



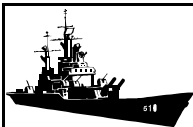
The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

November 2008, Volume 69 Number 10

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Club Elections will be held November 19, 2008



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
2nd V.P. - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Helen MacRae, VE1HMR	422-7119	ve1hmr@rac.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

Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
75th Anniversary Chair - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
2009 Flea market Chair - VACANT		
Field Day coordinator - VACANT		
Safety Officer - VACANT		
NSARA Director - Bob Petitpas, VE1RHP	876-1643	VIE@eastlink.ca
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH		

Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Len Morgan, VE9MY	(506) 847-5656	lmorgan@nbnet.nb.ca
RAC Section Manager - Jim Langille, VE1JBL	(902) 667-1485	ve1jbl@ns.sympatico.ca
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD,	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

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.



Nov. 23	Charles	VE1MCR	Dec. 28	Charles	VE1MCR
Nov. 30	Doug	VE1LDL	Jan. 4	Doug	VE1LDL
Dec. 7	Bruce	VE1MLW	Jan. 11	Bruce	VE1MLW
Dec. 14	Win	VE1WIN	Jan. 18	Win	VE1WIN
Dec. 21	Chris	VA1CDB	Jan. 25	Chris	VA1CDB

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**.

Please be present to be part of the necessary quorum to elect your 2008-2009 Club executive. Have **you** considered standing for a Club office? If not, why not?

Guests are welcome

NOTICE OF MOTION

There will be a motion to approve the write off of the HARC 75 deficit. While the deficit is \$2,918.70 there is approximately \$1,900 retail value of branded item assets which will be turned over to the club. This motion will allow final closure of the HARC 75 books.

Motion: "That the HARC 75 deficit of \$2918.70 be written off and the branded item assets be turned over to the club."

This issue's photos by Bob, VE1PQ, Doug, VE1LDL, & Sam, VE1YVN

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

The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

Events for Your Calendar

December 17 – Christmas Dinner – The club Christmas Dinner will be held on December 17th, 2008 at the Steak and Stein, Young Street, Halifax.

Morse Code Training

Free club-sponsored individual CW training.
Contact Gary, VE1RGB via
ve1rgb@rac.ca for details

Christmas Dinner

The club Christmas Dinner will be held on December 17th, 2008. It will be at the Steak and Stein, Young Street, Halifax 6 PM for 6:30 PM. There will be a special menu to chose from.

See page 10.

Please let Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ, know how many in your party.



Wanted – licensed amateurs willing to mentor (elmer) a student taking the Basic Amateur class. Give your name & contact info to Barry Diggins VE1TRI. .

NET CONTROLLERS NEEDED

We are in desperate need of net controllers. Several people who had been doing net control have found they are not able to continue for one reason or another. Many of these have asked to be removed quite recently. With a long stretch to cover before the next meeting this places a heavy load on the remaining net controllers. This is not a hard task and can be an easy way to help the club.

If you would like to help out perhaps call one of the net controllers over the next month or two and offer to take their place. Then let me know and you can be placed on the rotation in February.

Thanks & 73 - Bill, VE1MR

Words with two Meanings
ENTERTAINMENT
(en-ter-tayn-ment) n.

Female.... A good movie, concert, play or book.
Male..... Anything that can be done while drinking beer.



The new DARC TOWER is UP. It is a sight to behold...very attractive! The 147.150 repeater and the 444.600 repeater are both on the top antenna, the Diamond dual bander. The signal seems to be almost 6 dB better from first assessment.

The 4 pole VHF and 4 pole UHF antennas are up and installed and separate this time. All antennas and feedlines appear to be in good condition.

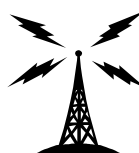
THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH FOR ALL THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO SPEND THE DAY TO HELP COMPLETE THIS LONG OVERDUE PROJECT. A COMPLETE SUCCESS.

Next tasks:

Re-bolt the tower with galvanized bolts
Paint the shack Paint the concrete base
Re-install the climbing guards
Install re-inforcing brackets on the base ... the stub legs are OK but a bit of belt and suspenders would be nice

Who can help?

Dick, VE1AI - 902-434-8046; also E-mail ve1ai@rac.ca

**HARC 75 Special Prefix Contest Results**

Here are the results from the only information I received from our little HARC Special Prefix VX1/VG1 award competitions:

Award #1 - most points:

Only log received who did the actual scoring and applied was from Rich, VG1CHP = 1,055,360 points. Even if I were to try to calculate the total points from the other logs I received, no-one would even come close.

Award #2 - most DXCC entities:

Rich, VG1CHP - 334 QSOs; 154 DXCC
Scott, VX1QD - 433 QSOs; 129 DXCC
Scott, VX1OP - 2906 QSOs; 92 DXCC
Gary, VX1RGB - 278 QSOs; 82 DXCC
Murray, VX1MMD - 335 QSOs; 78 DXCC
Fred, VX1FA - 180 QSOs, 32 countries.
Brian; VX1AZV - 54 QSOs; 34 DXCC
Rich gets the big prize (GPS).

Gary, VE1RGB

IMPORTANT NOTICE – To all sometime members of the HARC Communication Group, formerly known as SARA, at the Canadian Red Cross-Nova Scotia Region at either or both locations on Gottingen Street, Halifax or Troop Ave., Dartmouth:

The Red Cross authorities have been advised that "HARC is unable to continue to support Red Cross communications under the current conditions and with the lack of an MOU. Any Amateur Radio Operator assisting you does so without the support of HARC."

This notice is to advise all Amateur Radio Operators that any amateur radio assistance provided to the Red Cross will not have the support of HARC and no operator may present him/her self as acting on behalf of HARC to the Red Cross.

The Red Cross authorities were advised that in an emergency they have to apply through HRM EMO to get HARC amateur radio operators. This ensures that our members are covered under HRM EMO's insurance.

This notice is published with the approval of HARC President, Bill Elliott, VE1MR and is submitted by Rod Padmore, VE1BSK.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last President's message and I would like to thank all those who helped the club this past year. It has been a great year and almost everything I hoped for has been accomplished. Of course the highlights were Field Day, the 75th celebration, the new callbook and the awarding of the first Brit Fader Scholarship.

You the members have done a great job supporting the club and making it what it is. The club is for you and you will get out of it what you put in and this past year you have hopefully gotten at least as much out of the club as you have put into it.

There was a lot going on this year and while a few of the usual events did not happen a lot of one time and new events happened. I will go into more detail in my annual report at the AGM this month.

I look forward to the coming year where I will be Past President and may have more time for operating and getting involved in different projects. Hopefully you will support the new executive and the club as you did this past year.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

ARRL FIELD DAY

The results of the ARRL Field Day are out and we did an outstanding job. In all classes overall we came #52 out of 2,410 stations. I believe this is the best placing we have had. We were narrowly beat out of #1 spot in Canada regardless of class by only a few hundred points.

Congratulations go to VE3QDR, Durham Region QRP Club, in the 5AB class for #1 score in Canada with 9,755 points and #46 overall. VE1FO with 9,420 points is #2 in Canada. Just to show how well we did, the #3 spot in Canada was VE3MIS, Mississauga ARC, with 8,282 points in the 8A class and #75 overall.

In the 2A class we were #11 overall out of 441 stations and we were the #1 station in Canada with our nearest Canadian competitor being VE7NSR, North Shore ARC, with 5148 points and a standing of #64 in the 2A class.

The Field Day Team did a fantastic job. Thanks go to John Bartlett, VE1OZ, the Chairman and his team leaders.

The CW ops did a spectacular job. They overcame some initial difficulties and went on to almost break their previous QSO record.

The phone ops did very well also, piling up the QSO's and having fun while doing it.

A lot of points were gathered by the Get On The Air (GOTA) station, Barry, VE1TRI and his team did a great job getting people on the air and gathering bonus points. I know everyone who worked the GOTA station really enjoyed it regardless of whether they made 1 contact or 100.

The digital team in the Provincial EMO trailer got us bonus points we never tried for before. We got nearly every bonus point we were eligible for. We would have had a very hard time squeezing any more bonus points.

The satellite team demonstrated how simple gear can work on the satellites and had a lot of fun doing it.

Many people helped with set up and tear down and all the things in between. Congratulations to all who participated.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

HARC Nominating Committee

Report from David, VE1NN

The annual executive elections will be held at the upcoming meeting on 19 November. The HARC members elected Howard VE1DHD the nominating committee chairman at the September meeting and he selected committee members (Scott VE1QD and Dick VE1AI) to canvass club members and develop a slate of suitable candidates for the various executive positions. This they did for the most part, but resigned just before the task was completed.

The Executive appointed me to complete the task of producing a list of suitable candidates for all positions. Not wanting the good efforts of the original committee to go to waste, and with their cooperation, I have canvassed the candidates the committee gathered to date, and sought agreement from them to remain as candidates.

The responsibility of a Nominating Committee is to identify club members both willing and able to serve on the HARC Executive. The Reflector deadline gave me three days to complete the task before publication. SO, this is NOT a complete list. BUT, the Reflector deadline is NOT the deadline for nominations. I will accept further nominations up to 17 November. Any further nominations received will be e-mailed to members using my membership list supplied by Howard VE1DHD.

Send nominations or suggestions to: David Nimmo VE1NN@rac.ca home: 462-3945 cell; 488-6027. I will confirm with the suggested candidate before adding his/her name to the list.

Regardless of the Nominating Committee's list of candidates presented, I will call for "nominations from the floor" at the meeting on 19 Nov. Members have until then to canvass suitable candidates and to make nominations for these executive positions when called for at the meeting. Voting will be by secret ballot. (Bring a pen.) All incumbents have been given the opportunity to re-offer.

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.

(Continued on page 5)

Cowie Hill Building Repairs Under Way (VE1PSR)

It was a perfect day on Saturday October 25th! Early fall was upon us and a bright sunny day beckoned us to make things right at the VE1PSR location on Cowie Hill.

It was known for quite a while that repairs were desperately needed to keep the wind, sleet, snow and various wild elements out of the building. Bill (VE1MR) had called for volunteers over the past months and was rewarded with a small group of HARC members who pulled together to make it all happen.



Front view

Rear view

Here's what greeted the work party – Missing siding, dissolving sheathing, wet insulation and “I can't believe the roof doesn't leak!” shingles. What a sad sight!



Removing roof shingles, window, rot ...



With hammers, saws, nails, shovels and various other implements of repair, the group met at the site at about 8:30 am. By mid-afternoon old siding was removed, holes were patched, a window and some rotting wood were removed, old shingles shoveled off, a new roof installed and temporary tar paper was applied to most of the exterior.

Further work will be required later this year or early next year to apply proper siding to the building. This will require one more day of work to complete but will return the building to close to its original state. In the meantime, VE1PSR and a host of other repeaters will remain snug, warm, dry, secure and operational over the winter and well into next year.

Many thanks go to a vigorous crew consisting of Wayne (VE1TTT), Sam (VE1YVN), Gary (VE1WAN), Doug (VE1LDL), Wayne (VE1WPH), Helen (VA1YL), Bill (VE1MR), and Bob (VE1PQ) with moral and logistical support from Tom (VE1GTC) and Rod (VE1BSK).

It was a lot of work but also a lot of fun, a real sense of accomplishment and an excellent opportunity to get to know your fellow ham. Why not give it a try yourself next time?

Bob, VE1PQ, Past President (2008)

And thank you, Barry, for lunch. -ed.

A blonde said, "I was worried that my mechanic might try to rip me off. I was relieved when he told me all I needed was turn signal fluid."

Tarpaper will keep the sheathing dry until another work party installs the new siding.



Cutting replacement boards and sheathing



HARC Nominating Committee (Continued from page 3)

As of 09 Nov. the following members, all recommended by club members, have agreed to serve in the following positions:

PRESIDENT: Don Trotter VE1DTR
1st VICE PRESIDENT: No candidates
2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Tom Guam VE1BMJ
TREASURER: Rod Padmore VE1BSK
SECRETARY: Helen MacRae VE1HMR
STATION MANAGER: John Goodwin VE1CDD
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Sheldon Donaldson VE1ARG
 Bob Swinwood VE1PQ
PAST PRESIDENT: Bill Elliot VE1MR

CANDIDATE BIO's**President** - Don Trotter - VE1DTR

IT Technical Architect employed by Sierra Systems, 25 years experience in IT. Primarily working in healthcare providing design and implementation services for large scale hospital integration projects.

Licensed in 2006, member of HARC since 2006. Interests include VHF, HF, digital modes, SDR and soon CW. Member of the Winlink 2000 Development Team

Primary system administrator for Winlink's Halifax Common Message Server

Volunteer with HRM EMO

Studying for RAC Advanced qualification

Installed and configured and provide continuing support for the IT infrastructure for HARC LAN

Supported Field Day in 2007 and 2008

Previous experience with leading a volunteer organization - founder and President, Nova Scotia NetWare Users Group 1990 to 1995

2nd Vice Pres – Tom Guam - VE1BMJ

Born in Sydney Cape Breton, Tom has been licensed 41 years as VE1NT / VE3FYK / VE1BMJ

Educated at Dalhousie Univ. and UNB with B.A. LLB.

Tom has worked at law and retail (would have preferred to work at flying and electronics). "Now that I'm semi-retired and finished flying, I work at retail and Ham radio; so I'm getting there."

Enjoys 20m ssb, cw, Amsat and homebrew. "Now that I've gotten my feet wet as 2nd VP for a year, I think I can be more productive in a second term. I enjoy the club and would like to see it more active in homebrewing, AMSAT, and SDR to help promote more members."

Treasurer – Rod Padmore - VE1BSK -

Rod hails from Liverpool, NS and has lived in Metro Halifax since 1962 where he worked primarily in a Provincial Social Service Financial Aid Programme until 1994. Licensed in 1978, his operating interests have been

in Public Service events and APRS, which he hopes will become an informational tool for all amateur radio operators. A Diploma in Public Administration supports his nomination for club Treasurer.

Secretary – Helen MacRae – VE1HMR

Helen retired from a nursing career of oncology, intensive care, emergency nursing and clinical research. A licensed amateur since 1990, she has officiated on a number of volunteer boards and served as secretary for the Equestrian Federation of Nova Scotia, Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia, Clan MacRae of Canada, Belgian Shepherd Club of Canada Atlantic Section and HARC. She is the current HARC Secretary.

Station Manager – John Goodwin - VE1CDD

Electronic Technologist, graduated from New Brunswick Institute of Technology. Spent 35 years in Federal Government and private industry, installing and maintaining a variety of marine and aviation systems and equipment. Work involved time constraints in high pressure situations. Acted independently, as a team member and Electronic Technologist, graduated from New Brunswick Institute of Technology. Spent 35 years in Federal Government and private industry, installing and maintaining a variety of marine and aviation systems and equipment. Work involved time restraints in high pressure situations. Acted independently, as a team member or team leader Volunteered 15 years with Scout Canada trained youth and adult leaders at local and provincial levels.

Served the HARC as: Club Station Manager for two years. Treasurer for two years. Organized many events such as Field Day, GOTA, JOTA, Ships on the Air, etc., Participated in club activities.

Director at Large – Sheldon Donaldson, VE1ARG

Spent 9 years at HMC Dockyard where he was a radar and electronic warfare systems technician. This was followed by 26 years as a marine systems supervisor / tech with Rascal Decca Canada and two other privately owned marine electronic companies. He also has nearly 2 years as a senior avionics systems technician (CP-140 Aurora) program. Holds an advanced amateur license and is an avid dxer.

Director at Large – Bob Swinwood – VE1PQ

Born in Ottawa. Licensed 40+ years (Advanced). Moved to Halifax 1971. Served in all HARC Exec positions except Treasurer. President 3 terms. Interests – digital, club administration, social events. Retired 2000 from Hewlett-Packard after 28 years in field service (medical, analytical, computer) Halifax and North American escalation management Ottawa.

Favourite activity – Field Day.

If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.



Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting October 15 2008

Welcome: President Bill Elliott, VE1MR opened the meeting at 2040 hours.

Silent keys: Bill advised members that Bob Safire, VE1WLS passed away yesterday.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed. Moved by Bob, VE1PQ. Seconded by Doug, VE1LDL Motion carried.

Guests/visitors: There were no visitors.

Minutes:

Motion: THAT the minutes of the September regular meeting be approved as printed in the October Reflector. Moved by Win, VE1WIN. Seconded by Howard, VE1DHD. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Treasurer: Fraser, VE1WO reported expenses totalling \$922.61 and income of \$1817.02 of which \$1095 came in from basic course registrations. The current balance is \$10,943.26, which also represents the year-end balance. See attached for details. Callbooks: 697 have been dispersed and 503 remain. This includes the books that went to the advertisers.

Motion: THAT the Treasurer's Report be accepted as given..

Moved by Gary, VE1RGB. Seconded Barry, VE1TRI. Motion carried.

Secretary: Helen, VE1HMR advised there is no new correspondence. A thank you note will be sent to John Doull, VE1WC, who made a \$100 donation to HARC in thanks for work on his tower and antennas. An email received from the American Hurricane Centre specifically thanked several Nova Scotian amateurs who provided weather status data during Hurricane Kyle as well as the website for VE1HRE data. That correspondence will be published in the November Reflector.

President:

Cowie Hill: Bill, VE1MR reported that he met with Barry Manual about the Cowie Hill site. Barry advised that the city cannot afford to repair the building; however, funding will be provided to cover the cost of raw materials needed for the work. Bill asked for work party volunteers for Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Cowie Hill site, beginning at 0800. The property managers will contribute siding. Barry would also like to have the roof done. Members are invited to show up with their tools and, any materials that

might be contributed. Fred, VE1FA has surplus tar paper he will bring. Barry will be asked to cover lunch expenses.

Safety Officer: At present, there is no update on the appointment of a Safety Officer and Bill invited a candidate to come forward. Bill will contact one person who might consider the appointment.

Web Host: A meeting was held with Rob VE1KS, Al VE1INN, and Brian, VE1NSX. The web site host will be changed within a few months. More information will be available later.

1st Vice-President: Murray, VE1MMD reported that the HARC emergency response trailer has been ordered and a down payment made. The tower is ordered and paid. A 6500 Honda generator will be purchased; overall that project is progressing. The QSL bureau is up to date with cards; members can collect cards tonight. Murray noted the Bureau will be represented at the Greenwood Flea Market.

2nd Vice-President: Tom, VE1BMJ, reminded members that the Christmas dinner is set for Wednesday, Dec 17, 1800 for 1830. At a later date, Tom will be requesting confirmation for bookings. Expecting numbers similar to last year, seating has been booked for 60-65 people.

Station Manager: Brian, VE1AZV stated the 1000 Delta is still out for repairs, that a cleanup in the library is needed with surplus going to storage at Bloomfield and another bookshelf will be secured. The missing paddles were found located in the headphone box.

Director at large: Doug, VE1LDL, will be overseeing amateur radio provision for the Scout's Jamboree on the Air this Saturday. Sam VE1YVN, Doug VE1LDL and Wayne, VE1TTT will be at Camp Harris. Dick, VE1AI will provide antennas; Sam and Bill, VE1MR will also contribute gear.

Past President: Bob, VE1PQ – No report.

Committee reports:

Membership: Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported 15 new associate members bringing association membership to a total of 33. With 4 life and 121 full members, 2008 membership totals 158.. Howard has a list of all who have paid up for 2008.

Basic Course: Barry, VE1TRI said that of a total 16 students, usually 11-12 at-

tend Thursday class. The course has jelled nicely, lessons are interesting and, occasionally, experienced hams come in to listen to a presentation.

EMO: David, VE1AJP stated there will be an emergency communications exercise on Thursday Oct 23rd. Exercise Eastern Star will take involve the Eastern Shore, Dartmouth General and the Abby J Lane building of the QEII complex. Start up time will be confirmed and the exercise will be completed by 1500 with volunteers through by 1600. There are no plans for this exercise to be a specific club involvement but several individuals from HARC and the Eastern Shore club will participate. Three or four amateur stations will be set up. Tom, VE1GTC has a list of all hams who have taken the EMO course and participants are drawn from that list.

SAR: David, VE1AJP reported that an area searched previously, nick-named "the whopper dropper" (Burnside Burger King site) was once again involved when searchers re-examined the area for a chap who had been missing since 2004. The hope was to find evidence that will help determine what happened. Four weeks ago, a 7 year old boy from Gaston Road was lost and, as searchers gathered around 10-11p.m., a sighting was reported that placed the boy on Burnside Drive. He was reunited with his parents having been missing since 3 that afternoon. The same boy took off again last week, at night, and was found at MicMac Mall.

CRC – Herb, VE1HTD reported that he and Bill, VE1MR removed HARC-owned equipment from the CRC/NS site in Dartmouth on Oct 2nd. HARC's request that a CRC staff member be present during the removal was not met. However staff did drop in on a casual basis but that was after VE1MR's departure. Staff advised Herb that they had not received any internal notice of the removal nor a request to be present. Herb advised that CRC-owned VHF and UHF equipment remains on site as do the TMR radios. One licensed though inactive amateur radio operator is a paid employee of CRC/NS, so there is no legal problem with on-site possession. Before leaving CRC, Herb again pointed out their ongoing need to ensure volunteers are trained to operate the TMR radios. A letter will now be sent to the Regional Director stating the need for a MOU, if there is to be an agreement between HARC and CRC in the future.

(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

While the meeting in September was cordial, it was also negative. For this reason, individual amateur radio operators who may volunteer with CRC will do so without the backing of HARC. During the September meeting, VE1MR ensured copies of MOUs were left with the Regional Director for study, including the 1991 SARA draft MOU and two MOUs currently in effect between RAC-CRC and HARC-HRM/EMO. The letter will also clearly state that HARC is withdrawing club services and support to the Dartmouth site at this time. Since any amateur who does choose to volunteer will have no coverage, the Regional Director has been advised to contact Barry Manual, Coordinator of HRM/EMO, who can choose to deploy radio operators to CRC, and with whom an MOU is in place with HARC providing insurance coverage should it be needed.

Branded Product – Helen, VE1HMR, stated that shirts, caps and lanyards can be purchased during any monthly meeting.

75th Contest results –

Gary, VE1RGB reported that the *Maritime Contest Club* came under new management this spring and is very active. For information contact Gary, ve1rgb@rac.ca Membership is \$20 Jan-December and dues may be forwarded to Dick, VE1AI.

USA's Tennessee State Contest was held a month or so ago. When Gary submitted his results, he advised managers that he'd like to see the number of counties reduced! To his surprise he received a response from the contest manager stating that if Gary thought Tennessee was bad, he ought to try Illinois with its 122 counties! This Sunday at 2200, testers will descend on the State of Illinois as there are numerous records to be obtained and prizes to be won. Gary has several hams lined up here and elsewhere to work the contest. The host club members are excited that a number of Canadians will participate. The competition is open to every mode, every power level.

HARC75 Competition Awards: Two contests during which club members could use the HARC75 special prefixes – one aiming for the highest number of QSLs made, the other on contacting 75 DXCC countries – were both won by Rich, VA1CHP. Rich had 3104 QSOs and he also worked to a score of over 1 million points. Results will be forwarded

to the Reflector.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee of Howard VE1DHD, Dick VE1AI and Scott VE1QD met recently. Members with Internet access received an email to which only a few responded. Identical information was posted in the October Reflector with no further response to date. The Committee hopes to bring forth a listing of candidates to fill the Officers and Directors slate. Howard emphasized a need to elect a new Treasurer as Fraser, VE1WO will be stepping down and will be travelling during the winter.

Old business:

Flea Market: Fraser, VE1WO reported that May 9th 2009 is tentatively booked for the DownEast Flea Market. The Forum doesn't confirm bookings this early, but once "pencilled in", we usually need only to affirm our commitment and provide a down payment two months beforehand.

RAC2010: A Motion to host RAC AGM in 2010 was tabled in September. Scott, VE1QD reported that Dave Goodwin, President of RAC, had been impressed with our anniversary events. In speaking with Dave, Scott learned he is not expecting us to put on a hamfest, but would be interested to have the AGM hosted in connection with Flea Market or alongside the DXF and Far Side in August. It would require only a one day event. While Dave preferred the DXF option, he is equally open to the FM. **Discussion:** What would provide the best attendance for RAC? The FM, which is usually ending by 1400 and closed by 1500 could allow the RAC AGM to be scheduled in the afternoon followed by dinner. However, this would require an additional venue as the Forum lacks banquet facilities. If linked to the DXF and its full day program, the AGM could follow. While the DXF usually does include a banquet this may prove difficult after an 8 hour day. Members decided that it is also very important to know if directly related costs would be covered by RAC.

Motion: THAT the motion tabled last month be amended from, "THAT HARC host the RAC Annual General Meeting in 2010", to include THAT there be no additional cost to HARC. (Not seconded, but discussed.)

Discussion: This is a service to RAC by HARC and we need to know if we can expect additional numbers of people

drawn by the RAC AGM. The cost of renting Exhibition Park was prohibitive when last checked, at \$3000 compared to the \$425 charged by the Forum. Attendance at the Cornwall RAC AGM was approximately 50 amateurs. It was felt that we need specifics of what RAC expects so we can decide what cost is feasible rather than arbitrarily assigning a cost figure. Dick, VE1AI offered to assist Scott in the continued negotiations after which further findings will be brought to the November meeting.

Motion: THAT the motion to host the RAC Annual General Meeting be tabled until next month. Moved by Howard, VE1DHD and seconded by Murray, VE1MMD. Carried

New Business:

Tonight's Program: Fred, VE1FA, advised members that his presentation this evening will not be focused on Antique Radios but on what it was to be a ham in the 1930's and within that context, antique radios will also be discussed.

Reports or announcements of general interest. –

Greenwood Flea Market: HARC will have tables at the flea market in Greenwood. The QSL Bureau, Call books, surplus gear and branded items will be there for distribution and sales.

Donation: Scott, VE1QD, reported that a number of members helped John Doull, VE1WC, put his antenna up. John is in his nineties and remains active. As noted earlier, John donated \$100 donation to the club in thanks for members' assistance. Bill, VE1MR noted that John still needs a number of connectors to be redone.

50/50 draw – Murray, VE1MMD won the draw of \$17.50.

Door prize – Bruce, VE1MLW, won the door prize, a set of small Phillips ratchets and a nut-finger grip.

There being no further business, VE1MMD motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 2055 hours

The evening program will be a presentation by Fred Archibald, VE1FA on "Being an Amateur Radio Operator in the 1930's".

Respectfully submitted,
Helen MacRae, VE1HMR Secretary

Talk slowly but think quickly.

From the Mail Bag

Greetings all,

Hope everyone had a great summer. Could you please read this notice at your next club meeting.

I have posted a forum on the Maritime Amateur website about Packet Radio. As we know, there is not much happening with packet these days. If anyone is on the air with packet or would like to get back on, please go to the forum and post your information, node used and links to get to you. As more people use the forum, maybe we can get packet back up and running in the Maritimes. It is a great backup for personal and emergency use when the Internet and e-mail systems are down.

There are also talks going on with Environment Canada, CANWARN, and the Canadian Hurricane Center about having CANWARN stations in Nova Scotia. With more storms coming our way each year, amateur radio operators like you who provide a service to their community, we need a net to cover the province when these storms appear. There will be more talk on this at the NSARA meeting in Greenwood on Saturday Oct.18th. There may be a representative from CANWARN New Brunswick at the fleamarket.

Last, with more storms coming our way, if anyone would like to become a RAC Emergency Coordinator and start up an ARES group in there area, please get in contact with Frank Leslie VE1FWL or myself and we will get you started. As ARES groups are coming on line we will soon have a weekly Maritime ARES net on VHF and HF to check out our radios and emergency backup power. More info on ARES can be found at www.rac.ca or www.maritimeamateur.ca. As more info on these topics become available they will be put on the Maritime Amateur website under ARES/EMO.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks, James (Jim) Langille, VE1JBL
RAC Section Manager: Maritimes

50 Copp Ave., Amherst N.S. B4H2T4

Phone: 902-667-1485

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Web: www.maritimeamateur.ca

Monitor: VE1WRC 147.285+ / IRLP 2060
VE1SPR 147.000- / MARCAN 130* ON -
131* OFF
VE9SKV 145.230- / IRG 166# ON -
199# OFF

Frank Leslie VE1FWL is RAC Section Emergency Coordinator: Maritimes
fwleslie@ns.sympatico.ca

Background: Some of us first met John, VE1WC, when he contacted the HARC after hurricane Juan had damaged his beam. John's doctor was insisting that John no longer do his own tower work (at 87) so John was looking for some help. A ham crew was put together to take down his beam & rotator. He refurbish these and sometime later a crew re-installed them. Chatting with John it came out that John had been a member of HARC back in the 1930's before he went to the South Pacific to serve as an officer in the wartime navy. Well it's a small world and it seems that Scott, VE1QDD, is in communications with a lot of the people in it, including John's friend in South Africa. The following exchange refers to a more recent radio system fix. -ed.

Hello Dennis,

There have been a number of members of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club who have been helping John get back on the air. He now has good antennas in operation, but last time I talked with him he had sent his transceiver off to be repaired in Toronto. I hope he has it back in good working order and that the two of you are in communications!

Very best wishes, Scott, VE1QD

Mon, 13 Oct 2008

Dear Professor Scott Wood

Yes, John has e-mailed me many times telling me that the HARC members were so helpful & the latest is that John & I had a sked last night on 20m but conditions were against us as the band was in poor shape. The previous week was very good & I was getting S9 from VE & USA but last night there were very few stations on & very weak. So it was a bad start after almost 2 yrs. !!! I know John very well by this time & know that he would not ask anyone to help him as he was so capable all these yrs but finds it hard to accept that he is now in his 90's. That is why I asked you & may I say thank you for setting the wheels in motion. He had said that if he could not get things sorted out he would consider giving up ham radio after 75 yrs. You will appreciate that he would not last long after that had to happen. He is a great oldtimer who even spoke to my late father when I was a little boy. !!! So I think you & the HARC deserve a vote of thanks & it would be appreciated if you told them that through the collective support you have shown wonderful ham spirit. Thank you all very much. I trust you are enjoying your retirement & that you will enjoy good health & many more. I am coming up for 80 this coming Pearl Harbor Day.

Thanks again for your assistance,

Very 73 Dennis Wells, ZS1AU in Cape Town, RSA

Here is the link to the new QCARC website.

<http://qcarc.ve1cfy.net/>

Bill, VA1BC

Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club participated in the annual **JOTA** event held October 18, 2008 at Camp Harris, Mineville, NS. The purpose of this event is to get as many boy scouts on the air as possible and to peak their interest in the world wide hobby of ham radio.

The HARC team consisted of Doug, VE1LDL; Wayne, VE1TTT; & Sam, VE1YVN. The team was graced with a bright sunny fall day and we quickly began setting up two HF stations, one for SSB and the other CW. Two dipoles were erected on a mast, one 20m horizontal and one sloper for 40m and all the trees were in the right place. The team was assisted in getting everything up and running by a number of the scout leaders, and this was much appreciated.

The scouts were run through the stations in groups of 12 and their enthusiasm was overwhelming. Doug was run right off his feet with all the questions and the scouts' eagerness to get on the air. Compared to last year's event, the propagation was outstanding and the other JOTA stations were booming in from all angles. On the CW station, operated by Sam, using only a 20m hamstick and 30 watts, the contacts throughout Europe and North America were easily conducted.

A CW oscillator was available for the scouts to test their skills in CW proficiency. Wayne, VE1TTT, was really busy all day with this task. A grand total of 62 scouts (boys & girls) were tested in their ability to send their names in code. Needless to say, they caught on very quickly and each was issued an official looking certificate to indicate their success.

All the HF equipment worked extremely well and only a few minor snags were encountered during the entire day at Camp Harris. Many thanks are directed to the following HARC members : Bill, VE1MR, for the use of his complete personal HF station including laptop, vertical and co-ax cables; Dick, VE1AI, for the use of his mast and dipoles, all of which worked extremely well during the event. Tom, VE1GTC, for his efforts in getting the certificates printed up just in time for the event.

This event was a smashing success for all those involved and we are confident that a number of boy scouts from the CAMP HARRIS troop will someday become involved in the amateur radio hobby.

73, Sam, VE1YVN



JOTA 2008
at Camp
Harris with
Doug,
VE1LDL-
Sam,
VE1YVN,
& Wayne,
VE1TTT
and 62
scouts



Saw this in the Halifax Chronicle Herald, and thought that you might enjoy it.

73, AI, VO1NO / VE3

SOS: 100 years of distress signals

By FRAN YEOMAN The Times of London

"Send SOS," one of the Titanic's radio operators supposedly said to another after the famous ship struck that infamous iceberg. "It's the new call and besides this may be your last chance to send it."

That "new call" is now 100 years old and people around the world who owe their lives to that piece of Morse code may reflect on its importance.

In the past century, SOS has become a firm part of popular culture used in everything from DIY program titles to Abba hits. But it began life in a far more serious setting after being adopted by the international community on July 1, 1908, as the globally recognized distress signal for ships at sea.

At that time voices could not yet be carried across the airwaves and sailors needed a standard means of saying, in Morse code, that they were in trouble.

Until then, the most commonly used distress call was the "CQD" signal, which was open to misinterpretation. After much deliberation, SOS was chosen to replace it because the signal — three dots, three dashes and three more dots — is such a clear message to send in Morse code.

There was some early success for the new system a year later when the Cunard liner the SS Slavonia was stricken off the Azores. She sent out an SOS and not a single life was lost.

Even so, not everybody was convinced instantly, and it took the tragedy of the Titanic to reveal just how vital a universal system was. After the collision in April 1912, the ship's radio operators sent out both the old CQD and the new SOS signals, but some ships in the area ignored both, thinking that they were having a party.

They soon learned otherwise, as international headlines told how Jack Phillips, the Titanic's first radio operator, and 1,500 others had been lost along with the "unsinkable" ship. The new SOS distress signal was rarely ignored after that.

Of course, technology has moved on dramatically since 1908 and only very occasionally are the telltale dots and dashes that have saved countless lives employed today.

Visit the NSARA web site at...

<http://users.eastlink.ca/~bdeathe/NSARA/>

HARC Christmas Dinner Menu

SALAD-choice of Garden, Caesar, Spinach, Greek or Onion soup

ENTRÉE: 7 oz Delmonico rib steak platter.

8 oz Oven baked or Panned fried Haddock Platter

Surf & Turf Platter

Twin 5oz boneless chicken breast platter

DESERT: pie, bread, pudding, black forest cake, gingerbread with lemon sauce.

coffee, tea etc.

Cost per person including tax and gratuity--\$24.26



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 42, October 24, 2008

High Performance Software Defined Radio (HPSDR) is an open-source hardware and software project designed and developed by a group of enthusiasts with representation from interested experimenters worldwide. TAPR <<http://www.tapr.org/>> is looking for a "show of interest" to determine the production run for the new HPSDR Mercury receiver board. The assembled Mercury receiver board uses SMT parts and is manufactured in quantity by machine. If interested, please check out the HAMSDR Web site and log in <<http://www.hamsdr.com/>>. You will find the interest page under the <Projects><TAPR-HAMSDR> tab. Once interest has been determined, Mercury boards may be purchased from TAPR. Mercury board specifications can be found at <<http://hpsdr.org/wiki/index.php?title=MERCURY>>.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were Standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?", they asked, as they moved off. "Because", he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 41, October 17, 2008

E-mails asking for Personal Information Are Not from ARRL: The ARRL has received several reports from ARRL members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information, such as user names & passwords. These e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phishing>> and did not originate from ARRL. There is never a time when we would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users. If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond, just delete it.

They told me I was gullible and I believed them.