



# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

September 2007 Volume 68 Number 7

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



Welcome Back!  
Hope You Had a Great Summer



## ATTENTION

The September club meeting on September 19 will be held at the location of the new club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**. There is plenty of parking.

## DIRECTIONS

The driveway is located a very short distance past the intersection of Bayers Road outbound and Romans Avenue. You must be in the right hand lane on Bayers Road outbound when you cross Romans Avenue.

If you come in from the highway toward Bayers Road inbound you have some choices. You can take Exit 0 and turn right on to Dutch Village Road, go to the lights at Mumford Road and turn left, go to Romans Avenue and turn left, at Bayers Road turn left into the right lane and then right into the driveway of the Recreation Center.

Or you can go straight in Bayers Road inbound cross Romans Avenue and turn right up near the Halifax Shopping Center onto Vaughan Avenue which will take you back down to Romans Avenue, turn right onto Romans Avenue then at Bayers Road turn left into the right lane and then right into the driveway of the Recreation Center.

Hopefully you will have no trouble getting there – we will try to have someone monitoring 147.270 + for anyone who gets into difficulty.

The **General Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) at the former Saint Andrews School building (just past Romans Avenue on Bayers Road outbound). The meeting, will be held in the new club rooms. The evening's entertainment will be Scott Wood, VE1QD. Guests are welcome.

Plans for the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** are proceeding well but the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee needs a **full time Chair**. Please consider taking on this function.

Photos in this issue were taken and contributed by Doug, VE1LDL; John, VE1WZ; and Bob, VE1PQ

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

## 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

RAC's web site is at [www.rac.ca](http://www.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.



Sept 16	Chris	VA1CDB
Sept 23	Doug	VE1LDL
Sept 30	Pierre	VE1PTR
October 7	Herb	VE1HX
October 14	Peter	VE1PJW
October 21	Bruce	VE1MLW

### Puzzler - Do you know

If you contacted a station who had a prefix of HB0, what country would they be in?



Answer on page 7

*Law of Close Encounters: The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.*

**Deadline for submissions to the October Reflector is Saturday, October, 6 2007**

*Events for Your Calendar*

All year – **Work 40 YLs Challenge**

A **Basic Radio Licensing Course** starts Thursday, September 20.

Anyone interested should get in touch with Scott, VE1QD

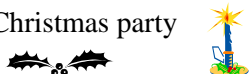
A CW course this fall will be conducted by Gary, VE1RGB. If you are interested in taking the course, or you know of anyone interested contact Gary.

October – VHF/UHF Contest

October – JOTA golden jubilee: the 50th JOTA will run from 19 October 2200hrs to 21 October 2400hrs GMT

October 20 – Greenwood Fleamarket

December - Christmas party



### HARC 75th Anniversary Planning Committee **needs your help**



Spud (VE1BC) is putting together a Club history and would like each member of HARC to provide him with the following:

- 1) a copy of your QSL card (current and any past cards)
- 2) a photograph of you (ideally a head and neck shot)
- 3) any other photographs that you might have of Club members and/or Club activities in the past



If you want your pictures and/or QSL cards returned to you, please let Spud know and then provide him with an address so he can mail them back after he has scanned them into digital files.

Thanks in advance for your help with this project.

Howard, VE1DHD

Planning and Preparation has already started for **Contest University 2008**, again on Thursday before the main Dayton hamfest, including a full graduate school program for returning CTU students that graduated this year. See the official CTU web site <http://www.contestuniversity.com> Mark May 15 2008 on your calendar!

### The HARC Reflector salutes the new Manager of the Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC.

This is a job that goes better with a little extra help. Contact Tom to find out when he'd like you to give a hand to sort incoming cards, or to do a mail-out, or to help take the QSL Bureau to a fleamarket. *-ed.*

**Anderson Powerpole connectors** are for sale through the HARC at \$1.25 each. Place orders with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC; [tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca)

### Are you up to date with your 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)

The next regional IARU conference will be Region 2's in Brasilia in mid-September. The next scheduled Administrative Council meeting will be in Germany in June 2008.

### Work 40 YLs Challenge!

There's still time 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](mailto:va1yl@rac.ca) if you want to make or join a sched.



### Understanding Engineers - Take Five

*Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it.*

*Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.*

*Silent Keys -*

Peter Blakney, VE1BLK, died June 25, 2007

Edson S. Wall, VE1HM, Dartmouth, age 79, died in late June 2007. In his youth he travelled the world as a radio operator. He carried this interest in radio as an amateur radio enthusiast for the rest of his life. He will be remembered for his quiet sense of humour, integrity and wise counsel.

Wendell Mayhew, VE1OH, became a silent key on August 4, 2007

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 32 Sept. 28-30 - the 26th Annual **ARRL & TAPR Digital Communications Conference** in Hartford.. See <<http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>> This conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas & techniques. Presenters & attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware & software advances, theories, experimental results & practical applications. Banquet speaker this year is Bruce Perens, K6BP, well-known open-source software advocate.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 33 Canadian **Special Event** - September A demonstration of co-operation in emergency communications preparedness between Canadian radio amateurs and those in the US is planned for Sept. 29-30 with a special event station VO1ARES <<http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/aresjointevent.htm>> at the Marconi memorial station on Signal Hill, St John's, NL. Sponsored by RAC and Foreign Affairs & International Trade Canada (DFAIT), facilities are provided by Parks Canada and coordinated by SONRA (Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs).

Radio amateurs from across Canada and the US are being invited to participate in this first-time official activity, with opening festivities scheduled September 29 from 1430-1730 UTC. The call sign will be active Sept. 27 to Oct. 1.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Summer is over and we are now getting back into the swing of things. Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable and safe summer. The club move is beginning and we will probably need all the help we can muster.

With the first meeting of the fall we will be looking to elect a nominating chairman and an auditor. Consider doing one of these jobs - they are once a year jobs.

There was lots happening since the June meeting with the ARRL Field Day being held at the HRM EOC in the 2F class and we did very well. The next weekend saw the RAC Canada Day contest also held at the HRM EOC using the call VE1RAC and the group also did very well. The MS Bike Tour, the Maritime DX Forum and the pizza nights at the club were some of the other events the club participated in. Lynn and I took part in the IOTA contest in late July by going with a group to Bon Portage Island just off the southern tip of Nova Scotia. We might even entertain the club some evening with a demonstration of the falling derrick method of raising a tower.

I have been very disappointed with response for someone to come forward to co-ordinate the enlargement and renovation of the VE1PSR building. I hope the coming session will see more participation by club members.

In particular the club will need the participation of most of it's members to carry off the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. 2008 will be a very busy and fun year to participate in your club.

With the move to new facilities this is a chance to rejuvenate interest in club station oriented activities as well as making more use of the club facilities. We hope to have more activities and social gatherings. So if you have ideas or needs, let the executive know.

The next few months may be a little disorganized, but I think your club will benefit in the long run. 73 - Bill, VE1MR

**The 2008 Callbook Needs Your Help to Get Advertisers**

The 2008 Callbook is going to be a special, "collector's edition" and will most certainly cost us more to print than in previous years. In order to keep the selling cost down, it is going to be necessary for the Club to solicit much more commercial advertising than in previous years. This is where you can help.

If you have any personal connection with a business that you think you can convince to place an advertisement in the 2008 Maritime Provinces Amateur Radio Callbook, PLEASE let Howard (VE1DHD) know as soon as possible. We are not necessarily looking for companies that provide services directly related to Amateur Radio; any company that provides "generic" services - like taxi cabs; motels; eating establishments, etc. would be welcomed additions to our advertising pool.

I can not stress how important it is going to be to secure additional advertisers for 2008.

Thanks in advance for your help with this.

Howard - VE1DHD, Editor, 2008 Maritime Callbook. ve1dhd@rac.ca.

**Last Voice From Kuwait - 1991 - Ham Radio**

This is the exclusive internet debut of the movie "Last Voice From Kuwait" produced by Frank Moore, WA1URA and WANE - TV. The movie is in three parts. Enjoy:

Back in 1990 - 1991 a very brave amateur radio operator named Abdul-Jabbar Ma'rafi, 9K2DZ, became literally the last voice from Kuwait. When Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi army invaded his country, Abdul remained on the ham radio at his peril right under the nose of the invaders. He was able to report many of the atrocities committed by the Iraqis as well as reporting troop movements and warnings to coalition forces. After Saddam was driven out, Abdul remained at work relaying many hundreds of health and welfare messages to Kuwaiti family members in the free world awaiting word from loved ones in the war torn country.

The following video documents the activities of this courageous ham operator during his country's darkest hour. It is also a testament to the power of amateur radio. Our disaster might not be an invasion by a blood crazed dictator, but after hurricane Katrina and the Tennessee tornadoes of April 2006, we have to admit that our very own disaster lurks right around the corner. We must be prepared. --Thomas Hamilton

This video is reproduced with the direct permission of executive producer, Frank Moore, WA1URA, and WANE - TV.

1st Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG4jvV9ngWU>

2nd Video [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dB8E-](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dB8E-1zi7c&mode=related&search=)

[1zi7c&mode=related&search=](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ_Ky7yQwb8&mode=related&search=)

3rd Video [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ\\_Ky7yQwb8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ_Ky7yQwb8&mode=related&search=)

[&mode=related&search=](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ_Ky7yQwb8&mode=related&search=)

Regards, Jerry Proc

Web: <http://jproc.ca>

### Another Successful MARITIME DX FORUM

If you didn't attend the DX Forum this August 4 you missed some great presentations!

Keynote speaker Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, a member of the BS7H crew, spoke about his experiences as part of that recent Scarborough reef DX-pedition. It was beautifully illustrated with an excellent slide show. The general picture was: *A vast sweep of blue water, blue sky, and lone DXers with their gear on a canopied scaffold perched on a water-lapped rock. Amazing!*

Jose Campione, VA3PCJ, addressed the question: *Why Do Mariners become Radio Amateurs?* In his talk he emphasized the use of WinLink for receiving and sending e-mail, and for downloading critical navigational information via ham radio.

Scott Wood, VE1QD, presented an illustrated talk about his expedition voyage from Ushuaia (the world's most southern town) located in Argentina's Tierra del Fuego, to most of the British Antarctic entities, or VP8's. His excellent photos were taken by his wife Susan. Scott operated maritime mobile on board the M/V Polar Star, but the lack of a robust and easily accessible antenna system as well as a busy expedition schedule, relegated hamming to a more minor role than planned... but what a trip! You can see Scott's show at this month's HARC meeting.

Jim Fisher, VE1JF, assistant District Director, RAC, and a member of the RAC Band Plan Committee presented information on the proposed band plan changes. He referred everyone to the RAC website for more details

*The Art of Mounting Island DX-peditions* by Fred, VE1FA and Helen, VA1YL, Archibald. Fred, aided by Helen, spoke of learning by doing as, over many years, they DX-peditioned to Charleton Island (in James Bay), Fogo Island, St. Paul Island, Whitehead Island, the Magdalen Islands and Bon Portage Island with groups of from 6 to 10 hams. This was a very impressive sharing of practical advice on how to mount interesting island expeditions with easily available equipment and hardware...and with out breaking the bank!

The day was topped off when, after dinner, Don Trotter, VE1DTR and his bluegrass band, *Sunrise*, treated everyone to a very fine and rousing down home concert of bluegrass and country music.

Next year treat yourself to the Fifth Annual Maritime DX Forum as well as the other facets of the HARC 75th Anniversary celebration. Scott is promising that there will be a full complement of outstanding, world class speakers.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 26, The Daily DX reports that the Ducie Island DXpedition Team, VP6DX, has been busy preparing for the much anticipated February 2008 DXpedition. The VP6DX team plans to depart Mangareva Island, part of the Gambier Islands in French Polynesia, via ship on Febr.5, 2008 and head for Pitcairn Island; this trip normally takes about 36 hours. The ops will spend a few hours on Pitcairn before taking another 36 hour trip boat ride to Ducie Island. Planning to arrive at sunrise on Feb. 9, they hope to be operating within 24 hours; returning to Mangareva by March 3. If all goes well they will have VP6 on the air for up to 19 days. They may make a short visit to Henderson Island (also VP6, not a separate DXCC entity) the only island on the way to & from Ducie Island.

The SPARK AGM took place Thursday, Sept.6 at Key Largo's, Lr. Sackville. No business distracted from the evening's socializing and no minutes were recorded. Darryl, VE1HUP, (who was absent) was declared the new president.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 22

### New Gear Debuts at Dayton 2007

Six new HF transceivers to drool over; in alphabetical order ...:

Elecraft <<http://www.elecraft.com/>> announced its new K3 HF and 6 meter transceiver. It includes many upgrade options, so many, that you can configure anything from a kit-built 10 W portable QRP radio to a full-featured, contest-ready 100 W rig with \*2\* high-performance receivers. It's scheduled to ship starting in July.

FlexRadio Systems <<http://www.flex-radio.com/>>, a pioneer in high-performance software defined radios (SDRs), introduced its Flex-5000 HF plus 6-meter transceiver series that promises higher performance and more features than its earlier model. Included are the Flex-5000C, a fully integrated system in a single box, and the Flex-5000D, which includes a second receiver.

Hilberling announced its PT-8000 transceiver. It's offered as a full-featured HF and VHF transceiver available in 10, 100 or 600 W versions. North America distributor is Array Solutions <<http://www.arrayolutions.com/>>.

ICOM <<http://www.icomamerica.com/>> unveiled its IC-7700 HF + 6 meter transceiver. It appears to be a single-receiver version of its top-tier IC-7800, sharing the 200 W transmitter, high performance receiver and 7-inch display of the 7800. Contesters are the market target, but the IC-7700 may be of interest to anyone who covets the features of the IC-7800 but doesn't need 2 receivers or the higher price.

Ten-Tec <<http://www.tentec.com/>> Its new Omni-VII HF + 6 meter transceiver's "distributed roofing filter architecture" promises ham-band-only receive performance with a general coverage receiver. "Product Review" in July QST.

(Continued on page 9)

*I thought about making a fitness movie, for folks my age, and call it "Pumping Rust."*



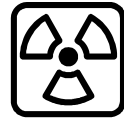
**Safety Corner September 2007**

By Terry, VE1TRB

Over the next number of months, I will be writing about the different types of radiation, and possible effects. I will also look at safety code 6 and attempt to clarify what it means to us as ham operators. I'd like to point out that I am not an expert in this field by any means; I will include my references for further self study.

**Part 1 IONIZING RADIATION**

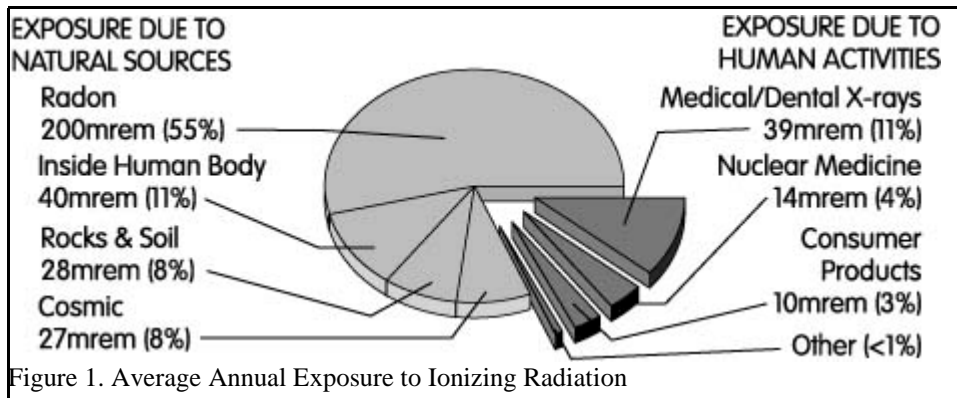
References: [http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~rer/rerhtml/rer\\_22.html](http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~rer/rerhtml/rer_22.html)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ionizing\\_radiation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ionizing_radiation)  
[http://www.epa.gov/radiation/understand/ionize\\_nonionize.htm](http://www.epa.gov/radiation/understand/ionize_nonionize.htm)



**What Are the Sources of Ionizing Radiation?**

Naturally occurring radioactive materials are common in the environment and in the human body. These materials are continuously emitting ionizing radiation. Ionizing radiation from outer space (cosmic radiation) bombards the earth constantly. Collectively, the ionizing radiation from these and similar sources is called background radiation. Human activities, such as making medical x-rays, generating nuclear power, testing nuclear weapons, and producing smoke detectors, which contain radioactive materials, cause additional exposure to ionizing radiation.

The percentage of the average annual radiation exposure contributed by each major source is illustrated in Figure 1. About 82 percent is from nature, and 18 percent is from industrial, medical, and consumer sources. The values given in Figure 1 are averages. Actual values vary depending on where people live and how they spend their time.



**Natural Sources of Radiation**

**Radon** The largest natural source of radiation exposure to humans is radon gas. While radon gas has always been in the environment, its contribution to human radiation exposure has increased in recent years. Radon's primary pathway is from the earth, through the basements of houses and other buildings, and into inside air that people

breathe. Radon exposures can vary depending on the soil and rock structure beneath buildings.

**Other Terrestrial Sources** Other terrestrial sources include naturally occurring radioactive materials that exist in rocks and soil. The main contributors are the radioactive isotope of potassium and the isotopes that are products of the decay of uranium and thorium.

**Cosmic Radiation** As the earth moves through space it is bombarded by high energy particles and gamma rays. These particles and rays add to the background radiation. The earth's atmosphere acts as a shield, absorbing much of the energy from cosmic radiation. People who live close to sea level are protected by a thicker blanket of atmosphere than those who live at high elevations, and thus have a lower exposure to cosmic radiation.

**Internal Radiation** Internal radiation comes from radioactive materials that occur naturally in the human body. Potassium and carbon are the primary sources of internal radiation exposures. Potassium is an essential mineral for life. It enters the human body through the food chain. Carbon makes up about 23 percent, by weight, of the human body. Carbon enters the body both through the food chain and by breathing.

**Medical Sources** The largest source of medical exposure, when averaged over all individuals, is from diagnostic x-rays. Other sources are lumped into the category of nuclear medicine.

**Consumer Products-** Radiation is used in the manufacturing of many consumer products. It is used to sterilize products such as cosmetics and medical supplies and for shrink-wrap packaging. It can be used to determine the thickness of materials, how full cans are before sealing them, and the quality of welds in structures such as bridges and buildings.

Radioactive materials also are used in many consumer products. The most common of these is the smoke detector.

Some other examples of activities from which people receive exposures from ionizing radiation include smoking ciga-

*(Continued on page 9)*

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes of the Monthly General  
Meeting  
Wednesday, June 20, 2007**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1942 with 32 members and guests in attendance.

Silent Keys: There was one silent key to report: Bill Robinson – VE1NP

Guests / Visitors. Colin O'Flynn, VA3YHZ, was in attendance.

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) President; Dick Grantham, (VE1AI) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President; Murray Mac Donald (VE1MMD) Secretary; Fraser Mac Dougall (VE1WO) Treasurer; Doug Leblanc (VE1LDL) Director-at-Large; Brian Allan (VE1AZV), Station Manager; and Bob Swinwood (VE1PQ) Past President.

Regrets: Regrets were received from Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) Membership Chair.

Minutes of the May 16, 2007 monthly general meeting: It was moved by Doug (VE1LDL) and seconded by Win (VE1WIN) that the minutes of the May 16, 2007 meeting, as printed in the June 2007 edition of the Reflector, be adopted. Motion was carried.

**Executive Reports:**

Treasurer's report: Fraser (VE1WO) reported that income for the month was \$ 3,989.48 and expenses were \$1,332.96. The bank balance at the end of March was \$15,363.80.

It was moved by Lynn (VE1ENT) and seconded by Jim (VE1JIM) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion was carried.

Secretary's report: Murray (VE1MMD) reported on the status of the proposed move to the St. Andrews site. Members of the negotiation committee have visited the site on a regular basis. The two walls requiring removal have been taken down and the remaining walls have been patched and painted. The old radiators have been removed and the

new ones are in the process of being installed. Brian (VE1AZV) is preparing a wiring plan for the premises and once completed, it will be forwarded to the applicable HRM staff for final approval. Work crews will be required to assist in various aspects of the move.

Murray read from a letter received from the Queens County Amateur Radio Club expressing their appreciation for the work carried out by various members of HARC who assisted in the establishment of the repeater (VE1KEJ) at Kejimkujik Park.

Murray, on behalf of the Club, expressed appreciation to Lynn (VE1ENT) for the fine effort put forth in preparing the recent article in TCA concerning the establishment of VE1KEJ.

President's report: Bill (VE1MR) reported that the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is in need of a Chair and other volunteers. If any one is available to take on these duties, please let him know.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's report: Dick (VE1AI) reported that the EOC would be hosting the Canada Day event this year. A number of club members have signed up and he will advise them of their operating times. He has obtained the call sign "VE1RAC" for the event. He advised that he would be reporting more fully on the "Field Day" preparations during the entertainment segment for the evening. He thanked all who responded so positively when he called to ask their assistance in the field day planning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's report: Tom (VE1GTC) thanked all who called and sent cards during his recent illness. He advised that the door prize for the evening was a set of hobby pliers.

Station Manager's report: Brian (VE1AZV) reported on the Museum Ships Weekend (June 9/10). Contacts were down significantly from last year due to poor propagation and that we were without our dipole due to maintenance work being car-

ried out on the Acadia. This year we were able to operate both CW and SSB. He reported that we were unable to operate from the Sackville as she was being painted at the Dockyard.

Brian advised that he had been approached by a representative of the Maritime Museum inviting the Club to participate in the Tall Ships' event (July 13-23) by putting the Acadia & Sackville on the air during the event.

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) sent his regrets and advised that he had nothing to report.

Search and Rescue: Dave (VE1AJP) was absent due to an ongoing search for two lost youth and as a result no report was available.

EMO: Dave (VE1AJP) was absent due to an ongoing search for two lost youth and as a result no report was available.

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Bill (VE1MR) reported that he has chaired the previous two (2) meetings of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, but that a full time Chair was still required. He advised that plans for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are proceeding well and that a report will be available for the September general monthly meeting.

Field Day: Dick (VE1AI) will be reporting on Field Day during the entertainment portion of the meeting.

DX Forum: Scott (VE1QD) reported that things were progressing well for this year's edition of the Maritime DX Forum. He reminded all present to get their registrations in for the August 4<sup>th</sup> event as all indications point to this being a "world Class" event.

Basic Course: Scott (VE1QD) advised that the basic course would commence in September. Anyone interested in taking the course, or

(Continued on page 7)

**Minutes** (Continued from page 6)

knows of anyone interested, is requested to contact Scott.

**CW Course:** Gary (VE1RGB) advised that he would be presenting a CW course this fall. Anyone interested in taking the course, or knows of anyone interested, is requested to contact Gary.

**Old Business:** There was no old business requiring attention.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

**Reports / Announcements:** Dave (VE1EDA) reminded those present of the need for volunteers for the MS Bike Tour (July 28/29). If interested, members are requested to contact either Emile (VE1ESP) or Dave (VE1EDA).

**50/50:** Scott (VE1QD) won the 50/50 draw in the amount of \$23.50.

**Door Prize:** Win (VE1WIN) won the hobby pliers set.

It was moved by Doug (VE1LDL) that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 2013.

Respectfully submitted,  
Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD  
Secretary, H.A.R.C.

We operated from CSS Acadia during Museum Ships on the Air 2007, June 9 & 10



That's a HARC member's antenna mounted on Acadia's bridge.. The Cushcraft MA6V antenna & radio gear were working fine. Propagation was not as good as last year but that's radio. When Sackville is out of refit, we hope to also put her on the air with call sign VE0CNM

*Employment application blanks always ask 'who is to be notified in case of an emergency.' I think you should write, "A Good Doctor!"*

IGS Msg. # 5623 – Author: Jim Ray  
The U.S. Air Force has announced a major upgrade for the GPS control segment. The master control station, will be changed from a 1970s-era legacy system to a modern design based on current technology; permitting implementation of new capabilities, such as the next generation of IIF satellites. The change is scheduled to take 4-6 days during the 2nd week of September. The old and new ground control systems will be synchronized so that even the most demanding users will experience a seamless change.

The civil community has been asked to spread the word about the upcoming change as widely as possible. Should any anomalies be detected during the transition period, please follow the normal notification procedures via the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center  
[www.navcen.uscg.gov](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov)

This July 28 & 29 twelve Amateur Radio operators (pg.9) provided communications for the **2007 MS Bike Tour**. The over 400 bicyclists who participated raised \$400,000 for the struggle against MS. The event again went well with the only serious casualty being a bicycle which, left lying on the ground at a rest stop, was not seen by the driver of a maneuvering vehicle.



**Answer to Puzzler on page 1**



Although the International allocation containing the HB call is allocated to Switzerland, by agreement, the HB0 prefix is used by Liechtenstein (ITU Zone 28 CQ Zone 14) (lat 47.1 long 9.5)



Doug, VE1LDL and Gary, VE1RGB in Acadia's radio room



May 6: Providing communications for the 2007 Walk for MS were Doug, VE1LDL; Pat, VE1PHK; David, VE1EDA; Neil, VE1NTB; Peter, VE1PJW; Wayne, VE1WPH; Terry, VE1TRB

**From the Mail Bag**



*Spud has been recording Halifax amateur radio history and is looking for information and pictures. Spud will welcome any club history anyone might have or want recorded, also photographs of club member stations. -ed.*

I would like to be able to include a photograph of a club member station for each decade the club has been in existence; from 1933 on up. Please do not forget that 1DD photo. That is the beginning and one of the clubs best treasures. I would like to stick with QSL cards club members have sent. I have no idea where one would draw the line on QSL cards club members have received.  
73, Spud spudroscoe@eastlink.ca

Do you know anyone that may be able to help with more detail on this Dit and Dah Club? The history "From Spark to Space" by the Saskatoon ARC claims it was formed at the 1949 Hamfest on page 81. I do not agree with that. Mrs. Syd Johnson, VE1WJ, gave quite a talk on it at that Hamfest so it had to be well organized and rather quickly for her to accomplish that. Any help would be appreciated.

**Dit and Dah Club:** A parallel ladies' organization was formed under the name of the "Dit and Dah Club" and some of the first members were:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| VE1OW Evelyn Bligh    | VE1WJ Mrs. Syd Johnson |
| VE1YL Mrs. Wes Street | VE1FD Alice Loomer     |
| VE1MY Alma Hills      | VE1XW Joan Hudson      |

Thanks in advance. This is all I have so far. Spud VE1BC

I just wanted to say thank you all the VEs who were there during my trip to NS, NB and PEI. Your repeaters were wonderful, the men and women on the air were helpful, friendly, and courteous. It really was a joy to be with you and my daughter and I had a wonderful time in your province. Again, thank you.  
Rabbi Cy Stanway, VE3IFS (July 14, 2007)

Hi Guys, I have a request from the Fultz House Museum for a few CW keys for a display. If anyone has one they wish to donate please let me know  
Thanks & 73 Tom VE1TA  
.....

**Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club – Report for Section Manager’s Reportb -JULY 2007** *Passed along by Nigel, VE1NPS*

Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club (LCARC) has nearly completed another successful year and entered into our 70<sup>th</sup> year of operation (Est. 1937). In October the Club Executive rolled out a detailed plan for developing our local repeater infrastructure. We have completed the following:

- The VE1EE (147.270 – IRLP Node 2009 / Echolink Node 285237) Repeater has been paired with a Voting Receiver to increase the RX footprint of the repeater. At 93W at the PA Deck, with the antenna on top of a 200’ tower the TX footprint is quite large. The 146.895 repeater formally known as VE9SJR was donated to the Club by Doug Perry (VE9DJP) and racked at the Spruce Lake site now known as VE9SJW (Saint John West) on the west side of the city.
- The UHF repeater (443.600) donated by Don Trynor (VA3XFT) was recovered from Mt. Pleasant and installed at the VE9SJW site. This is a 300’ tower atop a 300’ ASL hill. Once fully operational the coverage for these machines around the city and to the west should be great.

73 Pete, VE9NPS

A group of volunteers in Ottawa are refurbishing an RCAF North Star aircraft. Apparently all radio equipment was removed at time of donation by the RCAF many years ago. If you have any knowledge of possible whereabouts of replacements or very similar look alikes, they would be very grateful for same. Might even get an HF station setup inside when completed! The NORTH Star Project has a website with many good articles on Merlin engines etc. Put North Star Project in Google.

73 VE1NPS Nigel

Hello, Nigel, My name is Bruce Gemmill, a volunteer on the North star project. I am also a former amateur radio operator (VE7BTR).

I have made a partial list of the radio equipment typically installed in this aircraft. I hope you can use your contacts to help locate some of these items, to complete our restoration. We would, of course, hope for complete systems in good condition, but any items would be helpful.

HF Transmitter - ART-13 (also Antenna Load Assembly CU 24, CU32 OR CU25)

HF Receiver - BC 348

VHF Transmitter/Receiver - Bendix Series 21 (RA 21A/TA-21A) (118 - 135.9 MHZ)

UHF Transceiver - AR 552 (Including Control Unit) (225 - 399.9 KHZ)

Liaison Radio - ARC 38 (2 - 25 MHZ) (Voice/CW) including Remote Control Unit, Antenna Coupler, Power Supply J68 ARC3 and Hand Key MT 11B)

Transceiver - BC 788

- Receiver - AIR - BC 733D
- R89/ARN-5
- MN 53A
- R77/ARC-3
- R-608/ARC-49

Transmitter - AIR - T-47/ARC-3  
- T-452/ARC-49

73 Bruce



**Safety Corner** (Continued from page 5)

rettes, burning gas lanterns, using natural gas for heating and cooking, living in brick or stone houses, using phosphate fertilizers, and watching color television. The dose from medical, industrial, and consumer product sources varies from person to person, depending upon how many medical/dental x-rays received, type of employment, smoking habits, etc.

**Radiation and Health**

**Ionizing radiation** is dangerous in direct exposure, although the degree of danger is a subject of debate. Humans and animals can also be exposed to ionizing radiation internally: if radioactive isotopes are present in the environment, they may be taken into the body. Radioactive materials that decay spontaneously produce ionizing radiation. Any living tissue in the human body can be damaged by ionizing radiation.

**Is any amount of radiation safe?**

There is no firm basis for setting a "safe" level of exposure above background for stochastic effects. Many sources emit radiation that is well below natural background levels. This makes it extremely difficult to isolate its stochastic effects. In setting limits, EPA makes the conservative assumption that any increase in radiation exposure is accompanied by an increased risk of stochastic effects. Some scientists assert that low levels of radiation, are beneficial to health. However, there do appear to be threshold exposures for the various non-stochastic effects. For further information refer to my sources above.

**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 at [ve1trb@eastlink.ca](mailto:ve1trb@eastlink.ca)

*Question: What Lies At The Bottom Of The Ocean And Twitches?*

*Answer: A Nervous Wreck.*

**New Gear** (Continued from page 4)

Finally, **Yaesu** <<http://www.yaesu.com/>> showed its new FT-450 HF + 6 meter offering. The FT-450 bears some similarities to the Yaesu FT-2000, but with fewer features and a correspondingly lower price.

**What else?**

**Array Solutions** is distributing the SPE Expert 1K-FA solid-state linear amplifier. It is a compact light weight (44 pounds) fully automated, full break-in capable amplifier that puts out 1000 W PEP on 160 through 10 meters (700 W PEP on 6 meters). It has an internal 120 or 240 V ac power supply and antenna tuner.

**Dishtronix** <<http://www.dishtronix.com/>> showed off its 100% duty cycle, 1500W output (on all modes) solid-state linear. This is a "serious" amplifier at 65 pounds with the choice of a separate 120 pound linear power supply or a 54 pound switcher.

**Tokyo Hy-Power** <<http://www.thp.co.jp/>> enjoyed a great debut at Dayton this year, showing three HF amplifiers newly introduced to the US market. On display were the HL-1.2KFX 750 W output, HL-1.5KFX 1 kW output and HL-2.5KFX legal limit amplifiers as well as the HL-500V 2 meter linear. All are solid state. THP also offers a new legal-limit automatic antenna tuner.

**Kenwood** <<http://www.kenwood.com/>> announced a new V/UHF mobile transceiver, the TM-71A. Of particular note is free software that allows downloading repeater data from ARRL's Travel Plus <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9930>> directly into radio memories. It also can function as a crossband repeater.

**Yaesu** introduced a new V/UHF transceiver especially for hams on the go! The FTM-10 is designed to mount on the handlebars of your bike or motorcycle so that you don't even need a mic! Just talk into the front panel, and you're on the air!

Radio accessories: Topping the list this year is the MFJ-998 1500 W Intellituner. This legal-limit auto tuner is designed to handle loads from 12 to 1600 ohms from 160 to 10 meters and includes two outputs and sophisticated memory, protection and control features.

**West Mountain Radio** <<http://www.westmountainradio.com/>>, the Rig-Blaster and RigRunner folk, have branched out into the audio side of your radios. They introduced a DSP-equipped speaker designed for the HF operator who would like more signal and less noise.

**Palstar** <<http://www.palstar.com/>> has a new AT1KP tuner that covers 160 through 6 meters. By switching in the 160 meter inductance only when needed, the AT1KP reduces the minimum capacitance of the tuner so it can cover 6 meters.

The Swiss Antenna Matching System from **Heinz-Bolli** is a legal-limit remote-controlled tuner designed for outdoor mounting. It can be manually tuned by remote control or auto tuning can be used to select the best tuner configuration or adjust the parameters. The North American distributor is Array Solutions.

-- Joel Hallas, W1ZR

Radio communication for the 2007 MS Bike Tour was provided by:  
 VE1WIN Win Hartlin - 1st year  
 VE1WRG Derek Coolen - 1st year  
 VE1PIE Colleen Prentice - 1st year  
 VE1SJP Sheldon Page - 1st year  
 VE1DHD Howard Dickson - 3 years  
 VE1ESP Emil Pineau - 3 years  
 VE1HTD Herb Doan - 3 years  
 VE1EDA David Musgrave - 5 years  
 VE1LDL Doug LeBlanc - 7 years  
 VE1BSK Rod Padmore - 9 years  
 VE1TRB Terry Bigelow - 11 years  
 VE1RGG Rick Gardiner - 15 years  
 The "years" indicate the number of years each person has worked communications for the MS Bike Tour

*Save the earth! It's the only planet that we know has chocolate*

**The 2007 Downeast Flea Market**

by Barry Diggins VE1TRI

On Saturday May the 12th the Halifax and Dartmouth Amateur Radio Clubs hosted a very successful 24th annual Downeast Flea Market. Hams from across the Maritimes bought, sold or traded new & used amateur radios, related electronic and computer gear. Many smiling hams were escaping through the doors at 12:30 pm with their bargains after the major Icom dual band draw prize especially Peter VE1PJS who laid claim to the prize. It typically is the first and largest Maritime flea market of the year. It was held in the multi purpose complex of the Halifax forum from 9:00 to 12:30 pm. Many thanks to the able-bodied table set up and identification crew who also helped set up the HARC tables. Sellers set from 6:30 am on Saturday morning.

The Flea Market provides a significant benefit to hams and other clubs throughout the region. It is one of the occasions that amateurs can gather, meet and socialize with others from different clubs. Also it is a chance to enjoy a presentation, check out a display, renew your membership in any of the associations and to buy, sell or replace your ham gear. The various ARCs have an opportunity to connect and attend a meeting of their provincial association.

This year there was a total of 102 vendors, presenters, hams setting up displays or promoting the various associations. Another 245 buyers entered to give a total of 347 attendees and a total of 112 tables. A record number of pre booked tables, 98, generated a lot of pre event interest. However, there seemed to be fewer 'walk-in' sellers than in other years. There were a few cancellations due to health, family & personal matters.

Two major Commercial suppliers:

1. Durham Sales & Service from Whitby, Ontario and
  2. ALQ Electronics, Wayne Struggnell from Skiff Lake, NB
- ably provided commercial sales & supplies. Some of the 30 draw prizes came from other commercial suppliers: Maple Leaf Com, MacFarlane Electronics and \$100 gift certificate from Elkel Electroniques. The major door prize provided through Dick VE1AI, a dual band HT from ICOM was happily won by Peter, VE1PJS, president of the Truro ARC and manager of the Maritime swap shop.

There was a total of about 30 draw prizes. 3 donations came from local suppliers that should be mentioned: Jentronics (LED flashlight), RAE Industrials (a hard toolcase) and Sleeman Maritimes (3 long sleeved fleece pullovers & jacket).

With an attendance of 347 and 30 draw prizes there was a 1:11 or 9% chance of winning which increased just before the noon hour major draw as a few hams left early.

An important reminder to all amateurs to please support our sponsors and mention their involvement with our events. Their sponsorship makes our events successful.

Many local clubs had table representation or displays on hand; West Cumb ARC, Queens ARC, Pictou County ARC, Lunenburg ARC, and Kings County ARC. The latter club made a clean sweep by selling their two tables clean. HARC was also happy to make \$1530 worth of sales. Our provincial & national associations were ably represented. Len Morgan, VE9MY, ran the RAC table. The NSARA table was run by Tom, VE1TA, & Shirley, VE1JFG, selling 24 memberships and con-

ducting the meeting after the flea market. Tom, VE1GTC, & Murray, VE1MMD, ran the QSL bureau.

Two excellent presentations were given: The first by Dave George, VE1AJP, and Matt Boyle, VE1BSG, on Scanners and Emergency Communications. Just outside the glass seminar room was the provincial TMR truck operated by Scott Hawkes, VE1SLH, and the EMO repeater trailer operated by Dave, VE1EDA. The whole south corner resembled an EMO 'com' convention.

The second presentation - Carolyn Sparling, VE1FRG, and Jim Cyr, VA1CYR, talked about Geocaching showing nifty applications integrating GPSr with 2m HTs for ham use.

Another popular attractive feature of the event, vigorously pursued after a suggestion by Lynn, VE1ENT, was Swan Maple Syrup Products who were giving samples and explaining the production of maple sugar, syrup & cream then almost selling out. Videotron tubes came from the Montreal area. Atlantic Badges provided name call & club logo on a 'while u wait' basis. Fleamarket Chairman, VE1TRI, was seen getting his new secret contesting weapon ready for July 28 (an IOTA name badge).

Socially many hams had a chance to 'eyeball' and connect a face to a call-sign. Overheard was '? I thought he would be much bigger?'

Congratulations to the DEFM organizing committee, to the HARC/DARC executive and to everyone who worked or assisted in any way and to all the attendees. You made it a success worthy of the involvement of the amateur radio community.

Everybody talks about USB ports but I suspect that, like me, they probably don't have much understanding of what the term implies. Here's a neat link to clear up some of the mystery: <http://www.howstuffworks.com:80/usb6.htm>

Gary, VE1RGB



*A lady at work was seen putting a credit card into her floppy drive and pulling it out very quickly. When I inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM "thingy."*