

# HARC Supports MS Bike 2017

By Sheldon Page (VE1SJP)

On the weekend of July 29<sup>th</sup>, nine (9) HARC members travelled to Wolfville to provide communications support for the Annapolis Valley MS Bike fundraising event. MS Bike is the largest fundraising cycling series in North America. The dollars raised from the event support research into the cause, treatment, and cure for Multiple Sclerosis, as well as helping to provide related services and programs. This year's event raised a total of \$183,663.72.

HARC has been providing support for this event for many years. Club members provide essential communications support for the event by operating the HARC portable repeater as well as being assigned to various Tour vehicles such as First Aid, Bike Repair, Trail End and Staff Command.



The event was particularly challenging this year as the route changed dramatically from past years. Instead of running from Windsor to Wolfville and back, the route was updated to begin and end at Acadia University in Wolfville. The route varied each day and Sunday's extended course route along the well named "Deep Hollow Road" provided the operators with challenging conditions.

Due to the route change, the traditional operating location for the HARC repeater had to be re-located. A pre-tour siting research trip identified some potential locations

and in the end, the upper Acadia parking lot was chosen. The site provided better security for the HARC equipment and gave easy access to the Acadia facilities for the operators.

The weather for the event could not have been better. The temperatures were moderate for Summer in the Valley and there was no rain. Past years tended to be a mix of high temperature

and humidity plus at least one day of heavy rain. Due to the good riding conditions, the First Aid teams got very little business.

This year's operators were:

VE1GTC	Tom Caithness	Bike Repair 2
VE1HTD	Herb Doane	First Aid 1
VE1LDL	Doug LeBlanc	Bike Repair 1
VE1PHK	Pat Kavanaugh	Trail End Vehicle
VE1PIE	Colleen Prentice	MS Staff
VE1PJW	Peter Whalen	First Aid 2
VE1RGG	Rick Gardiner	Route Marshall
VE1SJP	Sheldon Page	Comms Coordinator
VE1TRB	Terry Bigelow	Repeater Transport

Special thanks goes out to:

- Rick Gardiner as this was his last year with the event. Rick has been the MS Bike Communications Coordinator for many, many years and has decided to hang up his mike and spend some additional quality time with his grandchildren.
- Doug LeBlanc for guiding Rick and myself through the procedure to close up the repeater at the end of the event.
- Pat Kavanaugh for coming incredibly well prepared for his role as the Trail End vehicle.
- Bill Elliot for pre-event consulting and providing information on the operation of the Club repeater.

I greatly appreciated the time and support of this year's operators and look forward to next year's event which is currently scheduled for July 28 and 29, 2018.