An Abbreviated History of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC):

The Early Years

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

1933 - 2008

VE1MK - VE1FO - VE1FQ - VE1RAC

VE0MMA CSS ACADIA VE0CNM HMCS SACKVILLE

by Spurgeon G. "Spud" Roscoe - VE1BC

The First Interest in Amateur Radio

When the news broke that Marconi had spanned the Atlantic with wireless on December 12th, 1901, those with an interest in electricity and telegraphy suddenly became very interested in wireless, and this was the beginning of Amateur Radio.

The Creation of the Licenses

Marconi was very interested providing ships at sea with a way to communicate with each other and with land-based stations, but initially there was little interest in what the owners viewed as a passing fad. However, when two passenger liners – *REPUBLIC* and FLORIDA - collided off New York on January 23rd, 1909, and *REPUBLIC* was able to call on a near-by vessel for assistance, ultimately saving 1500 lives, it was clear that Marconi had proven his point. By the time the TITANIC hit the iceberg on April 15th, 1912, the wireless world had grown exponentially and was getting "out of hand". There were no licences and only a few company rules. In fact, wireless operators were more or less doing as they pleased, and this "wild west" environment on the air also applied to amateur radio.

The First Examinations and Licences

In an effort to bring order to chaos on the air, the London Radio Convention was established in 1912, and was just getting started when *TITANIC* hit the iceberg. The outcome of the London Radio Convention was the licensing of both stations and operators, and eventually the assignment of call signs by the various governments on an international level. In Canada the Naval Service of the federal government issued these licences, and the first Amateur Radio licence issued in Canada

was to Frank Vaughan of Saint John, New Brunswick.

The First Amateur Radio Call Signs

The first Amateur Radio operators used whatever came to mind as a call sign, and Amateur Radio clubs would often assign or create call signs for their members.

However, the 1913 Radiotelegraph Act designated that the letter X was to be used in the prefix of an Amateur Radio station call sign, but this was changed in 1919, when the provinces were given a unique numeric designation for call sign prefixes. The provinces of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were assigned the digit "one" for the prefix of their Amateur Radio call signs. In 1920 there were only two Radio Amateurs listed in the Halifax area – (1AH) George Sandoz & (1AI) P. L. Whitman. The list of Amateur Radio stations for the fiscal year 1926-1927 consisted of 42 stations in area one. The call signs went from 1AB to 1EI in alphabetical order.

The First Halifax Area Stations

According to the book "From Spark to Space" published in 1968 by the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club, there were only six Amateur Radio stations in the Halifax and Dartmouth area in 1926-1927. They were:

1AR	J. J. Fassett	Dartmouth
1BN	J. Rose	Halifax
1BQ	A. W. Greig	Halifax
1DD	W. C. Borrett	Dartmouth
1DJ	E. S. Campbell	Halifax
1DQ	A. M. Crowell	Dartmouth

The C and N Prefix

Once these first few stations started to reach across international borders, the one-letter prefix was inadequate. As a result, Canadian stations added the prefix C and American stations added the prefix U.



Courtesy Thomas Roscoe K8CX

The card above is a Joseph Fassett QSL dated November 16th, 1926. Note the small "u" as a prefix in the 8ABW and the small "c" in the prefix of the 1AR call signs. Just below the Joseph Fassett Owner and Operator is the statement DX Worked: Continents of Europe, North and South America, Australasia and Africa; not bad at all for 1926 with 50 watts input and a one wire aerial with counterpoise.

According to the International Amateur Radio Union News as reported in the American Radio Relay League's publication QST for January 1927, on February 1st, 1927 international regulations mandated that all countries were to have a two-letter prefix. For Europeans, that first letter was an "E"; for Asian countries it was the letter "A"; North America "N"; South America "S"; and Africa "F". For example, the station c1AA from this area then became NC1AA.

First to Cross the Atlantic

Bill Borrett 1DD of Dartmouth was the first in this area to cross the Atlantic when he made contact with a station in France in December 1923. Bill organized the American Radio Relay League activities in the Halifax area and was the Canadian

representative at the formation of the International Amateur Radio Union in Paris in 1925.

ROTAB



HARC Files

In March, 1924, as a mark of distinction, a society was formed called the Royal Order of Tans-Atlantic Brass Pounders; this was abbreviated R.O.T.A.B. Only those who had held two-way communications across the Atlantic Ocean could be members. Each member was allowed to put ROTAB on his QSL cards. Note the R.O.T.A.B. in the bottom left corner of the c1AR card above.

The VE Prefix

There were no International Conferences held between 1912 and 1927. The 1927 International Radiotelegraph Conference was held in Washington DC. At the 1927 Conference three key recommendations were agreed to in regard to Amateur Radio:

- 1. A formal definition and recognition of Amateur Radio.
- 2. Allocation of specific harmonically related bands below 200 meters 160, 80, 40, 20, 10, etc.
- 3. Agreement on country call sign prefixes.

Following on recommendation #3, the world's Amateur Radio stations were all assigned a country-specific prefix for their call signs. The letter V is believed to have been assigned to the British Colonies in memory of Queen Victoria. These prefixes originated from the blocks of international call signs that were first assigned the various

nations of the world at the 1912 London Radio Convention. Canada had been assigned the VAA-VGZ block of call signs at this convention. The number and the suffix remained the same, and so for example, Bill Bligh's c1BC callsign simply became VE1BC.

MARA and HARC

All Amateur Radio operators were a member of a close-knit community by virtue of their mutual interest in radio, and many were close friends. This mutual interest in radio prompted the formation of the Maritime Amateur Radio Association (MARA) in the late1920's. The meetings were held mostly in the homes of the various members, and because most of the meetings were held in the Halifax area, it was decided to change the name of this group to the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. Interestingly, all of the information available until the fall of 2007 indicated that this change in name took place in 1933. However, while moving the HARC station from the Bloomfield Centre to St. Andrews Community Centre a dusty box of Club minutes was discovered, including the minutes of the March 16th, 1934 meeting that formed the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. The minutes are signed by the Secretary Treasurer of the day, Wes Street (VE1EK). In attendance were:

VE1DE John MacKasey President

VE1EK Wes Street Secretary Treasurer

VE1FB John Roue Assistant Secretary

VE1EP Art Grant

VE1BC Bill Bligh

VE1AW Cliff Short

VE1FO Doug Smith

VE1CP Trevor Burton

VE2AF unknown

VE1HK Barkley Dowden - later became VE1HK VE1OC Aaron Solomon - later became VE1OC

During these early years, the meetings were held on the third Friday of each month in the homes of the various members. Eventually, a committee was formed to find a suitable alternative meeting place, and it was decided to meet in the Halifax YMCA, and the first meeting took place at the YMCA on December 16th, 1936. A supper was held for the members at the YMCA before this first meeting.

Monthly Dues

The monthly dues were set at twenty-five cents per meeting at the beginning of the H.A.R.C. This was changed to \$3.00 per annum beginning on January 1st, 1937 and has increased to \$25.00 per annum for membership in H.A.R.C. for 2008.

Affiliation with ARRL

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club became affiliation with the American Radio Relay League in 1935, and conventions under A.R.R.L. sponsorship were held in Halifax in 1937 and 1939. The Club also operated a station, through which traffic was handled three or four nights a week.

The First Hamfest

The social gatherings known as picnics were very popular years ago. The automobile was more reliable and the roads were better in the 1930's than they had been previously, and this meant that one could travel farther and easier. In 1935, with the co-operation of other VE1 hams, plans were made to hold a hamfest on the first weekend in June (King George V's birthday). It was a new venture for the group, but enthusiasm was great. The opening dinner saw 89 in attendance. The guest speaker on this occasion was Major W. C. Borrett (VE1DD), and Joe Fassett (10AR) reminiscing on the early days of radio. The ten prefix had been assigned to broadcast stations, the ones that became CHNS and so on across the country. Alex Reid (VE2BE), was also present. Alex was the General Manager of the American Radio Relay League in Canada. The Sunday picnic included a game of baseball; the demonstration of five-meter gear; and a Morse code transmitting and receiving contest.

The Moose River Gold Mines disaster April 1936

The Moose River Gold Mines disaster in April 1936 brought the Halifax Amateur Radio Club international fame, and through the medium of commercial radio, the whole world heard live, onthe-scene broadcasts of the 12-day effort to rescue three men who were trapped deep underground when a mine caved in. Two of the men were rescued, and today the Moose River Provincial Park marks the site of the massive rescue operation.

The H.A.R.C. received high praise from the Canadian Press for their efforts in this disaster. Art Crowell (VE1DO), and two assistants went to Moose River and passed a lot of CW traffic to the Canadian Press via VE1AW in Halifax. Back then their portable stations were powered by 45-volt dry cell batteries, and about all they could get out of the equipment was two to three watts – barely enough to work Halifax. According to Ralph Fraser (VE1HJ), Walt Wooding (VE1ET), did most of the operating at VE1AW. VE1AW was located on North Street in Halifax, but there was a lot of electrical interference to contend with in that part of town, especially from the electric tram cars in use in the city at that time. These stations remained on the air continuously for 96 hours handling messages from various news media reporters at the site. Bill Bligh (VE1BC), was involved as a relay station in Halifax, relaying messages to Canadian Press.

This is the card from Bill Bligh mailed to Bill Lockhart (VE1EL), in Moncton at 11:30-PM August 8th, 1932. Note the M.A.R.A. at the bottom of the card. This card cost Bill two cents to mail, but with the cost of cards and the postage it would add up and could be an expensive hobby for one back then. Bill Bligh opened his radio repair business in Halifax three years later in 1935.

QSL Managers

John Roue (VE1FB), was not only the nephew of the Roue who designed the sailing vessel BLUENOSE, he was one of the first QSL card managers for this area. Art Grant (VE1EP), stated that John would bring your cards to you and always had them sorted with the SWL's and such on the top, and the good DX cards in the bottom of the pile. Art always turned his pile over and read from the bottom up. John held the QSL card manager job for a few years and then turned it over to Brit Fader (VE1FQ). Art did not know why the change was made, but Brit held the job, and quite a job it is, for many years. The HARC has not only retained Brit's VE1FQ call sign, but it runs the Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau to this day; a fitting tribute to a well known, well loved, and hard working HARC member.

1936 Provincial Exhibition



S. G. "Spud" Roscoe VE1BC

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club had a booth at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition in the fall of 1936. The Cliff Short (VE1AW), station worked very well at this exhibition and hundreds of people had their first opportunity to transmit via amateur radio. These transmissions were made on 20-meters via full duplex, and a list of many names of those showing an interest in obtaining their Amateur Radio licence was recorded.

HARC during World War II

With the outbreak of war in 1939 the amateur activities ceased. Every amateur in Canada received a letter from the Minister of Transport, the governing body of all radio regulations at that time. This letter was dated September 5, 1939, stated in part that "I hereby notify you that your Amateur Experimental Station Licence is suspended forthwith, and direct you to completely dismantle and render inoperative all equipment installed in your station". But by mutual consent the Halifax Amateur Radio Club carried on its monthly meetings. This proved to be a wise move since Halifax, an eastern Canadian port, was well known in those days, and frequently visited by amateurs from abroad, and all across Canada. Thus during this period of radio inactivity many radio friends were made by personal contact.

HARC after World War II

Ham activities returned to normal again in 1946, and a Hamfest was held on the Labour Day weekend of that year at Palamer's Lodge in Bedford Nova Scotia.

The 1949 Hamfest

In 1949, Halifax celebrated its Bi-Centenary (1749-1949) and the Halifax Amateur Radio Club went all out on a celebration. Again a Hamfest was arranged for the Labour Day weekend. This proved to be most enjoyable and successful, but the planning was on a rather elaborate scale that necessitated caution in the planning of future conventions. The 10.30 a.m. address was by Byron Goodman, W1DX, entitled "Single Side Band Telephony". That must have seemed light years away by most in attendance. There is a wealth of history here, especially around George Harris. It was he who alerted the world to the Halifax Explosion in 1917 as the Warrant Officer Telegraphist in *HMCS NIOBE*. Mr. Harris was made an Honorary Member of HARC at the December 16th, 1936, club meeting.

Halifax Amateur Radio Wives Association

This club was formed in 1946. Initially the group was called the "Ladies Dit and Dah Club" but this was quickly found too cumbersome and was soon changed to the Halifax Amateur Radio Wives Association. This club remained active and thirteen years later in 1959 it was believed to be the only one of its type in Canada. Thirteen of the original members were still active in 1959.

Field Days

As far as we have been able to determine, the Halifax Amateur Radio Club has participated in the American Radio Relay League Field Days since they began in 1936. There has been an ARRL field day every year since with the exception of the time Amateur Radio was terminated for World War II. In the past ten or so years HARC had been outstanding in the 2A and 2F classes not only in Canada, but overall. The following is the account of HARC Field Day activity for the records that have been located:

1937 – HARC was assigned the **VE1MK** call sign in February and probably used it for Field Day that year.

1938 - HARC used VE1MK scoring 477 points. **1939 -** HARC used the call sign VE1MK and held their Field Day at Upper Sackville. 1940 – 1945 - No Field Day was held because of the Amateur Radio termination for World War II.
1946 – HARC was assigned the VE1FO call sign.
1948 – HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 28th overall with 2,528 points in the three transmitter class.

1950 – HARC Field Day took place at Fritz Webb's cottage, Queensland - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 29th overall in the three transmitter class with a score of 3,204 points.

1951- HARC Field Day held again at Fritz Webb's cottage, Queensland - HARC with the VE1FO call sign had a score of 2,139 points in the three transmitter class. Our ranking was not publihsed. 1952- CBC camp, Hubbards - HARC was the 3rd Canadian station and 39th overall in the three transmitter class with a score of 2.367 points. 1953 - CBC camp, Hubbards - HARC was the 4th Canadian station and 54th overall in the three transmitter class with a score of 2,007 points. 1954 - Don Bain's cottage, Glen Margaret - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 26th overall in the three transmitter class with a score of 3,321 points. This record rated a listing of the VE1FO call at the beginning of the Field Day report as a top station in its area.

1955 - Don Bain's cottage, Glen Margaret - HARC was the 3rd Canadian station and 57th overall in the three transmitter class with a score of 3,339 points.

1956 - Swan Lake, Windsor Highway - HARC was the 2nd Canadian station and 32nd overall in the three transmitter class with a score of 3,132 points.

1957 - Swan Lake, Windsor Highway - HARC was the 2nd Canadian station and 42nd overall in the three transmitter class with a score of 3,195 points.

1958 - The Civil Defence provided their 40-foot trailer as field day headquarters on this field day.

The Coordinator, Major J. Vickery accompanied the operators and watched them "do their stuff" in spite of the unfavourable radio conditions they experienced. VE1FO came 2nd in Canada and 120

1959 – HARC was the 8th Canadian station and 106th overall in the three transmitters operating simultaneously category.

overall.

1960 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 7th Canadian station and 120th overall in the three transmitter class with a score of 2,250 points.

1961 – HARC was the 2nd Canadian station and 67th overall in the three transmitters operating simultaneously category.

1962 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 3rd Canadian station and 82nd overall in the two transmitter class with a total of 2,484 points.

1963 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 2nd Canadian station and 83rd overall in the two transmitter class with a total of 2,826 points.

1964 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 16th overall in the two transmitter class with a total of 5,250 points.

1965 – HARC was 95th overall in the two transmitter class and was beaten by several other Canadian stations.

1968 - the Field Day from "Hell":

Gerry Harris (VE1AAC), does not recall the exact year but he remembers the HARC field day held on Patton Road, out in Upper Sackville very well. It was a terrible stormy night. There was lots of heavy rain, thunder, and lightning flying off the antennas all night. And there were lots of nervous guys around, but Brit Fader (VE1FQ), was as happy as a pig in a mud puddle. He was the only one who would go out in the lightning to check the antennas. He was laughing the whole night. Thought it was great. It turned out to be one of the best years they ever had. Don Bower (VE1AMC), remembers that field day event very well. He was driving a 66 Plymouth at the time so it was between 1966 and 1974. As St Elmo's fire danced all over the place and water was running over and through the power cables and coax on the floor of the EMO Volkswagen Camper. He remembers Dick Grantham (VE1AI), sending code by using a wooden lead pencil to push an old fashioned straight key for fear of getting electrocuted from either above or below. He recalled that just about everyone got stuck trying to get out of a very soggy hayfield. He pulled several people out with his car. C. G. "Binx" Fisher (VE1AFN), was there as the generator quit in the middle of the night. Murray Alary (VE1ALS), and Don (VE1AMC), went and fixed it. Binx was sleeping on the floor and Don

stepped on him in the dark going through the old EMO trailer. Binx was not impressed. Dick Grantham (VE1AI), remembers that Sackville field day and not only using a pencil but keeping his feet off the steel floor and not touching anything. They had a lightning strike right in the field where they were operating. But all in all a really good time was had by all. After all this, HARC was 50th overall and the 4th Canadian station in the two transmitters operating simultaneously category.

1969 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 2nd Canadian station and 26th overall in the two transmitter class with a total of 7,074 points. **1970** – HARC was 21st overall and the second

Canadian station. **1971** – HARC was 21st overall and the first

Canadian station. 1972 - HARC was 25^{th} overall and the first

Canadian station in the 2A category.

1973 – HARC was 30th overall and the second Canadian station right behind VE5NN, the Regina Amateur Radio Club that was 29th.

1974 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 2nd Canadian station and 29th overall in Section 2A with a total of 2,696 points right behind VE5NN, the Regina Amateur Radio Club.

1975 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 48th overall in the 2A category with a total of 2,890 points.

1976 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 21st overall in the 2A category with a total of 4,688 points.

1977 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 14th overall in the 2A category with a total of 5,248 points.

1978 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 6th overall in the 2A category with a total of 5,860 points.

1979 - Rawdon Hills - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 27th overall in the 2A category with a total of 5,144 points.

1980 - The Ovens, Lunenburg - we found no record in any category for HARC. Apparently HARC did not participate in this Field Day but the Dartmouth Club participated at this location.

1981 - 1983 - HARC did not participate in Field Day; the reason not determined.

1984 - Hartlen Point - HARC was the 2nd Canadian station and 73rd overall in the 2A category with a total of 3,688 points.



EMO Trailer – July 2007 – MS Bike Ride – Ride orgnaizer on the left and Dave (VE1EDA) trailer manager on the right.

1985 - Hartlen Point - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 61st overall in the 2A category with a total of 4,266 points.

1986 - Hartlen Point - we found no history of any HARC participation on this Field Day.

1987 - Hartlen Point - HARC was 39th overall and the 1st Canadian Station in the 2A section with a total of 5,014 points.

1988 – HARC was 43rd overall and the 1st Canadian Station in the 2A section with a total of 5,388 points.

1989 - Hartlen Point - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 24th overall in the 2A category with a total of 6,506 points.

1990 - Department of Highways site in Tantallon - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 28th overall in the 2A category with a total of 6,264 points.

1991 - Department of Highways site in Tantallon - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 11th overall in the 2A category with a total of 7,288 points.

1992 - Department of Highways site in Tantallon - HARC was 23rd overall and the 1st Canadian station in the 2A section with a total of 6,862 points.

1993 - Department of Highways site in Tantallon - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 25th overall in the 2A category with a total of 7,618 points.

1994 - Department of Highways site in Tantallon - HARC was the 1st Canadian station and 26th overall in the 2A category with a total of 6,820 points.

1995 –HARC was 15th overall in the 2A section.

1996 – HARC was 91st overall and first in Canada in the 2A section.

1997 – HARC was 23rd overall and first in Canada in the 2A section.

1998 – HARC was 30th overall and first in Canada in the 2A section.

1999 – HARC was 68th overall and first in Canada in the 2A section.

2000 – HARC was 36th overall and first in Canada in the 2A section.

2001 – HARC was 20th overall and first in Canada in the 2A section.

2002 – HARC was 9th overall and first in Canada in the 2A section.

2003 – HARC was 3rd overall and first in Canada in the 2F section.

2004 – Nothing found in any section.

2005 – HARC was 1st overall in the 2F section.

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2006 – HARC was 89th overall and second in Canada in the 2A section.

2007 – HARC was 3rd overall and first in Canada in the 2F section.

Teaching Amateur Radio

Teaching Amateur Radio began in an informal way (Elmering) before the formation of the various Amateur Radio clubs; unfortunately, there is no record of the first formal course taught at the Halifax Amateur Radio Club.



HARC Files and probably taken by Bernie VE1BLM now VE1PT This is Dan Dawson (VE1JV, teaching an Amateur Radio class.

Jim Hicks wanted me to start a class so he could get his licence shortly after I met him around 1980. I mentioned this to Dan Dawson one day. I did not know Dan had his amateur licence. Dan wanted to know if he could teach theory with me. My theory was back in the days of tubes and not far removed from spark transmissions so needles to say Dan was a most welcome asset. Dan (VE1JV) and I started teaching in his basement in Williamswood. He is one of the finest radio theory instructors I have met. Jim Hicks became VE1AGK from our first class. I tried to be each student's first QSO and Jim was the first on March 13th, 1984, at 1605. A great thrill to work a former student for the first time. I note from my old logs that my first phone contact with him was one year later.

Over the years HARC has been fortunate to have had a large number of excellent and committed

teachers for the basic Amateur Radio course. In the late 80's and well into the 90's Pearson Fryers (VE1SWL) managed the course, assisted by a dedicated group of instructors. Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) took over in the late 90's and Scott Wood (VE1QD) managed the course from the beginning of the new millenium. Scott Wood has been successful in attracting some younger students into the hobby and now that there is no longer a Morse code requirement, this aspect of the programme has been handled separately by Gary Bartlett (VE1RGB), who holds ab weekly CW class at the Club station.

Emergency Measures Organization

Over the years, the HARC membership has worked in close association with our local Civil Defence authorities, now known as the Emergency Measures Organization or EMO. The Halifax Metro EMO group has held the call sign VE1QQ



for nearly 50 years, and was the call sign of Mr. E. S. Campbell in 1959. In 1963 and 1976 it is listed in the Callbook as the Provincial Civil Defence Organization, but is listed as EMO in the 1984 Callbook. The relationship between the local Amateur Radio community and the EMO in the Halifax area has matured over the years and has been formalized by an official memorandum of understanding (MOU), and a number of Amateur Radio call signs (VE1HRA trough VE1HRM, excluding VE1HRI) are now associated with the EMO. There is also a highly productive

collaboration between the Metro Halifax Amateur Radio community and the local Ground Search & Rescue group, with the latter making their command vehicles available for Field Days and EMO exercises. While the commitment to public service by HARC members has remained strong over the years, it is interesting to note how technology has advanced. On the left is the EMO trailer on the front lawn of Bill (VE1BBS), likely in the late 1970's; contrast this with the 2007 version of the EMO repeater trailer (below) as it was used to provide communications for the MS Bike Ride in the summer of 2007. The trailer is equipped with a jack-up tower, Amateur Radio as well as EMO repeaters and an on-board generator. Over the years I spent a lot of time in that old trailer. I do recall it was brutally cold in the winter and that the inside of the trailer frosted over completely with ice, with icicles dripping from the ceiling. The metal chairs were particularly brutal. Summer nights were not much better, as the sides opened up for ventilation and access to the operators. The same accommodation was also provided for the bugs. We usually opted for stuffiness and heat as opposed to the bugs.'

LeBriton (Brit) John Fader VE1FQ

Mention has already been made of Brit but as one of the best know Radio Amateurs in Canada, he deserves special mention.

Brit worked for and retired from the Halifax Central Post Office after serving in the Royal Canadian Signal Corps of the Army during World War II. Brit was a very active member of the Amateur Radio community and for many years was the sole net control operator for the Maritime Net that meets daily at 7-PM on 3750 kilohertz. Brit spent a lot of his amateur operating handling phone patches, especially for the military. He was given a trip to the Great Lakes on one of the navy destroyers, at least one letter from the Admiral, and at least one mess dinner in appreciation for the many phone patches he had handled for the navy. Brit was also the QSL card manager for the Halifax QSL Bureau and had been the longest serving QSL card manager within the A.R.R.L. for several years when he passed away. The Halifax Amateur Radio Club has retained Brit's VE1FQ call sign and has

the QSL Bureau named in his honour; as The Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau. To further commemorate his contribution to our hobby, the HARC has established a scholarship endowment to provide assistance to students wishing to pursue post-secondary studies in the area of electronics. The first award will be made in 2008 as part of our anniversary celebrations.



HARC Files - Left to right: Brit Fader (VE1FQ), Angus MacDonald (VE1YO) and Helen Logan, VP9JD.

Radio Amateur of the Year

In 1976 the Canadian Radio Relay League created an award titled Radio Amateur of the Year. To qualify an individual should have made an outstanding contribution to Amateur Radio in the last year, or have contributed consistently to the welfare of Amateur Radio over several years. The first recipient of this award was Brit Fader. It took a bit of work to get Brit to Toronto and surprise him with this award. Bob Eschauzier (VE1ST), and Dave Oldridge (VE1BFV), were involved in this, with the help of Mrs. Fader. They talked Brit into going to Moncton to visit Bob. Dave was already in Moncton and he and Bob met Brit at the bus. When they had him in Bob's Volvo they headed straight to Toronto. Brit figured it out before they got to Fredericton that something was amiss. He grumbled for about half the trip, but once at the

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ARRL annual convention, he was fine, because there were so many people there that he knew from working them on the air. Dave said you could have knocked him over with a feather when they announced he was "Ham of the Year". It was a complete surprise.



 $Courtesy\ Bill\ Elliott\ VE1MR$

This is Dave Nimmo (VE1NN, on the left, Bill Elliott (VE1MR and Bill Gillis (VE1WG, on the right presenting the RAC – Radio Amateur of the year award for the year 2003.

The Canadian Radio Relay League became Radio Amateurs of Canada in 1979 and RAC retained this award. The second VE1 to be awarded this prestigious award was another member of HARC, a president, Bill Elliott (VE1MR). Bill received this award for the year 2003. Howard Dickson (VE1DHD), made the submission, Dave Nimmo (VE1NN), was the Director and Bill Gillis (VE1WG), was RAC President at the time. Lynn managed to "spruce up" Bill to the point he actually wore a tie to the HARC Christmas dinner. They made this presentation at that dinner. One of the few times anyone has seen Bill wearing a tie. Bill knew he had been nominated but the presentation was a complete surprise. Bill is an excellent operator, technician and a very good president. He certainly deserves any recognition Amateur Radio has to offer. The HARC may be the only club to have two members who have received this award.

Frank Follweiler K2SQM - VE1SQM

Frank worked as a machinist for the RCA Corporation at Camden, New Jersey. He purchased

a cottage at Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia in 1950 Peggy's Cove is one of the big tourist attractions in Nova Scotia, and Frank and his wife Marie, a school teacher and Amateur Radio operator (WA2HSN) spent as much time there as possible. This was back when the taxes on his cottage were fifty-three cents per annum. Frank joined the Halifax Amateur Radio Club shortly after he purchased the cottage. The antenna on Frank's cottage produced some interesting entries in their Guest Book. Marie passed away several years before Frank. She had been quite ill the last couple of years she and Frank spent at the cottage. After Marie died Frank and his old alley cat, as he called his old orange tomcat, spent their summers at the cottage together. Frank and Marie did not have a family and when Frank died he left the cottage and all of the furnishings, including his radio gear, as well as some money, to the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. The cottage was sold and all this money has been invested by the club making HARC one of the better off clubs in the country. To sum Frank up in one sentence it would simply be that he was one fine guy and a great amateur. Frank did not own a broadcast receiver, TV, or have a telephone and ordered his cars new so he could get them without a broadcast receiver. He died at his home in Camden doing what he liked best. He had just signed off from a QSO with his best amateur friend.



HARC Files - Frank Follweiler K2SQM & VE1SOM

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HARC Club Stations Over the Years

The HARC is one of the few Amateur Radio Clubs in the country that has been fortunate enough to have had access to excellent facilities in which to house a Club Radio Station. In the early years, HARC members met in the homes of various local Hams, the Nova Scotia Technical College, the YMCA, the old Moir's chocolate factory on Argyle Street, the old police station on Market Street, and in 1967 they met at the Police Headquarters on Brunswick Street. Starting in 1968 meetings were regularly held at the Nova Scotia Technical College. In 1975 they were moved to the Nova Scotia Institute of Technology campus on Leeds Street in the north end of Halifax where the Club had its first real Club Station – some described it as a broom closet, but there was a tower and beam. The club continued to meet at the NIST until 1985. In 1986 and 1987 the meetings were held in the Teacher's Resource Center, 6225 Chebucto Road. They moved to the Public Archives, 6016 University Avenue in 1989 and in 1991 back to TUNS and in 1992 to the new Club Station at the Bloomfield Centre at the corner of Almond and Robie streets. The Club remained at the Bloomfield Centre until the fall of 2007 when the move to St. Andrews Community Centre in Bayers Rd. took place.

HARC Presidents Over the Years

HARC has been fortunate to have had outstanding leadership through the years and the following Club Presidents are to be recognized and congratulated:

1933 - C. S. Taylor, VE1BV

1934 - John MacKasey, VE1DE

1935 - Wes Street, VE1EK

1936 - West Street, VE1EK

1937 - (Name), VE1EC

1938 - VE1EC

1939 - Bill Bligh, VE1BC

The war shut down all amateur radio activity on September 5th, 1939.

1940 - Brit Fader, VE1FO

1945 - Fritz Webb, VE1DB

1946 - Walt Wooding, VE1ET

1949 - Doug Johnson, VE1PQ

1959 - Ray Wilson, VE1WL

1965 - Ian Macleod, VE1GC

1966 - Dick Grantham, VE1AI

1967 - Gerry Harris, VE1AAC

1968 - George Cousins, VE1TG

1969 - Jim Shand, VE1ASN

1970 - Bob Shultz, VE1IF

1971 - Harley Grimmer, VE1MX

1972 - Barry Hyndman, VE1XW

1973 - Dick Grantham, VE1AI

1974 - Sauli Arosankari, VE1AIH

1975 - Brit Fader, VE1FQ

1976 - Brit Fader, VE1FQ

1977 - Don Bower, VE1AMC

1978 - Don Bower, VE1AMC

1979 - Mike Pothier, VE1AJP 1990 - Clyde Bagley, VE1AMZ

1983 - Don Bower, VE1AMC

1984 - John Perkins, VE1FH

1985 - John Perkins, VE1FH

1986 - John Perkins, VE1FH

1987 - Dave Nimmo, VE1NN

1988 - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ

1989 - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ

1990 - Terry Galaugher, VE1KWG

1991 - Jack Kiuru, VE1ZK

1992 - Martha DeVanney, VE1LE

1993 - Rick Gardiner, VE1RGG

1994 - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ

1995 - Gerry Burnett, VE1GUN

1996 - Al Penny,

1997 - Al Penny, VO1NO

1998 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

1999 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

2000 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

2001 - Al Penny, VO1NO

2002 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR 2003 - Dick Grantham - VE1AI

2004 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

2005 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

2006 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

2007 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

will continue into the future.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club has much to be proud of as it celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2008. The membership has been strong and remains strong today. Over the years, HaRC members have contributed much to their community through public service and there is every intention that this