



REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

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club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



The 2007 Downeast Flea Market Will Be Held on May 12



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Peter Whalen, VE1PJW	443-5906	ve1pjw@rac.ca
Secretary - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	tвомacds@ns.sympatico.ca
Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Director-at-Large: - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL	465-4665	leblanc@accesscable.net
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ	860-4454	bob_swinwood@hotmail.com

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

75th Anniversary Chair - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ	bob_swinwood@hotmail.com	
Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - VACANT		
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
2007 Flea market Chair - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	bdiggins@chebucto.ns.ca	
Field Day coordinator - John Hopkins, VE1HMH	john.hopkins@ns.sympatico.ca	
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB	ve1trb@rac.ca	
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	
RAC Atlantic Dir. (acting) - Len, VE9MY (506) 847-5656	lmorgan@nbnet.nb.ca	
NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation.

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



April	15	Pierre	VE1PTR
April	22	Peter	VE1PJW
April	29	Bruce	VE1MLW
May	6	Herb	VE1HX
May	13	Wayne	VE1WPH
May	20	Win	VE1WIN

In 2008 we'll celebrate the **Halifax Amateur Club's 75 years** of operation. Bob, VE1PQ, is chairing the planning committee. Contact Bob to become part of the planning and the doing.

Law of Biomechanics: The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Deadline for submissions to the May Reflector is Saturday, May 5, 2007

The **General Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola Streets).

The meeting, will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room.

The evening's entertainment will be receiving antennas for the low bands by Fred Archibald, VE1FA.

Guests are welcome.

Celebrated each **April 18, World Amateur Radio Day** marks the anniversary of the founding of the IARU in 1925 and provides an opportunity to present a positive image of Amateur Radio to the general public.

HARC membership dues

Yearly rates are as follows:

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

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:

EMO Net: at 7:30 PM on 147.270 +
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM on 147.270 + (VE1PSR/VHF)

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -
access tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

Events for Your Calendar

All year – **Work 40 YLs Challenge!**

May 6 – The **Halifax Super Cities WALK for MS**. Liaison and co-ordinator for this event is Terry, VE1TRB. If you wish to help out, please contact Terry ve1trb@rac.ca

2007 Downeast Flea Market – The Halifax Forum has confirmed our reservation for Saturday, May 12.; Social get together Friday evening. Barry, VE1TRI, is chairing this event. Contact Barry to help.

June 23, 24 – **The ARRL Field Day** John, VE1HMH is the co-ordinator this year, contact him to volunteer your help with the organizing.

July 9 & 10 – **International Museum Ships Weekend**

July 28 & 29 - **IOTA**

July 28 & 29 - The **MS Bike Tour** participants need amateur radio operators with our gear and skills for safety and “logistical” purposes. The HARC has been asked to continue our tradition of providing communications for the 2007 NS RONA MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Bike Tour. Emil, VE1ESP & David, VE1EDA will coliasse for this event. If you wish to help out, please contact them.

For more information visit www.mssociety.ca/atlantic

August 19, 2007 (Sunday) - The sixth **International Lighthouse Day** promoting our maritime heritage; raising the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids.

See www.illw.net/2007_list.htm
And the Association of Lighthouse Keepers website www.alk.org.uk



*Understanding Engineers
- Take Two*

*What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers?
Mechanical engineers build weapons and civil engineers build targets.*

The 24th Down East Flea Market

When: May 12th
Where: at the Halifax Forum Complex (Multi Purpose Room).

Doors will open at 0630 for sellers and 0900 for buyers

Admission: \$4.00 per person
Tables will be free for sellers. Anyone seeking tables are invited to contact Dave (VE1NN).



ALQ and Durham Radio have promised to be there

Two Industry Canada Employees, Phil Amirault and George Hastings will attend. They will bring the IC truck and will have a table.

There will be talks as follows:
At 1015 – Scanners and Emergency Communications by David George, VE1AJP; & Matt Boyle, VE1BSG
At 1115 - Geocaching by Carolyn Sparling, VE1FRG; and Jim Cyr, VA1CYR

The **NSARA meeting** will take place at the end of the fleamarket

A social event will be held on Friday evening at the Chebucto Inn Restaurant/Bar at 1930 hours and join fellow hams for breakfast on Saturday morning at the Steak & Stein Restaurant at 0730 hours (prior to Flea Market opening).

Volunteers are needed.
Interested members are asked to contact Barry (VE1TRI).

Work 40 YLs Challenge!

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (CLARA) work & log 40 YLs in 2007! The contacts can be on any band, any mode, including VHF through a repeater, Echolink, etc. There is no CLARA membership requirement,. OM's can earn the certificate as well as YLs. It is legitimate to make contacts on nets, repeaters, scheduled contacts. Contact Helen VA1YL va1yl@rac.ca if you want to make or join a sched.

Nametags bearing the club logo are available for \$5.00. If interested, please contact Dave, VE1NN

New Brunswick

Spring Fleamarket & Hamfest

When: Saturday May 26, 2007
Where: Quispamsis Middle School
189 Pettingill Road, Quispamsis, NB
Public 9:30AM, Vendors 8:30AM
Cost: Admission only \$3; Tables \$2
Talk-in: 147.270+

The New England Amateur Radio Festival (**NEAR-Fest**) will hold its Spring 2007 get-together & flea market on Friday May 4th & Saturday May 5th at the Deerfield Fairgrounds located on Highway 43 in the Town of Deerfield, New Hampshire.

The 58th annual **International DX Convention** will take place April 27 to 29 in Visalia, California.

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

Puzzler - Do you know

What was the Joan-Eleanor radio system?



Answer on page 3

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 11.
AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY SHUT DOWN IN IRAQ

Iraq Amateur Radio Society (IARS) President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, has informed the ARRL that all Amateur Radio activity in Iraq has been suspended until the security situation there improves. The ham radio blackout began the week of March 11.

Sayah says the suspension affects Iraqi citizens as well as any foreigners, including military personnel and contractors who have been on the air from Iraq identifying with YI9-prefix call signs. It does not affect the operation of Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) stations which operate on military, not amateur frequencies. The IARS is informing its member to stay off the air. Some Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here - at least it should be after cleaning a foot of snow from the driveway. Now is the time to start thinking of putting up new antennas, refurbishing those that have winter damage and testing them all out for the coming year. Consider putting up an antenna for a new to you band or improving what you already have. Time and money spent on antennas is worth about 10 times that spent on increasing power output with the added plus of increasing receive signal. QRP enthusiasts have known this for a long time.

The club has recently received word that we will be moving this year. We are not sure where we will be going yet - we will be negotiating with the city in the next week or so. We do have some options and will be carefully considering these options - weighing the pros and cons of each option.

The VE1/VE0 QSL bureau will be housed at the club station and there will be work parties required to do an initial sort, to do a final sort and recording and to do mail outs. We still require an over all manager for the bureau. Generally most bureau tasks can be done by several people, but here still needs to be one person in charge and responsible for record keeping. We will also need volunteers to man the bureau table at the flea market.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

Shut Down in Iraq (Continued from page2)

like IRLP & EchoLink still are okay to use, as long as they don't involve transmitting a signal over the air.

Direction to halt all ham radio activity and the issuance of licenses in Iraq originated with a letter from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as part of the new Baghdad security plan

Sayah said the government wanted radio amateurs in Iraq to send all ham radio equipment to the IARS until the security situation improved, but he's advising hams in Iraq to hang onto their gear. "Because we had the security plan going, no one can carry his equipment; and all checkpoints belong to the Ministry of Defense. Besides, the location of our Society is not safe to keep members' equipment."

Sayah also has reached out to the worldwide Amateur Radio community to use its influence to reverse the Iraqi government policy.



Answer to Puzzler on p.2

The Joan-Eleanor radio system was a pair of transceivers developed in late 1942 during the war. One for use by an agent on the ground, and the other mounted in an aircraft flying overhead. The system would be in the UHF band, since it was known that the Germans could not effectively monitor those frequencies. The agent would make his report using plain speech, and the aircraft would record the transmission on a wire recorder. Since Morse was not needed, the agent's training time was greatly reduced, which was considered a valuable feature in the German theater. In addition, the aircraft could ask for immediate clarification on certain points, without the delay of encryption and decryption.

For more information:
<http://www.militaryradio.com/spyradio/joaneleanor.html>

The HARC Membership List
 is now on the HARC Website

The list of HARC members is now posted on the Members page of the HARC website www.halifax-arc.org.

The listing includes name and callsign of each member. The members that are currently listed are those who have paid their membership dues for 2007. Have a look. The list is updated at the end of each month. If your name is not there and you have paid your dues for 2007, please drop Howard (VE1DHD) an email at: VE1DHD@RAC.ca, and let him know so he can fix the problem. If your name is not on the list because you have not paid your 2007 membership dues, please consider renewing now. Send Howard a cheque and he will get your name up on the website by the end of the month.

March 15/07 Robert Rochte, KC8UCH, released a balloon carry amateur radio equipment from near Detroit, MI. It landed in New Brunswick, far short of its hoped for European destination.

Reed Park VE1NU and Mike MacDonald VE1ASE tracked down and retrieved the balloon and its payload in the bush near Pre d'En Haut.

Go to <http://www.ve9tca.org/> and click on News.



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, # 13, March 30, 2007

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit:
 DX0JP (Spratly Islands, 2007 op.)
 9M4SDX (Spratly Islands, 2007 op.)
 9U9Z (Burundi, 2007 operation)
 W0DX (Aves Island, 2007 operation)
 1A4A (Sovereign Military Order Of Malta, 2007 operation).

For more information, visit the DXCC Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>>.

2007 AMSAT Symposium & Annual Meeting will take place in Pittsburgh.

A 3-year old boy's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.

Safety Corner April 2007

By Terry, VE1TRB



We seem to have pretty well made it through the winter, and I hear spring is supposed to be here now although you'd never know it. Now is the time to start looking around to see what damage the frost, wind, and the lack of snow has caused us. Not only do we want to look around the yard itself, but we also want to look up at those fine pieces of art we call towers and antennas. We want to take a look at the grounding systems to make sure everything is still connected. It might be a good idea to give all the connecting points a twist or two to make sure they are still in fact connected, to the tower legs, the bases of the antennas, ground rods, and even the grounding points we have in the shack. There may be a need to repair some connection points in your ground system, so make sure you look closely at all your connections. If you are not sure what you are looking for, be sure you ask someone for assistance.

For those of us that enjoy our great hobby above ground level (this is a different ground than I was talking about earlier), now is a good time to pull out all of our safety gear that we trust with our lives and make sure all is well. Check all the buckles, straps, sewing, splices etc and make sure all is ready for this coming season. I'm sure someone is going to call some of us to repair or replace an antenna or two, or to conduct a survey of a tower somewhere. The club has a High Angle Rescue (HAR) Kit that must be made available whenever we work above ground at a public place or on government property. Even some privately owned organizations require a HAR plan to be in place.

Here's a neat little thing I read in my "Handy" magazine (Handyman Club of America). If you happen to work on electrical circuits in your home, you might want to mark the circuit breaker number on the back of the switch plate or plug plate that corresponds to that circuit. This way, when you remove the cover plate, you'll automatically know which circuit breaker to shut off before working on the circuit. Just use a fine tipped permanent marker on the inner surface of the plate.

I'm wondering if there are any club members that are able and willing to write a factual entry in the Reflector to do with RF safety. The write-up will have to be written in terms that most of us will be able to understand, with examples at various frequencies, power levels, and distances. The other requirement will be a comparison with real life, and Safety Code 6. This write-up doesn't have to be in just one Reflector, in fact I suspect it will take 2 or 3 to complete. I know we have some experts and professionals in this field. If you are up to the challenge, please email me.

REMEMBER SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

If you have any comments or questions that you would like to see addressed in this column, please feel free to send me an email. ve1trb@rac.ca

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 14 April 6, 2007

Several Amateur Radio special event operations – April 14 & 15 – are scheduled to mark the 95th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic.

* Special event W0S <<http://www.wzeros.com/>> will be on the air from the Titanic Museum (Missouri) from 1300 UTC April 14 to 2400 UTC April 15.

* GB2MGY will be on the air from Belfast, Northern Ireland.

* In Titanic wireless operator Jack Phillips' home town of Godalming, England <<http://www.veyvalleyarg.org.uk>> special event station GB95MGY

* Special event station W1MGY will be on the air from the Titanic Historical Society Museum in Massachusetts

Time to do it – e-QSLing that is!

Join the ARRL Logbook of the World!

By D. Howard Dickson – VE1DHD

While I realise that many Hams still like the looks and feel of a rare and uniquely designed QSL card, and with full-colour printing available at reasonable cost, there are some tremendously interesting and unique cards out there. However, the cost of QSLing, particularly when it comes to responding to literally thousands of requests following a DX-pedition, or just simply trying to get your first DXCC confirmation, is rapidly becoming just too expensive, in both time and money, for most of us. However, there is now an alternative to the traditional QSL card and that is electronic or e-QSLing.

One of the factors that has inhibited the growth and acceptance of electronic QSLing to this point has been the reluctance of ARRL to accept this form of confirmation of a contact for award purposes; the fear being that electronic systems could be abused.

However, significant pressure from the community has encouraged ARRL to develop its own electronic log checking system – "*Logbook of the World (LotW)*" – and that system was introduced in late 2003 and has worked flawlessly now for over four years. Currently (March



21, 2007) there are 146970 Callsigns listed in the database from 301 countries around the world. And if you go to the ARRL website, you will see that there are now over 75 million QSLs logged in the Logbook of the World database. So ... I was wondering, how many Canadians, and more importantly, how many VE1s were using the system. Turns out that there is a neat website:

<http://www.baseportal.com/cgi-bin/baseportal.pl?htx=/billbeggs/main>

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HF & Dxing

Well last month was great for DX again. Everyone was working new countries and new band countries (new on that band).

One of the rarest was ZL7/KH0PR on 20M CW. at 0321Z working split frequency.

Yes Split frequency ... what does that mean?

Well a rare DX station will be called by thousands and perhaps even tens of thousands of stations, there is no way to measure how big those pileups get. The DX station will then opt to go split frequency, which simply means he will listen up the band a little bit from his transmit frequency. He will not listen on his own frequency for stations calling him. This leaves his transmit frequency quiet so that people can hear the DX station when he transmits.

In order to contact that station the challenge is to put your transmitter on the frequency the DX operator is listen on. This can be a challenge. Mastering this technique will net you more DX than a linear amp, a big antenna or any amount of \$\$ invested in your radio. You must have your signal in his ear or you aren't going to make the contact.

There are a couple of things you must do to develop the skill for this all important technique. You must first become very familiar with your "A=B" button on your transceiver, the "A/B" button and the "SPLIT" button.

When you find the DX station, listen for a bit and make sure you are hearing the right station.

Press the "A=B" to get both of you VFO's in the rig on the same band and same frequency.

Press the "A/B" button and move the B VFO to the spot where you want to transmit.

Press the "SPLIT" button.

Press the "A/B" button again to put the Receiver on the DX station and the transmitter up where the DX station is listening.

Are you ready to call? Not yet.

Use the A/B button to switch back to the pile of stations and find the station currently working the DX station. Immediately put you receiver back on the DX Transmit frequency with the "A/B" button again , and you are ready to call the DX right where his receiver is currently set.

Switching back and forth and following the DX stations receive pattern will pay dividends.

Calling blind without knowing where the DX station is listening is not productive. Calling where he is just worked the last station will net you those big fish. Have fun.

Dick, VE1AI

VE1AWP in the Dominican Republic

From Alan Prosser, VE1AWP

Our family usually goes somewhere warm during March break this year we chose Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic. I took along my newly built Elecraft KX1 QRP radio that could fit in your shirt pocket, a few spools of wire, coax, paddles, headset and a Gel Cell battery for a remote controlled car. This battery held up surprising well, since in the daytime I would listen to Sirius Satellite on the beach, using it to power the receiver and at night to power my rig.

We were lucky in getting a corner room with an extra large balcony. The antenna was simple; the wires extended about 20 feet each leg and tucked discretely in the rafters so as to not alarm the maid about spy activity. The coax draped down to the operation table in the center of the balcony. Saturday morning I got my first thrill. The Commonwealth contest was going on and there was Gary, VE1RGB, working stations up and down the band. He was weak but readable. VE1ZZ, VE1OP, VE1AL, VE1MC, VE9DX all had nice signals with Jack being the strongest. I was amazed how strong the VO1 stations were, much louder than my friends in VE1 land. Since I didn't apply for a license to operate in HI-land, I was restricted to listen only, next year I'll be ready for more serious operating.

The biggest surprise was late one evening, around 1 or 2 AM, on 40 meters; I had the little rig setup beside my bed to allow me to listen to something to put me back to sleep. As if a switch went on, my little radio was hearing ZL's and VK's working stations in Europe and Western Africa. Some Caribbean stations were in the mix and an occasional W4 or W5; everyone was very strong and easily workable. After an hour the band went quiet again with only one lone station calling CQ. During the day, lots of Cuban (CO) Venezuela (YV), Belize, Panama, etc were heard, very different from our part of the world.

Next year we will have a Buddy Pole antenna and a HI license, I hope to hear you from there.



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 13 & 14

The Swains Island Dxpediton

<<http://www.yt1ad.info/n8s/index.html>>

is on the air as N8S and will continue until April 15 on all HF bands (including 60 meters; 5403.5 kHz) as well as moonbounce on 6 & 2 m. (listen 50.195 or 50.205 MHz.). On 2 meters, N8S will run 200 W into a 17-element antenna, transmitting on 144.112 MHz and listening on that frequency and up. The same international team plans to operate from Samoa as 5W5AA from April 17 to April 24. YT1AD will handle cards for N8S; YZ7AA will handle QSLs for 5W5AA. -- The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>>

How-cum ... a slight tax increase costs you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents?

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Monthly General
Meeting
Wednesday, March 21, 2007**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1934 with 41 members and guests in attendance.

Silent Keys: There was one silent key to report: Dianne Burns – wife of

Bob Burns (VE1VCK).

Dianne had, along with Bob, been active in the ongoing success of the Britt Fader QSL Bureau.

Guests / Visitors:

Sheldon R. Donaldson – VE1ARG (Pubnico, NS)

Doug F.W. Conrad - VE1UY (new member)

Eldred Brewer – VE1EKB (new member)

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) President; Murray Mac Donald (VE1MMD) Secretary; Fraser Mac Dougall (VE1WO) Treasurer; Doug Leblanc (VE1LDL) Director-at-Large; and Brian Allan (VE1AZV), Station Manager.

Regrets: Regrets were received from Dick Grantham, (VE1AI) 1st Vice-President and Peter Whalen (VE1PJW) 2nd Vice President.

Minutes of the February 21, 2007 monthly general meeting: It was moved by Rich (VA1CHP) and seconded by David (VE1EDA) that the minutes of the February 21, 2007 meeting, as printed in the March 2007 edition of the Reflector, be adopted. Motion was carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer's report: Fraser (VE1WO) reported that income for the month was \$ 1,214.02 and expenses were \$1,736.80. The bank balance at the end of February was \$11,354.78.

It was moved by Bruce (VE1MLW) and seconded by John (VE1HMH) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion was carried.

Secretary's report: Murray (VE1MMD) advised that he had nothing to report.

President's report: Bill (VE1MR) reported that a liaison was required for the upcoming M.S. Cities Walk. Dave (VE1EDA) and Emile (VE1ESP) volunteered to act.

Bill advised that a coordinator for the Britt Fader QSL Bureau was required and invited anyone interested in taking on the running of the Bureau is encouraged to contact him. He recognized the effort put forth by Bob and Dianne Burns for the past number of years.

He reported that he had sent a letter, along with a letter from Barry Manuel (EMO) and a copy of the report on Exercise "Doubletalk" to the CBC. This reporting is an annual requirement to allow HARC to use the Geizer's Hill location for our repeater.

Bill advised that he had received correspondence from SARA informing of their decision to dissolve their organization and to donate their assets to HARC.

1st. Vice President's report: Dick (VE1AI) sent his regrets and advised that he had nothing to report.

2nd. Vice President's report: Peter (VE1PJW) sent his regrets and advised that he had nothing to report. Bill (VE1MR) reported that the door prize for the evening was a "third hand with magnifier".

Station Manager's report: Brian (VE1AZV) reported that the new alarm system had been installed at the club station. He reiterated that ample notice would be provided to members prior to full activation of the system. Brian advised that Bill (VE1MR) would be applying to Industry Canada for the call sign (VE0CNM) for the Sackville. Fraser (VE1WO), Murray (VE1MMD) and Brian spent time recently at the club station and club storage pricing equipment etc. for the upcoming flea market.

Member at Large: Doug (VE1LDL) advised that he had nothing to report.

Past President: Bob (VE1PQ) advised that he had nothing to report.

Committee reports:

Membership: Howard (VE1DHD) reported that currently there are two (2) Life Members, twenty seven (27) Associate Members and one hundred and nine (109) Full Members for a total 2007 membership of one hundred and thirty eight (138).

Howard advised that correspondence had been received from Jason (VE1PLF), currently serving in Afghanistan, sending his greetings and thanking the Club for providing his membership for year 2007.

Search and Rescue: No report was available.

EMO: No report was available.

75th Anniversary: Bob (VE1PQ) reported that plans for the 75th Anniversary are proceeding well. He advised that a number of sub-chair vacancies still existed and invited anyone interested in helping out to contact him. The Committee was currently looking at a number of possible locations in which to hold the various events and that a decision would be made shortly. He reiterated the need for all members to participate in order to make the Anniversary celebrations a success.

Field Day: Nothing to report at this time.

Web Page Stats: Rob (VE1KS) gave an interesting synopsis on a report that he had carried out concerning the use of the HARC web site. (Copy of the report attached to the original minutes) He noted that since 2004, there had been 85,633 hits with 21,554 being 1st time visitors.

Old Business: There was no old business requiring attention.

New Business: There was no new business requiring attention.

Reports / Announcements: Emile (VE1ESP) reminded those present of the need for volunteers for the MS Bike Tour. If interested, members are requested to contact either Emile or Dave (VE1EDA).

Barry (VE1TRI) reported that the

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Minutes (Continued from page 6)

Down East Flea Market would be held on May 12th at the Halifax Forum Complex (Multi Purpose Room). Doors will open at 0630 for sellers and 0900 for buyers. Tables will again be free for sellers and the admission for buyers will remain at \$4.00. The social event will be held on Friday evening at the Chebucto Inn and a breakfast held on Saturday morning at the Steak and Stein prior to the opening of the Flea Market. The Chebucto Inn has been selected as the official accommodation site for those requiring a room. Special room rates are available for those attending the flea market. Anyone seeking tables are invited to contact Dave (VE1NN). Volunteers are required and interested members are asked to contact Barry (VE1TRI).

50/50: George, VE1GAB won the 50/50 draw in the amount of \$26.50.

Door Prize: Darryl (VE1HUP) won the "third hand with magnifier".

It was moved by Brian (VE1AZV) that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Murray Mac Donald, VE1MMD, Secretary, H.A.R.C.



Brit Fader Scholarship

We are preparing to accept the first applications for the Brit Fader Scholarship with the view to making its first award.

This scholarship is granted in memory of Brit Fader, VE1FQ, a member of the RAC Hall of Fame and a longtime Ham whose contributions to amateur radio include many years of message handling & phone patches for hams posted in remote locations, running the VE1 and VE0 QSL Bureaus for over 49 years, being a leader and mentor in the Halifax Amateur Radio Club for decades, including running Field Day and being a friend to numerous amateurs across Canada across many decades. For more information and to download the Application form and the Referee form see the HARC website www.halifax-arc.org or the RAC website www.rac.ca

To apply, send in the completed Application and at least one completed Referee form to Brit Fader Scholarship Trust, c/o Paul Radford, 208-5880 Spring Garden Road, Halifax. Nova Scotia B3H 1Y1.

Of interest to SKYPE users:

An e-mail passed from Bob Comeau to Al VE1CYP to Shane, VE1SMC refers SKYPE users to website:

<http://www.wxpnnews.com/MUMN4J/070327-Skype-Trojan> for information warning of a "Trojan horse" threat

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, # 11 US Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) has replaced its longstanding digital message network with a Winlink 2000 system that combines radio and Internet links

Check out the ARISS site <http://www.nsexplore.ca/ariss/>

My neighbour works in the operations department in the central office of a large bank. Employees in the field call him when they have problems with their computers. One night he got a call from a woman in one of the branch banks who had this question: "I've got smoke coming from the back of my terminal. Do you guys have a fire downtown?"



e-QSLing (Continued from page 4)

that provides access to a searchable database of all LotW users. I had a look and was surprised that there are **only 401 Canadian callsigns listed on LotW**, and astonished to see that of these, **only 15 are VE1 callsigns**.

Just for your interest the current LotW users from VE1-land are: VE1AIT; VE1DHD; VE1JBC; VE1JF; VE1JFA; VE1JS; VE1LV; VE1MC; VE1MPF; VE1OP; VE1OV; VE1RAR; VE1UD; VE1VOX; and VE1YDX. I know that we have more than 15 DX-hunters in our Halifax ARC alone, so why are so few using this fantastic system?

The *Logbook of the World* system is new and in order to be truly useful, it needs to be encouraged to grow, and that will only happen when all serious DXer start to use it.

The logs that you submit to Logbook of the World are checked against all other logs in the system to confirm your contacts for award purposes. (See below – *Logbook of the World – for more details.*) However, until the system is more heavily subscribed, there will still be pressure to request traditional QSL cards – not necessarily a bad thing, but for many these days, trying to get traditional QSL cards has just become too expensive!

For those who feel the need to have that traditional card, there is an alternative. It too involves electronic QSLing. The website, www.eQSL.cc, is now several years old and until the ARRL Logbook of the World was introduced, represented the first and only generally accepted way of electronically sending and receiving confirmation of a contact. This site also provides the capability of placing a personalised full-colour QSL card on the system so that anyone who really wishes to have the card can down-load and print one off or arrange to have one mailed out. Although eQSL.cc has established a series of awards based on electronic log submissions to their site, the eQSL.cc site is NOT recognized by ARRL for their awards. It is however worth having a look at.

In terms of electronic QSLing in a general sense, I firmly believe that there is good reason for Canadian Amateur Radio Clubs to

(Continued on page 10)

From the Mail Bag



HARC Club History - We need your help !!

Spud Roscoe (VE1BC) is writing up the history of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club for the 2008 edition of the Maritime Provinces Amateur Radio Callbook and he needs your help.

If you have any old photographs of: Club stations of the past; Club activities (Flea Markets; Field Day; picnics) of the past; or just pictures of Club members from the 1930s through to the present, please arrange to get them, along with a description of the event and the people, to Spud or myself (Howard, VE1DHD). We will scan the photograph into a digital file and return the original to you.

Also, if you have any interesting information on the Halifax ARC or its members - past or present - that would add to the Club history, please let Spud or Howard know.

You can reach us:
Spud, VE1BC,

- spudroscoe@eastlink.ca

Howard, VE1DHD,

- VE1DHD@RAC.ca

Thanks in advance for your help with this important project.

Howard (VE1DHD) Callbook Editor

Fellow HAMs, On May 26th Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club will be again hosting the LCARC HAM-FEST here in the Saint John area.

Attached is a PDF document with all the details. Could you be so kind as to raise this at your meetings between now and the event and if you have a regular newsletter possibly include this in the next publication?

We look forward to hosting this event again and look forward to seeing as many HAMs as possible attend.

73 de VE9NPS, Peter
President, LCARC
www.LCARC.ca

See page 2 for details. ed.

This is a quick note to the new hams in the club. The MS Walk is an annual event that the HARC has been supporting for a number of years now. If you are interested in learning how to provide a valuable communications link for the MS Walk this year, please let me know. If you are not sure what is involved and would like to at least come along with one of the more experienced operators this year, that will be fine too, I can double you up with someone. Even if you don't have any of your own equipment, you can still double up with someone and listen and watch. The MS folks can always use an extra hand to help out too.

Terry VE1TRB, ve1trb@rac.ca

I am saddened to hear that SARA will be dissolved.

You may be aware that I was President of HARC at the time SARA was founded and provided the support & direction needed for the founding of SARA and the Federal funding that brought this organization into being. It was, and had been until recently, a venue to allow senior hams to continue to participate in amateur related activities that filled a public need.

Sincerely,

Bob Swinwood (VE1PQ)
Past President HARC

I stand corrected. ed.

The article in the March Reflector "From a Queens County Times article. Queens County Ham Recalls Bridge Collapse (1971)" refers to the "late Angus MacDonald, VE1YO, a blind amateur radio operator in Dartmouth ..."

John Brady, VE1WZ, who knew Angus assures me that Angus was never blind; he was a haemophilic.

*If good things lasted for ever
would we appreciate how
precious they are?*

Please Spare us: The FCC Strikes Again

The FCC took what they described as an important new step to reduce QRM on amateur frequencies by setting standards for voice speeds. The docket #200-4U will become official in the Part 97 amateur regulations effective 1 April 2007.

Citing frequent complaints about "long, boring conversations" on the ham bands, especially 75 meters, the Commission moved to impose a new standard on voice operations requiring all conversations to be at a speed of "at least 200 spoken words-per-minute".

The Commission in its ruling was especially critical of what they called "long winded, often endless conversations by old men talking about their prostate problems and other needs to get up and go to the bathroom several times during the night".

FCC staffers say they have personally heard conversations about nothing that went for hours and tied up frequencies that could be used by faster talkers.

Official Observer stations have received instructions to listen to suspect conversations and count the number of words-per-minute spoken. Those QSOs which fail to meet the minimum speed requirements will be noted and the operators involved will receive Official Observer Advisory Notices encouraging them to follow the rules or risk receiving notice of apparent violation citations from the FCC.

Some hams in southern states complained the new regulation will impose a burden on them because they naturally talk more slowly than those up north. They are suggesting that frequencies be set aside for slow speed discussions concerning favourite country music artists (particularly Don Williams), NASCAR, huntin' and fishin' (particularly bass and brim). FCC says it may consider that in future rulemaking.

(Continued on page 9)

The last SARA note for the Reflector

From my early years in Ham Radio, I recall clearly some of the operators who were instrumental in starting the SARA group. There always seemed to be someone in the Red Cross Room #107 on Gottingen Street in Halifax; almost like their station away from home. I was not sure exactly what it was they were doing at the station most of the time. Ironically, now it seems like I am the one "always" at the Red Cross station and I'm sure local operators are asking the same questions.

I've been an amateur operator for 20 years and it's long been clear to me that having the Atlantic provinces connected through radio links would be a valuable tool. When I connected with the SARA Group a few years ago my goal was to learn the appropriate skills, and to perhaps make this Atlantic connection a reality. We cannot wait until after a disaster strikes to start looking for equipment and operators who can be of assistance.

Each Thursday at 1145 hrs we connect with the aid of the TMR system throughout many location of Atlantic Canada. At 1225 hrs we practice with the linking system and as Net Control Station, have an opportunity improve our skills in connecting with stations and to further understand our complete linking system; the Mavcom and Marcan systems as well as the IRG system in New Brunswick. Now the IRLP reflector 9013, this will give many others operator in Atlantic the ability to connect to us. We even encourage stations to connect to us from echo link.

During our weekly Red Cross Net, the net controller will invite all operators from Atlantic Canada to check in: giving their call, first name, plus telling us what frequency they are transmitting on. NCS will give audio report on your signal and ask for any traffic. A formal log is kept during all our nets

The Standard Operation Procedure for the new Red Cross Telecom Group has yet to be finalized. We are now directly linked to the Red Cross Centre's Emergency Response Team, joining forces with the 180 existing members. We are commissioned by the province to provide humanitarian services when disaster strikes. This would include aiding any persons put out of their homes by evacuation or fire.

The system can be activated through 911 Dispatch. Team leaders will alert the offices of the Red Cross and then direct the response that may be required. Upon request for assistance in communication, the Duty Officer must call his Deputy and immediately go to the telecom Room. The Duty officer will initiate call-out for operators and begin a schedule. The Duty Officer will staff the telecom room, sign out equipment, log any traffic and-or messages. We also have available all phone numbers of personnel that could be of assistance.

The Telecom Group is now in the process of collecting the names of volunteers who have a special interest in communications. Training will begin soon. Some of the radios are commercial types so we will need to understand "Ten code" but are encouraged to only use Formal words.

Although SARA is no more, radio communications is still needed by the Red Cross and in the tradition of Amateur Radio, when the need arises we come together to help.

An Amateur License is not required to assist in the telecom room.

73 all Emil Pineau ve1esp, last President of SARA

P.S. I'm looking for the names of original SARA Operators and some information or comment about each.



I do have George Dunffee, (his station away from home) and Don Bower as my source of inspiration and I must also mention the efforts of Joe McPherson in the last several years; not to forget about HARC members, you guys were always there when the need arose.

*We childproofed our homes,
but they are still getting in!*



The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 03 Swedish-American engineer Ernst Alexanderson developed the radio transmitter that bears his name while working for RCA. The device is essentially a large high-frequency alternator (i.e. an AC "generator") with a high-speed rotor connected directly to an antenna system. The circuit was used to transmit telegrams and messages between Europe and the US. Such systems were in use through World War II to provide international telecommunication.

The SAQ site in Grimeton, on Sweden's west coast houses the last working Alexanderson alternator and is home to Amateur Radio station SK6SAQ. SAQ is a member of the Swedish Amateur Association (SSA)

The FCC Strikes Again (Continued from page 8)

In a separate press release, the American Radio Relay League said they are also concerned about two-meter operation where little is discussed except "full quieting and items to be picked up on the way home". The League said that sort of thing is boring and is usually spoken very slowly as well, far below the 200 words per-minute minimum. The League suggested conversations on how to help raise more money for League activities would be especially welcomed and will be encouraged. Future issues of QST will contain special pull-out sections containing recommended topics for on-air discussion to brighten up QSOs.

Regards, Jerry Proc VE3FAB
e-mail: jerry.proc@sympatico.ca

Care and Feeding of your Pet Ham; an educational excerpt for XYL's

Pet hams are so intelligent they often seem human, but they can be difficult to raise.

Only someone with great patience should attempt it. In case you do, here is a guide to the basics.

Living Area -- A pet ham needs a private nest area, an entire room where it will not be disturbed. Your pet ham will spend many happy hours alone there with its treasures. -- boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, paper, etc. that it will bring home whenever it ventures out. You will want to encourage your pet ham to confine its activity to this room to prevent the entire house from being subjected to noise, clutter and the boring of holes in the walls.

Expenses -- Keeping a pet ham is expensive, but, unlike most common pets, a pet ham can be trained to work outside the home for a few hours each day. It may even bring in enough money to offset its expenses.

Feeding -- A well-behaved pet ham will eat with the family occasionally, but it will feel more comfortable and secure taking its meals in the nest room. You must be sure your pet ham is well supplied with food and drink during the long periods it spends alone in there, even if it does not beg or whine.

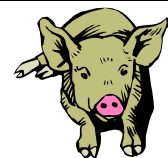
Obedience Training -- A pet ham can be trained to perform simple tricks, the easiest and most common being "sit" and "speak" Do not be alarmed if it practices them for hours at a time in the nest room.

Health Problems -- The pet ham typically suffers lower back pain and minor throat irritations from too much sitting and speaking, but health maintenance costs tend to be minimal.

Travel -- Your ham pet will gladly travel with your family by car or even by air, if allowed to bring along certain familiar items from the nest room. Most pet hams enjoy trips to places where they can meet pet hams from other families.

Breeding -- If you plan to breed your pet ham, you should do so as soon as possible after you get it. As a pet ham matures, it becomes increasingly reluctant to engage in activities not associated with its nest room collection.

(Thanks to Ron W5WWW)



e-QSLing (Continued from page 7)

take a leadership role in the area of electronic QSLing and to proactively support what eventually is going to be the future for QSL exchange. A good start could be for Club-sponsored events to actively promote electronic QSLing. Clubs could do this by making it clear during contacts that electronic QSLing through *Logbook of the World* will be one way to confirm contacts with your stations, because your logs will be uploaded to the ARRL site as soon as the contest is over. The big advantage here is that participants don't have to wait months or years to receive a card by way of the Bureau.

What is the next step? I urge all serious DXers in the Halifax Club to sign up on the *Logbook of the World* system as soon as possible. There is no cost. It is free and very easy to do. For step-by-step information on how to get registered with LotW, please read on.

~~~~~ **Logbook of the World (LoTW)**

Electronic logging and QSO confirmation (eQSL) have just taken a

giant step forward.

The ARRL has introduced a new electronic logging system that allows users to confirm contacts electronically for ARRL awards.

Here's how it works – Users upload their logs – LoTW will accept contacts as far back as 1945 – in either ADIF or Cabrillo format. An encoded digital signature that the operator applies assures the authenticity of the submitted log. In order to obtain a digital signature, users must first become certified. Each entry in the submitted log is then checked and compared to all other entries in the LoWT database. If a match is found the entry in the logs of both parties is confirmed for award purposes. Amateurs are then eligible to apply the confirmed QSO towards an award.

There is no cost associated with the uploading of QSO files, however there is a cost associated with applying confirmed QSOs towards awards. Confirmed QSO credits must be purchased at a nominal fee, well below the cost of confirmation by mail, and it is quite likely that it

will turn out to be even less expensive than using the current "Bureau" System.

How to get certified – Canadians are required mail a copy of their Amateur Radio license to ARRL, along with a copy of one other government-issued document – such as a driver's license. A confirmation certificate will be emailed to you.

How to get started – The best thing to do is to go to the ARRL website <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> to get all the details.

Making the system work – It is becoming a "brave new world" out there for Radio Amateurs. The new LoTW system is the next step towards total electronic logging and QSO confirmation. However, many Amateurs still don't and won't have access to a computer and/or the Internet and both are required in order to participate in the LoTW system. So, paper logs and QSL cards will not disappear anytime soon. However, you can do your part to ensure that this new initiative is successful by taking the time to upload your electronic logbook to the LoTW site.