



REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895
HALIFAX NS
B3K 5M5

January 2012, Volume 73 Number 1
club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Have a Happy & Healthy 2012



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO	865-4198	fmac@ns.sympatico.ca
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Director-at-Large: - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL		
Club Station Mgr. - Jim Flowers, VE1JIM		ve1jim@ns.sympatico.ca
Past President -		

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - VACANT

QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

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Web page - Frank Smith, VE1FIS frankiansmith@gmail.com

Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 ve1tri@rac.ca

2011 Flea market Chair - David Nimmo, VE1NN dnimmo@bellaliant.net

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Field Day coordinator - VACANT

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Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH

Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Everett Price, VO1DK vo1dk@rac.ca

RAC Section Manager - Jim Langille, VE1JBL (902) 667-1485 ve1jbl@eastlink.ca

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

Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. We would like at least 1 more. **If you want to join**, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



Jan. 15	Emil	VE1ESP
Jan. 22	Bob	VE1PQ
Jan. 29	Win	VE1WIN
Feb. 5	Erik	VE1JEH
Feb. 12	Doug	VE1LDL
Feb. 19	Bruce	VE1MLW

Puzzler - Do you know?

Sometime within the last month or two someone, without fanfare or fuss, has re-sided our "radio" building on Cowie Hill. Thank you!! Well Done!! But who are you ??



The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

The **January General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, January 18, 2012, in our club rooms on the 2nd floor of the, St. Andrew's Centre, 3380 Barnstead Lane, Halifax, at 7:30 p.m. The door prize for the evening will be a rechargeable lantern donated by Fred Archibald (VE1FA).

Following the meeting and light refreshments, the club will hold a Swap Shop/Show and Sale at which members may sell, trade, or give away electronics or other items. "See you all there!"

Guests are welcome.

Sign in a Restaurant window:

"Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

Deadline for submissions to the February Reflector is Saturday, February 4, 2012

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

Events for Your Calendar

February – Guides on the Air

February 25 – “Ham Breakfast” will be held at Tom’s Family Restaurant,

565 Sackville Drive,
Lower Sackville, NS



on Saturday, February 25 at 10:00 a.m. Attendees may choose from the menu or may take advantage of the breakfast buffet. If you are able to attend, **please RSVP** to Betty Caithness by e-mail at

betty.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
or by phone at 477-7081

by Friday, February 17 as the restaurant needs a firm number by Saturday, Feb.18

March – NSARA contest

May 26/12 – DownEast Flea Market
7:00AM Open for Sellers
9:00AM Open for Buyers
Noon - Final Draw & pack up



**ANNUAL MS BIKE TOUR
AND MS WALK**

The Club has again been requested to take part in these Worthwhile Events. Rick Gardner VE1RGG has again agreed to co-ordinate the Bike Tour, but we require a person to co-ordinate the MS walk which takes place in Halifax on May 27 2012. Several club members annually volunteer to provide radio communications. Please consider taking on this task, assistance will be available for you. If you are willing to volunteer. please let me know.

Fraser, VE1WO

A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight..

While attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, ATC asked, "WHAT WAS YOUR LAST KNOWN POSITION?"

Student: "WHEN I WAS NUMBER ONE FOR TAKEOFF."



INPUT Please

As the newly elected 2nd Vice-President of HARC, I would like to solicit your input on two things. First I would like to receive any suggestions you have for the entertainment portion of our meetings, speakers or otherwise.

Second, I would like to put together a Pot Luck Social and Dance for sometime during the year. Before doing so, I would like to know how many members would be interested in attending such an event.

Please let me know your thoughts by e-mail at betty.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca or by telephone at 477-7081.”

Betty Caithness (VE1BSW)

Fleamarket Help Needed

Plans are progressing nicely for the 2012 DownEast Fleamarket but people are needed to do a variety of tasks.

The Saturday, May 26, date has been reserved at the Halifax Forum Bingo Hall. At 7:00 AM the doors will be open for sellers to setup. The doors will open for buyers at 9:00 AM.

Many hands (& minds) really do make light works so please contact FleaMarket Co-ordinator David Nimmo

dnimmo@bellaliant.net
to be a fleamarket volunteer.

And come participate (browse, sell, buy, socialize & “do”) on the day.

**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

Silent Key

Wayne Mills, VE1AGU, lost his fight with cancer Dec.24, 2011. His funeral was held in Dartmouth on Dec.29.

Wayne had been radio amateur for many years. He owned & operated a repeater using the call sign that had been his father’s, VE1NZ, ran phone patches for ships at sea, and was well known in the local ham community

Silent Key

Norm Brooks, VE1NEB, passed away around 7 pm, January 1, 2012.

“He had held a number of calls over the years. He was a navy radioman who took top CW transmitting awards at a NATO naval contest at Bergen Norway. Quite a feat when you consider the navies involved including the RN, USN and so on.” *(Commented by Spud VE1BC)*

Silent Key

Ken Harrison, VE1BFR, died December 17, 2011, in Halifax at 88.

December Anniversary Prefixes
Regrettably, I didn’t see (and thus could not publish) any notification from RAC that, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the CBC and Radio Canada, radio amateurs in Canada were granted permission to use special prefixes for the month of December. Hams with call signs beginning with VA were allowed to use the prefix VG; those call signs beginning with VE could use VX; hams whose call signs with a VO prefix could use XJ, while call signs beginning with VY could use XK. –ed.

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.

*We never really grow up,
we only learn how to act in public.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for January 2012

Here we are at the start of 2012. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and I wish one and all the best in the New Year .

Our Annual Christmas Dinner was a success, we had 40 people present at Fans in Dartmouth, everyone enjoyed the meal and congratulations to Carol, VE1HAZ, on winning the Door Prize .

Plans are progressing well with regard to setting up a station at the Discovery Center. John VE1CCD and I met with them to work out details , the next step will be installing antennas and coax lines. We plan to have the station operational by the end of January.

Anyone wishing to assist with operating please contact John, VE1CDD. Talks are also underway with The Museum of the Atlantic. The 100 Anniversary of the Titanic sinking will be in April. The Club plans on taking part in this event , details are not complete at this time but information will be made available at a later date.

We will be trying something new for the January Club meeting, we will be holding the meeting in the Club Station. The expense of renting the Seniors Room on the first floor has been increasing. This will be a trial run for January. If you have comments, please pass these on to the Executive.

We are still in need of a Secretary for 2012. Please consider taking on this position , there will be a discussion at the January meeting.

Fraser Mac Dougall, VE1WO

Executive Reports for January, 2012

1st Vice President's Report

The repeater building at Cowie Hill has had siding installed. Our thanks to whoever did it. Wayne, VE1WPH has taken on the task to get the dead bolt working on the repeater building and that should be taken care of by the time this report is sent out. While he was at the site I had Wayne turn the VHF repeater squelch up just a touch and this seems to have cured the random key up problem, hopefully it will not affect weak signals very much. There are a couple of other jobs in the works for the repeater building and Wayne, VE1WPH has volunteered to take at least 2 of these jobs on. One is to make a set of steps leading up to the door which is 2 feet off of the ground. The other is to remove the South facing window that is leaking and generally in poor shape.

Thank you - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

Second Vice-President's Report - Betty, VE1BSW

1/ The HARC Christmas Dinner, which was held at Fan's Chinese Restaurant in Dartmouth on December 21, 2011, was a success. Forty people attended and enjoyed good food and good conversation. The door prize, a \$50 gift card from Canadian Tire, was won by Carol Wood (VE1HAZ).

2/ Look for postings in the Reflector and on the HARC website of announcements regarding future meetings which will include door prize information and speaker/entertainment information.

Treasurer's Report

John, VE1CDD

Here is the bank statement.

Starting Bank Balance	\$12,944.38
Income	\$1995.09
Expenses	\$399.46
Closing Bank Balance	\$14,540.01

73, John VE1CDD

From the RAC Report, Dec.2011

New Membership Rates
From Frank Greene – RAC Office Manager

It has been many years but the Radio Amateurs of Canada have finally raised the membership rates.

Rates had previously been raised for United States and International Members to take into account the increased mailing costs for non-Canadian residents.

Canadian membership rates are among the lowest in the world and will remain so. The increase is less than a cup of coffee for most memberships.

These price changes are now reflected on the RAC website.

Membership:

- Full Regular \$52
- Full Family \$25
- Full Blind \$25
- Full Maple Leaf Operator \$100
- Associate Regular \$52
- Associate Family \$25
- Associate Blind \$25
- Associate Corporate \$150
- Associate U.S. \$90
- Associate International \$130

The above Membership Dues are subject to GST and/or HST from your province of residence (15% for Nova Scotia)

The RAC Report e-news update is produced by Radio Amateurs of Canada as a special supplement to The Canadian Amateur magazine.

Subscription options

Our mailing address is:
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Toll free: 1-877-827-4123
Fax: 613-480-6219
Web: www.rac.ca

*Two peanuts walk into a bar,
and one was a salted.*

CG100NS Birthday Party

by John, VE1CDD

This past August HARC had the privilege of helping the Girl Guides celebrate the 100th Birthday of Guiding in Nova Scotia. In honour of the event, HARC applied for and received a special call sign, CG100NS. The guides had a week-long Jamboree at Camp Nedoos in the Musquodoboit Valley. We were invited to attend and establish an Amateur radio station on site. Girls from Nova Scotia, New Zealand and England attended the celebration.

In the early spring, several club members visited the site to scout the location for the station and to determine what repeaters were accessible. With the approval of the guides, we agreed to locate the station in the basement of the Training Centre which is located on highest point of land in the area. This enabled us to access many repeaters. The basement proved to be a very suitable location, cool on the hot summer days and dry on the rainy days.

The station consisted of four operating positions. The SSB position consisted of the IC-746 with matching IC-2KL amplifier and AT-500 auto antenna tuner. The club's IBM T60 laptop and docking station, running N1MM, was used for logging and controlling the ICE filter. Our second SSB station contained Sheldon's (VE1GPY) Software Defined Radio, the Flex 3000, Mac laptop, used for logging, and the club's ICE Filter. The last HF position was the digital position, consisting of an ICE Filter and FT-897D connected to an Acer 8920G dual core laptop. A projector was connected to the laptop, so everyone could see the digital signals on the screen. In the VHF position a number of different mobile VHF

transceivers were used.

Antennas consisted of a 3 element Tri-Band Beam mounted on the club's trailer, a 5 Band Hex Beam on a push-up mast, 40m vertical and Windom in an inverted V configuration. For VHF, we used a J Pole antenna placed at ground level. The Tri-Band Beam was pointed toward the west, while the Hex Beam was pointed toward the east.

Overall, the equipment performed very well, but we lost the pre-amp of the Flex 3000. The inverted V was mounted under the Tri-Band Beam and the induced RF from the Tri-Band Beam proved too much for the pre-amp. A lesson learned the hard way!

John (VE1CDD), Jim (VE1JIM) and Win (VE1WIN) stayed for the entire 10 days, while Barry (VE1TRI) and Sheldon (VE1GPY) joined us for most of the camp. Many volunteers made the set-up and take-down a simple process. Many others dropped by and helped out with the operating, while others left telephone numbers in case they were needed. I hesitate to name them, in case I leave someone out. I apologize if my old memory has failed me. Helen (VA1YL), Betty (VE1BSW), Tom (VE1GTC), Bill (VE1MR), Dave (VE1NN), Doug (VE1LDL), Fraser (VE1WO), Bob (VE1PQ) and Ed (VE1EGG).

Jim (VE1JIM) participated in the YLISSB system each morning, giving the guides a chance to chat with hams in many different provinces/states and countries. On the last day of the jamboree, Jim made a contact with an American Battleship. As it happened, a group of cadets were on board. Since they were basically the same age as the girls, they had lots to chat about. The cadets somehow discovered some of the Guides were visiting New York before flying home. We had to step in and limit the information be-

ing passed between them. What a bunch of old killjoys!

While Jim (VE1JIM) was busy to the west, the other two HF stations shared the Hex Beam and worked European stations either on SSB or PSK. I was pleasantly surprised at how well the guides could type. After a brief explanation of how PSK worked, I could turn the keyboard over to them and sit back and relax. They were certainly quick learners.

Win (VE1WIN) looked after the VHF station and was kept busy assisting the guides in making contacts on the different repeaters. A special thanks to Morgan (VA1MCR) for being there to chat with the guides. Morgan, a newly licence amateur, on summer vacation talked with the girls from other parts of the world. Being girls and close in age, they had plenty to chit-chat about. Over the air, she also introduced them to radio procedures. We were very glad to have her on the air. Morgan was a great coach and made the girls aware that they too could become amateurs.

Barry (VE1TRI), when not on the HF bands, took the opportunity to teach CW to the young ladies. He taught them how to send their name and short messages in CW. And presented them with a certificate once the task was completed.

Doug (VE1LDL) visited the site to demonstrate sending emails via amateur radio using Paclink. This proved to be very popular. The UK Guides took advantage of this opportunity to send emails back home.

One of the laptops ran software showing the orbits of different satellites, including the International Space Station (ISS). The participants were amazed that amateurs had their own satellites in space. After sunset, they had fun scanning the night sky and finding UFO's. No little green men were spotted! Hi

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*Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married.
The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.*

CG100NS Birthday Party (Continued from page 4)

The purpose of this event was to introduce the guides to amateur radio. We had over a 1000 QSO and managed DXCC while having a great time. Some of the guides visited the station as many as four times. Judging by the response, we accomplished our goal to spark an interest in amateur radio. It was a memorable experience, one we will not forget soon.

The Girl Guides of Canada has given a thank-you plaque to the club.



Carl Hodgson, KW4TT, and Fraser, VE1WO, enjoying a morning coffee at a Dartmouth coffee shop. Carl was in the local area over the Christmas period visiting relatives. He was originally from Goldboro, Guysborough Co., leaving the area after the Second World War and has been retired in Holiday, Florida for many years. Carl and I met several years ago when I was down there, through a mutual friend, Ralph, K1EK.

Carl is active on the higher HF Bands, and he informed us he often contacts Amateurs in the Atlantic Provinces .

Fraser Mac Dougall, VE1WO

Photo by Bob, VE1PQ

From the ARRL Letter, Dec.1, 2011

Hams Listen to Mars Science Laboratory Signal

As NASA's Mars Science Laboratory was streaking away from Earth just 7 hours after its Nov.26 launch, amateurs using the AMSAT-DL facility in Bochum, Germany eavesdropped on its 10 GHz telemetry signals. At 21:45 UTC, the spacecraft was about 70,000 miles from Earth, heading for a rendezvous on the red planet in August 2012. James Miller, G3RUH, remotely reconfigured the Bochum tracking and receiving system, aiming the 20 meter parabolic dish antenna toward the Mars Science Laboratory. According to Miller, the signal had a spin-modulation of +/-3.5 Hz at two revolutions per minute. The dish at Bochum is also used by AMSAT-DL to automatically receive real-time solar data from the NASA STEREO A/B satellites. The data is transmitted to a NOAA server in the US via the Internet.

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 bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca Please show "For Reflector" in the "Subject" box so I don't miss it.

Real-Life Irony (with editorial comment) – Iran has been named to the UN's Commission on the Status of Women. ... *That is supposed to be a panel supporting women's rights ... This move ranks right up there with Libya being on the 47-member Human Rights Council and on the UN Commission on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice doesn't it? -ed*

From the RAC Report, Dec.2011

Incoming Radio Amateurs of Canada Executive members for 2012-2013 are:

- RAC President: Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW
- First Vice-President: Ian MacFarquhar, VE9IM
- Chief Field Services Officer: Doug Mercer, VO1DM
- Chief Information & Technology Officer: James Hay, VE2VE
- International Affairs Officer: George Gorsline, VE3YV
- Regulatory Affairs Officer: Bill Gade, VE4WO
- RABC Representative Officer: Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC
- Honourary Legal Counsel: Marcel Mongeon, VA3DDD
- Corporate Secretary: Paul Burggraaf, VO1PRB

There were no candidates for Treasurer, Public Information Officer or the Member Services Officer positions.

From the ARRL Letter Jan.5, 2011

Yaesu's Amateur Radio Division Breaks with Motorola, Changes Name to Yaesu Musen

After four years under the Motorola umbrella, Yaesu has split from that company. According to Vertex Standard President and Chief Executive Officer Jun Hasegawa, effective January1, 2012, Motorola will keep the Vertex Standard Land-Mobile Division, while the amateur, marine and air-band will be under the Yaesu Musen banner. The new company will be known as Yaesu USA in the US.

**The Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Monthly General Meeting
November 16, 2011
MINUTES**

President Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Silent Keys –

Bob Swinwood's father-in-law,
Louis Alphonse Deveau

Approval of Agenda

Motion – THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved by: Dick Grantham (VE1AI);
Seconded by: Erik Hein (VE1JEH).

Motion carried.

Self-Introduction of members – no guests this evening.

Approval of Minutes of the October 19, 2011 monthly meeting.

Motion – THAT the minutes of the October 19, 2011 monthly meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club as published in the November, 2011 edition of the *Reflector* be approved as presented.

Moved by: Howard Dickson (VE1DHD); Seconded by: Jim Flowers (VE1JIM).

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

John Goodwin (VE1CDD) reported that the opening balance was \$16,780.52, expenses for the month were \$431.74, income was \$4,230.36, no outstanding cheques, \$9,200.00 was invested, which results in a closing bank account balance of \$11,379.14. Full report is attached to the "filed" minutes.

Motion – THAT the report of the treasurer be approved.

Moved by: John Goodwin (VE1CDD); Seconded by: Bill Elliott (VE1MR).

*Quotes By George Burns
May 29, 1903 - July 27, 2003*

On why he chose SHOWBIZ for his career "When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, 'Congratulations. You have an eight-pound ham'."

Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

Reports of the President, First Vice President, Past President, and Secretary were posted in the November Reflector. Station Manager, Wayne Harasimovitch (VE1WPH) was absent – No report. Second Vice President, Rod Padmore (VE1BSK) was absent – no report. Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) reported that the HARC Christmas dinner will take place at Fan's Chinese Restaurant, Windmill Road, Dartmouth, on December 21 (third Wednesday of the month) at 6:30 p.m. for 7:00 p.m. Everyone will order individually from the menu. Please e-mail or telephone Betty Caithness if you plan to attend so that she can give the restaurant an approximate number of attendees.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Carol Wood (VE1HAZ) provided her report to the executive and it is attached to these minutes. For 2010/2011, the club has 106 fully paid up members as well as 28 associate members and 4 lifetime members.

Basic Course – Barry Diggins (VE1TRI) reported that everything is going well. There are four classes left and the students will write their exam on Saturday, December 10. Discussion.

EMO – David George (VE1AJP) reported that he is preparing an article for the call book on putting together an emergency kit. He has done some research on what the best batteries are and found that the Energizer Lithium Advanced provide the best results.

Search and Rescue – Dave George (VE1AJP) reported on two searches. One was for two young men who went into the woods in a jeep that stopped working. They found a cabin to stay in overnight and then walked out to a road the next morning. A trucker picked them up and took them home. Neither the young men nor the trucker

knew until they got home that search and rescue team was looking for them. The second search was undertaken in the Amber Kerwin matter. Discussion of the technology used in this search.

Call Book – Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) reported that everything is on schedule. However there are concerns that we are not getting as many advertisers as in previous years. Howard pointed out that the advertising pays for the printing costs so the committee may decide to print fewer copies this time. In the past, 1,000 copies have been ordered but we never sell all the copies. Howard suggested that we might order 800 copies this time. Howard said that in the past HARC has offered other clubs a discount on bulk purchases so they can sell to their members at full price and make a little profit but isn't sure whether we will be able to afford to do that this time. Scott Wood (VE1QD) is working on advertising for the call book. He has accumulated, with help from a number of people, about \$4,200 in ads so far. He expects that he will be able to up that to \$6,500 without too much problem. The hope is that the figure can be pushed to \$9,000 which would cover our publication costs. One of the problems is that our two biggest advertisers, Durham Radio and Radio World, are not going to advertise this time. Scott has to find a way to make up for these ads. The cut off for ads is the end of February, 2012. Scott asks that anyone who thinks they know of someone who might like to advertise, to please let him know so he can make the contact. Discussion.

Strategic Planning Committee – Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) reported that David Nimmo (VE1NN), who was absent from this meeting, will be taking over this committee in January.

Down East Flea Market 2012 – David Nimmo (VE1NN) will be chairing this committee. Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) reported in

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Minutes (Continued from page 6)

David's absence, that the Flea Market will be held at the Forum on May 26

HRM Storage of HARC Materials – Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) reported that his HRM contact has gone on maternity leave and that he will be in touch with her replacement to find out exactly what HRM is willing to archive. Meanwhile, the plan is for Spud Roscoe (VE1BC) to go to the Bloomfield Centre, go through what is there, and then bring back two or three boxes of material at a time to the club to be sorted. Material suitable for archive will be kept and other material to be destroyed. Spud will gather material from the club station and from members as well. Spud has two helpers now, Sam Semple (VE1YVN) and Wayne Catchpaugh (VE1WC).

Old Business:

Discovery Center – John Goodwin (VE1CDD) reported that we finally have the go ahead to put up a roof antenna. Our station location will be on the third floor right at the top of the stairs where the station will be highly visible. At the moment, John is working on mounts for the antenna. This project should go ahead after the first of the year. The trial period should last about four or five months for four hours once a week. Then, the Discovery Center will have to evaluate whether they want to have a permanent station which they will need to install and staff.

Whyalla Amateur Radio Club – Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) has not heard back from the co-ordinator of this event. This anniversary of the launch of the corvette, HMF Whyalla, is to take place on January 7 and 8, 2012. Fraser will continue to try to be in touch with the co-ordinator to set exact times, frequencies and modes for the contact.

New Business:

Titanic 100th Anniversary – John Goodwin (VE1CDD) reported that the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

will be observing the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic on April 14 and 15. It has been decided that we will apply for a special call sign for the month of April for use in connection with this event. The Museum would like us to display our hobby with a special emphasis on CW since that is what was used on the Titanic. Discussion.

RAC Insurance - Fraser MacDougall reported that RAC has once again made changes to their insurance program. They will be adding auto, health, and travel insurances. It was agreed that we should invite Ian MacFarquar, the RAC insurance rep, to come to a meeting to speak to us about these additions.

50/50 Draw - \$22.50 was won by Cyril Boudreau (VE1AFB).

Door prize – In the absence of Rod Padmore (VE1BSK) no door prize was available. In any event, the draw was made and a prize will be provided to David George (VE1AJP) who was the winner.

There being no further business, on a motion by Doug LeBlanc (VE1LDL), the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Social break followed by the HARC Annual General Meeting and Elections.

Respectfully submitted.
Betty Caithness – VE1BSW

Neptune, the 8th planet in our solar system, has completed its first orbit of the sun since astronomer Johann Galle confirmed the existence of that planet on Sept.23, 1846.

At an average distance from the sun of about 4.5 billion kilometres, Neptune completes one orbit of the sun every 165 Earth years.

Source: the Montreal Gazette,
Sept.13, 2011

The Canada Revenue Agency reminds Canadians to **beware of phishing schemes.**

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) warns all Canadians to beware of telephone calls, mail, or email that claim to be from the CRA but are not. These are phishing scams that could result in identity thefts.

Canadians should especially beware of phishing scams asking for their personal information, such as a social insurance, credit card, bank account, and passport numbers. Some of these scams ask for this personal information directly, and others refer the taxpayer to a Web site resembling the CRA's where the person is asked to verify their identity by entering personal information.

An email scam that has been recently circulating notifies taxpayers that a complaint containing evidence of involvement in tax evasion has been filed against them and the company with which they are affiliated by using the Informant Leads Program. This email is not from the CRA. The CRA's Informant Leads Program Web page warns taxpayers about this scam.

The CRA has well-established practices to protect the confidentiality of taxpayer information. For more information about security of taxpayer information and examples of fraudulent communications, go to www.cra.gc.ca/security.

Anyone who receives a suspicious communication should immediately report it to info@antifraudcentre.ca or to the institution that it appears to be from.

For information on scams, to report deceptive telemarketing, and if personal or financial information has been unwittingly provided, go to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Web page at: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams-fraudes/phishing-eng.htm.

You know it's the 21st century when Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.

From the Mail Bag

Greetings all Maritime ARC's,
*** NOTICE ***

It is coming up as my 4th anniversary as RAC Section Manager for the Maritimes. I have had a great time promoting Radio Amateurs of Canada throughout the Maritimes. I have made some inroads over my term and have met many amateurs along the way. There are still a few areas that need to be better served, and it is time to have someone with new energy to take this on. There are many changes taking part at RAC and I think it is for the better.

I will not be re offering as SM when my term ends in March of 2012.

This is a great opportunity for someone who is a member of RAC to stand up and volunteer to be part of the new RAC and Section Manager for the Maritime provinces. All the information about becoming a RAC Section Manager can be found on the RAC website. You can also contact Doug Mercer VO1DTM Vice-President Field Services at Box 1042 Goulds, NL A1S 1H2 Tel: 709-364-4741 E-mail: vo1dtm@hotmail.com

I will continue to serve the Maritimes and RAC to my best till my term is up.

If you are interested in taking on this position, please contact me at any time. I will help you along the way and be there to offer assistance.

I will continue the Maritime Amateur Website as I find this very rewarding.

I am asking everyone who reads this posting to take this info to their clubs and discuss it with their members.

Happy New Year,

James (Jim) Langille VE1JBL
RAC Section Manager: Maritimes
Phone: 902-667-1485
E-mail: ve1jbl@eastlink.ca

*Change is inevitable,
except from a vending machine.*

From Ken, VY2RU

In this video Thilo Kootz DL9KCE demonstrates the interference that can be caused by LED light bulbs. Watch LED light bulb interference:
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/january2012/led_light_bulb_interference.htm

Also see 2010 - Interference from light emitting diode (LED) technology:
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/august2010/led_interference.htm

LED Light Bulb Interference....

Have you seen this one ...

Ham radio licenses are at an all time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the United States, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/11/17/radio-days-are-back-ham-radio-licenses-at-all-time-high/>

73, Sheldon VE1GPY

Have you seen this \$25 computer!

<http://www.digitaltrends.com/computing/david-braben-develops-25-for-schoolchildren/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=te8jt-jUkm8&feature=player_embedded

<http://www.raspberrypi.org/>

73, John VE1CDD

From the ARRL Letter, Dec.1, 2011

DXpedition to Be Extended

The HK0NA DXpedition to Malpelo -- an island located approximately 235 miles from Colombia's Pacific coast -- is scheduled for early 2012. Organized by the DX Radio Amateur Club out of Colombia, the DXpedition boasts an international team of 16 operators from eight countries. According to DXpedition leader Jorge Prieto, HK1R it is highly unlikely that the various Colombian authorities will permit another DXpedition to Malpelo anytime soon. With this in mind, he said that the dates of the DXpedition will be extended by two to three days from the previous 12-14 day plan. The approximate dates of operations will be January 21-February 5/6, 2012. Operations are planned on 160-6 meters on CW, SSB and Digital modes, including EME. Malpelo is currently #12 on DX Magazine's 100 Most Needed Countries Survey.

From the ARRL Letter Jan.5, 2011

Amateur Radio Makes Its Debut on "Last Man Standing"

The Jan.3 episode of Last Man Standing (ABC hit comedy starring Tim Allen as Mike Baxter, KA0XTT) showed Mike's shack in the background. Viewers could see the DXCC, Worked All States, Worked All Continents and the Morse Code Proficiency Certificates (courtesy of the ARRL) in the first scene. Later on in the show, Mike records his video blog. Sharp-eyed viewers spotted the 2011 ARRL Handbook underneath the mini-tripod, next to issues of QST!

In the opening scene of the Jan.3 episode viewers get their first glimpse of Mike's shack with his impressive wall of ARRL awards and his QSL card collection.

The Jan.17 episode will introduce Mike Baxter as KA0XTT. According to the show's Producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, Mike will have a QSO on the show. "We had two Amateur Extra class staff members complete a QSO on 10 meters and we recorded it," Amodeo explained. "Unfortunately, we were set up on a stage that is basically a Faraday cage. The very QRP signal made it radio-to-radio. We varied the RIT [receiver incremental tuning] to give it a little extra SSB sound, but I don't think the signal made it much past the stage walls. The recording will be on the show. We thought our ham viewers would get a kick out of it. Non-hams will think it's just distorted.

Global QSLing

Just when you thought that electronic QSLing was the way of the future, along comes an ingenious approach to the age-old paper QSL – *Global QSL*.

For anyone contemplating the purchase of a batch of QSL cards, you might want to have a look at the *Global* website first – <http://www.globalqsl.com/> They have a truly amazing product. It works like this. You download their QSL card design software onto your computer and design your own card using their editor. They have a bank of background images that you can choose from, or you can use your own images. And, you can change your card design at any time. Then, for bureau cards, you simply upload an ADIF file containing those QSOs that you want to confirm, and *Global* prints the cards with your data and deliver them for you to the appropriate incoming QSL bureaus around the world – all this for the price of getting cards printed the old fashioned way – actually a better price than we are currently getting locally. It almost sounds too good to be true! And, for direct cards, *Global* will print a batch of your cards (multiples of 100 or 1000) without any data and send them to you by air mail. You can feed those into your

printer and mail them out as usual. This is an amazing system for sure.

For those wondering about the creation of the ADIF file that the printer uses, it is very simple. For example, with DX4Win, when you set print flags for the QSOs that you plan on responding to, you can either print labels, OR, you can export that data as an ADIF file – ostensibly for uploading to the ARRL's *Log Book of the World*, but this same ADIF file can also be used by the *Global QSL* card printer.

I had a look at their pricing and was pleasantly surprised. The *Global* system is much less expensive than what I am currently paying for 1000 cards and then in addition I have the expense of the printer labels, my time, and the cost of mailing the cards to the Outgoing QSL Bureau in Ottawa; but remember, you need to be a member of RAC to use the Outgoing Bureau, and there are now those added charges that RAC has recently imposed on special call signs and excess cards above their new card quota.

I still have a pile of printed cards on hand for my two calls, but when they run out *Global* will be the way for me.

Howard – VE1DHD

From the ARRL Letter Jan.5, 2011 ARISSat-1 Re-enters Earth's Atmosphere, Falls Silent

According to AMSAT, ARISSat-1 stopped transmitting on the morning of Jan.4. It is believed that the satellite re-entered the Earth's atmosphere around 0700 UTC (+/- three hours) and was destroyed soon after. Telemetry reports showed that the temperature aboard ARISSat-1 had been rising as the atmospheric drag began to affect the satellite. The predicted decay location is an open part of the South Atlantic, well west of Angola.

Konstantin Vladimirovich, RN3ZF, sent a reception report of a pass at 0842 UTC and stated, "The telemetry was absent, voice messages were not legible, very silent and interrupted. Most likely, I saw the last minutes in the life of the satellite." The last full telemetry captured was received from ground stations as the satellite passed over Japan at 0602 UTC on Jan.4.

ARISSat-1 was deployed from the International Space Station on Aug.3, 2011 during EVA-29 on by Cosmonaut/Flight Engineers Sergei Volkov, RU3DIS, and Alexander Samokutyaev. The satellite carried a student experiment from Kursk State University in Russia that measured atmospheric density. Students from around the world provided the voices for the FM voice announcements.

AMSAT President Barry Baines, WD4ASW, said that ARISSat-1 marked a new type of satellite that captured the attention of the national space agencies around the world. "With ARISSat-1, we have we have been able to design, launch, and operate a unique educational opportunity," he explained. "By designing an educational mission aligned with NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics goals, radio amateurs around the world have been able to enjoy a new satellite in orbit."

ARISSat-1 achieved several "firsts" for Amateur Radio in space, including the first flight test of the AMSAT

(Continued on page 10)

From the ARRL Letter Dec., 2011 **The End of OSCAR 51 Mission**

FM repeater satellite AMSAT-OSCAR 51 has likely reached the end of its operational lifespan. AMSAT-NA Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, issued the following statement on Nov.29: "with a heavy heart I report that AO-51 has ceased transmission and is not responding to commands. The last telemetry data indicated that the 3rd of 6 batteries was approaching failure to short (the voltage from 3 cells is insufficient to power the UHF transmitters). The IHU [internal housekeeping unit] may continue to be operative. Initial tests with the S band transmitter were also not positive, although more attempts are in order. We have tried leaving the satellite in an expected state where if voltages climb high enough, the 435.150 transmitter may possibly be heard. The command team will regularly attempt communications with the satellite over the coming months (and years). There is always the possibility that a cell will open and we could once again talk to our friend while illuminated. Thanks to all who helped fund, design, build, launch, command, and operate AO-51. Its 7 year mission has been extraordinary.

OSCAR 51, launched in 2004, became one of the most popular Amateur Radio satellites ever created.

From the ARRL Letter, Dec.8, 2011
FASTRAC-1 Satellite Digipeater Active
 As of 1600 UTC December 2, the FASTRAC-1 satellite (FO-69) is open for use as a packet radio digipeater. Anyone with a 1200 baud packet TNC and a VHF/UHF FM transceiver can try it. If you own satellite tracking software, you'll find the latest orbital elements on the FASTRAC Web site. FASTRAC-1 receives at 145.825 MHz and transmits at 437.345 MHz. The digipeater alias is FAST1. To connect to ARRL Headquarters station W1AW through FASTRAC-1, for example, you would send the following packet:
C W1AW VIA FAST1
 Reports of your results are welcome via e-mail, or at the FASTRAC Facebook page.

conversation overheard on the VHF Guard (emergency) frequency 121.5 MHz while flying from Europe to Dubai.

Iranian Air Defense Site: *'Unknown aircraft you are in Iranian airspace. Identify yourself.'*
 Aircraft: *'This is a United States aircraft. I am in Iraqi airspace.'*
 Air Defense Site: *'You are in Iranian airspace. If you do not depart our airspace we will launch interceptor aircraft!'*
 Aircraft: *'This is a United States Marine Corps FA-18 fighter. Send 'em up, I'll wait!'*
 Air Defense Site: *(... total silence)*



(Continued from page 9)
 Software Defined Transponder, which included an FM voice downlink cycling between student messages, spoken telemetry and SSTV; a 16 kHz bandwidth linear transponder; a CW beacon carrying telemetry and call signs of radio amateurs (noting their significant contributions to Amateur Radio in space) and a robust, forward-error-corrected 1kbps BPSK digital downlink carrying satellite telemetry and Kursk experiment telemetry.

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.



The membership year is from January 1 to December 31.
All members receive the newsletter.

HALIFAX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP - For 2012

- Same address as last year New address
- I would like newsletter as PDF E-Mail (Please note by taking newsletter online you save the Club significant mailing and printing costs and most photos are in colour)

E Mail Address *(Please provide for our files)*

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Fees: Full Member, must be a licensed Amateur (\$25.00) Associate member (Non Voting) (\$15.00)

Family membership (one newsletter) (\$25.00) + \$10.00 each additional person. Amount submitted \$

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