



REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

September 2010, Volume 71 Number 7

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Registration & Intro for This Fall's Basic Course will be Sept.16 (p.2)



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	826-7831	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
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Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@eastlink.ca
Treasurer - Keith Landra, VE1STN		tkeith.landra@yahoo.ca
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Club Station Mgr. - Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH		wayneph@eastlink.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@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
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Web page - Frank Smith		frankiansmith@gmail.com
Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
2010 Flea market Chair - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ445-8103		tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Field Day coordinator - Murray Alary, VE1ALS		
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@eastlink.ca
NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH		

Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Len Morgan, VE9MY	506-696-5279	morgakl@nb.sympatico.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: The net will be discontinued if we don't get more net controllers.

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



Sept. 12	Bruce	VE1MLW
Sept. 19	Win	VE1WIN
Sept. 26	Doug	VE1LDL
Oct. 3	Bruce	VE1MLW
Oct. 10	Win	VE1WIN
Oct. 17	Doug	VE1LDL
Oct. 24	Bruce	VE1MLW

Puzzler - Do you know?

What material was used by Alexander Graham Bell for a phonograph needle and by Thomas Edison as a filament in his prototype light bulbs?



Answer is on pg. 9

Deadline for submissions to the October Reflector is Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010

The Monthly General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 1930 (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the Saint Andrews Rec Ctr.

This month's program will be presented by Scott, VE1QD. It will deal with *A Process to Transform Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)* that was launched at the recently concluded RAC AGM in Halifax. Scott is the RAC Assistant Director for the Halifax Region. This is a process that needs to involve not only every Club member, but every concerned ham so please attend and encourage others to join as well. There is some material about this process on the HARC website under RAC.

Guests are welcome.

Check out the RAC blog at:

<http://racblog.wordpress.com/transforming-radio-amateurs-of-canada-introduction/>

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM
Will be cancelled for the Summer

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 - TX=82.5
 PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz
 LAN NODE

Events for Your Calendar

September 16 (Thursday) at 7:00 PM
Amateur Radio Basic course registration orientation

September 18, Saturday – will be the Shediac Fleamarket :(the 2010 MAARC Fleamarket)

October 16– Greenwood Flea Market

October 16 – Jamboree on the Air

This years amateur radio class bodes well for the future of ham radio if all attend who have expressed interest.

Ham radio classes

sponsored by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held at the Saint Andrew's Community Centre off Bayer's Road near Roman's Avenue on Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 PM in the club classroom. The first evening will be an information session with registration. The first basics class being on Saturday the 18th at 10 am and then continuing on the next Thursday.



The registration fee is \$120. The fee covers thirteen classes of instruction, a study guide with some printed material, the exam from Industry Canada given by one of the club's accredited examiners, associate membership in the H.A.R.C. with access to the club, e-newsletter. Reduced cost for the course can be offered to any one who does not need the study guide / manual or hard copy of the text. Extra information is on the www.HARC.org or Contact Barry at 861-3719 or by e-mail: VE1TRI@rac.ca

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities. **Please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Wayne, VE1WPH e-mail wayneph@eastlink.ca

Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?

**GREENWOOD
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
22nd ANNUAL FLEAMARKET**

Date: 16 OCT 2010 (Saturday)
Time: 10:00AM – 1:00PM (Open 8:00AM To Sellers)
Place: Greenwood Community Centre, Church Street, Greenwood, Nova Scotia

Cost: Admission \$4.00.
Tables Free To Sellers



GPS Coordinates:
N44° 58.512' W064° 55.612'
Talk In: VE1WN 147.240+

The Shediac Fleamarket :

2010 MAARC Fleamarket -
DATE: Saturday, September 18, 2010.
LOCATION: Louis J. Robichaud High School, Main St., Shediac NB.
TALK-IN: 147.090+ & 147.375+
TIMES: Sellers 8am. General Admission 10am.
ADMISSION: \$4.00 per person.
TABLES: No Charge.

From the ARL Letter, June 3, 2010
Amateur Radio in Space:
Australia Students Celebrate WIA Centenary with ARISS QSO

Students from the Trinity Christian School at Wanniasa in the Australian Capital Territory made history on May 29 with the first Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact to be held in Canberra. The event was part of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) Centenary Dinner on May 29. More than 200 people attended the event, including international guests IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, and ARRL International Vice President Jay Bellows, KOQB, as well as prominent Australians such as IARU Region 3 Chairman Michael Owen, VK3KI, Australian Communications & Media Authority Chair Chris Chapman

Procrastinate Now!

SABLE ISLAND (CY0)

There is a 2009 Dxpedition scheduled for a Sept/Oct 2010 time frame. The web site

WWW.CY0dxpedition.com will be updated as more details are available.

Operators include: WA4DAN, AA4VK, N0TG, AI5P

The NSARA Summer Picnic

was held in Two Islands, NS at the summer cottage of Abbie & Brad Ross (VE1BFB & VE1ZX) on Saturday, August 21st, 2010. Go to the Westcumb A.R.C. website

www.westcumb.ca

to open and read a report with photos from this picnic

From the ARRL Letter, Aug.19, 2010
ARRL, TAPR Announce
29th Annual Digital Communications Conference

Aficionados of digital communications are gearing up for the 29th annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference, September 24-26 near Portland, Oregon. The ARRL/TAPR DCC is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications.

From the ARRL Letter Aug.12, 2010
Dayton Hamvention® Committee
Announces 2011 Theme

When the Dayton Hamvention® opens May 20, 2011 for its 60th consecutive year, its theme -- Global Friendship -- will reflect an important part of ham radio, said 2011 Hamvention General Chairman Michael Kalter, W8CI: "The theme emphasizes how the technology continues to bond Amateur Radio operators from all over the world." The 2011 Dayton Hamvention runs May 20, 21 and 22 at Hara Arena, just outside Dayton in Trotwood, Ohio.

HELP YOUR CLUB AND YOURSELF

With the recent passing of hurricane Earl there were several nets going on to report conditions in different parts of the Maritime Provinces. Some were emergency nets, some were informal nets and some were general reporting nets for EMO and other agencies.

Are you qualified to run one of these nets or even to properly check into them with relevant information in the correct form?

One of the services the club provides is emergency communicators for HRM EMO and communication services for various public events.

To learn some of these things there are courses offered and volunteers are required. For courses and training get in touch with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC or David Musgrave, VE1EDA.

One of the aids to get your feet wet is to become a net controller for the Take-15 Net. This is not a difficult job and a good way to get some casual experience with net control.

We need more net controllers, a turn once every few months at the Take-15 net control will help build and maintain your experience. I would like to recruit at least 6 new net controllers. Please contact Bill, VE1MR either by

Phone at 865-8567 OR
E-mail at ve1mr@rac.ca

Borrowing HARC Materials?

One of the many benefits of HARC membership is the privilege to borrow club assets. These can be any of the Amateur Radio related monthly publications, technical library literature or club equipment (see Station Manager for equipment loans).

For the information of those who borrow, a new "LOAN RECORD" binder will be available in the club Library. It's official introduction will be during the January General Meeting.

Before you borrow please read the instruction sheet at the front of the binder. Following that, entry of the requested information is made simple by filling in the anoted fields.

It's hoped that you take advantage of this valued feature of HARC membership.

*If people were meant to pop out of bed
they'd sleep in toasters. - Garfield*

Breaking Down Walls of Indifference

RAC Life Member www.hk3oz.com 16 August 2010

Greetings from Bogota!

As fellow Radio Amateurs, we all want the same thing - to enjoy and achieve personal fulfillment and growth through our beloved Amateur Radio, enhancing our technical, social, personal leadership, and organizational skills and knowledge. And when the propagation Gods smile down on us, things only get better.

To ensure the continuance and growth of our domestic and international operating privileges and spectrum allocation, Canadian Amateur Radio service needs to be protected. Spectrum is finite and commercial interests and demands are insatiable and growing.

That's just one of the many harsh realities of life and one vital role for our national organization - the only national organization we have - Radio Amateurs of Canada.

The radio bug has been in my blood for almost 50 years and Amateur Radio, combined with hockey, basketball and the Scouting movement saved me from smoke filled pool halls, so popular when I was a teenager growing up in Baie Comeau on the north shore of the St. Lawrence in Quebec. Snow drifted to second story windows back then, and walking to school in minus 30F weather in a 40 mph gale was commonplace - but that's another story...

The real story is Radio Amateurs of Canada and its cultural transformation.

This is not a new issue. The RAC Board and Executive have been dancing around the topic for years but the slide to oblivion continues. As difficult and scary as it is, the time has come to face reality and take some history-making action to transform Radio Amateurs of Canada into the vibrant and sustainable organization it can be. The alternative is RAC withers away and we all lose.

Your enrollment in the transformation process is vital. Radio Amateurs of Canada must transform into the organization we all need. It won't be easy. Nothing of great importance and significance where the stakes are high ever is easy. And don't sit back waiting for RAC leadership to wave a magic wand and make it happen. There is no magic wand. All of us - you and me - can and must make this happen.

Please take time to read the series of seven articles.

Let's start the process all across Canada - in every club, in every group - big or small. Let's transform RAC.

Thanks for listening and please share this material with every Ham you know!

John Bartlett,
VE1OZ / HK3OZ



Transforming Radio Amateurs of Canada

Part 1 - Dinosaur Disease

John Bartlett - VE1OZ / HK3OZ
www.hk3oz.com 13 August 2010



“Let's not pretend things will change if we keep doing the same things.

A crisis can be a real blessing

to any person - to any nation. All crises bring progress. Creativity is born from anguish - just as day is born from the dark night. In crisis, invention is born - discoveries and big strategies. He who overcomes crisis overcomes himself, without getting overcome. He who blames failure on crisis, neglects his own talent; this is being more respectful to problems than to solutions.

The incompetence is the true crisis. The greatest inconvenience to people and nations is the laziness with which they attempt to find the solutions to their problems. There's no challenge without crisis. Without challenges, life becomes a routine, slow agony. There's no crisis without merits. It's through crisis that we can show the very best in us. To speak continuously about a crisis is to promote it, but not to speak about it is to exalt conformism.

So instead, let us work hard. Let us stop, once and for all, the menacing crisis that represents the tragedy of not being willing to overcome it.”

Albert Einstein

A question

If change is truly inevitable and necessary for survival, should not our fears be based on failure to change, rather than change itself?

If we fail to change, we may not achieve our goals. We may lose our organization - Radio Amateurs of Canada.

So our fear of change is truly an **oxymoron**. We fear the wrong thing; the

only fear we have to fear is the fear of failure to change. Would you agree?

The challenge

The nature of the task ahead should not be underestimated. However RAC, while financially strapped, has a rich history and an enviable portfolio of human assets that are among the best anywhere. If we begin with an honest realization of the current state, and follow that up with a true desire for change, we can develop a clear strategic direction which will put Radio Amateurs of Canada on the road to success.

Ultimately morale has to be rebuilt, not just among members, but among future-members, both of whom have been watching for years as the organization has bounced from one crisis to another. The need for change is big - perhaps bigger than is realized - so courage and tenacity will be required in order to persevere, knowing it's the right thing to do.



Ultimately, this is a battle for the hearts and minds of Canadian amateurs and future amateurs. Transforming Radio Amateurs of Canada

At the RAC Annual General Meeting in Halifax on 6 August, President Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW, officially launched RAC's transformation - hence this missive - the intent of which is to provide context and set the stage - specifically, the why, how and what of RAC's transformation.

So what is requested of you?

Easy - just read all seven parts, reflect on this material, its relevance and applicability - **to you** - and engage in the process.

Know the process - a radical act of sorts - will be somewhat difficult and uncomfortable but know it's not rocket science.

As humans we all have beliefs, training, experiences, likes, dis-

likes, and habits, which constitute our being - how we think, how we behave, and what we value. As the process unfolds, we will be challenged.

The process won't always appear logical and it may not be smooth, but it should equip everyone with the insight required to transform RAC's culture and create its strategic future.

All thoughts, comments and suggestions are welcome.

Respectfully,

John Bartlett, VE1OZ / HK3OZ

Contact Information:

e-mail: johnbartlett@live.com

websites: www.hk3oz.com

and www.hkhams.org

Gentlemen/Ladies:

Below is a link to a discussion page on the RAC website.

It includes copies of John Bartlett's "papers" on RAC's vision for the future, as well as reactions from some of the RAC Executive, past Executive members, as well as ordinary amateurs. You are also invited to offer input to said discussion. Its a BLOG !

Suggest you review at your leisure, and spread this link around as much as possible

I am certain that this subject will be on the agenda at future HARC meetings....better to be as knowledgeable as possible right from the start.

Take time to think about: what you want from RAC, where should RAC be going, do Canadian hams need a Canadian amateur organization, do we want to see RAC taking over much or all of the present government duties such as licensing etc. I am certain this will become a more popular discussion subject in future months.

<http://racblog.wordpress.com/>

David, VE1NN

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

The 2010 IOTA Expedition to White Head Island

By Fred, VE1FA

Since 1991, a group of us have been making an annual summer pilgrimage to one of six or seven Maritime islands, initially to experience being on the receiving end of DXCC and rare IOTA island pileups, and for the last 13 years to compete in the annual Islands On The Air (IOTA) contest, held the last weekend of July by the Radio Society of Great Britain. Originally, most of the expeditioners were from the West Island ARC (WIARC) of Pointe Claire, QC, but there has been a gradual shift, so now nearly all are members of the Halifax ARC.

For 2010 the culprits were: Rich VA1CHP; Helen VA1YL; Howard VE1DHD; Lynn VE1ENT; Fred VE1FA; Bill VE1MR; Al VO1NO; and Lowell VY2OX. We decided to return to one of the more comfortable island QTHs we've activated, White Head Island, NB, IOTA NA-014, just to the east of Grand Manan in the Bay of Fundy. Helen looked up some New Brunswick history, and it turned out that 2010 is the 200th anniversary of New Brunswick's Acadian citizens getting the right to vote (at least the adult male ones), and so we got the nice special call VC9A for the week to celebrate the event!

Whitehead's one ham, Dave VE9AT, arranged for us to use the very nice 2-room elementary school for a week, the time needed to set up, test, and run our fairly elaborate setup. We compete in the DXpedition class, as a multi-op, mixed (SSB+CW), and high power (>100W) station. Our second goal (the first is having a good time) is to do as well as possible in that class against other North American stations: in fact we've been the #1 Dxpediton in North America in 3 of the last 4 IOTA contests we have entered. However, that's a much smaller accomplishment than winning overall! Since the contest has its strongest participation

in Europe, and numerous activated "EU" islands are close to them, it is relatively easy for the Euros to work many island multipliers on all five allowed bands (10, 15, 20, 40, and 80m), and build up a score very hard to beat by non Europeans who have far fewer nearby activated islands. Ultimately, that is our greatest challenge!

Our scores have increased over the years as we've gotten to be better operators, improved our antennas, and gotten a three-laptop logging and radio-controlling "Intranet" to run reliably.

In the 24h contest we're allowed one "Run" station, that can "park and call" or "hunt and pounce" on any of the 5 bands, and one "Mult" station that can only work new (first time in contest) island multipliers, and must give them serial numbers sequential with those being given out by the Run station, which is much harder to do than you might think! Seamlessly interleaving the Run and Mult operations has been the biggest source of problems over the years.

Also working against a high QSO rate is the sheer amount of data that you have to exchange with each contact: callsigns, RSTs, his serial#, your serial#, your island #, his island #. IOTA rules also require that all info be given in each QSO. No giving your call every 10th QSO! Exchanging all that with each contact in a pileup, and then having every entry in all the logs checked for errors after by RSGB's merciless "Contest Robot" "Hal! Open the pod bay door!" ... "I'm sorry Dave, I can't do that." more or less explains why doing these contests makes you a better and more accurate operator!

Another challenge is to bring everything needed ... and no more. To give an idea of what is needed radio-wise: **Run station:** TS-850, DC supply, 100W bandpass filter, power bars, 30L-1 linear, high-

power tuner, laptop + interface + wireless card + program (N1MM), special cables (lots), cords, ground buss system, AC line and RF filters+chokes, coax (lots), headsets, foot switch, paddles, lamp, chairs and tables, rotor, cable, beverage switchbox, 40m phasing box, scratch paper+pens. **Mult station:** similar to **Run**, but for an IC-746Pro, IC-2KL and AT-500. Our antennas: 2 full TA-33 beams and Ham rotors on 40' towers, falling derrick gear, 2 phased verts for 40m, 40-80m double dipole, 80m gamma matched tower, and 2 beverage Rx antennas, and lots of rope and stakes. There are a LOT of pieces needed to make all that work properly!

First mistake: I was lazy and after years of generating detailed "bring" lists for each expeditioner, I didn't this trip ... and we forgot stuff, like the essential serial:USB cable for the Run laptop, the block and tackle for tower erection, the lamp for the run station, more rope, etc.

Nevertheless, we arrived on Tuesday, 20 July and by late Thursday most of the stations' features were running, although Internet access, in a school with more computers than students, turned out to be a great struggle! We needed Internet for a fourth non-networked computer to find DX spots for new mult islands for the Mult station to work. We finally got Net access thanks to Al's home dial-up, and Shelley, Al's XYL, who phoned us their password and username! The 3-computer network (Run, Mult, and Control) had all 3 laptops talking (mostly), and controlling the 2 radios' common N1MM logging data, band, mode, frequency, time, and CW transmission from the Fn keys. Several people were involved, but most of the credit goes to Bill!

After all the sweaty antenna work and 'skeeters out in the deep bush around the school, we really appreciated Al's new tent shower (run by

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**The Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Monthly General Meeting
June 16th, 2010 MINUTES**

President Murray MacDonald (VE1MMD) opened the meeting at 1933 hours.

Silent Keys –
VE1TFS – Fulton Stevens

Approval of Agenda

Motion – THAT the agenda be adopted as distributed.

Moved by: Don (VE1DTR); Seconded by: Doug (VE1LDL) Motion carried.

Introduction of new members and guests – no visitors or new members.

Approval of Minutes of May monthly meeting.

Motion – THAT the minutes of the May 19th 2010 monthly meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club as published in the June edition of the *Reflector* be approved.

Moved by: Win (VE1WIN); Seconded by: Tom (VE1GTC). Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report Keith (VE1STN) reported expenses of \$421.40 and income of \$ 1,750.43. Petty cash on hand was \$166.96 and the closing bank balance as of the end of May 2010 was \$11,241.68, with \$551.15 committed but not yet distributed to estates for equipment sold; Net Balance in account - \$10,690.53.

Motion – THAT the report of the treasurer be approved.

Moved by: Keith (VE1STN); Seconded by: Bill (VE1MR). Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

Second Vice-President – Sheldon (VE1SJP) – Pizza nights in July and August; door prize – LED work light.

Secretary – Howard reported receipt of a letter from the MCC and asked Gary (VE1RGB) to speak to the MCC contest awards that will be made to Maritime contesters. Intent is to encourage contesting among local radio amateurs in the Maritimes.

Member-at-Large – Don (VE1DTR) nothing to report.

Station Manager – Wayne (VE1WPH) – absent.

President – Murray (VE1MMD) – reported that he has visited and has photographs of antique radios that are for sale by a local Ham. Murray will try to put together an inventory. Murray indicated that there is a British Ham GW3KFJ visiting the region. Murray has spoken with the First V-P at RAC with respect to the status of the QSL bureau. The operation of the bureau is being evaluated in the hope of ensuring financial stability and for the present it is business as usual.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Sheldon (VE1GPY) – in his absence Howard (VE1DHD) reported for Sheldon, indicating that there are 4 Life members; 22 Associate and 107 Full members for a total of 133 paid-up members for 2010.

Maritime DX Forum - Scott (VE1QD) – reported that there are 22 registrations received so far. Win (VE1WIN) provided \$76 that was realized from his personal sales at the Flea Market. Those who only want to attend the RAC forum component are being asked to register but only pay a \$5.00 registration fee to cover the costs of the coffee break. There is a 10% surcharge after July 15th.

RAC Associate Director - Scott (VE1QD) has been talking with Len Morgan our Atlantic Director – he will not be reoffering in 2011 – and indicated that there may be some structural changes in the offing at RAC.

Basic Course – Barry (VE1TRI) reported that the course starts Thursday, 16th September and will be completed in time for the exam to be held before Christmas.

QSL Bureau – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that almost all of the cards that were received at the Flea Market have been sorted and ready for distribution.

EMO – David (VE1AJP) reported that the provincial coordinator has requested a list of those who have had training on the Trunk Mobil system. Barry Manual is putting together a display to promote Amateur Radio emergency communications. There will be a communications exercise in the fall that Dave (VE1EDA) is coordinating. There were five people who passed the latest EMO communications course that was run recently. Tom (VE1GTC) reported that the message form has been revised.

Search & Rescue – Dave (VE1AJP) reported that the S&R vehicles will be at the Field Day site. There is a GPS repeater in the command vehicle. David reported that there have been some teething problems with the new digital radios being used in the S&R exercises in that the GPS function is overwhelming the voice capabilities. Installing a repeater on the digital system with some additional filters has temporarily solved the problem.

Old Business:

FT-1000 – Bill (VE1MR) – reported that the radio is now back and appears to be working with the exception that power levels seem to be changing considerably when bands are switched. The ALC appears not to be working properly and so the only charge was \$100 for two transistors that were replaced.

Trailer Project – Bill (VE1MR) reported that he and Fraser (VE1WO) have installed wheel chocks and are working on additional modifications and it will be available and functional for Field Day.

Tube Bank – Tom (VE1BMJ) reported that the tubes have been sorted into categories and he is going to set aside a supply of the more popular tubes that he will keep at his place for sale but the bulk need to be moved to another storage site. Tom would like someone else to come forward and agree to look after the sales and storage. He believes that there is

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a demand for some of these tubes and suggests that it could be a good source of income for the Club.

New Business:

HARC Long-term Storage – Howard indicated that a 40-foot container could be purchased for a reasonable fee. Bill indicated that Barry has informed the Club that there may be an option to have space in a vacant fire station.

Dick feels that we should budget for a container in the 2011 year.

Motion THAT we allocate \$3500 in the 2011 budget for a container.

Moved by Dick (VE1AD); seconded by Terry (VE1TRB); carried. This will become part of the budget process for 2011.

Flea Market 2011 – confirm date and identify co-chair – Tom indicated that the 14th May 2011 has been booked at the Forum but he would like to see a co-chair to assist him next year.

Replacement for HARC Treasurer – Keith indicated that he is an officer with the Air Cadets and their meeting night has been moved from Thursday to Wednesday and so he will be unable to re-offer as Treasurer in 2011. If there is anyone who can step in and replace Keith in the short term he would be pleased to pass over the reins in September.

50/50 Draw - \$16 was won by Fraser (VE1WO).

Door prize – was won by Ed Grace.

There being no further business, on a motion by Don (VE1DTR) the meeting was adjourned at 20:40 hours.

Guest Speaker: Murray (VE1ALS) – Field Day planning session.

Respectfully submitted
D. Howard Dickson, VE1DHD,
Secretary, HARC

Golf can best be defined as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle, followed by a good bottle of beer.



HARC Policy on Disposal of Surplus Equipment

Approved by the HARC Executive – 2 June 2010

All surplus equipment – whether is be the Club’s in-use equipment that has become redundant, or equipment that has been donated to the Club and not needed by the Club – will be:

- 1) catalogued, priced and a written description will be developed for each piece by the Finance Committee;
- 2) advertised to the whole of the Club membership by publishing the listed equipment in the HARC *Reflector* ;
- 3) interested Club members in good standing will be given the first opportunity to express an interest in surplus or redundant equipment;
- 4) interested Club members will, within fourteen days of equipment having been advertised as outlined in #2 above, make their interest know in writing or email to the Treasurer;
- 5) if more than one Club member indicates an interest in any given piece of equipment then those interested parties will be asked to submit a sealed bid to the Treasurer within seven days of being advised to do so, and the highest bid will be accepted by the Finance Committee, identical high bids will be broken by asking the bidders to resubmit;
- 6) if there is no interest expressed by Club members in any given piece of equipment after it has been made available to the membership as described above, then that equipment may be advertised on the HARC Swap Shop, may be taken to Flea Markets, or may, in any other reasonable way offered for sale to any interested Radio Amateur;
- 7) if it is determined, after the above, that surplus or redundant equipment has no real value and that no one is interested in purchasing it, said equipment can be disposed of by offering it free to anyone interested or it can be scrapped.

D. Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – HARC Secretary

From the ARRL Letter, June 10, 2010

In keeping with **Boy Scouts of America's** centennial theme -- Celebrating the Adventure, Continuing the Journey -- 4 retired badges have been brought back for the group's 100th anniversary. Badges are Carpentry (1911-1952), Tracking (formerly Stalking, 1911-1952), Pathfinding (1911-1952) and Signaling (formerly Signaler, 1910-1992).

"**The Signaling merit badge** is a great way to encourage hams who are already involved in Scouting to mentor this limited-time badge in their Troop and perhaps in other ways, such as camps," said ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT The requirements for the Signaling merit badge are the **original requirements as written in 1911.**

Thanks to the efforts of Rob Ireland VE9KM, the **Westcumb Amateur Radio Club** will have use of the **special event callsign VC1J** from October 20th until November 20th for the club's use at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs Museum in Joggins, NS. The cliffs have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The WARC plans to operate HF radio from this location using this special callsign sometime during this special event period. More on this plan here as details become available. To see three 360° views of the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, go to <http://www.world-heritage-tour.org/america/canada/eastern-provinces/joggins/map.html>

*If love is blind,
why is lingerie so popular?*

RAC & Us

On August 6 and 7, the Halifax Amateur Radio Club was very pleased to host this year's RAC AGM & Forum. It was part of our annual Maritime DX Forum and attracted a large part of our audience of almost 70 people.

All of us who have many years in amateur radio, and have followed the ups and downs of our national organization, were delighted with the presentation of President Geoff Bawden and several other members of the Executive. There was an openness and candour about the precarious status of RAC and a willingness to recognize past errors and shortcomings. However, what most grabbed my attention was a clear commitment to not wallow in the past, but rather shift our gaze to the future.

Beginning with an acknowledgement of the vital importance of our national organization to securing and advancing our interests, RAC revealed that a process of transformation was indeed underway. John Bartlett, VE1OZ/HK3OZ, and former RAC VP, has been asked to facilitate the process. If you haven't yet seen them, John has written 12 short pieces that provide a framework for thinking about and approaching the task. You should look at his excellent material. You can find them on either the RAC website (see RAC Blog) or HARC's website www.halifax-arc.org. The objective is to obtain the changes necessary for RAC to become a truly respected and effective force for advancing amateur radio in Canada.

The core of John's approach is simple. **One**, acknowledge failures of the past and the factual status of the organization, **BUT** do not dwell on the past. We won't be able to get to the future by just fixing this and that! **Two**, engage the membership as broadly as possible, since a "top down approach" is definitely not what is needed. In fact, many would argue, this is a part of the past need-

ing reform. Moreover, RAC belongs to every amateur so change needs to be defined by us. **Three**, we need to dream creatively about what we want RAC to be. **Four**, given some commonly agreed upon dream or future, what steps will we need to take in order to get there? **Five**, since everything needed to create a new future cannot be done all at once, the steps will need to be sorted out or given priorities, including figuring out what steps will depend upon something happening first. **Finally**, an *Action Plan* can emerge that will focus RAC's efforts in a strategic way, i.e. that will maximize the chances of us realizing the desired future.

I commend Geoff Bawden and his team for opening up RAC, shaking things up and launching a process of change. I also applaud John Bartlett's courage in laying out a path that we can follow. However, without the commitment of current RAC members and the recruitment of many more, the process of transformation will not happen. Moreover, for those who think that RAC needs to die before being reborn, I would caution against a faith that a new organization would emerge from the rubble. Moreover, let's not throw out the baby with the bath water! RAC has many positive elements on which we can build a better future.

I am one of a very large number of Assistant RAC Directors and represent the Halifax region. I think that our role is to be the eyes and ears on the ground for the Regional Directors. RAC Section Managers are another key group. In any case, collectively we are two layers of the RAC organization that are closest to the grassroots. How can we help move this vital process along?

I will make a presentation and lead a discussion at HARC's September 15th meeting. My expectation is not that this will do it, but rather that

this will start a dialogue in Halifax. In fact, I think that I will recommend that the large number of hams in the Halifax Regional Municipality who head off to Timmy's most mornings for coffee do some of the dreaming at this other national institution! I expect it will be necessary to have a few meetings before this corner of our vast country might have something to share. I hope that others will do the same and that we can collectively make change happen. One day I would like to look back and be able to say: "I'll be damned. We did it!"

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD
RAC Assistant Director,

Halifax Region
and Chair, Maritime DX Forum
Halifax Amateur Radio Club

There is a new stand-alone 70 cm repeater at the VE1PAR site. Here is the report from Lorne, VE1BXX:

"Brad (VE1ZX) and I have the UHF repeater now installed at the VE1PAR Solar site connected to the 310C4 antenna with the call sign as VE1PAR. UHF Repeater is not connected to any controller, just a stand alone self internal programming (CE-27). VXR-7000U (Adjusted for 40 W RF) with 6 can uhf mobile duplexer. Replaced 4 can VHF duplexer with 6 can VHF duplexer on VHF Rpt and replaced #10 wires with #6 wires for solar panel connections to regulators. 443.450 MHz + 5 MHz. On air tests welcomed!
73, Lorne"

Members of the ARRL can subscribe to QEX - A Forum for Communications Experimenters. Published bi-monthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

*I went to a seafood disco last week...
and pulled a mussel.*

THE 2010 MDF AND RAC AGM A SUCCESS!

On August 6-8 HARC hosted Seventh Annual Maritime DX Forum and the 2010 Annual General Meeting of Radio Amateurs of Canada, our national ham radio organization. Judging from the evaluations, e-mail and personal comments and operational results, both were a great success.

The MDF speakers, lead by Martti Laine, OH2BH; Tim Duffy, K3LR; and Dick Frey, K4XU, were informative and deeply inspiring. Their take on DXing, contesting and technical development all played very constructively into this year's theme about advancing amateur radio in new directions for the 21st century. Moreover, the presentations supported the long hard look at the future of RAC taken at their AGM and Forum on Friday and Saturday afternoons.

The only deeply regrettable hitch in the weekend's program was the fact that our banquet speaker, Tim Ellam, VE6SH, was suddenly called away on Saturday by a family tragedy. Tim's brother-in-law was killed in the crash of a small plane off of Cape Breton making it necessary for him to meet family arriving in Sydney. We extended then, and again now, our condolences for this terrible loss to him and his family.

Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH, had coincidentally obtained just before the conference a video showing ham radio conversations between Bob Thirsk, VA3CSA, on the International Space Station and Nova Scotians gathered at Smileys Provincial Park, including our own Bill Elliott, VE1MR! This last minute addition fitted very well into our theme.

The RAC AGM and Forum were exceptional events because they opened up a new, frank discussion about RAC and its future. Moreover, the event was used to launch a process intended to transform RAC into a larger, more inclusive, stronger and sustainable organization that can meet the needs of our hobby in the 21st century and beyond. This is such an important development, and needs such full discussion, that I will be making a presentation and leading a discussion about the process at this month's meeting of HARC on 15 September. I hope everyone with a love and concern for our hobby will attend.

Oh, by the way, the MDF attracted just under 70 participants, 32 of whom were HARC members. Moreover, it looks like we will be coming right in on budget!

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD and
Chair Maritime DX Forum

(2010 IOTA Expedition to White Head Island Continued from page 5)
garden hose from the janitor's sink).

We slept in and around the school playground (in tents), and the teachers' back room with microwave and percolator served as our kitchen. Fortunately Lynn (ENT), our food commandant, had made her lists and checked them twice, so we weren't short of good food! Lynn, Bill, Howard, and Rich contributed some super meals, Helen made bread, and everyone shared cleanup chores.

Friday we tried out the system, making casual QSOs and fixing last-minute problems. Then we signed up for operator/logger/director time slots in the contest, and prayed for good propagation!

Saturday morning 08:45 (11:45 Z): radios, antennas, and Intranet all operational ... I was nervously jostling for a clear frequency to start running on 20m, and waiting for 09:00 (12:00Z) start!

"CQ CQ CQ IOTA Contest! This is Victor Charlie Nine Alpha, Victor Charlie Nine America! QRZ!" And the pileup began!

Working pileups, especially Euro pileups, which are the biggest and most unruly, for maximum IOTA points/hour and maximum island multipliers, is a fine art. You must copy at least two letters from a call: saying "call with a C" is not going to allow you to work the station, as 20 will come back! Ideally, you get the whole call before responding (really saves time), but that is usually not possible. Always give your info in the same sequence, the sequence used in N1MM's data entry boxes. Develop a clear, concise, deliberate delivery; going too fast, shouting or slurring will only lead to having to repeat your info! An essential rule: use a very standard QSO format, and NEVER respond to someone who shoves his call in while you are in QSO with the previous station. If you do, everyone will do it, and you have chaos ... which is bad: you want to go fast enough to just hover on the edge of chaos, but not fall in.

A good way to boost your score is to develop tricks to preferentially work island stations (15 points each) over all others (3 points each) in pileups: you listen for English, Scots, and Irish accents (they're nearly all on islands), call "islands only!" periodically ... but not too often, as you don't want to be unfair to the non-islanders, and when you just can't pick out any calls from a mob of Euros, all S5, call "the G-station, please go!" Usually works ... some poor Brit buried in the pile is only too glad to sing out and make the contact! There are other techniques too, but access is on a "need to know" basis.

I believe that having a separate logger and operator results in faster, more accurate operation, as two pairs of ears are definitely better than one, and the op isn't distracted by having to type, or the logger by having to talk or send to the other station ... but not all of us believe that!

Likewise, some CW ops prefer to have all the standard QSO

(Continued on page 10)

Answer to Puzzler on page 1

Bamboo – the world's fastest growing and remarkably versatile plant.



Safety Note

Does your Paper Shredder bite?
Shredder safety tips...

Be aware and be cautious when performing any job - even a simple task like shredding paper.

Never try to clean or dislodge paper jams while a shredder is still running or energized. Always de-energize (and unplug) the machine before attempting any maintenance, cleaning, or paper retrieval activities.

If it's necessary to remove a jam from the device, use tools, not your fingers. If you don't have the tools, leave it alone and get help.

Even if shredder is unplugged, still make sure you keep any body parts well clear of any sharp edges or nip points.



Note: This photo looks even more gruesome in colour.

**TO KEEP YOUR FINGERS,
KEEP THEM CLEAR** -ed

That spectacular light show, **Aurora Borealis**, occurs when charged solar particles traveling at 3,000,000 km/hour bombard the earth's atmosphere. Galilei coined the name "aurora borealis" in 1616.

Activity peaks every 11 years and will peak again in 3 years.

The elevation of pale green auroras is 80 km. The elevation of bright red auroras is 400 km.

Source: Up Here Magazine,
Jan-Feb, 2010

Rule of Thumb:

*If you can't fix it with a hammer
you've got an electrical problem*



*(2010 IOTA on White Head Island
Continued from page 9)*

phrases pre-recorded under Fn keys, while others prefer to paddle their way through a pileup. Both seem to work well. Rich and Lowell were a little concerned about working the high speed CW mob, but Fn-ing their way through the contest they were very effective at adding many points to our score. Operators were scheduled for 1-hour shifts, but depending on stamina and how hot the pile was, they often went for 2h or more. Throughout the 24h of the contest we combed the DX summit spots, making lists of new mults (verified as new on the intranet control computer) to feed to the Mult station. It would be better to have the mult spots feed directly onto the Mult station N1MM display, but the more ancient of our laptops couldn't handle that.

Propagation in the contest was poor in that we could work no stations on 10m and only a few on 15m, yet 20m was open until long past midnight, including some exciting openings into the Pacific, and VKs, JAs, and ZLs showing up on 20, and also on 40m at dawn gray line time. I was operating for that, and it was amazing to suddenly hear "VK4!, VK7!, ZL1!" pop out of the very dead-sounding hiss and crackle on 7120! Surprisingly, there were almost no completely dead stretches in the deep night.

For the final 2h of the contest (10:00-12:00Z) 20m re-opened to EU, Al operated and Bill logged, to give us the best rate of the contest: 2.4 QSOs/minute or 144/hour. That may not sound fast to some of you old hands, but remember this was a huge Euro pileup and there is a lot of info to exchange!

As the hours remaining in the contest dwindled to minutes we all hovered around one of the computers, watching the N1MM scoreboard: a cheer would go up when a new

mult went into the log ... they are worth thousands of points each by late in the contest. Our final score, after careful combing of the log for errors: 1675 QSOs, 543 islands, for about 3.2 M points, 600k better than ever before! The final "adjudicated" score will likely be somewhat lower, after the IOTA Contest Robot has had its wicked way with our log.

Once the contest was over, operating continued, but it now seemed so easy and casual ... Al, hoping as always to raise the cultural standards of our low-brow group brought some movies, which we viewed on the video facilities of the school: American Pie, American Pie II, and Airplane. First time for such luxury on an expedition!

Monday afternoon brought the tear-down and turning the shack back into a school. That night Dave and his XYL Anita brought a huge pile of local scallops ... excellent!

The VC9A members wish to thank HARC for the loan of towers, a beam, radio, rotors, rope, etc., and Dave and Anita Miller, and the principal of the Whitehead School for their hospitality.

For those of you who worked us and want a card, QSL is via Howard, VE1DHD.

de VE1FA

Where else can you look forward to finding Near Field Communications **RF identifications tags**? Look for microchip-enabled headstones. The palm-sized tablets can be mounted to existing headstones or installed on new ones. The tablet which contains a Near Field Communications RF identifications tag can be programmed with biographical data about the deceased. This data can then be read by any NFC-enabled cell phone with the wave of a hand (NFC is expected to be standard on new mobile phones in N.A. by 2012.)

Source: The Montreal Gazette

How can there be self-help groups?