maryland. Discover why nylon rope can be a contester's best friend and how an inexpensive gain antenna can help. We're all getting older -- how is your age affecting your score? When will propagation allow US amateurs to get to Europe on 10 meters? All this and more in the January/February issue of NCJ. NCJ is published by the ARRL and is a bi-monthly publication; it is edited by Al Dewey, K0AD. Subscribe at <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>.

*A fart it is a pleasant thing,
 It gives the belly ease,
 It warms the bed in winter,
 And it suffocates the fleas*



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

How often have we heard that amateur radio has strayed from its roots with many of today’s hams content to open a box, extract a radio and accessories a, plug it in and grab the mike and voila – a happy ham is born. I thought that was probably reflective of the interests of a many of us. How wrong I was! The results of our recent survey showed that out of the 89 signed, completed survey forms that were returned, 30 members indicated that their interests lay in the area of construction, that 36 would like to see training in construction techniques, that 31 would like to see training in Morse code and that 28 were interested in training that would permit a license upgrade. Ham radio as many of us remember it is not dead, interest is there and we will be providing training sessions in an attempt to meet these, and other, identified areas of interest.

One of the items coming out of our survey was the need for more social activities. We are attempting to rectify any shortcomings in this area by sponsoring not one, but two events in the next few weeks. On February 21st HARC will be hosting an Open House and Mini Flea Market at the club facilities. As usual on Saturdays, the club will open at 0800 for coffee, conversation, operating or QSL card pick up. At 1200 the flea market will be open for buyers (sellers at 1130). There is no cost for these two events on the 21st. Show your support for the club and please attend – open to members, non-members, friends or relatives. On March 7th HARC will be again holding its annual “Ham Breakfast” at the Steak and Stein commencing at 0900. Please see the notice contained elsewhere in this edition of the Reflector.

We are not alone – it appears that a number of Provinces and States are in the process of passing legislation similar to ours in regard to the use of “other communication device” while operating a motor vehicle. (Reflector – March 2008, Volume 69, Number 3, page 4). I have communicated information on our Province’s stance, on your behalf, to RAC and ARRL.

It seems that nothing has initiated more interest among members and non-members as the proposed Repeater Policy (Band Plan) being formulated by the Technical Committee. If you have an interest in the use of our repeaters, I would encourage your attendance at the February Monthly General Meeting. It is hoped that a clear direction will emanate from the meeting, with a clear workable policy that will assist HARC in meeting its goals and mission, as well as assisting fellow hams.

73, Murray, VE1MMD

Executive News

At the February Monthly General Meeting, the Executive will be recommending the following for acceptance by the membership:
* The Repeater Policy as proposed by the Technical Committee.

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.

*The cardiologist's diet:
If it tastes good, spit it out.*

Silent Key -

Sy Mills, VE3VDG ex VE1BLO passed away Feb.3, 2009 in Ontario. Sy served briefly in the RCAF, 19 years with the RCMP, and finished his working life with the Nova Scotia Public Service. A long-time member of the Halifax ARC, Sy was active in the Antigonish County AR community during his final assignment as the County's NS EMO Community Officer. In 1992 he retired to the Orillia area where he was active with the Orillia ARC. During the 1970's & 80's Cy was a major mover and shaker in the amateur radio / EMO world in Nova Scotia.

**Brit Fader
Scholarship Trustees**

There are 6 trustees and each year 3 are appointed by the HARC executive for a two year term. Currently entering their second year are:

- Paul Radford, VE1ARH
- Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT
- Bill Elliott, VE1MR

At the December executive meeting the executive appointed the following 3 trustees for a 2 year term:

- Rod Padmore, VE1BSK
- Scott Wood, VE1QD
- Howard Dickson, VE1DHD

**Are you up to date with your
HARC membership dues?**

Yearly rates are as follows:
Full = \$25 Associate = \$15
Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)

HARC75 Golf Shirts & Hats

Some HARC 75th golf shirts, ball caps and lanyards are still available.

HARC75th shirts available:
10 – XL; 16 – Large; 7 – Medium;
1 men's small, no pocket
3 ladies small, no pocket.

34 lanyards
67 Caps



The 2010 Olympics and RFI

This is an article that was cut and pasted from a news reader from the net. URL unknown. Drew, VA7DR, Olympic Volunteer

Thanks to David, VE1AJP, for sending this article to the Reflector

Ottawa is spending more than half a million dollars on an electronic bloodhound to locate foreign wireless devices that play havoc with security or emergency radio frequencies during the 2010 Winter Olympics. More than 5,000 athletes and officials - plus 10,000 journalists - from 80 countries will converge on the Vancouver area during the 2010 Games. They're bringing thousands of high-tech wireless devices with them - from short-range radio communicators to telephones to transmitters. Not all countries assign the same radio frequency bands for the same uses though, so it's possible that foreign wireless devices may interfere with important Canadian communications signals. There will be a significant increase in the number of licensed radios & wireless devices in the 120-kilometre Games corridor from Richmond to Whistler, Industry Department spokesman Jean-Pierre Roy said. Unintended interference is likely, given what will be a high congested radio spectrum environment. To curb this, Ottawa is spending up to \$600,000 on direction-finding monitoring & surveillance systems. It's a sole-source contract awarded without competition on the grounds that other technology would not be compatible with the equipment that federal radio inspectors already own. With so many international visitors expected at the Olympics, it is entirely possible that a visitor could arrive with a wireless communication device that transmits on the same frequency used by Vancouver's police or ambulance service, thus interfering with emergency response measures, the Industry Department says on its website.

When combined with computer software, the MicroEagle spectrum monitoring equipment can detect and locate signals that are causing interference in the Vancouver to Whistler region during the 17-day games, whether it's affecting vital services or FM radio stations or taxi dispatchers. The most likely source of serious disruption, Industry Canada says, are people operating two-way radios on channels already assigned to vital emergency or commercial services.

Industry Canada, the department responsible for clearing serious interference from the airwaves, has a team of radio inspectors who have the power to confiscate equipment if necessary. Often however, users voluntarily adjust their equipment when asked, the department says. The department says the equipment is not being purchased to guard against terrorism, but says that it would offer the service to security forces if necessary. Obviously in a situation where interference is intentional and possibly part of an illegal activity that poses a threat to public safety, it would be the responsibility of police and other related agencies, but Industry Canada would provide support to these agencies upon request, I.C. spokeswoman Christiane Fox said. The technology already exists for hackers or terrorists to flood digital radio systems with requests to open up channels, thus denying service to legitimate users. Industry Canada is equipped to locate interference from a wide range of sources, Ms. Fox said; I.C.'s ability to pinpoint disruptions is broad.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 47

IARU REGION 1 MEETS IN CROATIA

Earlier this month, IARY Region 1 held its triennial conference in Cavtat, Croatia. 40 IARU Member Societies were present, with another 12 Member Societies represented via proxy. IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, attended the conference

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/>

CT08_Cavtat_Final_plenary_minutes.pdf>.

Sunday, Nov.16, marked the opening of the 5 day conference that was hosted by Hrvatski Radioamaterski Savez (HRS), Croatia's IARU Member Society <<http://www.hamradio.hr/>>.

One of the highlights of the conference was the election of new officers. Elected were: President – Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, of the Netherlands; Vice President – Mustapha Diop, 6W1KI, Senegal; Secretary – Dennis Green, ZS4BS, South Africa; Treasurer – Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE, Switzerland.

In preparation for the expansion of 40 meters in Region 1 on March 29, 2009, the HF Committee debated a band plan to incorporate the change from 7.000-7.100 to 7.000-7.200 MHz. The conference adopted the following plan:

- * 7.000-7.025 MHz, CW, contest preferred (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.025-7.040 MHz, CQ, QRP Center of Activity to be 7.030 MHz (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.040-7.047 MHz, Narrow band modes (digimodes) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.047-7.050 MHz, Narrow band modes (digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.050-7.053 MHz, All modes (digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.053-7.060 MHz, All modes (digimodes) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.060-7.100 MHz, All modes, digital voice 7070, SSB QRP Center of Activity to be 7.090 MHz, SSB contest preferred (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.100-7.130 MHz, All modes, Region 1 Center of Activity to be 7.110 MHz (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.130-7.200 MHz, All modes, SSB contest preferred, Image Center of Activity to be 7.165 MHz (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

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**Alexander Graham Bell
to the Rescue!**

by Sam, VE1YVN

In early 1964 I was working as a radio operator on the naval diving tender YMT-11 in the St. Lawrence River near Riviere du Loup. A salvage operation was being carried out on the sunken minesweeper Chedabucto by the fleet diving unit atlantic. I passed many messages between the diving tender and Albro Lake naval radio station via CW on 6/8/12 MHhz. Most times this exercise was a breeze as was the copying of scheduled CW broadcasts from the naval radio station (CFH). On one foggy day I was given a message to deliver to Albro Lake while we were tied to the wharf at Riviere du Loup and the captain was quite anxious to get rid of it. After several attempts, on all available frequencies, the only station to answer me was ZSJ/Simonstown, South Africa! I explained to the captain that routing the message from South Africa via landline to the U.K. then by undersea cable to Albro Lake, would take about 8 hours! Since this all took place during and after rum issue, the red faced skipper tossed me a quarter and chased me up the wharf to the nearest telephone.. Q.E.D. ...



Claudie cuts the "ribbon" assisted by (l. to R) Murray, Barry, Bill & Brian



Photos from the 2007 opening of the HARC club space featuring people like Barry Manuel and Claudie who have done so much to make our current facilities possible



Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting January 21, 2009

President Murray Mac Donald, VE1MMD opened the meeting at 1930 hours.

No amateur radio operator "silent keys" were reported.

Approval of the Agenda – Murray, VE1MMD requested approval of the agenda.

Motion: THAT the meeting agenda be approved as distributed.

Moved by Peter Whalen, VE1PJW. Seconded by Scott Wood, VE1QD. Motion carried.

Guests/Visitors - Guest Claude Burke, VE1DCB, a member of the Yarmouth Amateur Radio Club introduced himself. In the city to attend a retirement party, Claude stayed on to attend this evening's meeting. Murray, VE1MMD invited Claude to take greetings from HARC to his home club members. HARC members then introduced themselves.

Minutes: Murray, VE1MMD asked for approval of the minutes as posted in the Reflector. It was noted that the Reflector issue stated only the month, not day date of the meeting.

Motion THAT the minutes of the November regular meeting be accepted as printed in the January Reflector. Moved by David, VE1EDA. Seconded by Doug, VE1LDL. Motion carried.

Regrets: Murray, VE1MMD advised that Bill, VE1MR was not in attendance due to a fall as a result of which Bill damaged a shoulder. We wish him a speedy recovery. Also, that Sam, VE1YVN and his wife, Betty VE1BWS are celebrating their 44th anniversary and we extend best wishes to them.

Since You Asked – Murray, VE1MMD introduced the "Since You Asked" segment, explaining that it arose from members' suggestions that questions asked could have shared answers. To that end –

Sir Frederick School– Tom, VE1GTC visited this federally run,

hearing and sight impaired school. He met with the Director. At that time, the Program Administrator was away and will contact Tom, who will inquire for possible interest to introduce RTTY training for the hearing impaired. Murray noted this is an opportunity for HARC to participate in outreach.

Repeater usage: Several questions about restriction on specific repeaters, and an email from Percy, VE1PLV asking if the Wake Up Net could use one of the Halifax repeaters, have been received. The Technical Committee will look at these requests and come up with a policy Committee members are Brian VE1AZV, Don VE1DTR, Shelly VE1ARG, Gary VE1RGB, Bill VE1MR, Dick VE1AI and Rob, VE1KS. Brian reported the committee has not met, but a draft policy for usage has been drawn up for the committee to modify so it will be relevant for today's needs. Brian stated that there appears to be a lack of communication between users on some of the repeaters. He asked that any concerns, requests or comments be directed to him or the committee. When discussing repeaters VE1HNS, VE1PSR with VE1NPS, it was confirmed that VE1PSR is very quiet (low usage) and would not interfere with the IRLP node, VE1NSG housed at Dalhousie University. Contact Brian by email via ve1azv@rac.ca. He noted that Bill, VE1MR stated that HARC owns 4 voice repeaters and that the Morning Net would not require VE1HNS, 146.940.

Material and services – A source book will be maintained and kept upstairs in the library. Members were asked to contribute to this effort.

Executive Recommendations – Recommendations arising from executive meetings are brought to the next general membership. Murray, VE1MMD outlined those generated from the January executive meeting and published in the Reflector to be:

Trustee – The executive recommended Bill Elliott, VE1MR be re-appointed as club Trustee, noting that it is necessary to have an individual appointed to hold the club's licenses.

Motion: THAT Bill Elliott, VE1MR be re-appointed as club Trustee.

Moved by Howard, VE1DHD. Seconded by Jim, VE1CU. Motion carried.

Flea Market – The DownEast Flea Market will be held at the Halifax forum on May 9th and Tom Gaum has agreed to Chair the event.

Motion: THAT Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ be appointed Chair of the 2009 Flea Market Committee.

Moved by Fraser, VE1WO. Seconded by David, VE1NN. Motion carried.

Field Day – The 2009 Field Day will be held at the EOC in Dartmouth, June 26-27. Dick, VE1AI has agreed to Chair that committee.

Motion: THAT Dick Grantham, VE1AI be appointed Chair of the 2009 Field Day Committee

Moved by JIM VE1CU. Seconded by David, VE1EDA. Motion carried.

RAC AGM – The executive recommends that HARC extend an invitation to the national RAC executive to hold its 2010 AGM in Nova Scotia during the DX Forum in August. This would be done with no cost to HARC.

Motion: THAT HARC extend an invitation to the national RAC executive to hold its 2010 AGM in Nova Scotia during the DX Forum in August. Moved by Don, VE1DTR. Seconded By Howard, VE1DHD. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report. – Rod, VE1BSK reported an income of \$119.80 during December, with expenses totaling \$70.00 and an overall balance of \$11,116.09.

Motion: THAT the Treasurer's Report be accepted as given. Moved by Win, VE1WIN. Seconded by Don, VE1BN. Motion carried.

Executive Reports

(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

Second Vice-President: Tom, VE1BMJ noted that this evening's attendance numbers 41.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Howard, VE1DHD reported tonight's tally includes 22 additional full members with a breakdown of 4 life, 20 associate, 68 full and a total 92 members for 2009. Cards were on hand for those in attendance who paid prior to this meeting. Others will be mailed.

Basic Course – Barry, VE1TRI reported that the 2008 course went well. Eight of ten associates who wrote the exam passed. Six received honours (marks over 80) giving an 80% pass rate. (See listing of students attached.) Barry expressed thanks to those who instructed from September to December over a two and a half month period that included three Saturdays. There will be a review of materials to help the unsuccessful candidates prepare for re-examination. Two other candidates, who weren't able to write in December, will re-write their exams at a date to be determined. Howard, VE1DHD reminded Barry to advise candidates, if they wish to be full voting members, that they should contact Howard once they get their callsigns. There will be a notice in the Reflector for self study and next course in September 2009.

SAR – David, VE1AJP, reported that there had been no reports of lost people. However, members participated in a number of evidence searches for both the RCMP and HRM Police. He advised that since Field Day, the logistics bus now has heat and plumbing repairs completed and will have air conditioning soon.

EMO – David, VE1AJP, reported they had prepared for ice storms that didn't materialize. He reminded members to always be prepared.

Training – Tom, VE1GTC has spoken with a number of people who may be available to provide instruction. He asks members with skills that can be passed on to others let

him know, along with any preparations that may be required. One workshop may be learning how to put connectors on for which participants will need their own coax and other supplies. Other topics being considered include CW, station operating skills, contesting and logging. When topics and instructors are defined, a listing of materials needed for each will be made available. Murray, VE1MMD remarked that many HARC members identified a desire for ongoing training when answering the questionnaire.

RAC –

§ Scott, VE1QD spoke of RAC's publication, TCA and its new format noting improved quality of paper at lesser cost. The publication would like to have more material submitted, so members are encouraged to consider writing an article about particular interests or activities.

§ Dave Goodwin brought dialogue between RAC and Industry Canada to Scott's attention. It is possible that RAC will take over the entire amateur radio service of that entity. Scott reported that Dave and others from RAC were so impressed with our 75th event they'd like to be here in 2010 and this would be done with no cost to HARC.

§ Scott also reported that RAC has a very low level of participation in Canada; unlike the USA (amateurs and their national body). Scott supports members making RAC better through participation, commenting that Dave has good ideas, has introduced many and feels there is room for growth for RAC. National views HARC as one of the leading clubs in Canada. Jim Langille, VE1JBL is Section Manager for the Maritimes. They would like to see greater interaction with both provincial and regional reps. Scott said only 12-13 % of Canadian amateurs join RAC compared with American membership in ARRL at about 50%.

DX Forum: Scott, VE1QD confirmed that the 2009 DX Forum

will be held August 8th. Well-know DX contester, Martii Laine OH2BH, Espoo, Finland, will be the keynote speaker. He will speak on, "Turning New Stones – Building Passion for Amateur Radio", discussing programs he's worked in and is promoting. Also, George Nicholson N4GRN of Georgia, who is also HARC member, will speak on his trip to Desecheo Island. (The last expedition was in 1979.) Our own Gary Bartlett, VE1RGB will organize one of those sessions and Joe Taylor, K1JT, Princeton, New Jersey, will come to Nova Scotia to talk about DXing from home stations. Joe Taylor, a Nobel Laureate in physics and consultant to NASA, if available, would talk about weak signal communication.

Other – Murray, VE1MMD reported that the Notice of Motion regarding club access published in the Reflector was premature and won't be voted on this evening.

Old business

Club Access John Goodwin, VE1CDD reported several changes:

§ The HF positions have been changed.

§ John explained how to ensure all radios are off.

§ The rig blaster is on line - look for notes regarding leaving it in idle position for all users.

§ Some new software for digital modes has been uploaded.

§ General – the FT100 is still being worked on.

§ Each bench will have its own power switch.

§ After set up is complete, he will look at the satellite position.

§ Noise on the 2 meter rig was identified.

§ The library has cleaned up, boxes removed and John noted that we could make use of a large plastic container if one is available.

§ Murray, VE1MMD donated a scanner.

§ John, VE1CDD donated a desk.

§ A book for logging the borrowing of equipment has been started.

(Continued on page 9)

From the Mail Bag

Check out this website http://www.astronomynovascotia.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=55
73 Wayne, VE1WPH

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to announce on behalf of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club the date and program outline for the Sixth Annual Maritime DX Forum. This year it will be held on Saturday, 8 August 2009 at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. As usual a full day program will be followed by the DX Forum Banquet. For those wishing low cost accommodation, the University will make available student residence rooms.

We have already engaged three very outstanding speakers

* Our keynote speaker will be Martti Laine, OH2BH, who will talk about his recent experiences in helping develop amateur radio in various parts of the world under the title: Turning New Stones: Building Passion for Amateur Radio.

* Taking us in a more technical direction, Joe Taylor, K1JT, a Nobel Laureate in Physics and life long contributor to technical advances in amateur radio, will talk about Advances in Weak Signal Communication: WSJT and More

* George Nicholson, N4GRN will share with us the excitement and visual images of 2009's first very significant DXpedition: The 2009 Desecheo Island DXpedition (February 12-26)

* The Maritime Contest Club has made a commitment to fill the fourth spot from the ranks of serious contesters who operate well designed home stations. The details will be announced when available.

The cost of the MDF program will be the same as last year, \$45. We will confirm the price of the DX Forum Banquet and the evening's program in a subsequent announcement.

Please put the 2009 Maritime DX Forum on your Calendar. Also let all your friends know about this is a unique opportunity to hear from fellow hams who are among the most influential and accomplished contributors to our hobby.

A registration package will be sent out in late March, after I return from a trip to Mexico. In the meantime, I will be very pleased to know about your intention to attend and to answer any questions. You can contact me by e-mail at: kswood@dal.ca. After my return to Halifax on 6 March, you also will be able to phone me at (902) 823- 2761.

73, K. Scott Wood, VE1QD, Chair, Maritime DX Forum
Halifax Amateur Radio Club

Check out this web site

<http://www.artificialowl.net/2008/12/abandoned-giant-duga-3-system-antenna.html>
73, Rob Ewert, VE1KS

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 4

Desecheo Island DXpedition Call Sign: The DXpedition to Desecheo Island -- February 12-26 -- will use call sign K5D. "As soon as we land on Desecheo, 2 stations will be immediately activated," said DXpedition co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26." Because Desecheo is very rare, Allphin said that "there are many, many hams worldwide that need KP5 for an all-time new one. Therefore, we are asking that you not contact the DXpedition on any band/mode that you have confirmed from a previous DXpedition. This will allow the people who really need a new DXCC entity a better opportunity to get through the pileups. If you have KP5 already confirmed on a particular band/mode, we respectfully ask that you exercise restraint. If, late in the DXpedition, we are calling CQ for contacts, we will welcome your call." Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list; the island is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe. Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the west coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

The February 2009 KP5 Desecheo DXpedition website is at <http://www.kp5.us/>.

DXpedition co-leader Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters.

Eight HF stations, plus 6 meters, will be operational.

Field Day 2008 The Westcumb ARC:

VE1WRC was 6th out of 10 Maritime clubs participating in all classes. When considering only Class 1F and North America wide, VE1WRC was 13th out of 23 entries.

VE1WRC was the TOP CLUB in Canada in Class 1F! (Sobering Note from VE9KM: Well, alright, it's the only Canadian entry in 1F)

Tech support: How may I help you?

Customer: I'm writing my first e-mail.

Tech support: OK, and what seems to be the problem?

Customer: Well, I have the letter 'a' in the address, but how do I get the circle around it?



Underwater QSL Cards?

by Sam, VE1YVN

Hams are not the only ones to collect cards as part of a hobby. Several hobbyists around the world who are interested in the diving operations of manned submersibles send cards very similar to QSL cards to submersible operators. These cards have spaces to record the following:

submersible name,
characteristics,
time & depth of dive,
pilot & co-pilot names and
latitude & longitude of dive.

The cards are taken on the dive, and while the sub is on the bottom, the cards are filled in and signed by pilot and co-pilot. Upon surfacing, the cards are then mailed back to the collectors and they proudly display them to family and friends.

This service was carried out many times during a 15 year period by the navy divers who operated the submersible SDL-1 from HMCS Cormorant. Wayne (VE1TTT) and Sam VE1YVN both had the pleasure of being pilots and co-pilots of this submersible.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 4

Korea has issued a postage stamp commemorating the 2008 Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) World Championships which were held in Korea (hosted by the Korean Amateur Radio League) Sept. 2-7, 2008. More than 450 participants from 28 countries came to Korea to compete. ARDF combines Amateur Radio skills with the map and compass skills of orienteering in a timed race where individual competitors navigate through diverse wooded terrain while searching for radio transmitters. The rules of the sport and international competitions are organized by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). See the stamp here: <http://www.koreastamp.go.kr/sp/eg/speg0101.jsp?page_num=2>.

Minutes (Continued from page 7)

§ A binder with general information – regulations, and plans, etc. is available for review.

Question – When asked if there is a switch to the dummy load on each HF position, John replied not yet. The cost would be \$50 for a dummy load and it was noted that there are lots of used ones available in the amateur community.

§ The Dartmouth Club smashed their rotor.

§ Dick, VE1AI described the break-release process.

Motion: THAT up to \$40 be allocated to purchase an MFJ Breaker. Moved by David, VE1NN. Seconded by Peter, VE1PJW. Motion carried.

§ Club access is ongoing having been referred to a Committee and a report will be given in February.

Trailer update – Murray, VE1MMD and Fraser, VE1WO visited the supplier. The trailer has arrived and we now need a site for storage. Bill, VE1MR has been given the go ahead to order the remaining items required for the trailer. When asked how the club fared given the recent financial crisis the reply was that, although incurring greater cost due to monetary changes, we saved money by having the tower mounted by the manufacturer.

New Business

Ham Breakfast – Tom, VE1BMJ announced that the Ham Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 0900 hours, in Halifax, at the Steak and Stein. Murray, VE1MMD thanked Tom for organizing the Christmas dinner, which was successful despite the inclement weather, with 45 people braving the elements.

Web Site – Murray, VE1MMD asked members to please forward event information to Rob, VE1KS, as soon as available and, at least, two weeks before events. Murray reported on the web site update in process and that it will be complete

within the next few weeks.

Notice of Motion – Budget item: THAT we spend up to \$2200 to purchase an HF radio with 6 meters to replace the TS680. Moved by Peter, VE1PJW. Seconded by Win, VE1WIN. Radio makes and cost will go to the Technical Committee for determination. The 680 we sold was not a satellite radio. It was noted that, once set up, it will provide back up for our equipment available when responding to EMO.

Reports or announcements of general interest. Tom, VE1GTC asked that new hams who plan to become active place five to ten dollars “to account” with the QSL Bureau. Others, if noting your funds are low when checking the QSK database, likewise, are asked to ensure funds are increased.

Open House & Mini Flea Market:

Murray, VE1MMD reported a notable finding coming from the survey is a wish for more social activities. The club will host an Open House and Mini Flea Market on Saturday, February 21, 2009. An open house will be held upstairs starting at 08:00, with the flea market commencing at noon in the first floor meeting room. There will be no admission charge.

Committees – Murray, VE1MMD announced that several committees have been identified and descriptions are posted upstairs. He invited members interested in serving on any to let him know.

50/50 draw: The 50/50 draw was won by Bruce, VE1MLW.

Door prize: The door prize, a set of glasses was won by Dick, VE1AI.

There being no further business, Doug, VE1LDL moved the meeting be adjourned at 2030 hours. The evening program was a presentation of Club Survey Results by Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen MacRae, VE1HMR, Secretary

*What do Eskimos get from sitting on the ice too long?
Polaroid's*

Visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Canadian_Amateur_Radio_Group/

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 21, May 30, 2008
Chinese Officials Give KUDOS
to Amateur Radio Operators

Following the earthquake in the Wenchuan area of China's Sichuan province on May 12, communications in some of the surrounding areas were cut off, and communications in some other areas experienced network congestion due to drastically increased traffic.

According to the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) -- the Chinese IARU Member-Society -- Chinese government officials and the news media have recognized that when communications failed after the earthquake, Amateur Radio operators stepped in to provide vital links.

CRSA designated 14.270, 7.050 and 7.060 MHz for emergency communications use during the quake, but these frequencies are now no longer restricted for this use; should a severe aftershock occur, CRSA said it will make the call for them to be kept clear again.

On Monday, May 26, China Central Television (CCTV) reported that, "When all other communication means failed, Amateur Radio operators came out! An Amateur Radio emergency communication network was set up, and one of the commanders, Liu Hu [BG8AAS], called for Amateur Radio operators on air to provide services for disaster relief."

Fan Bin, BA1RB, on behalf of CRSA, said, "Thankfully, one main repeater survived during the earthquake. This repeater provided 100 km coverage to Mianyang. Amateur Radio operators from Chengdu, Shenzhen, He'nan went to the center of the disaster area, set up repeaters in Beichuan County and provided various valuable first hand information from the center."

CRSA acknowledged that the main organizer of local Amateur Radio traffic, Luo Minglin, BY8AA, "continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan. More repeaters were set up in both Beichuan and Mianyang -- among the worst hit areas outside the epicenter -- to form an effective Amateur Radio communication network."

Zhang Zhen, BG8DOU, said that right after the earthquake, "2 ham radio operators drove to the center of the earthquake area and had a repeater set up by the morning of May 13. This repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions & status reports, and was a main communication channel for public use. The repeater carried communications for the Mayor of Mianzhu City who gave orders to those on the front line rescue & recovery activity."

The CRSA also acknowledged having received inquiries and the "warm concerns" of Amateur Radio societies worldwide.

-- Information provided by Fan Bin, BA1RB, on behalf of CRSA, via IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton, VK3PC

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 40

Many consider 1930 to 1980 as the "golden age" of American radio technology. A time of extraordinary innovation driven by pioneering engineers and entrepreneurs, this 50 year span saw the introduction of rigs that would become famous throughout the world. The newest addition to the ARRL Library, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation -- Transceivers, Receivers and Transmitters: 1930-1980," takes you on a guided tour of more than 400 of these legendary radios, lovingly restored by their owners and gorgeously photographed by Joe Veras, K9OCO, a professional photographer and Amateur Extra class ham. You find yourself leafing through the pages and blurting out, 'I owned one of those!' at regular intervals. Each photo includes a brief description of the radio, model number, manufacturer, as well as the year it was introduced and its selling price at the time. "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation -- Transceivers, Receivers and Transmitters: 1930-1980" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0228>> is hardcover and 128 pages. It is available from the ARRL Web site for \$39.95. If you order before November 30, 2008, you will receive a free 2009 ARRL Calendar <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0302>> featuring the vintage radio photography of Joe Veras, K9OCO.

IARU REGION 1 MEETS (Continued from page 4)

* 7.175-7.200 MHz, All modes, priority for intercontinental operation (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

The conference had an eye to both new and young radio amateurs. Delegates agreed unanimously to recommend to Member Societies the importance of the annual Jamboree on the Air and encouraged the organizations to assist Scouts with the event. They feel this will promote Amateur Radio to Scouts and perhaps inspire them to get their Amateur Radio license and become active on the air.

The delegates also recommended that an additional category, "Youngsters and Newcomers", be introduced to Amateur Radio contests "wherever possible." Details for this new category will be left to individual contest organizers to develop. Delegates also encouraged contest organizers to replace signal strength reports required in contests with "some other less predictable exchange, so as to enhance the skill requirements of contest operators."

The venue chosen for the next conference (in 2011) was South Africa.

Think you are having a bad day? A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment, he had been happily listening to his Walkman.

