



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895
HALIFAX NS
B3K 5M5

April 2014, Volume 75 Number 4

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



**Bad Weather on HARC Meeting Night?
Check Our Website for Cancellation Notice**



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
First V.P. - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
2nd V.P. - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL	465-4665	leblanc@accesscable.net
Secretary - Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF		VE1JHF@Gmail.com
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Co-Treasurer - Jim Guilford, VE1JG	466-2124	jimguilford@gmail.com
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Club Station Mgr. - Jim Flowers, VE1JIM	443-8657	ve1jim@ns.sympatico.ca
Past President - Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO	865-4198	fmac@eastlink.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government & Media Relations - Murray MacDonald, VE1BB 826-7831
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QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

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Web page content contact - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD dhickson@eastlink.ca

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2014 Flea market Chair - Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF VE1JHF@Gmail.com

Youth Coordinator - Alan MacRae, VE1ABM 471-0834 ve1abmacrae@gmail.com

Field Day coordinator - Brian Allen, VE1AZV basailor@eastlink.ca

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NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 ve1tri@rac.ca

Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH

Non Club Contacts

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

RAC Section Manager - Craig Seaboyer, VE1DSS cseaboye@stfx.ca

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

The April, 2014 General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, **April 16** in the Senior's Room on the 1st floor of the St. Andrew's Centre, 3380 Barnstead Lane, Halifax.

6:30-7:30pm Social Hour with refreshments

7:30-8:30pm Speaker - John Scott, VE1JS

Topic: Challenges in DXing

8:30-9:30pm Regular Monthly Business Meeting. The meeting agenda is on the HARC web site

Guests are welcome

Photos this issue thanks to Doug, VE1LDL; Jeremy, VE1JHF; and Amanda Schreiber.

Fascinating Error in Judgement

"I don't know what use any one could find for a machine that would make copies of documents. It certainly couldn't be a feasible business by itself."

-- the head of IBM, refusing to back the idea, forcing the inventor to found Xerox.

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz + TX=82.5
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -

access tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5

PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz
LAN NODE

Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation.
We need at least 3 more. **If you want to join**, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



April 13	Bruce	VE1MLW
April 20	Emil	VE1ESP
April 27	Peter	VE1PJW
May 4	Win	VE1WIN
May 11	Doug	VE1LDL
May 18	Bruce	VE1MLW
May 25	Emil	VE1ESP

**Deadline for submissions to
the May Reflector is
Saturday, May 10, 2014**

To make the most of **our web page** please send photos, notices of events, and ham radio news items, etc. to Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, Howard Dickson by e-mail to
dhickson@eastlink.ca

Events for Your Calendar

April 12 –from 10 AM to 3 PM – **an event** a Rover group is organizing **for Venturers**.

This is an opportunity to introduce some young people to Amateur Radio.

Contact Tom, VE1GTC to help out.

May 25 – **The MS Walk**

May 31 – **DownEast Fleamarket + NSARA Annual General Meeting**

June 28 & 29 – **Field Day** – Setup begins June 27 at 3pm at York Redoubt. To help contact Brian at basailor@eastlink.ca

July 26 & 27 – the **MS Bike Tour**

July 26 & 27 – **IOTA** (Islands On The Air)

Aug 2&3 - **International Light-house & Lightship weekend**



August 23rd and 24th is the weekend for the **Ledwedge Lookoff Rally**. Details are still being worked on, as to when support is needed etc. (last year just on Sunday)
Contact: Ian Pearce, VE1IGP

October 4 – Telecommunications Exercise - “**Exercise Kingfisher**” will be held Saturday October 4 2014. From 0900 to 1400 with a lunch break at 1100 to 1200; this will also allow for operator changes.

Refresher training will be held in **September** for all those taking part. If you plan to take part please notify David Musgrave at “david.musgrave@ns.sympatico”
Or 902 435-4333.

Give David your NAME, CALLSIGN, PHONE NUMBER and Email address.

Exercise Kingfisher is open to seasoned communicators and new communicators.

On Sunday evenings at 8:30, after you check in to the Take-15 Net, look for the new 2M, SSB NET at 8:30 PM Sundays on 144.230, SSB (horizontal - although some try vertical!)

Net control - BOB, VE1CZ, from Tatamagouche - so beam NORTH from metro; also others Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland & Westmorland Counties.

Info from Glenn, VE1GK, (VE1GK@arrl.net)

902 area: Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island 10-digit dialling will soon be mandatory

Starting August 23, 2014, business and residential consumers in the 902 region will have to adopt 10-digit dialling – the area code followed by the phone number – for all local communications. This dialling method has been successfully implemented in several regions in Canada.



The introduction of 10-digit dialling is the result of a decision by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications

Commission (CRTC) and will pave the way for the addition of a new area code, 782, starting on November 30, 2014, as the 902 area code reaches capacity.



For your local calls, you will always enter 10 digits (area code + local number):

from 902 to 902

from 902 to 782

from 782 to 782



The 9-1-1 emergency number remains a three-digit number.

Anyone who already has a number with area code 902 will keep the same number.

The 2014 Brit Fader Scholarship



Howard, VE1DHD, has updated and posted as a ZIP file the three forms required for the 2014 Brit Fader Scholarship application process.

The 2014 award will be \$1000.

Please spread the word about this scholarship to any potential applicants.

Howard, VE1DHD // VE1ZD

The Maritime Amateur

Ham Radio
for Maritimers by Maritimers
www.maritimeamateur.ca

Stella Awards – Outlandish Law-suits & settlements

Carl Truman, 19, of Los Angeles, California won \$74,000 plus medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbour's hubcaps.



Edgar Turner, VE1EDT,
Silent Key

Keep our Club Station Shipshape
PLEASE!

We have a grand Club Station and I'm sure that everyone knows to clean up after yourself but also, PLEASE, any time you are the last person leaving the Club Station make sure that

1/ all windows are closed

2/ the air conditioners are off

3/ all radio equipment is turned off

4/ the lights are off

5/ the door is locked



PRESIDENT'S Message for April, 2014

As you read this message in mid-April, I hope that spring is more a reality than just a calendar fact. Most of us have many antenna projects and other outside maintenance work that need attention in order to bring our stations up to top working order after a brutal winter - and we do need some good weather to put us in the mood!

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded on 18 April 1925 and celebrates this anniversary annually as **World Amateur Radio Day**. They encourage their member societies to use the occasion to raise awareness in their own countries about amateur radio and the benefits countries and communities derive from this service. I know that this day is on the RAC calendar, but it appears to be up to individual Canadian Clubs as to how the occasion might be marked. I would suggest we use the day to celebrate HARC's many accomplishments in conducting events that raise awareness about amateur radio. We already have been involved in wide range of public activities in 2014, and we have many more coming up through the rest of the year. Just in April, May and June, for instance, we have the Shearwater Hobby Show (5 & 6 April, Dartmouth Rover/Venturer groups (12 April), the MS Walk Event (25 May), the Down East Ham Fest (31 May) and Field Day (28 & 29 June). Thus on Friday, 18 April, you can tell your family, friends and acquaintances that this is a Global Day that celebrates our hobby and all it accomplishes for us individually and for our communities.

At our April Executive Meeting, we took an important step towards improving our ability to communicate our messages about amateur radio to the public. A working committee was formed to draft a broadly conceived **HARC Communications Strategy** in consultation with Club members, and to create new public information instruments in the form of redesigned brochures, business cards and flexible display boards that can be used at our various public service events. These will reflect a sharpening of our message to the public and permit flexibility in what is displayed, e.g. to be able to include event specific material in addition to the other more permanent information panels. Craig MacKinnon, VE1JMA, Amanda Schreiber and Jayne Jackson are the members of the Committee and bring a considerable range of expertise and experience to the task. They have the discretion to add additional committee members as needed. By the way, Amanda and Jayne tell me that they hope to enroll in the Basic Radio Certification Course next fall!

Finally, as I pointed out above, we are handling a very large number of activities/events each year. This is happening because people are coming forward to do the work that is necessary. Let us include in our celebration of **World Amateur Radio Day**, a warm thanks to each person contributing their time, expertise and interest in advancing amateur radio through HARC. Without you, nothing would be happening!

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD

1st Vice President's Report

More people are needed for the technical committee. Regardless of your technical expertise. Some projects will be announced as the snow clears.

Please consider joining even as a complete novice. This can be a great way to learn new things.

Contact me at

bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Thank you - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

SURPLUS GEAR TESTING

We need people to test some of the surplus gear that has been donated to the club over the past few years. We can ask a better price if tested and we can stand behind what we sell.

Basic tests only on most pieces of gear – does it light up and function. If you can do a more in depth testing that would be great. If there are problems make notes and pass any defective gear along with notes to the technical committee.

For a list of equipment to be tested please contact me at

bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Most of the gear is located at the club station and a lot can probably be tested there or be picked up by appointment and signed out.

Please contact Jim, VE1JIM for a pick up appointment.

Thank you - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

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

Bad decisions make good stories.

Definition: INTAXICATION - Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Maritime Amateur

The **Maritime Amateur** was launched back in March 2008 with the purpose of having a website for Maritime amateurs to share information with their fellow amateurs and have one central location to find that info. There has been over 63 thousand visits and now has a membership of over 160 amateurs.

The site's homepage has direct links to all amateur radio clubs with websites here in the Maritimes and also links to important sites including Environment Canada Weather Warnings, Maritime Repeater lists, Nova Scotia & New Brunswick Power Outages Map, Maritime Swap Shop, Old Timers Club, Nova Scotia Amateur Radio Association, the International Repeater Group and others..

From the homepage, there are links to Local, National and International News, CANWARN, Silent Keys, Maritime Forum, Maritime Nets and others.

You do not need to be a member to use the website, but as members, you can post comments, questions and answers on the Maritime Forum and post amateur radio pictures on the Photo Gallery. Each month there is an email blast sent out to all members to inform them of any changes to the site or news of importance. There is also a twitter feed

@MaritimeAmateur

where followers get immediate updates as they happen.

For amateurs outside of the Maritimes this is a great site to visit if planning a vacation down east. You will find local repeaters to access, daily nets, local clubs, etc.

If you, your club or your group would like to share any news or information with your fellow hams here in the Maritimes, contact Jim Langille at veljbl@eastlink.ca

As the website says, Ham Radio for Maritimers by Maritimers.

Check it out at

www.maritimeamateur.ca

HamTV Bulletin 1 - Aug. 21, 2013

Ham Video transmitter onboard Columbus

How a DATV transmitter on S-band is being added to the ARISS equipment onboard the International Space Station has been related in an announcement recently circulated and available at

www.ariss-eu.org/HamVideo.pdf

The ARISS Ham Video transmitter is presently onboard Columbus. The transmitter was delivered by Japanese cargo spacecraft HTV-4, which launched August 4 and docked 5 days later. ESA astronaut Luca Parmitano IR0ISS reported that the bags are stored in Columbus. There are two bags: one for the transmitter, the other for the power, camera & antenna cables.

Installation will be done by US astronaut Michael Hopkins KF5LJG who has been trained for the commissioning of the Ham Video equipment. The commissioning is planned later in the year, possibly end October when there are favourable passes over Italy. Indeed, the tests transmissions for the commissioning of the onboard equipment will be received by the ground station of the "Centro di Geodesia Spaziale" of the Italian Space Agency, located in Matera, Southern Italy.

We will report in due time on the commissioning procedure which will involve a series of tests to be performed during 3 or 4 ISS passes. Possibly, the Ham Video transmitter will transmit continuously between the commissioning steps offering amateur ground stations the opportunity to test and tune their receiving equipment. The transmissions will be performed in automatic mode, without requiring crew time. The camera, which runs on a battery, will not be used and the ground stations will receive a black image.

Meanwhile, commissioning is being prepared steadily. The kick-off meeting took place November 2012 at

ESTEC, the European Space Research & Technology Centre, located in Noordwijk the Netherlands. Detailed procedures are examined and finalized during weekly ESA/ARISS teleconferences. A preliminary EST (Experiment Sequence Test) is planned 28-29 August. The test will involve the ARISS ground station IK1SLD, located in Casale Monferrato in Northern Italy.

IK1SLD, which is an ARISS telebridge station often used for educational ARISS school contacts on VHF, has been upgraded for S-band reception. Ham Video manufacturer Kayser Italia has delivered a 1.2 meter dish, a down converter and precision tracking motors, which are part of the ESA funded equipment. For the EST, the station will receive a DATV signal from a local low power S-band test transmitter. The decoded signal will be webstreamed to the BATC server. The British Amateur Television Club offers ARISS free access to their server. ESA examiners will connect to the BATC server and evaluate the reception. Test transmissions at IK1SLD will cover the different frequencies and symbol rates available on the Ham Video transmitter.

Web streaming will take advantage of the special software developed by Jean Pierre Courjaud, F6DZP. References are available in the HamVideo.pdf.

When the Ham Video transmitter will become operational, it will be used for ARISS educational school contacts. Video will be for downlink only. Uplink will be VHF FM audio. The Ericsson transceiver onboard Columbus will be used for reception onboard. This cross band and double mode operation is called Ham TV. Ham Video is the name of the DATV transmitter.

73, Gaston Bertels – ON4WF
ARISS-Europe chairman

This Bulletin is available from the frontpage of www.ariss-eu.org

About the Radio Club table at the Geequinox Event – March 2014



I think the event went fairly well.

I would also like to say a big thanks to those who helped out, but especially I would like to note Amanda and Jayne who put forth a fair bit of effort for our cause.

We have access to some talent and vision with regard to freshening some of our promotional items. I would suggest we give Jayne and Amanda support in what they see as a good way forward regarding table setup/cards/flyers.

I look very much forward to seeing the new Facebook page. While this is new technology for some of us, the power of modern media to spread our message is beyond comprehension sometimes. FB can be a very inexpensive and powerful tool for us if we use it correctly.



From: Amanda Schreiber
Sent: March 27, 2014
Subject: Radio Club table at the Geequinox Event

I'm mostly pleased with how the table went over at the event this weekend, got about a half dozen people's emails to send them more info on the club.... a LOT of brochures and business cards went out, and many asking about a Facebook page, which I said was being worked on, and will be available shortly... I'm working on that right now, might be another day or two before I finish it, as life is busy....

You can probably guess as to why I said "mostly pleased" ... the table and the info could have been so much better if I had known that it wasn't being worked on by others.... what I did pull together was from what little I had access to, in the last 24 hours, in addition to my already full day..... I would love to send a HUGE thank you to Ian, Craig, Jeremy, Brandon, Graham and Jayne for stepping up at the last minute to help set up and man the table over the weekend, dropping other plans to help out the club.....Jeremy even drove out to Beaverbank *and* Hammond's Plains to pick up equipment to make the best of our limited resources...

Amanda J.



Cheers! 73, Ian, VE1IGP

Darwin Award Nominee –

Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly.. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his head at the window.

The cinder block bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.

LONDON (AP) — One Tuesday in March the world's most established exchange for bitcoin disappeared from the Internet, sending the price of the virtual currency tumbling and prompting fears that the world's biggest experiment in electronic cash could soon be strangled by fraud or regulation.

What are bitcoins, how do exchanges work, and why does the demise of the Mt. Gox exchange, mean many people may have lost a lot of money.

Q: What's a bitcoin? A: Bitcoin is an online currency that allows people to make one-to-one transactions, buy goods and services and exchange money across borders without involving banks, credit card issuers or other third parties. As a result, this exotic new form of money has become popular with libertarians as well as tech enthusiasts, speculators — and criminals. Bitcoins are basically lines of computer code that are digitally signed each time they travel from one owner to the next.

(Continued on page 9)

Halifax Amateur Radio Club
General Meeting Minutes
19 February 2014

Meeting convened 1942 by Scott Wood (QD)

Silent Keys reported: VE1YE (ex), VE9PV, VE1EDT, VE1QO

Agenda approval (LDL / TRB)

Minutes of February meeting:

Terry (TRB) submitted a correction to the note in the Reflector about the Fall Protection course to amend that VE1RUS had not attended the course. Motion to approve: JEK / JIM. Approved.

Correspondence: Scott reported that Jim Langille has made a donation to HARC in the amount of \$25 in thanks for carrying an ad in the Reflector for the Maritime Amateur website.

Presidents Report

Scott thanked Howard for getting the electronic callbook format to those who had renewed their membership by the end of February.

Scott thanked George Snow for looking after the Ham Breakfast on the 22nd.

He thanked those who participated in the Girl Guide on the air program.

Scott thanked Terry (TRB) for once again organizing the Fall Arrest course.

Scott mentioned that Scott Verge has taken on the upcoming Basic Radio Course, and that he will be meeting with him about that, and conveyed the Club's thanks to Erik Hein for his 2 years work on the course.

He then mentioned Gary Bartlett's participation in the CYOP Sable Island expedition, and a suggestion was made that we post the article about it on the website.

Upcoming programs including John Scott speaking on the DXCC program, and Gary Bartlett will talk about Sable Island in May.

Ian (IGP) reminded everyone present that we will be moving the remaining items from Bloomfield as soon as

possible.

Treasurers Report: A quick overview of the Club's budget was given by Scott in Jim's absence.

Bill (MR) moved that the report be accepted.

Seconded by Howard (DHD).

Approved.

Brian Allen (AZV) gave a report on the preparations for the upcoming Field Day (June 27th -29th), and requested the clubs help for various positions throughout the day.

Anyone wishing to help can contact Brian at basailor@eastlink.ca

There was some discussion about the Brit Fader Scholarship and that there needs to be something done with the promotion of it soon.

EMO / SAR:

Dave George reported that EMO Exercise Kingfisher will be coming up in October. This is an emergency communications exercise involving amateur radio operators to test the communications links including the hospitals.

He reported about HRM's switch to the Incident Command system and the use of new forms and such for things like this.

He then reported on a lady who was involved in an ATV accident in Chezzetcook with subsequent back injuries, and the "calamity of errors" that ensued when the fire department and EMS tried to effect a deep woods rescue.

Dick (AI) gave a report on the 900 MHz radio linking project with EMO and its progress, including receipt and programming of the radios, and their dissemination, and we are just awaiting the installation of the radios / antennas.

Terry (TRB) gave a report on the recent certification of club members in fall arrest, and the upcoming MS Walk.

He reported that Madeline Symonds School has asked him to assist in setting up an ISS contact for the fall of 2014, and he may be asking for volunteers in getting

things set up for this.

He also reported that the Fall River JEM is to be set up as a backup EOC Radio Station.

Personal news:

Scott reported on his recent trip to Mexico for his immersion course.

Jim (JIM) reported on his trip to Hawaii in February, and the fact that he is going to be a grandfather again.

Old Business:

A reminder that those involved in moving stuff from Bloomfield will need some help.

Scott mentioned the upcoming Shearwater Hobby Show, and Jeremy informed those present that Craig (JMA), Scott (SRV) and Doug (LDL) would be involved and things were well in hand.

Dartmouth Rovers and HARC:

Bill reported that Tom Caithness was organizing this and that some people had come forward to man sites, and help with the exercise.

The 2014 Hamfest (May 31st):

Jeremy reported that he and Tom Gaum and George Snow are planning to get together soon to flesh out the details and start ramping things up. Scott said there is a book that was done up by Murray from last years flea market that has yet to be located.

Strategic Policy and Program for Education and Recruitment: Scott has deferred this to a later date as he has been away and hasn't had time to do anything with it.

Scott and Alan to meet regarding the CP Allen Radio Club.

Amanda and Scott to meet regarding the brochures and display boards.

New Business:

Bill mentioned about a possible Radio Canada International commemorative event before the land is sold, and there was a brief discussion about it.

Scout Jamborees: some dates have changed and any interest in helping in this has been deferred.

(Continued on page 7)

March Minutes (Continued from page 6)

Amanda reminded those present that we have been offered a table at the Spring Geequinox this weekend, and there was discussion about our participation.

Door Prize draw:

\$25 Gift certificate Jeremy (JHF)

50/50 Draw: \$31 Jack (OU)

Motion for Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned 2045

Respectfully Submitted

Jeremy Fowler VE1JHF

HARC Club Secretary

Brendan Quest - Working NA to EU on 2 Meters

<http://brendanquest.org/home.html>

From July 4th through the 12th of 2014, a group of dedicated amateur radio operators Al, VO1NO; Fred, VE1FA; Helen, VA1XYL; Roger, VE1SKY; & Rich, VA1CHP will attempt to achieve one of the few remaining amateur radio distance records.

Our goal is to transmit a two meter (144 MHz) signal from Newfoundland in North America, across the Atlantic Ocean, to Ireland and receive a reply in return!

We intend to be the first successful applicant for one of the IRTS Brendan Awards; but let's face it, we will be more than happy to speak with any European amateur!

For more information, email
info@brendanquest.org

January/February, 2014, Step 1: Recruit a group of Interested Amateurs who could & would dedicate a week of their time for something that most would say cannot be done.

A seasoned DXpeditioner, a weak signal enthusiast, an active XYL, and an all around amateur with various interests in the hobby signed on.

Some of the Planned Gear as of January 25, 2014: A converted commercial amplifier, a huge 43 element beam which is 30 meters (98 feet) long!

Scanner silence: Nova Scotia RCMP switching to digital encryption

Ruth Davenport, Metro Halifax

Published on April 01, 2014

There will be less chatter on scanners in parts of Nova Scotia on Tuesday as the RCMP move to digitally encrypted radio systems in two of its three provincial districts.

The federal force has been implementing the change across Canada for last few years, with a mandate to have the process complete by 2016.

Sgt. Alain Leblanc said Nova Scotia's Northeast and Southwest Nova districts will make the change Tuesday.

"Encryption ensures transmissions of a sensitive nature ... are protected and can only be accessed by authorized parties," he said. He said there's no timeline at this point to make the change in Halifax, which is jointly policed by the Mounties and Halifax Regional Police.

Analogue radio transmissions by police and other emergency agencies are routinely monitored on hand-held scanners or via smartphone apps by everyone from journalists to tow-

truck drivers to civilian radio buffs.

Leblanc said the audience includes a nefarious element, too.

"Criminals typically have scanners that tell them where we're at, what we're doing and of course it may allow them the opportunity to commit a crime, knowing the police may be miles away," he said.

Although a criminal is just as likely to be alerted to a major operation or event via social media, Leblanc said there's also a concern for protecting details about ongoing investigations or operations that may be discussed via radio.

The change has been fodder for considerable discussion on online forums such as Radioreference.com, though ultimately most users seem resigned to police radio silence.

"There are other services you can monitor to get a synopsis of what's going on with the police," noted one user in response to complaints about the Winnipeg Police Service switching to digital encryption in December. "Fire, EMS, transit, towing, animal services and city work crews are all still in analogue."



Safety

Everybody who texts while driving should be shown this.

FOR SALE
Corvette Tail
Lights, Good
Condition!

Found his
IPOD in his
hands and his
head in the
back seat.

Isn't
TEXTING
FUN????

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says "Dam!"

Cruising over Canada via Google Earth, remote-sensing specialist Jean Thie discovered the longest known beaver dam (850 metres in 2007). The dam is located near the edge of Wood Buffalo National Park.

From the Mail Bag



Sent March 18, 2014

Today I attended the NB Legislature and listened to the Minister of Public Safety introduce a bill to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

The amendment will allow holders of an amateur radio certificate to use a microphone while mobile on NB highways. The bill should become law in about three weeks.

Until it becomes law the use of microphones is still not allowed while mobile.

George Dewar, VE9GFD

Cool Video....Assembly line of KENWOOD TS 990....

Kenwood has released this professional video showing how a TS-990 transceiver is assembled. The old days of technicians crouching over chassis with soldering irons is long gone! Check it out...from receiving parts, solder bath to your hands:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6B-cC0AYxY>

Thanks, Tim K3HX

I think Ken, VY2RU, was doing some on-line window shopping when he came across this HF Linear -ed

Dressler Tsunami 30K

---Just what we need in the pile-ups ! You might require a new heavy duty desk to set it on!!

Cost.....EUR 29980....about \$41,500 see: http://rigreference.com/en/rig/5530-Dressler_Tsunami_30K

Dressler_Tsunami_30K

30kW with 200 watts input....494 pound desk top??

I asked Jim Langille if he knew of any hams in the Atlantic Provinces who either had or were willing to set up, a digital station to handle incoming and outgoing radiogram traffic. He suggested that I type up what I was looking for and send it to you for inclusion in the newsletter. Here it is.

Gents: My name is Glenn Killam, VE3GNA, and I am a member of the National Traffic System or NTS. The NTS, as some of you no doubt know, is a system providing for the timely moving of radiogram traffic across the continent, and recently to Europe, using a network of traffic nets at local, section, regional and area levels. These nets operate 365 days a year, and if the need arises during an emergency, can be mobilized rather quickly to provide emergency communications in the event of infrastructure breakdowns.

There is a branch of the NTS, known as NTS-D or digital. This branch operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Its function is the same, with the one difference that it is largely automated. An originator or relay station need only prepare a batch file containing the messages to be sent, log onto the system and send the batch. Once this is completed, the rest is automatic. The messages are forwarded using a method known as Pactor across the country. Individual messages or groups of same can be downloaded by a station known as a DRS or digital relay station. These DRS's are generally operated on a when needed basis. Any ham with a modem capable of Pactor 1 can be a DRS.

Anyone interested in becoming a DRS can also borrow a Pactor 1 capable modem from the equipment bank handled by Dave Struebel WB2FTX in New Jersey. These modems are free to use until the station either decides to upgrade to a faster modem or decides to step down as a DRS. What I am trying to do here is garner interest in the Atlantic Provinces for a few DRS's to come onboard. The requirements are quite simple. You need to have a fairly modern transceiver, preferably solid state; the above

modem; a willingness to check the system periodically to see if there is any traffic for your area and the willingness to check into local nets to pass or pick up traffic. Even once or twice a week is perfectly acceptable.

Anyone interested should contact Dave at wb2ftx@optonline.net

He can guide you every step of the way, from obtaining the modem, downloading the appropriate software and procuring the necessary interface for your rig. He can also provide a CD copy of the software with the modem.

Traffic handling is a very important facet of this hobby. Always remember that our spectrum was originally granted to us so we could be available in an emergency to provide instant communications. This was long before cell-phones and I-pads. Traffic handling is fun. Some may say that I am a little too involved in it. Granted that may well be true, as I generate and handle in excess of 1000 messages in any given month. And none of these are handled digitally.

Another thing you may wish to consider is being able to check into one or more traffic nets outside the Maritimes. There is a daily net in Maine which liaises with the First Region Net (1RN). There is also the Eastern Area Net (EAN) which operates 7 days per week on 7220 khz. Currently there is no Region net in Eastern Canada, since ECN was disbanded several years ago. Any station is therefore welcomed on EAN if he or she either has traffic or is willing to take traffic back to the Atlantic Provinces. For many years Lyle VE1VAU was the main liaison to the NTS but he has been in hiding for some time, HI.

Anyhow, all I can do is ask. If anyone can spare a few minutes a couple of times a week to perform this service, please don't hesitate to contact Dave for more info on the digital side or you can also contact me at callsign@rac-dot-ca or callsign@arrl-dot-net.

Thank you, Glenn Killam VE3GNA

DMR Launches in Scotland as D-STAR Edges Toward Obsolescence....

Item thanks to Ken, VY2RU -ed

Ham radio in Scotland is about to be redefined with the launch of the first Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) repeater system in Dundee: <http://www.va3xpr.net/digital-mobile-radio/>

On March 4, 2014, the new DMR repeater, which operates under the call sign GB7DD, went on the air in Dundee, Scotland, after previously operating as an Icom D-STAR digital repeater system. "GB7DD was in it's previous life a D-STAR system, but due to lack of use, it was shut down and the equipment was returned to the Dundee Radio Club." said Martin Higgins, MM0DUN, the owner of the GB7DD DMR repeater system. "With the help of Michael Lockwood, G1XCC, we were able to get a new Motorola MOTOTRBO DR3000 UHF repeater installed & operating in its place." added Higgins.

For more information on the GB7DD DMR repeater, check out the GB7DD website

<http://www.gb7dd.co.uk/>

And for the opposing view - Cory Golob, KU1U

D-Star is alive and well. I think it is just a smear campaign on behalf of DMR. To me, it is like asking if you prefer Nike or Adidas, Windows or Mac, McDonald's or Burger King, Republican or Democrat... the same thing, but different. While D-Star, or DMR, may not be for everyone, it is another tool in our toolbox of unique modes we have at our disposal which makes this hobby so successful. It also illustrates what this hobby is about: embracing the future and experimenting with new technologies. D-Star has its learning curve, but like anything else, the more you educate yourself about different things, the better you can use it to your benefit. D-Star has been around for about 10 years, but only recently started gaining momentum in the past two years. If you feel like D-Star is going obsolete, have a glance at the real-time dashboard at <http://www.dstarusers.org/> and make that determination yourself. If you haven't experienced D-Star then I welcome you with open arms to a new adventure. If it is not for you then I will happily accept agreeing to disagree. There is ample room in this hobby for everyone, we just need to find our niche.

73 -Cory, KU1U

Connect Systems to Launch Combo DMR & D-STAR Radio

In an exclusive interview, Connect Systems owner and President Jerry Wanger discusses his company's plans to revolutionize ham radio with the launch of a new digital voice radio supporting both Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) and Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio (D-STAR).

With the recent launch of the CS700 DMR radio, Connect Systems, the ham radio community's favourite auto patch maker, is revolutionizing the hobby by providing low cost, high value radio equipment that supports the latest in digital voice technology, including an upcoming unit that will support both DMR & D-STAR.

Read the full story at: <http://www.va3xpr.net/connect-systems-president-jerry-wanger-announces-plans-to-launch-a-combo-dmr-d-star-radio>

Bitcoins (Continued from page 5)

Q: Who's behind the currency?

A: It's a mystery. Bitcoin was launched in 2009 by a person or group of people operating under the name Satoshi Nakamoto and then adopted by a small clutch of enthusiasts. Nakamoto dropped off the map as bitcoin began to attract widespread attention, but proponents say that doesn't matter; the currency obeys its own, internal logic.

Q: What's a bitcoin worth?

A: Like any other currency, bitcoins are only worth as much as you and your counterpart want them to be. In its early days, boosters swapped bitcoins back and forth for minor favors or just as a game. One website even gave them away for free. As the market matured, the value of each bitcoin grew. At its height three months ago, a single bitcoin was valued at \$1,200. On Tuesday, it was around \$500.

Q: Is the currency widely used?

A: Businesses ranging from blogging platform Wordpress to retailer Overstock have jumped on the bitcoin bandwagon amid a flurry of media coverage, but it's not clear whether the currency

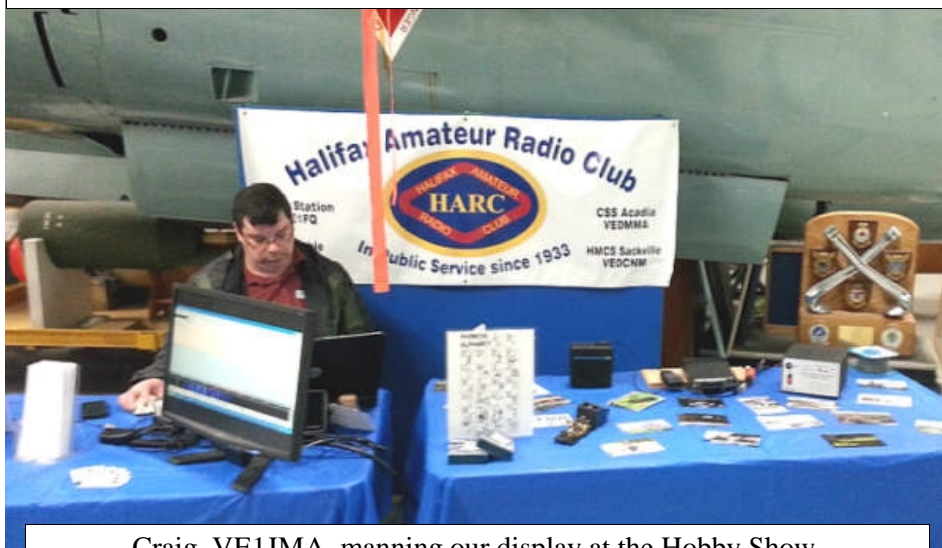
has really taken off. On the one hand, leading bitcoin payment processor BitPay works with more than 20,000 businesses. On the other, the total number of bitcoin transactions has stayed roughly constant at between 60,000 and 70,000 per day over the same period, according to bitcoin wallet site blockchain.info.

Q: Is bitcoin particularly vulnerable to counterfeiting?

A: The bitcoin network works by harnessing individuals' greed for the collective good. A network of tech-savvy users called miners keep the system honest by pouring their computing power into a blockchain, a global running tally of every bitcoin transaction. The blockchain prevents rogues from spending the same bitcoin twice, and the miners are rewarded for their efforts by being gifted with the occasional bitcoin. As long as miners keep the blockchain secure, counterfeiting shouldn't be an issue.

*Fascinating Error in Judgement
"I think there is a world market for
maybe five computers."*

Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

HARC at the Spring Hobby Show at the Shearwater Aviation Museum

Craig, VE1JMA, manning our display at the Hobby Show.
We were set up beside a retired Tracker aircraft and
conveniently located for accessing our outside-mounted antennas

**HARC Participates at the Spring
Hobby Show at the Shearwater
Aviation Museum**

Craig MacKinnon, VA1CM/VE1JMA

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club was again pleased to demonstrate various aspects of our hobby at the 16th Annual Spring Hobby Show at the Shearwater Aviation Museum on April 5th and 6th. The two day event, hosted by the Museum, is an opportunity for people representing a broad range of hobbies and crafts to introduce the general public to their specific interest.

As in previous years HARC demon-

strated several activities in amateur radio including 2 meter repeater operations, IRLP, emergency communications using the WinLink e-mail system, and HF digital modes. The HARC display was well received by people with little prior knowledge of the hobby and a few wanting to get back on the air. People were especially interested in the WinLink system, particularly the idea of being able to send and receive email without an internet connection.

Several HARC members and friends turned out to help set up, operate and tear down this weekend.

I would like to thank the following for their time and effort to make our display a success:

Amanda Schreiber
Jeremy Fowler (VE1JHF)
Doug LeBlanc (VE1LDL)
Scott Verge (VE1SRV)
Jim Flowers (VE1JIM)
Ian Pierce (VE1IGP)
Barry Manuel (VE1JRG)

Proceeds from the show go to support the Shearwater Aviation Museum.

**SURPLUS GEAR FOR SALE**

The club has several pieces of gear for sale and the policy is to give members first chance to make offers. The following list is some of the gear available with suggested prices. Please submit bids to any executive member. Low bids may or may not be accepted. The gear can be viewed in the club station.

TenTec 585 Paragon 1

Tested - good

160M 10M transceiver, 100W output
Comes with:

Ten Tec 705 desk Mic

TT960 Power Supply with speaker

Standard 2.4 and 6.0 filters

Optional 1.8 filter

No optional CW filters, FM card,

232 card, AM transmit card

Nicad 9v installed for memory
backup as per Ten Tec Service
Instructions

\$425

Kenwood TS-130SE

Tested - good

80M - 10M HF transceiver
100W output

Comes with:

GE hand mic, manual and CD

needs hand mic connector
repair

No power cord; takes standard
HF DC power cord.

No power supply.

\$225

Any unsold gear will be on the club table at the Down East Flea Market May 31. The asking prices will probably be higher on most pieces at the flea market.

Fascinating Error in Judgement!

"I have travelled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."

-- The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957