



# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895  
HALIFAX NS  
B3K 5M5

September 2012, Volume 73 Number 7

club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



## It Was a Good Summer for Radio



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

### Executive

President - Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO	865-4198	fmac@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
2nd V.P. - Betty Caithness, VE1BSW	477-7081	betty.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF		VE1JHF@Gmail.com
Treasurer - John Goddwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	VE1CDD@eastlink.ca
Director-at-Large: - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL	465-4665	leblanc@accesscable.net
Club Station Mgr. - Jim Flowers, VE1JIM	443-8657	ve1jim@ns.sympatico.ca
Past President - VACANT		

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison – VACANT

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 bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Reflector Dist. - Carol Wood, VE1HAZ carolwood@accesswave.ca

Membership - Carol Wood, VE1HAZ carolwood@accesswave.ca

Web page – Brandon, VA1BSD

Basic ham course - Erik Hein, VE1JEH 826-7145 VE1JEH@bellaliant.net

2012 Flea market Chair – VACANT

Callbook Editor – Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, 823-2024 dh dickson@eastlink.ca

Field Day coordinator – VACANT

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 - Everett Price, VO1DK vo1dk@rac.ca

RAC Section Manager – VACANT

RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca

The **September General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, September 19 **at the Dartmouth EOC**, Room 226, 21 Mount Hope Avenue, 2nd Floor, Eric Spicer Building, Dartmouth, NS.

Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m. As usual, refreshments will be available.

- From 7:30 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. – tour of EOC by Barry Manuel.

- The General meeting will begin at 8:30 p.m.

Door prize for this meeting will be a \$20 Gift Card.

Guests are welcome.

### NOTICE of MOTION

Investigation over the Summer showed that the Cowie Hill repeater building needs some major work on the front wall. Since this work must be carried out before winter the executive has recommended a motion to spend a sum not to exceed \$500 for this repair work. We will need a project manager for this work so please contact the executive if you can do this job.

### Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. We need at least 2 more.

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



Sept. 16	Emil	VE1ESP
Sept. 23	Peter	VE1PJW
Sept. 30	Win	VE1WIN
Oct. 7	Erik	VE1JEH
Oct. 14	Doug	VE1LDL

### Deadline for submissions to the October Reflector is Saturday, October 6, 2012

Photos this issue thanks to:  
Dick, VE1AI (Pg.5),  
Wayne, VE1WPH (Pg.5)  
Barry, VE1TRI, (Pg.7),  
Spud, VE1BC (Pg.8 & 9)

*Why do Americans choose from just 2 people to run for president and 50 for Miss America ?*

### GENERAL INFORMATION



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

CLUB REPEATERS:  
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz + TX=82.5  
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +  
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -  
access tone 151.4 Hz  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5  
PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz  
LAN NODE

**The Basic Amateur Radio Licence Course 2012**

Our new radio licence course for this fall is scheduled to start on Thursday 27th of September at 7:00 pm in the HARC club classroom, Saint Andrews Community Centre. The first class will be an Introduction-Information-Registration session outlining new technical features and different aspects of the hobby. The required procedures that lead to an amateur radio call sign from Industry Canada will be presented.

The second class is scheduled for Saturday 29th September at 10:00 am to 2:30 pm on Basic fundamentals, Ohms law and Power will be given by Tom VE1GTC. A hands on practical lab on applying the same material using multi meters will take place on the next class Thursday 4 Oct. Gary VE1RGB will be presenting Inductors and Capacitors on Thursday, Oct. 11.

The new course coordinator for 2012 is Erik Hein, VE1JEH.

All club members who know of any individual who may want to take the course is asked to refer them to Erik by phone 826-7145 or e-mail, VE1JEH@bellaliant.net



**The HARC's October 17 Meeting** is to be held in the Senior's Room on the 1st floor of the St. Andrew's Centre, 3380 Barnstead Lane, Halifax.

Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m. As usual, refreshments will be available.

From 7:30 p.m. until 8:20 p.m., presentation by Howard Dickson will be "Electronic QSLing". General meeting will begin at 8:30 p.m.

Door prize for this meeting will be a \$20 Gift Card.

**The Montreal Amateur Radio Club (VE2ARC)** is celebrating their **80th anniversary** this year **and** will be presenting the **second annual Radio Talk conference**.

In addition, the Montreal ARC is pleased to host the Annual General Meeting of the Radio Amateurs of Canada which will be held in conjunction with Radio Talk 2012 at the same location.

Radio Talk is an initiative of the MARC's sister club, The West Island Amateur Radio Club (VE2CWI) and is being co-hosted this year by both clubs.

RadioTalk is a day of presentations and displays on topics of interest to the Amateur Radio community. Last year's conference was enthusiastically received by local Amateurs and this year's event promises to be even better.

The Radio Talk conference will begin on Saturday morning at 9 am and will be followed by the RAC AGM in the afternoon and the MARC 80th anniversary celebration that same evening.

This year's event will be held at the St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church, located at 4455 West Broadway, H4B 2A7 (the corner of West Broadway and Terrebonne) in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG) District of Montreal.

Receive regular updates by web browsing to the Radio Talk website.

**The Moncton Area Amateur Radio Club** would like to invite all amateurs to our **Flea Market** which will be held on Saturday Sept.15, 2012. Please note this event used to be held in Shediac, now it is closer to home; our new location is the Riverview Lions Club, 701 Coverdale Road, Riverview, NB.

Here are the usual details for the flea market.

Date: September 15, 2012

Place: Riverview Lions Club,  
701 Coverdale Road,  
Riverview, NB

Time: Vendors 8:00 am

General Admission 10:00 am

Admission: \$4.00 per person

Tables: No Charge

Contact: Charles Levasseur,

VE9CEL ve9cel@rogers.com

Talk in on 147.090 +

*Is a book on voyeurism a peeping tome?*

**RAC Annual General**

The Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Montreal, PQ. It will be hosted by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club (VE2ARC) which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year.

The AGM event will be held in conjunction with the second annual Radio Talk conference which is being held at the same location.

All RAC members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting.

Date: Saturday, September 22, 2012 Time: 4 pm

Place: The AGM will be held in the St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church which is located at 4455 West Broadway, H4B 2A7 (the corner of West Broadway and Terrebonne) in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG) of District of Montreal.

Agenda items will include:

Report of the President

Review of the 2011 finances

Appointment of auditors for 2012

Question and Answer period

RAC's website is at  
[www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca)

This is your opportunity to hear what your representatives have been doing over the past year, to raise questions, and to make suggestions about how RAC is managed and where it is going in the future.

The meeting will be attended by some of the members of the RAC Board of Directors and Executive and is open to all RAC members.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for September 2012**

Here we are at the first week of September; I hope everyone enjoyed the exceptional weather we have had over the past months. It was a quiet period as far as club activities, the two Pizza Nights were fairly well attended, we had 17 guests in July and 11 in August. Everyone enjoyed the Social Evening as well as the Food.

Several Club Members were active in the IOTA Contest in July; a total SDR station was active on Little Tancook Island for the 24 hour period. An enjoyable weekend has had; the Contest results will not be available until late 2012.

The Club was involved with a Sports Car Road Rally in August. It has been several years since we have involved in providing communication for one of these events. The operators who volunteered for this event reported all went well and they enjoyed the event. The Basic Course will begin later in September; Eric Hein, VE1JEH, will be course coordinator. Information is supplied in another section of the Reflector.

Jim Flowers, VE1JIM, has volunteered to act as an additional Examiner on behalf of the Club. We are in the process of having the required paperwork approved by Industry Canada. Thanks to Jim for taking on this responsibility.

Please do not forget that the September Meeting will be held at the EMO Spicer Building in Dartmouth. The entertainment will be a Tour of the Renovated Facility.

Fraser Mac Dougall, VE1WO

**ANTENNA WORK NEEDED**

The set up of the refurbished satellite station will be held up if we do not have someone to make a phasing harness for a pair of 1296 MHz antennas.

I do not really have the time to do this task but once someone has things ready I can check the SWR and other needed parameters of the system.

We need someone who can physically measure, cut and install N connectors on coaxial cable. The club will supply the cable and connectors.

Please contact Bill, VE1MR

Thank you - Bill, VE1MR

*Variation Law: If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).*

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report**

Nothing to report - Bill, VE1MR

**Second Vice-President's Report**

Please note that our September 19, 2012 meeting will be held at the Dartmouth EOC, Room 226, 21 Mount Hope Avenue, Eric Spicer Building, 2nd Floor, Dartmouth, NS, social hour beginning, as usual, at 6:30 p.m. During our 7:30 p.m – 8:20 p.m. time period, Barry Manuel will offer a tour of the EOC.

Betty, VE1BSW

**Station Manager's Report**

Nothing to report.

Jim, VE1JIM

**Report of Director-at-Large**

Nothing to report

- Doug, VE1LDL

**Remote Station for HARC**

The subject of having a Remote Station installation came up over the past Summer at one of the Clubs Informal Meetings. This subject was discussed at the September Executive Meeting. As a result of our discussions it was decided to place a notification in the Reflector to introduce the subject to the membership. We will place this item on the Agenda for the September General meeting for additional discussion.

If the decision is made to proceed the Club will require a Project Manager to identify Equipment Requirements, oversee Equipment Installation, draw up an Operating Procedure and produce and maintain an Operation Schedule. Please feel free to contact the Executive with your input prior to the September Meeting.

**Local School Prepares for September ARISS Contact**

As this current edition of the Reflector goes to distribution the Sacred Hearts School of Halifax will be in the final stages of preparation for the next ARISS contact supported by HARC member and ARISS Canada Mentor Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH.

This contact has been in work for over 1 year and is currently scheduled to take place during the week of September 23 to 29, 2012. Actual day will be announced with 7-10 days lead time to consideration for crew scheduling and on-board operations. Although not official the participating crew member is leaning towards Expedition 32 Flight Engineer and US Astronaut Sunita "Suni" Williams, KD5PLB. With the completion of her 6th spacewalk or EVA on September 5, 2012 Suni holds the record for most accumulated EVA time by a woman (44 hours).

This event will be a telebridge

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3) Local School Prepares for September ARISS Contact

(similar to a conference call) with the up/down link to the ISS supported by one of the over 12 ARISS worldwide network of ground stations. A total of 17 students from grades 6 - 7 are expected to ask questions on topics ranging from the health effects of long duration deployments in low earth orbit (LEO) to thoughts on travel to the neighbouring planets. Provision for 3 additional questions have been made should time allow.

Audio from this event will be available on the VE1HNS repeater (146.940 - ) via Discovery Reflector 9010. Arrangements will be made to bring that audio up at approximately 6 minutes before the scheduled contact time. Listen to upcoming editions of the Take - 15 Net for the latest details.

Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH  
ARISS Canada Mentor

### Safety Note: Motion Induced Blindness...

This is one major reason people in cars can look right at you (when you're on a motorcycle or bicycle) & not see you.

From a former Naval Aviator - "This is a great illustration of what we were taught about scanning outside the cockpit when I went through training back in the '50's. We were told to scan the horizon for a short distance, stop momentarily, and repeat the process. I can remember being told why this was the most effective technique to locate other aircraft. It was emphasized (repeatedly) to NOT fix your gaze for more than a couple of seconds on any single object. The instructors, some of whom were WWII veterans with years of experience, instructed us to continually "keep our eyes moving and our head on a swivel" because this was the best way to survive, not only in combat, but from peacetime hazards (like a midair collision) as well. We basically had to take the advice on faith (until we could experience for ourselves) because the technology to demonstrate it didn't exist at that time." For a demonstration go to <http://www.msf-usa.org/motion.html>

From the RAC Report, Aug. 2012

**Four new Ontario Section Managers:** These appointments/nominations are effective immediately and will be merged into the normal nomination/election process at the end of a two-year term.

Section Manager Ontario North: Allan Boyd, VE3AJB  
Section Manager Ontario East: Michael Hickey, VE3IPC

Section Manager Greater Toronto Area: George Duffield, VE3WJK

Section Manager Ontario South: Ian Snow, VA3QT

### RAC has some positions that need to be filled

- From the RAC Report, Aug. 2012

#### RAC Corporate Secretary

The Radio Amateurs of Canada is looking for a volunteer to fill the role of Corporate Secretary. This position reports directly to the RAC President with a primary function as Secretary to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. This requires high level multi-tasking, dealing with priorities, tracking issues and action items as well as preparing agendas and minutes of various meetings.

If you wish to assist your national organization, work with volunteers and have experience with full suite of Microsoft Office products we want to hear from you.

#### RAC Public Information Officer

The Radio Amateurs of Canada is seeking the services of a Public Information Officer (PIO). This is a voluntary position operating at the national level. Candidates with the following knowledge, skills and abilities will be considered:

- Knowledge of the principles and methods of planning and conducting a public information program

- Knowledge of the media used in public relations

- Ability to plan and conduct a public information program

- Ability to write and edit various forms of promotional and informational material and to develop and/or select other types of media such as films and exhibits

- Ability to discern and collect newsworthy materials, to analyze and evaluate public relations media and methods, and to judge probable public reaction

- Ability to speak effectively in public

- Ability to work effectively with RAC Affiliated Clubs and the RAC national Bulletin Service

#### Treasurer

The Radio Amateurs of Canada is looking for a Treasurer who is a Chartered Accountant, Certified General Accountant or Certified Management Accountant. A certification in Amateur Radio is optional. As RAC's financial advisor, we need someone to provide direction on the accounts and act as liaison with the external auditors. Experience with QuickBooks would be an asset.

Radio Amateurs of Canada is a non-profit corporation providing services to members and has a mandate to enhance Amateur Radio in Canada. 2011 finished with an operating surplus but a slight structural deficit which is on track to be redressed in 2012.

Please speak with your friends, there must be a RAC member who either qualifies or can approach someone for this volunteer position. Certification in Amateur Radio is not a requirement for this position.

Interested parties please contact the RAC Acting Corporate Secretary, Linda Friars, VE9GLF

*Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?*



While vacationing in Oregon this summer, Dick, VE1AI & Sandra and Scott, VE1QD & Sue, stopped into Bend Oregon. Dick and Sandra spent some time with Dick, K4XU and Christine. Dick Frey, K4XU was a guest speaker at one of our DX forums. Dick and Dick go back a long way to 1976 when Dick, K4XU, was chief Engineer at Ten Tec, and Dick, VE1AI was starting R & S Electronics. The photo is on top of Pilot Butte, Bend Oregon. We had a great time and Oregon is indeed one of the best places to visit on the continent.

Left to Right - Christine (XYL K4XU), Sandra (XYL VE1AI), Dick VE1AI, and Dick K4XU.

Dick, VE1AI

**The Keshen Goodman Public Library was calling space and the International Space Station answered.**

On Saturday, June 23, Scouts Canada, Nova Scotia Council in Dartmouth, Canada called on-orbit European Space Agency astronaut Andre Kuipers, PI9ISS during an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact via telebridge station VK5ZAI in Australia operated by Tony Hutchison. All of the scheduled 19 questions were answered with an opportunity for Tony to have a very quick chat with Andre before the Space Station dipped below the eastern horizon of the Pacific Ocean at loss of signal (LOS).

The contact was held as part of a space event with Scouts of various ages in conjunction with groups earning their Science Badge awards. In total there were approximately 200 people in the attendance.

Prior to the commencement of the ARISS contact an informative presentation was made by Paul Heath of the Royal Astronomical Society of

Canada, Halifax Center on how to locate the International Space Station (ISS) in the dawn or dusk sky.

Thanks go to the Keshen Goodman Public Library (and the Halifax Public Library system) for providing support for this their second ARISS contact. To Scouts Canada, Nova Scotia Council for the organization and collection of participants and their questions. To ALLIANT IPTV and ...Of special note were efforts of Mr. Paul Geddes and Students of Charles P. Allen High School, Bedford, Nova Scotia to establish webcasting of the event.

There was excellent media coverage including 3 television stations and two newspapers. A 20 minute radio interview was held with "The Rick Howe Show" on Friday, June 22 on Amateur Radio - ARISS and Field Day Operations.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station is a volunteer program that inspires students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH  
ARISS Canada Mentor



A picture of the new controlled access gate installation at Cowie Hill (access to VE1PSR). Although not yet operational when complete I understand that it will be activated by the use of HRM issued swipe cards.

- Wayne, VE1WPH

Sign on a Plumber's truck



*"Women & cats will do what pleases them. Dogs & men should learn to relax and enjoy it."* - Robert Heinlein

## Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Monthly Meeting of

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Held in the Dance studio at St. Andrews Center

The meeting was declared open at 2034 by Bill Elliott, VE1MR in the absence of President Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO

Silent Keys: - None reported

Approval of Agenda: - Moved by Doug, VE1LDL and seconded by Win, VE1WIN - Motion carried

Visitors: - Ed Fraser, VE7EF - asked to speak to the meeting at some point.

No new members present so went to self introduction of members.

Approval of the May 16<sup>th</sup> General meeting minutes: - Moved by Howard, VE1DHD and seconded by Tom, VE1GTC - Motion carried with no corrections or amendments.

Treasurer's report: John, VE1CDD presented the treasurers report - acceptance moved by Tom, VE1TA and seconded by Erik, VE1JEH - Motion carried.

Executive Reports: - Nothing added to what was printed in the Reflector.

Committee reports:

EMO: - David, VE1AJP - nothing to report.

Search & Rescue: - David, VE1AJP - nothing to report.

Membership: - Carol, VE1HAZ reported - 107 full, 18 associate and 4 life for a total of 129 members.

Ed Fraser, VE7EF gave his background and went on to speak of his previous roles in Amateur Radio, RAC and his current role in tower advisory committee for RAC. He is also Chair of the Radio Amateur Hall of Fame for Radio Amateur of the year.

### Old Business:

Flea Market Report: - 107 tables were used; about 265 attendance.

Car Rally: - Ian, VE1IGP, gave a

short overview of the rally and solicited anyone interested.

Policy for Loan of Club Equipment: Moved by Howard, VE1DHD and seconded by ??? Motion Carried.

Tall Ships 2012: - Dead issue - they never got back to us.

Basic Course Co-ordinator: - Barry, VE1TRI announced that Erik, VE1JEH will take on being course co-ordinator but went on to solicit support for Erik on the beginning while he is not available. He was able to solicit several people to support Erik. Howard, VE1DHD, Carol, VE1HAZ, Tom, VE1GTC and Bill, VE1MR.

Web Page Co-ordinator: - Brandon, VA1BSD will be taking this role on.

### New Business:

Combination Flea market in 2013: - Proposed combined flea market - membership feeling Hamfest suggested but it a major source of income for several of the clubs so there would be very little to distribute. Suggested maybe the DX Forum could be part of it. Moncton suggested as a central location. Potential benefit would be to perhaps attract dealers. Lots of discussion pro and con. Perhaps logistics would be too short a time to organize in 2013 - maybe 2014. Consensus was that a committee should be formed to see if it can be organized for 2013. Bill, VE1MR will pass this along to Fraser, VE1WO.

Approval of Insurance Expenses: - Moved by Tom, VE1TA seconded by Ian, VE1IGP - Motion Carried.

Approval of Field Day Expenses: - Moved by Howard, VE1DHD and seconded by Scott, VE1QD - Motion Carried.

BBQ for Field Day - discussion of best way to dispose of it. It was decided that a silent auction with a reserve price of a minimum of \$100 was the best way to dispose of it.

Halifax on the Air: July 21, 22 - information - towns and cities named Halifax - we will try to be on the air for the event.

We received a thank you card from Helen, VA1YL for the get well card. Obviously it worked since she and Fred, VE1FA, were in attendance.

The HARC trailer repeater will be available for the MS Bike Tour in the same set up as last year.

Door Prize: - \$20 gift certificate for Sobeyes - won by Sheldon, VE1GPY

50/50 draw: - \$23.50 - won by Ed, VE1EGG

Motion to adjourn: - 2130 by Tom, VE1TA

Entertainment before the meeting was by Sheldon, VE1GPY on the upcoming Field Day event at York Redoubt. He went over the site plan, logistics and had several others speak on various aspects such as food and meals, safety etc.

Minutes prepared by Bill Elliott, VE1MR

### IOTA - Islands on the Air - Contest 2012

During the last full weekend of July the Radio Society of Great Britain organizes a unique contest known as IOTA. The mission: contact as many island stations in as many different areas as possible in a 24 hour period. If one works from an approved island location defined by RSGB rules as being "suitably" offshore then that station becomes a *very sought after multiplier station* and the *target of pile-ups!* Land stations that work island stations with unique number groups count as three time multiplier over a land station. Island to island stations count even more.

With that mission in mind and those who chose to accept it were five members of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club along with an amateur from

(Continued on page 7)



### IOTA 2012

#### (Islands on the Air) Contest

Operating from Little Tancook Island were (left to right) Barry VE1TRI, Alan VA1MM, Greg VY2MP, John VE1CDD, Sheldon VE1GPY and Fraser, VE1WO



(Continued from page 6)

PEI. John VE1CDD, Barry VE1TRI, Fraser VE1WO, Alan VA1MM, Sheldon VE1GPY, and Greg VY2MP. The team operated from *Little Tancook Island* a 45 minute ferry ride from Chester (suitably off-shore) as a multi-op *Dxpedition*. That allowed us to enter our desired category and operate from *NA-8I*. For the contest duration we used special call *VC1X*. Al chose the last letter so that it would be distinguishable in morse code and not go missing as a single dit.

All members of the group had fun and worked hard to place well in our category. Two hex beam antennas were erected. Pictures were taken of these antennas when birds used them to perch. They were unique and drew alot of inquisitive glances from the few island residents walking by. Hex beams look like upside down umbrellas as mentioned by island resident

Terry VE1TRL. Other antennas were an 80 meter loop, and two 40 meter inverted V-beams one facing east and the other S-SW. It was mentioned more than once that he would be happy if we decided to donate one of the hex beams.

The radios were three flex radios each with an LCD screen. One Flex was used only as a receive monitor station. Two of the other stations had new solid state Elkraft 500 watt and Auto tuners with ICE-filters. Flex radios allow the user to see strong signals along the band on the screen. The VFO can be tuned to the signal immediately with a mouse click. The Elkraft amps were superb considering all the challenges we had last year with the older tube linears used on Pictou Island as VC1Z, 2011.

We were concerned that the rare DX station operating from ST Paul's would be running in the IOTA contest and drown everyone out. Since they were operating a longer period of time they kindly decided to operate the WARC bands during IOTA.

Compared to last year we had close to two hundred more contacts and about 15 more multipliers giving us almost half a million more points. As of this report we don't know how we placed in our category but significantly better on the bands.

The team ate and drank well. Each member had two meal preparations to add to the order of Good Cheer! It was pleasure to hear some VE1, VO1 and other maritime callsigns in the hunt for us, many thanks.

**From the Mail Bag**



Here's a great web site to pass along to the list. What a neat project this would be to duplicate a radio built from scratch in a canteen by WW-II POW's.

Thanks to my friend, Barry, W6YDK, for forwarding this along.

Paul Cavnar - AE7VT

Built by US POWs in the Philippines in WWII... the things hams will do to play with a radio!

<http://www.n6cc.com/canteen-radio-receiver>

HI Folks,

CBC Radio: 1 just replayed an item on Ham Radio as Proto Social Media kind of interesting though I don't feel its 100% accurate

Go to the following link.

<http://www.cbc.ca/spark/episodes/2012/03/30/spark-178---april-1-4-2012/>

You can download or listen to the whole show or go down the page to Proto Social Media and play it (uses Quicktime)

73, Marc VE1BEL

I found these three video sessions quite good to explain D-STAR in fairly simple terms.

Al Cycles, VE1

[http://arvideonews.com/hrn/HRN\\_Episode\\_0012B.html](http://arvideonews.com/hrn/HRN_Episode_0012B.html)



Did you see this call letter plate and think it a British ham living in Ontario like I did? It is not a proper British call. It is simply Bonnie and Dennis. This breaks down to GiVe 2 the Juvenile Diabetes Federation. - Spud

Good morning Rick,

I want to extend a sincere "Thank you" to you and your HAM Radio Volunteers for coming to help us out this weekend at the 2012 MS Bike Tour! It was great to finally meet you, and to see a couple of familiar faces. All of you are so much fun to be around, it helps keep the atmosphere positive even when things are sometimes hectic. I really enjoyed meeting all of your folks, and I can't wait to do it all over again next year!

Thanks again, and see you in 2013!  
Cheers, Whitney

Whitney Machin, BSc  
Coordinator, Development | Atlantic Division, MS Society of Canada  
Phone: (902) 468-8230 ext. 1008

**For Sale**

I was just talking to George, VE1LB, on the twisted pair. He is over 90 now and wants to get rid of his equipment and does not want much for it.

A3 Beam with Ham 4 rotor (fairly new)

A Kenwood 440 transceiver and A Kenwood Receiver are the main pieces. His phone# is 902-354-4586 if anyone is interested. He has a list of the gear.

73, Spud VE1BC

*Dear Scissors,*

*I feel your pain.....no one wants to run with me either.*

*Sincerely, Sarah Palin*

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



Dear Friends

As a participant in the Easter Seals Nova Scotia's Drop Zone 2012 , I am currently raising funds on behalf of Easter Seals Nova Scotia. My goal is to raise \$2000 in support of programs for children , youth , and adults living with physical disabilities in Nova Scotia. In doing so , on the September 22nd / 23rd , 2012 weekend , I will join other members of the community and rappel BOTH the 1801 Hollis St office tower (23 stories) and the south tower of the MacDonald bridge (330 feet).

100% of the funds raised by participants will stay in Nova Scotia to support children, youth and adults with physical disabilities. Programs supported through this special event fundraiser include fully accessible summer camping , weekly recreation sessions for children and youth , and job skills training for adults with physical disabilities, Easter Seals Nova Scotia's Assistive Devices and Wheelchair Recycling programs provide wheelchairs , assistive devices and home safety aids to Nova Scotians in need.

Any contribution you can provide me to assist me in raising funds for this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated and will help make a difference in the lives of Nova Scotians with disabilities. You can make a donation online with your credit card at [www.easterseals.ns.ca](http://www.easterseals.ns.ca) . Look for the Drop Zone logo. Donations can be made in person or by regular mail. Please make cheques payable to Easter Seals Nova Scotia. Donations over \$15 will receive a tax receipt.

Jeremy, VE1JHFF

*Do you have pictures, an interesting or funny radio-related story, an article or a question you would like to share via the HARC Reflector? Please send it/them to Lynn, at [ve1ent@rac.ca](mailto:ve1ent@rac.ca) Please show "For Reflector" in the "Subject" box so I don't miss it. -ed*





Spud, VE1BC, and John Dilks, K2TQN, on the wharf at Castine, Maine on July 10th, 2012. The ship behind them is the STATE OF MAINE the training ship for the Maine Maritime Academy located at Castine. John has been writing the Old Radio articles in QST since January 2000. John gave a fascinating lecture on the 1923 voyage of the Schooner BOWDOIN to the Arctic at the Castine Historical Society. Amateur Radio provided the communications for this voyage with Don Mix 1TS as the operator in BOWDOIN. One can read about this voyage in my history of HARC and the part HARC played in this voyage. Simply bring up my HARC history on my web site at [www.ve1bc.com](http://www.ve1bc.com) and place WNP in find. I hope to get a good description of this trip to Castine and this lecture written up and have Robert G4PYR put it on my web site.

Spud, VE1BC



Spud VE1BC and Doug N6TQS aboard HMS BOUNTY (Halifax, July 21/12). Spud signed VE0MO as BOUNTY's Radio Officer fifty years ago. Doug is Able Seaman of the watch. There are no Radio Officers. Spud sailed in 12 ships over the years and this is the only one still in service.

Be sure and check out Doug's web sites.  
Spud, VE1BC

It is estimated that the Arctic oil reserves are about 90 billion barrels; only enough to keep the world's engines turning for about 3 years. From an article in the April 28, 2012 Montreal Gazette

**RAC Simulated Emergency Test**

Doug Mercer, VO1DTM – RAC Chief Field Services Officer  
([vo1dtm@rac.ca](mailto:vo1dtm@rac.ca))

The RAC Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is set for October 13-14. This nation wide exercise is the chance to test your emergency operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in an emergency-like deployment. RAC Field Organization Leaders at the Section and local levels, along with many other volunteers who are active in public service and emergency communications, are developing simulated emergency scenarios in consultation with served agencies.

To find out how you can step up and be a part of the local or Section-level activities, contact your Section Manager. You can find contact information for all RAC Section Managers on page 4 of any issue of The Canadian Amateur. For more information on guidelines, preparing and reporting for a SET, forms for RAC Field Leaders are posted on the RAC website.

(from the RAC Report, Aug., 2012)

*"If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun" ~Katharine Hepburn*

## CURIOSITY ROVER LEAVES MORSE CODE ON MARS

PASADENA, Calif. - NASA's Curiosity rover took its first test stroll Wednesday Aug. 22, 2012, and beamed back pictures of its accomplishment in the form of track marks in the Martian soil. Careful inspection of the tracks reveals a unique, repeating pattern, which the rover can use as a visual reference to drive more accurately in barren terrain. The pattern is Morse code for JPL, the abbreviation for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., where the rover was designed and built, and the mission is managed.

"The purpose of the pattern is to create features in the terrain that can be used to visually measure the precise distance between drives," said Matt Heverly, the lead rover driver for Curiosity at JPL.

This driving tool, called visual odometry, allows the rover to use images of landscape features to determine if it has traveled as far as predicted, or if its wheels have slipped. For example, when the rover drives on high slopes or across loose soil, it will routinely stop to check its progress. By measuring its distance relative to dozens of prominent features like pebbles or shadows on rocks -- or patterns in its tracks -- the rover can check how much its wheels may have slipped. If Curiosity has not slipped too much, it can then re-plan the next leg of its drive, taking its actual position into account.

"Visual odometry will enable Curiosity to drive more accurately even in high-slip terrains, aiding its science mission by reaching interesting targets in fewer sols, running slip checks to stop before getting too stuck, and enabling precise driving," said rover driver Mark Maimone, who led the development of the rover's autonomous driving software. The Morse code imprinted on all six

wheels will be particularly handy when the terrain is barren. Curiosity won't be able to read the Morse code symbols in the track marks directly, but it will note that the pattern is a high-contrast feature. This will give the rover the anchor it needs in an otherwise featureless terrain.

"Imagine standing in front of a picket fence, and then closing your eyes and shifting to the side. When you open your eyes, you wouldn't be able to tell how many pickets you passed. If you had one picket that was a different shape though, you could always use that picket as your reference," said Heverly. "With Curiosity, it's a similar problem in featureless terrain like sand dunes. The hole pattern in the wheels gives us one 'big picket' to look at."

NASA's Mars Exploration rovers Spirit and Opportunity also used visual odometry to ensure accurate driving in difficult terrains. Their wheels had been bolted to their landing platform, leaving holes that left distinguishing marks in their tracks. Those marks proved critical for the visual odometry system on Opportunity when it traversed the relatively featureless terrain at Meridian Planum. Opportunity is still trekking on Mars more than eight years after setting down on the Red Planet.

Curiosity likewise has holes in its wheels, only in the shape of Morse code letters.

"Even though Curiosity didn't need to be bolted down, we wanted to have the holes anyway. The mechanical team suggested multiple smaller holes rather than one large one like the Mars Exploration Rovers had, and one earlier design had spelled out letters in a cleat pattern, so I proposed using a Morse code version," said Maimone. "And the rest is history."

JPL manages the Mars Science Laboratory/Curiosity for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. The rover was designed, developed and assembled at JPL, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. More information about Curiosity is online at: <http://www.nasa.gov/msl> and <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl>.

Follow the mission on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/marscuriosity> and on Twitter at: <http://www.twitter.com/marscuriosity>

The holder of a call sign can correct his/her address information or have it unlisted by contacting Industry Canada at 1-888-780-3333, or via email or creating a user account on the Industry Canada website.

Go to the call sign query results page then directly to the page to create your account.

[www.ic.gc.ca/callsign](http://www.ic.gc.ca/callsign)

### RAC Bulletins

Normand Pitre, VE2NHN, has been appointed Section Emergency Coordinator for the Quebec Section

Alan Bauld, VE3CBR, has been appointed Public Information Officer to the RAC Field Organization National Secretariat.

Radio Amateurs of Canada Midwest Region Director, Derek Hay, VE4HAY, is pleased to appoint Allan Grant, VA4AJG, as Deputy Director for the Region.

The Midwest regional includes all the VE4 and VE5 call sign area of Manitoba and Saskatchewan  
- From the RAC Report, Aug. 2012

*Sign In the front yard  
of a Funeral Home:*

"Drive carefully. We'll wait."