



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club



REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895
HALIFAX NS
B3K 5M5

February 2015, Volume 76 Number 2
club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Happy Valentine's Day. Keep Warm



HARC Club Station phone number - 902-490-6421

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Past President - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca

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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

Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation.

We need more net controllers. If you want to join, contact Bill, VE1MR

Feb. 15	Bruce	VE1MLW
Feb. 22	Win	VE1WIN
March 1	Doug	VE1LDL
March 8	Bruce	VE1MLW
March 15	Peter	VE1PJW
March 22	Win	VE1WIN



Puzzler - Do you know?

Who is considered to be the principal founder of the theory of molecular structure?

Answer on page 10

The Evening News is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

The February 2015 General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, February 18, 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 - Presentation: Advancing HARC's Media and Public Outreach Strategy
Presenters: Craig MacKinnon, VE1JMA, and Amanda Schreiber and Jayne Jackson

8:30–9:30pm Regular Monthly Business Meeting

Guests are welcome

A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumour.

Photos this issue in part thanks to Pauline, VE1PAV, Betty, VE1BSW, Jeremy, VE1JHF

Deadline for submissions to the March Reflector is Saturday, March 7, 2015

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

Events for Your Calendar

February 21st & 22nd - Guides On The Air (GOTA) - Get on the air to give the Guides, Brownies &/or Sparks some live amateur radio contacts. For more information have a look at the GOTA web page:

<http://www.clarayl.ca/index.php/whatisgota>

or contact Helen Archibald at valyl@rac.ca

The NSARA Contest will take place each year on the second Sunday in March. For 2015 the date will be March 8, 2015.

April 11-12 - Shearwater Hobby Show – contact Craig, VE1JMA, at cjmackinnon@gmail.com or by phone at 902-463-8517.

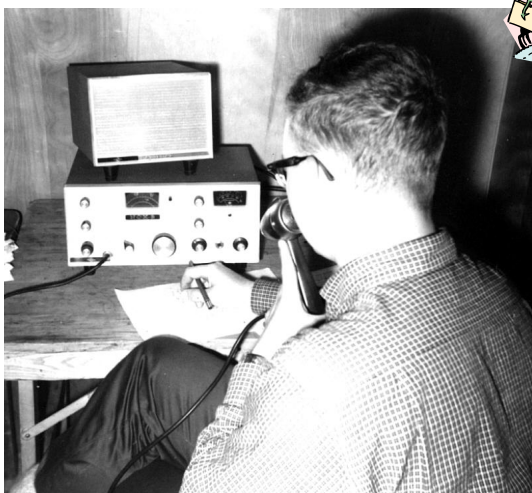
April 25-26 – Geequinox



June 6 – Downeast Fleamarket

The **fall Basic Amateur Radio Course** is looking for donations of two “working” 2m or 2m/70 cm radio sets, complete with power supplies, mic’s and antennas. Radio sets can be new or used, but **MUST** be in good working order. These will be awarded once again to two students who demonstrate perfect attendance during the 2015 course. It proved quite an incentive for last year’s students! Scott Verge, VE1SRV

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

*Definitions:***LEFTBANK:**

What the robber did when his bag was full of money



Can you identify this enthusiastic young amateur radio operator at Field Day, 1965?

(Hint: His enthusiasm remains strong - ed)

Answer will be in the March Reflector

HARC Educational Events Winter/Spring 2015

February 21 J-Pole Antenna – come build a J-pole antenna with Scott. Learn some of the theory behind the J-pole and practical tips while making one. **If interested in attending, please email scott@ve1srv.net by February 14. (If Scott doesn't hear from people planning to attend he will NOT hold the curse. -ed)**

March 14 Green Your Station – learn how to operate your station without the use of regular land power. (If interested in attending, please email scott@ve1srv.net by March 7th)

March 28 Green Your Station – learn how to operate your station without the use of regular land power. (If interested in attending, please email scott@ve1srv.net by March 21st)

April 11 Prepper & Ham – an invitation to the Prepper community to learn how to properly integrate Ham Radio into their preparedness.

April 25 Prepper & Ham – an invitation to the Prepper community to learn how to properly integrate Ham Radio into their preparedness.

May 09 Learn to Solder – learn how to solder various connectors commonly used by Ham operators. (If interested in attending, please email scott@ve1srv.net by May 2nd)

May 23 TBA

Everyone is welcome at all classes. Please email me if you are interested, All classes start at 10:00 AM.

If any member is interested in taking part in an **ADVANCED RADIO COURSE**, please email scott@ve1srv.net to let me know. If there is enough interest, I will put an **ADVANCED** course on. I **AM ALSO LOOKING FOR ANY ADDITIONAL COURSE IDEAS MEMBERS MAY DESIRE.**

Scott Verge, VE1SRV

From the GOTA web page:

GOTA is an opportunity for Members of Guiding - from Sparks to Guiders - to talk to other Members of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world via amateur radio. Outside Canada, GOTA is known as Thinking Day on the Air - TDOTA. GOTA and TDOTA are held every year on the third full weekend in February. This is a weekend close to Thinking Day - the day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world remember the founders of Guiding and Scouting as well as their sisters in WAGGGS - the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. GOTA/TDOTA is a fun way to reach out to some WAGGGS sisters during Guide-Scout week! Helen Archibald is the coordinator and has set up the GOTA Web site. This website will soon be gone, but all of the information will be here on the CLARA site. Please come and join us February 21st & 22nd 2015 for Guides-On-The-Air.



The NSARA website is at <http://nsara.ve1cfy.net>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: February 2015

It is Saturday afternoon and I am here in front of my radio trying to work K1N, a dx-pedition to Navassa Island (na-098) in the Caribbean. This is becoming very difficult because of the very wide splits and much qrm. Wow, guess what...I just worked them on 20 meters – 14.155 up... you know ,its still a thrill, a sort of a rush to work rare dx or dx in general after 34 years in the hobby. Even though technology has changed and radios and antennas have become so much better, this thrill of a contact has never left me: in fact I think it has grown stronger over the years as I search for new countries, rare dx , IOTAS and even new pre-fixes. CELL phones have nothing on making a contact to a foreign country and even making new friends in a far away land. As a note, Alex, VE1RUS, (STATION MANAGER) will be in VY0 land over the next couple of weeks and will let us know when he will be on the air-his call will be VE1RUS/VY0. Be sure to listen for him when he lets us know where and when he will be on.

This morning I attended the “Ham Breakfast “ at Tom’s in Sackville. What a great turn out as we had 28 hungry hams present. Naturally there were new people to meet and old friends to catch up on and of course, conversations seemed to always come back to ham radio. I really enjoy this type of gathering as it gives me the opportunity to chat with many of you on a one to one basis. There is always something new to learn and I appreciate the conversation.

At last month’s general meeting, a lot of discussion over the production of our call book indicated that we did not have a project manager and time was too short to make it happen for 2016. The call book project requires a lot of work and is truly a team effort to produce a quality product. Since the call book generated significant revenue for our club, I issued a challenge to our membership to come up with ideas to generate funds. No idea will be discounted and all are open too discussion of pro’s and con’s. I am looking forward to our next meeting to hear all of the great ideas that can accomplish our fund raising goals.

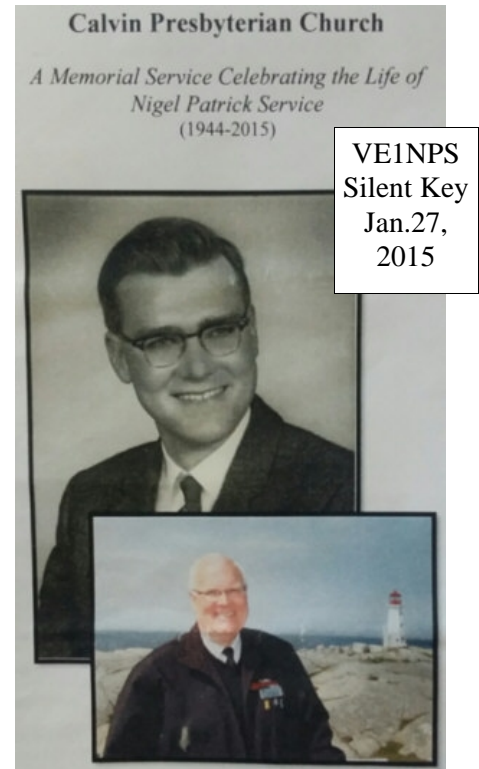
As our membership shrinks each year, our 1st v.p. Chuck Kelly presented the executive with the suggestion that each member bring a friend, family member, co-worker or neighbour to our general meeting. Obviously this would allow us, as hams, to introduce guests to our hobby. Maybe we can get people to get involved in the course and eventually become a member of our fraternity. Let everyone try to bring a guest to our next meeting.

We are part of exciting times in amateur radio, especially as sun spot activity is peaking. Get on the air, make contacts and spread our passion for the hobby to our friends and around the world....IT IS WHAT WE DO BEST... “ COMMUNICATE “-’

73, Brian Allen, VA1CC, President H.A.R.C.

In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other.
Voltaire (1764)

The Maritime Amateur
Ham Radio
for Maritimers by Maritimers
www.maritimeamateur.ca



On Tuesday, February 3, 2015 I, along with one hundred plus mourners, attended Calvin Presbyterian Church, Halifax to say “good bye” to Nigel Service (VE1NPS). Nigel had been a member of HARC for a number of years and as such was known to many radio amateurs. Following his sudden passing, members of HARC were contacted to ascertain if a “last call” ceremony could be held to remember Nigel. Fortunately Tom (VE1GTC) and Jeremy (VE1JHF) took up the challenge and not only developed, but presented a first class memory for all present.

As a member of HARC and representative elder for Calvin, I was impressed by the efforts of both Tom and Jeremy. Following the service, a number of attendees came over to me to comment positively on the “last call”. Their presentation was moving and professional and left many with a teary eye. Well done Tom and Jeremy, and thank you.

Murray Mac Donald, VE1BB

RAC’s webste is at www.rac.ca

Rookie of the year for 2014

Scott Verge, VE1SRV

With the completion of the *Basic Amateur Radio Certification* course in December 2013, Scott Verge distinguished himself by passing both certification exams for the *Basic with Honours* and *Advanced* levels with the very highest marks.

At the Christmas dinner, just a few days later, he let it be clearly understood that he wished to become involved in the work of HARC. This he has done in innumerable ways, including:

- Attending all the monthly meetings
- Taking part in the Executive Committee as a non-voting observer
- Participating in all the Club's events, such as the Ham Radio Breakfast, Flea Market, Field Day and more.
- He has worked on Repeaters, taken the Climbing Course and been on several antenna climbs, and taken an active interest in all the issues being addressed by HARC
- Engaged fully as a member of the EMO Radio Advisory Group

However, most significantly of all, beginning in the spring of 2014 he has not only taken on the role as Coordinator for the fall *Basic Amateur Radio Certification* course, but he has also introduced valuable new approaches that promise improved results from the course and instituted an approach that has made students more comfortable in taking the necessary steps beyond passing an exam to actually communicating as a Radio Amateur.

Finally, at the November AGM he was nominated and elected as HARC's Director for Educational Programming. This new position broadens the role of the Basic Amateur Radio Certification Course Coordinator to include a wider responsibility for educational programming and, thereby, acknowledges the importance of this function for HARC.



Scott, VE1SRV, receiving the HARC Rookie of the Year Award for 2014 from Past-President Scott, VE1QD; and QSL card manager Tom, VE1GTC

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name

PRESIDENTS REPORT from the HARC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 November 2014 and Revised on 11 January 2015

This has been another very eventful and successful year for HARC. What has been accomplished occurred with the active participation and support of a remarkably able Executive Committee, and with the active help of an engaged Club membership. For this support I want to express my sincere thanks to Executive colleagues and other members alike. At this meeting I am concluding my two year period as President. Again this year there is an extensive set of activities and events to report on which I will do only in relatively schematic form. It's not possible to name everyone involved, so please do not be offended if you are not mentioned!

MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2014

There were many activities undertaken by the Club in 2014, but there are **eight projects** that merit special mention because they represent an important advance for HARC.

- Our **storage facility** at Cowie Hill was outfitted with shelves and racks to make possible the final move of all of our field operations equipment and other materials from the Bloomfield School. This took place in the later part of June, thereby, completely closing the Bloomfield period of HARC's life. In the process materi-

als no longer of value to us were either given away or sent to the appropriate junk yards.

- The second phase of **archiving** Club records, photos and other historical materials at the HRM Archives in Burnside was completed. This stage also included interesting materials recovered from the Bloomfield site. This will be an on-going project.
- The **remote access** to our Club Station was fully implemented and training was provided for interested advanced-certified users. A *User's Manual* was created.
- A high quality, commercial **electronics work station** was installed in the Library/Office to facilitate the maintenance of Club equipment and to provide a work station for Club members to use for personal projects.
- A dedicated **900 MHz communication link** between the Club station and the EOC at Mt. Hope Avenue was installed, tested and made operational on a 24/7 basis. This is intended to provide a dedicated communications link between the EOC and St. Andrew's Community Centre in its capacity as a back-up emergency evacuation centre.
- Restoration of **Britt Fader's Collins A-3 Receiver** was completed by Fred Archibald, VE1FA, and is ready for installation in the Club Station. Perhaps, this will be just the first stage in the establishment of a Memorial Vintage Radio Station dedicated to all our silent keys.

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- Craig MacKinnon, VE1JMA, headed a Committee to develop a **Media and Outreach Strategy for HARC**. The Report was submitted to the Executive in October and provides a valuable basis for moving ahead with the implementation of their major recommendations.
- Scott Verge, VE1SRV, was appointed to **Coordinate our Basic Radio Course**, and in 2014 has innovatively revised our curriculum and approach. He was elected to the 2015 Executive as a Member-At-Large, but given a broad mandate to work with all of our **education programming**. This is a major Club activity of key importance to our future.

EVENTS

The HARC year is filled with a variety of events, some Club sponsored for members and many others that are a part of our public service and outreach.

1. The 2013 HARC **Christmas Dinner** was held at Fans Chinese Restaurant on 18 December, and included the presentation of the First **Annual Rookie of the Year Award** to Graham and Brandon Fowler, VE1GFA and VE1BMF. At the 2014 HARC Christmas dinner on 17 December – also held at Fans – the Rookie of the Year 2014 was awarded to Scott Verge, VE1SRV.
2. On Wednesday evening, 12 February, a group of 10 **Cub Scouts** and three of their leaders received a briefing about amateur radio, were provided a demonstration of various modes of operating and were permitted to make HF radio contacts.
3. On Saturday, 15 February, two groups of **Girl Scouts** – one group of Guides and the other Brownies - visited our Club station. The 17 young girls and their five leaders also were given a briefing, mode demonstrations and access to operating time on HF similar to the Cub Scouts. Our outreach to scouting is an important part of our annual program.
4. The **Ham Radio Breakfast** was well attended on Saturday, 22 February at Tom's Restaurant in Lower Sackville.
5. Later on Saturday, 22 February, a **Fall Protection Training** course was hosted for 11 of our Club members. A course is arranged by our Safety Officer, Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB, and usually given each year.
6. The **Spring Geekquinox**, held on Saturday and Sunday, 22 – 23 March, is a unique gathering of “Geeky” hobbyists with interests in”...anime, science fiction, fantasy, gaming, comics, steampunk, and contraptions and creations of all kinds!” HARC was there for the second year to share amateur radio with them and to extend our search of the greater universe for kindred souls. In this era of rapid technological and social change, one needs to explore new spheres of interest in order to make new connections for our hobby. Amanda Schreiber and Jayne Jackson (both studying for their ham radio certification) were responsible for organizing our participation.
7. HARC was again present at the **Shearwater Hobby Show**, on Saturday and Sunday, 5 – 6 April. Although more “traditional” in its scope, it too is an important venue for profiling amateur radio and extending our contact network. Organized by Craig MacKinnon, VE1JMA, our table provided a demonstration of several modes of operating and information about both Ham Radio and HARC.
8. On Saturday, 3 May HARC assisted the **Rover Scouts** in running an event modeled after the TV Show, “The Amazing Race”. Eight teams of 3 - 5 Venturers had to complete tasks in both Halifax and Dartmouth, several involving use of amateur radio to communicate, and return to the Grand Parade starting point by a set time. The HARC Club station acted as the central communications node.
9. The period from late **May to late August** is a period with a great number of Club activities that are regularly parts of our activities calendar. Let me list them for you, including the nature of our participation:

• 25 May	The MS Walk	Communications coordination
• 31 May	The Down East Flea Market	Social event and sale of ham gear
• 28/29 June	The ARRL Field Day	A test of emergency preparedness
• 16 July	HARC Summer Social	Social gathering for Pizza
• 25/27 July	MS Bike Tour	Communications coordination
• 26/27 July	IOTA Contest	Islands on the Air Contest
• 2/3 August	Int'l Lighthouse/ship Event	Special event from VE0MMA
• 20 August	HARC Summer Social	Social gathering for Pizza
• 23/24 August	Bluenose Auto Sport Club	Communications coordination
	Ledwedge Lookoff Rally	



Our ability to provide a **communications coordination service** is at the centre of our role with three community events and constitutes a major component of our commitment to public service. Three others represent **operating activities**, contests and special events that are opportunities to hone our radio skills under field and contest conditions and involve many Club members. The remaining three are **social events**, while one of these is an opportunity to buy and sell radio equipment.

10. On Saturday, 4 October many Club members participated in **Operation Kingfisher**, an EMO Test of the state of readiness of our HRM emergency communication facilities that include both public service and amateur radio networks.
11. HARC participated in the **Greenwood Flea Market** on Saturday, 18 October with tables selling our surplus radio gear, promot-

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Halifax Amateur Radio Club General Meeting minutes 21 JAN 2015

Meeting convened at 2030

Member Self Introduction:

VE1AVD, VA3VCF, VE1WIN, VA1AGP(?), VE1SRV, VE1PAV, VE1TRB, VA1ALW, VE1CU, VE1VBT, VE1JEH, VA1VAO, VE1LDL, VE1JMA, VE1AI, VE1CED Alex / father Rick, (Bruce ???), VE1FA, VE1YL, VE1PSG, VE1ADH, VE1UFA, VE1MR, VE1MDO, VE1MDO, VE1GPY, VE1IGP, VE1AJP, VE1CAW, Jayne, Amanda, VE1JHF, VE1DTR, VE1RUS, VE1JIM, VE1DHD, VE1WO, VE1GTC, VE1BMF, VE1GFA, VA1CAW, VE1ZMB, VA1CC

Acceptance of Agenda: LDL / AI - Accepted

Silent Keys: Mention of caretaker's husband from the building, VE1NE, VE1LYN, VE1BHK, VE1ALU, VE1LEN, VE1GS, VE1KFW, VE1TJM, VE1GK, VE1IQ, VE1PBS*, VE1PM (* added post meeting)

Acceptance of Minutes from November: MR / JIM - Accepted

Correspondence: Receipt of bill for AMSAT membership

Presidents Report: no report except for discussion of MMA report later in the meeting

Treasurers Report: Jim (JG) not present. Jim (JIM) presented a brief overview of the Clubs finances in his absence.

Acceptance of Treasurers Report: JIM/DHD - Accepted

Station Managers Report: Alex (RUS) informed that the vertical antenna on the roof has been replaced, and is working but there is a problem with the 15 m trap, and Bill will be contacting the manufacturer to see about getting a new trap. Satellite beam has been aligned, but has yet to be field tested, goal for spring is to put up dual axis rotor. Bill (MR) has emailed HyGain but has not heard

from them yet.

JIM has used the remote station successfully to make contacts, and anyone wishing to use the remote station should email Alex (RUS) for scheduling.

Education Director. Scott (SRV), gave a brief report on the Basic Course numbers (14) and those that wrote the exam (9) and passed (8). 3 people passed with honors, and 2 more plan to write later this year. Scott will be available for the rest until they pass the exam.

2nd reading of the Special Resolution regarding the appointment of Bill Elliott (MR) as Director Emeritus to the Club. *Resolution was read to those present by Brian (CC) Terry (TRB) made a motion to accept the Special Resolution. Scott (SRV) seconded the motion. Motion was accepted by all those present. Bill Elliott is now Director Emeritus of HARC.

Brian advised those present that Jim Flowers (JIM) has retired as 2nd VP, and we have someone who has volunteered to take his place. Introduced to the members was Paul Legault, VE1PAL, recently graduated - Basic, Honors, Advanced).

Those present were polled for acceptance of Paul's appointment, and it was unanimously accepted. We welcome Paul to the Club and to the Executive.

A reminder to those present about the upcoming Ham Breakfast at 0900 on February 7th at Tom's Restaurant in Lower Sackville. Those planning to attend should get in touch with Jim (JIM) so we can have a head count.

Brian advised that we are in need of chairpersons to run the Flea Market, and Field Day, and we have to make a decision soon as to whether we are going to produce another Call book, and if so, we will need someone to take on that task as well.

Jeremy (JHF) advised those present that he would once again take on the task of chairing the Flea Market

preparations. The Flea Market is scheduled for the 6th of June. Amanda once again would be handling the food preparation.

Field day this year is the last weekend in June, and will be held at the Club Station this year, and it was noted that we were number 1 in our class last year.

Next month's presentation will be the Media Outreach presentation by Craig (JMA), Amanda and Jayne.

There was discussion about housing the Clubs trailer, preferably at Cowie Hill, and we need someone who can handle writing the request to the City to try and acquire a grant to build this shed. Jim (JIM) suggested that we have a large storage tent then that we could use to house the trailer until such time as we can build a more permanent structure.

There was much discussion about the production of a new call book, and several ideas were fielded about alternative methods of how we could promulgate that information, securely, either through the Club website or in some other electronic form, rather than have to resort to printing books again. We also need someone to spearhead this project if it is to go forward.

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic project: Brian discussed his meeting with the MMA about the Club setting up a permanent radio display at the museum, as well as their expectations regarding the Club being involved in upcoming special events.

We have a promise from the museum that they will provide all the necessary equipment that we specify to set up the display. They want it to be as interactive for the public as possible, including things like running a CW course, and possibly videos etc. They are willing to help promote the Club using their PR staff both locally and internationally, which would be of great benefit to the Club. The big thing is we will need a commitment from members of the Club to staff

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the installation on a regular basis to make this work. It will not be every day of the week, but the schedule will need to be worked out soon, be it a couple of days a week or more, as well as the special events. There was much discussion about what form the display would take including what types of radios we should have, and that they would like the display to look as close to a ship-board radio station as possible. There is another meeting upcoming with the MMA at which time further, more concrete details will be ironed out.

Erik Hein (JEH) has graciously offered to take on this project, as well as offering his wife's help on this project, as she was the architect that designed the Museum and could possibly have some valuable input into this project. If you are interested spending a few hours a week to help this project become successful please contact Brian and / or Erik.

Scott (SRV) reported that he was planning in putting an Advanced course, but that he needed enough people interested before he scheduled it. If you are interested in taking the course, please contact him at scott@ve1srv.net.

SAR/EMO: Dave (AJP) reported about their assisting in the recent civil evacuation in the Cherrybrook / Preston area relating to the repairs being made to the Lake Major Dam to reinforce it, to prevent the dam from breaking and flooding the area. They found out at the last minute that their radios had been put in discharge mode and those members had to go out with ½ charged radios, and told about the other preparations that had been put in place including busses for storage of people's pets, both caged & uncaged and emergency medical evacuations for those that needed it.

Amanda brought up the need for people to staff the upcoming Shearwater Hobby show and the Geequinox event again.

Craig (JMA) offered to look after the Hobby Show event.

No further business.

Door Prize draw: CT Gift Certificate. Won by George, VE1CAW.

50/50 Draw: won by the sister of Coral, VA1CAW.

Meeting adjourned 2200

Respectfully submitted
Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF
HARC Secretary



Laura Muise,
VE1ZMB

Laura Muise gave a presentation on "Using Social Media to Enhance and Advance Amateur Radio" at the HARC's January meeting

Take-15 Net controllers needed

We need more net controllers for the Take-15 net. This is not a hard task and usually takes less than ½ hour on a Sunday evening. It is good practice for running a net which can enhance your usefulness in doing a net during an emergency.

I would like to see some of the newly licensed Amateurs take this on. The more controllers we have the less number of times during a year that you would need to take a net. We are currently down to 3 controllers and this means they only get 2 weeks off before they do a net again. An ideal number would be 12 but 6 to 8 will spread the task out nicely. Contact Bill, VE1MR

It is easy and you get to meet other club members on the air as well as visiting Amateurs during the summer. Please consider taking a small amount of time on a Sunday evening to help the club out.

This is perhaps one of the longest running 2M nets in existence and it would be a shame to discontinue it.

The Take-15 net is a good place to hear what is going on in the Amateur community and hear news of upcoming club events. You can also ask questions on topics of interest to Amateurs, perhaps technical, operating, building etc. So if you don't want to be a net controller right now at least check in to the net. We know a lot of Amateurs and scanner listeners are on frequency - many more than usually check in.



Some of the members of the Baofeng Radio class
Saturday, January 17 at the HARC station

AVOIDABLE: What a bullfighter tries to do

**From the Mail Bag****Bring a friend to Ham Club!**

First a short story – earlier this week, I was talking on the phone with a friend, not a ham, but a guy with a good tech background and interest. I asked him if he'd ever considered becoming a ham. His answer shocked me: "Yeah, last summer, I was interested, and took the RAC online practice exams, and passed, so I called the local Industry Canada office and they told me they don't give the exams and have no idea who does!" Of course, I explained about HARC, and invited him, but it occurred to me, might there be more folks out there who would like to become hams, and just don't know how?

During the last few meetings, a major topic of discussion has been the need to grow our hobby – not just at HARC, but worldwide. Meanwhile, there seems to be more interest in similar fields, folks who enjoy building and tinkering with electronics, robots, etc. So – a challenge: Think about your circle of friends. Do you know anyone who is a tinkerer or enjoys projects? Do you know anyone who has ever asked you about that funny antenna on your car or in your backyard? Why not ask them if they'd like to join you at the next HARC meeting? Bring them yourself, so they don't feel alone – and introduce them around. Make them feel welcome. As well, how about local hams who haven't been to a club meeting in years? Consider asking them to join you too – the more the merrier!

73, Chuck Kelly VE1MDO

I have been informed by Neil, VE1YZ, to let all NET controllers and others end users that the Hammonds Plains VHF repeater and MACOM UHF Linking (138*/139*) system has been repaired.

Thanks Neil for a job well done!

73, Lorne – VE1BXX www.westcumb.ca

Fascinating Error in Judgement

"The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon," -- Sir John Eric Erickson, British surgeon, appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria, 1873.

Craig, VE1JMA will coordinate HARC's display at this year's Shearwater Hobby Show on the 11th and 12th of April at the Shearwater Aviation Museum. Craig wants to put a small QRP station on the air (probably using PSK) and maybe WinLINK. He will need people to help setup/tear-down, man the table, operate... People can get in touch with Craig via e-mail at cjmackinnon@gmail.com or by phone at 902-463-8517.

The following is from the Aviation Museum's invitation to participate in the 17th Annual Spring Hobby Show, Shearwater Aviation Museum (e-mail).

This email is to invite you and/or your group's participation in the 17th annual Spring Hobby Show, which will be held at the Shearwater Aviation Museum from 10 AM - 4 PM on Saturday & Sunday the 11th & 12th of April 2015. The show is a major fundraiser for the museum, with all show proceeds being donated to the museum. General show information can be found on the museum's website www.shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca.

The show will be an eclectic, multi-discipline event featuring Model Aircraft, Armor, Ship, Automotive & Science Fiction subjects; at least one Model Railway layout; Dolls & Dollhouse Miniatures; Radio Control Ship & Aircraft Models; Lego displays; various Enactor groups; special interest hobbyists; a one day Model Contest on Saturday; a Trade Fair; and much more for a total of approximately 150 sales and exhibit tables. Something for everyone and an ideal opportunity to showcase your hobby.

The museum will be open from 12noon to 9 PM Friday April 10th, and from 8 - 10 AM Saturday April 11th for exhibitor and vendor setup. The museum can accept earlier delivery of exhibit items by prior arrangement with the museum (902-720-1083). Exhibitors & vendors are expected to remain "setup" until 4 PM on Sunday. On a case by case basis, and by prior request, it may be possible to make arrangements for Saturday only participation.

There will be a plastic model contest held on Saturday, April 11. For further contest information visit the Shearwater Aviation Museum website <http://www.shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca/> or contact Contest Chair, Iain Matheson, at ikmath@accesscable.net.

Those wishing to participate in the show may do so either by booking free "display only" tables to showcase their hobby, or by renting trade fair tables at a cost of \$20.00 each to buy, sell or trade personal items. Due to space limits it is anticipated that most clubs and groups may be restricted to 4 exhibit tables each. Exhibit tables are 6 ft long. All exhibitors and vendors are expected to provide table cloths or other suitable coverings to dress and drape their tables. This a hobby show, not a flea market! Floor space and/or display and sales tables must be booked in advance. To make reservations, or if you have any questions at all, contact Christine Hines, SAM Curator at: Email office@shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca or phone 902-720-1083.

Christine Hines, Curator Shearwater Aviation Museum

The CW for "@" is di-dah-dah-di-dah-dit

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ing the Club and distributing QSL cards from the Bureau we administer. As always, this was a nice social gathering too.

12. Deserving of special mention is the organization of and participation of three HARC members in a very special DXpedition: the **Brendan Quest**. This was a 2-meter DXpedition to Pooch Cove, Newfoundland for the purpose of trying to make the first transatlantic two-way communication with Europe. It was organized by HARC members Fred and Helen Archibald, VE1FA and VA1YL. HARC member Rich, VA1CHP and close ham radio friends Al, VO1NO, and Roger, VE1SKY, were the other members of the team.

On 6 July their station, VC1T, was heard in England by John, G4SWZ over a distance of 3824 km. This is the first verified reception of a traditional (CW or SSB) across the Atlantic. Next year a further attempt to make a two-way communication will be attempted.

ON-GOING FUNCTIONS

13. **Dissemination of Information.** There are several facets of our Club's communication with members and interested outside parties that strengthens the Club's performance and presence, including:

- **The Reflector** which is a truly first class Club newsletter and is downloaded from our website and widely read by non-Club members far and wide. This is expertly edited by Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT.
- **Our Website** itself presents HARC to the world via the web in the most attractive and useful way. It is managed and kept very up-to-date by Howard Dickson, VE1DHD
- **The Government and Media Relations Officer**, Murray MacDonald, VE1BB, provides information about HARC and HARC activities thru press releases and targeted reports and submissions. This helps to build linkages between us, Government and other parts of our society.
- **The Take-15 Net**, operating on our VE1PSR Repeater (147.270 MHz +), provides a weekly forum on Sunday evenings for the exchange of news and information. Net control rotates among members.

14. Educational Programming and Member Recruitment.

- Our **Basic Amateur Radio Certification (BRC)** course began on 4 September with 12 candidates. They sat their exam on 20 December and eight new operators were certified. This is one of our most important undertakings each year and it spawns a regular flow of new operators and active HARC members.
- On a more ad hoc basis HARC offers a **BRC Self-Study Program** for those who cannot or do not wish to take the annual course.
- A series of short **specialized continuing education seminars** are currently being planned.
- Our monthly Club meeting frequently includes a speaker providing both educational and entertaining material for members. A copy of the **2014 program schedule** is attached.

- We are working with **C.P. Allen High School** to help them develop a school ARC, a forerunner of a larger effort to introduce amateur radio to more schools.
- We work regularly with the **Scouting organizations** in our region.
- We encourage post-secondary technical education of young hams by offering annually the \$1000 **Britt Fader Scholarship**. This year it unfortunately was not awarded because we did not receive any applications. We are looking at ways to make the award better known and to attract credible applications.
- For the second year we awarded a **Rookie of the Year award** to acknowledge the contribution of a newly licensed ham radio operator and member of HARC.

15. Emergency Communications Preparedness and Safety. Our work in contributing to emergency preparedness and supporting the HRM's Emergency Measures Organization is a major commitment that includes:

- Hosting monthly meetings of the EMO-Amateur Radio Advisory Committee, Chaired by Barry Manuel, VE1JRG, who is the Director of the HRM's EMO Office.
- Training our members in emergency communications procedures
- Maintaining an active HARC Safety Officer, namely Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB, who insures that all our operations maintain mandated safety standards. This includes organizing Fall Protection courses for our climbers and monitoring that their certification remains up-to-date.
- We regularly provide assistance to members in safely erecting towers and installing antenna systems.
- We test our readiness with field exercises and with regular use of our Club equipment. For instance, our Station Manager, Jim Flowers, VE1JIM, participated almost daily in an International Operators Net.

16. Social Activities. A basic component of our hobby is also enjoying friendships and socializing, including:

- Conducting regular social events, such as our winter Ham Radio Brunch and our annual Christmas Party
- Providing Saturday morning coffee and conversation at the Club.
- On a more informal basis there are several groups in various parts of the HRM that meet regularly for morning coffee
- During the summer our July and August meetings are a social gathering with pizza.

17. This is a long report of our activities, but I am sure that there is still much more that could be said. I have not tried to mention everyone who has been involved in our activities, projects and on-going functions, since it includes the major portion of our 140 or so members. Without this support we would not be able to achieve what we do, so once again my sincere thanks to all who have so ably and enthusiastically engage in the work of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club.

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD, President 2013-2014 Halifax Amateur Radio Club
11 January 2015 (revised)



(Continued on page 10)

A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it.

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APPENDIX



HARC MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS FOR 2014

15 January	<i>A Strategy for HARC's Educational Programming and Recruitment</i> Presenter: K, Scott Wood, VE1QD
19 February	<i>A Vintage Ham and His Vintage Radios</i> Presenter: Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ
19 March	<i>Chase Me Charlies: Defeating German WWII Radio Controlled Glide Bombs</i> Presenter: Al Penny, VO1NO
16 April	<i>Current Challenges in DXing</i> Presenter: John Scott, VE1JS
21 May	<i>Ham Radio from Sable Island (CY0)</i> Presenter: Gary Bartlett, VE1RGB
18 June	<i>Field Days Past and Present</i> Presenter: Field Day Chair
16 July	Summer Pizza Social Gathering
20 August	Summer Pizza Social Gathering

17 September	<i>SDR's and the Hard Rock 50 Amp</i> Presenter: Sheldon Hartling, VE1GPY
15 October	<i>The Brendan Quest: A two meter expedition to Newfoundland in July 2014</i> Presenter: Al Penny, VO1NO
19 November	<i>A Retrospective on 2014 and HARC AGM</i> Presenter: RAC Executive
17 December	<i>HARC Christmas Party</i>



Answer to Puzzler on page 1

Chemist August Kekule is considered to be the principal founder of the theory of molecular structure. In 1858 he was inspired to formulate the basic theory of how atoms can join together to form molecules with carbon atoms being tetravalent meaning able to form 4 bonds, nitrogen can form 3, oxygen 2, hydrogen 1. Most importantly, carbon atoms could link to each other allowing for the possible formation of a huge variety of molecules. In 1865 he realized that the benzene molecule had a ring structure.



HALIFAX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP - For 2015

☐ Same address as last year ☐ New address

☐ I would like newsletter as PDF E-Mail (Please note by taking the newsletter online you save the Club significant mailing and printing costs)

☐ I would prefer to have the newsletter mailed to my home **at an additional cost of \$10.00 to the regular membership fee structure below..**


E Mail Address (Please provide for our files)

Call Sign _____

First Name Initial Surname

Street Address (Mailing)

City/Town Province Postal Code Telephone Number

 Fees ☐ Full Member, must be a licensed Amateur (\$30.00)* ☐ Associate member (Non Voting) (\$15.00)

☐ Family membership (one newsletter) (\$30.00)* + \$15.00* each additional person.* Amount submitted \$ _____.

* Full HARC Members will also receive full membership in the NSARA

The membership year is from January 1 to December 31.

All members receive the newsletter, which is also available on the HARC website.

✉ Mail to: Membership Chair
Halifax Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 8895
Halifax, NS B3K 5M5

CERT _____

CARD _____

SEC _____

ENTERED _____