



REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

January 2009, Volume 70 Number 1

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Welcome to HARC's New Executive



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	826-7831	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
2nd V.P. - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Helen MacRae, VE1HMR	422-7119	hmacrae@ns.sympatico.ca
Treasurer - Rod Padmore, VE1BSK	443-7181	rodpadmore@ns.sympatico.ca
Director-at-Large: - Don Trotter, VE1DTR		DonTrotter@SierraSystems.com
Club Station Mgr. - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD 876-0661 twomacds@ns.sympatico.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@eastlink.ca

Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD 823-2024 dhickson@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 - See page 3

Field Day coordinator - See page 3

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.



Jan.	18	Win	VE1WIN
Jan.	25	Chris	VA1CDB
Feb.	1	Charles	VE1MCR
Feb.	8	Doug	VE1LDL
Feb.	15	Bruce	VE1MLW
Feb.	22	Win	VE1WIN

Notice of Motion

The budget contained a proposed purchase of an HF radio to replace the sold TS-680 and this will need a second vote since it is over the \$500 limit.

The motion will read "That we spend up to \$2200 to purchase an HF radio to replace the TS-680".

Deadline for submissions to the February Reflector is Saturday, Feb 7, 2009

The Monthly General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, January, 2009 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**.

This evening's program will be Murray, VE1MMD giving an in depth review of the results of last year's club survey.

Guests are welcome

Notice of Motion

There will be a motion proposed to buy a new access system for the club station. Details of the system will be given at the meeting.

The motion will read "That we spend up to \$1500 to buy a new access system for the club"

From Murphy's Lesser Known Laws & Truths:

The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.

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

Morse Code Training

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

A limited number of the Brit Fader Roast CD,s still available

On the 10th of May 1985, one of the most dedicated HARC members, LeBreton J. W. (Brit) Fader, VE1FQ, was honoured and roasted by his fellow amateurs during a banquet in celebration of his 50 years of contribution to and involvement with amateur radio. It was during this evening that the L.J. Fader Scholarship Trust Fund was established. Jim Cleveland, VE1CHI attended that banquet and made a cassette recording of the evening's proceedings. From this cassette Jim has made a number of CD's

The price for each CD is \$5.00 all of which will go in to the L. J. Fader Scholarship Trust Fund (Shipping extra). You won't be disappointed as the audio of this evening is very entertaining. To purchase a CD contact a member of the HARC executive



Any licensed amateur who would like to be a mentor or elmer to one of the Basic License students please give your name and how you can be contacted to Barry Diggins, VE1TRI.



Try to look at the bright side of winter. It's a beautiful, glorious, awe inspiring season. The only thing wrong with it is that it doesn't end until spring.
- Josh Freedman, Montreal Gazette

Do you have a radio-related story, question, answer, article, notice, picture or letter to the editor that you would like to share by having it published in the HARC Reflector? Get them to HARC Reflector editor, Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT ve1ent@rac.ca

Wanted:

Someone willing to assist on the HARC website.

Should have some background in webpage administration as well as web content management.

Please contact Rob, VE1KS
ve1ks@rac.ca or (902) 229-4913

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

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities. **Please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager John Goodwin, VE1CDD, 865-5731
E-mail : ve1cdd@eastlink.ca

[RAC-Bulletin] CHU 41 metre Frequency to Change on January 1/09
CHU to move 41 metre frequency

On January 1, 2008 at 00:00 UTC, CHU will be moving it's 41 metre time broadcast from 7335 Khz to 7850 Khz as a result of the 2007 WRC which relocated the band 7300-7350 Khz from Fixed services to Broadcasting. As a result of the increased interference, the National Research Council (NRC) decided to change frequency at the same time a refurbished transmitter will be installed.

For more information see:
<http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/common_files/stories/chu/communiqu_e.pdf>

Vernon Erle Ikeda - VE2MBS
RAC News Bulletin Editor

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 46, Canadian Amateurs Receive Limited 500 kHz Privileges: On Nov. 10, Radio Amateurs of Canada announced that Industry Canada has accepted an RAC proposal for selected Canadian radio amateurs to operate in the vicinity of 500 kHz. The proposal states that RAC would recommend amateurs who would be licensed to operate in the 504-509 kHz band with a maximum power of 20W ERP and bandwidth up to 1 kHz. Stations operating in this band would be technically operating under Special Developmental Licenses, although they would all be radio amateurs. Distinct call signs would be used and the licenses would be renewable on an annual basis, subject to the amateur demonstrating the research he has carried out. According to the RAC, these amateur operations would support Canada's efforts to place a proposal on the agenda of the 2011 World Radio Conference (WRC-11), which, if adopted, would create an amateur allocation in the 600 meter band. The US, under the auspices of the ARRL's 500kHz Experimental Station, WD2XSH, is also conducting research in this band. Canada is the 8th country to do experimentation on 55 kHz. The US, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Romania are also participating. More information will be posted on the RAC Web site as it becomes available.

HARC has a stock of **Anderson Powerpole connectors** for sale at \$1.25 each (for a red and black connector for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. If you have not already converted all your gear to Powerpole connectors you should consider doing so. Place orders with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, by E-mail tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

*May your troubles be less,
May your blessings be more,
And nothing but happiness
Come through your door!*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year, both in terms of the calendar and in terms of the programs and events of HARC, I would like to wish all a Happy New Year and also to thank those of the previous executive who chose not to re-offer for all their strong contributions over the past year. Your contributions certainly did not go unnoticed and our thanks go out to you.

I would encourage your attendance at the January monthly general meeting, as the topic will be an in-depth look at the results of the HARC questionnaire. The Executive has had an opportunity to review some of the findings and is listening to your comments. We are moving to a more committee based organization and have indeed a number of competent chairs in place, a number of who will require your assistance in filling out their committees. We hope to be in a position to name a number of those chairs and committees at the January meeting. You asked for more training and Tom (VE1GTC – training committee chair) is in the process of putting together a number of training sessions that should be of interest to the experienced as well as the newcomer.

You asked for more social events and we will be hosting a mini flea market / open house at St. Andrews School on February 21st. The club station will open at 8.00 a.m. and the flea market will open at 12.00 noon. Come, rag chew, divest yourself of some of those treasures that you no longer have need of or space for, pick up your QSL cards, operate from the station or simply grab a coffee and donut. Simply show up and we will accommodate you. Tables and admission to all events is free,

I am pleased to announce that we have obtained a Chair for the Flea Market (Tom – VE1BMJ) and for Field Day (Dick – VE1AI). Stay tuned for updates. Thanks to both of these members!

As a part of formalizing good communications within the Club, you will note a new item on the monthly agenda – “Since you asked”. Recently we have received inquiries concerning a number of items. Some may be of interest to a limited few, while others will interest a larger number of members. Please feel free to submit any questions to the executive for an answer.

As many of you are aware, HARC was successful in the acquisition of a grant from HRM towards the purchase of an emergency communications trailer. The trailer, equipped with a 34” mast, has arrived and work will commence shortly on finishing the project. We are in need of a location where we can store the trailer and also work on it. If you know of such a location, please advise any of our executive members.

73, Murray, VE1MMD

Executive News

At the January Monthly General Meeting, the Executive will be recommending the following for acceptance by the membership:

- 1) That Bill Elliot (VE1MR) be re-appointed as Club Trustee.
- 2) That the Flea Market be held at the Halifax Forum Complex on May 9th and that Tom Gaum (VE1BMJ) be appointed as Chair.
- 3) That the annual Field Day be held at the EOC in Dartmouth on June 26 and 27, and that Dick (VE1AI) be appointed as Chair.
- 4) That HARC extend an invitation to the Executive of RAC to hold its’ 2010 AGM in Halifax during the annual DX Forum which is slated for August, 2010. (exact date to be determined).

**Brit Fader
Scholarship Trustees**

There are 6 trustees and each year 3 are appointed by the HARC executive for a two year term. Currently entering their second year are:

- Paul Radford, VE1ARH
- Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT
- Bill Elliott, VE1MR

At the December executive meeting the executive appointed the following 3 trustees for a 2 year term:

- Rod Padmore, VE1BSK
- Scott Wood, VE1QD
- Howard Dickson, VE1DHD

HARC75 Golf Shirts & Hats

Some HARC 75th golf shirts, ball caps and lanyards are still available.

HARC75th shirts available:
10 – XL; 16 – Large; 7 – Medium;
1 men's small, no pocket
3 ladies small, no pocket.

34 lanyards
67 Caps



If you have First Aid Training you could save someone's life! Go to <http://stjohnambulance.ns.ca> to find out what courses St. John Ambulance offer.

Words with two Meanings
VULNERABLE

(vul-ne-ra-bel) adj.

Female... Fully opening up one's self emotionally to another.

Male..... Playing football without a cup.





A casualty of the storm which inflicted high winds & snow on Nova Scotia before Christmas was the tower that had been supporting the ham radio antennas at the Yarmouth EOC. Plans are in the works to replace the tower and the bent antennas

RAC Bulletin 2008-032E - IYA Special Prefix Callsign

The International Year of Astronomy Special Prefix Callsign starts January 1st 0 hours UTC and ends Feb 27th 23:59 UTC Feb 28 2009.

All Canadian Amateurs are encouraged to use it to commemorate Galileo Galilei's first look through an optical instrument towards the heavens. The Special Prefix are:

- VE changes to CG
- VA changes to CF
- VO changes to CH
- VY changes to CI

The official kickoff date for IYA is January 10th and on that date many astronomy clubs across Canada and around the world will be participating in local astronomical activities. Displays at Shopping Malls, talks in Public Libraries, star parties for the public will be happening.

I am also encouraging those amateur Radio operators who are affiliated with the RASC (Royal Astronomical Society of Canada) that might have local IRLP access to visit node 9005 the Vancouver Reflector on January 10th to join in the across Canada IYA Net.

To find out more about this unique ham radio Special prefix and related projects visit

<http://www.hamiya2009.info>

Malcolm Scrimger, VE7DAO

Borrowing HARC Materials?

One of the many benefits of HARC membership is the privilege to borrow club assets. These can be any of the Amateur Radio related monthly publications, technical library literature or club equipment (see Station Manager for equipment loans).

For the information of those who borrow, a new "LOAN RECORD" binder will be available in the club Library. It's official introduction will be during the January General Meeting.

Before you borrow please read the instruction sheet at the front of the binder. Following that, entry of the requested information is made simple by filling in the anoted fields.

It's hoped that you take advantage of this valued feature of HARC membership.

NET CONTROLLERS NEEDED

We are in 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, 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 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.

Thank You and 73 - Bill, VE1MR

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 1
 New QSL Tracking Service in Chile: Have you sent a QSL to Chile but had no reply? Perhaps you had a contact with XQ, CE, CA, CD, XR, 3G or CC that has not been confirmed. According to David Calderwood, CE2WZ/GW4VHO, a group of Chilean amateurs has offered to try and help obtain missing cards by carrying out searches and making enquiries in Chile. To use this free service, please contact Jose Luis Jimenez, CE1KR, via e-mail <ce1kr.joseluis@gmail.com>. You can write to him in Spanish or English. Full details on this service are available on the Hunting QSL Cards Web site <<http://hunting-qsl.blogspot.com/>>.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 1
 The 2008 ARRL Periodicals on CD-ROM Now Shipping: The 2008 ARRL Periodicals on CD-ROM <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9406#top>> is now available and includes the complete 2008 fully searchable collection of three ARRL journals -- QST, QEX, and National Contest Journal (NCJ). In addition, the CD-ROM includes source code for software projects and PC board patterns, Section News, as well as the ever-popular Contest Soapbox and Contest Results. Search the full text of every article by entering titles, call signs or names. CD-ROMs for other years are also available <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-PER#top>>.

NASA: Ionosphere Not Where It Should Be

by Staff Writers Washington (UPI)
http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/NASA_Ionosphere_not_where_it_should_be_999.html

The U.S. space agency says it has discovered the boundary between the Earth's upper atmosphere and space has moved to extraordinarily low altitudes.

The finding was determined by National Aeronautics and Space Administration instruments aboard an Air Force satellite launched in April. The instruments, including ion and neutral sensors, make measurements of the variations in neutral and ion densities and drifts that can result in disruptions of navigation and communication signals.

But the first discovery was that the ionosphere was not where it had been expected to be. During the first months of the satellite's operations, the transition between the ionosphere and space was found to be at about 260 miles altitude during the nighttime, barely rising above 500 miles during the day. Those altitudes, said NASA, were extraordinarily low compared with the more typical values of 400 miles during the nighttime and 600 miles during the day.

NASA said the discovery by the satellite -- subsequently determined to have been launched during the quietest solar minimum since the space age began -- is providing a unique opportunity to study the connection between the interior dynamics of the sun and the response of the Earth's space environment
 (via Kim Andrew Elliott, DXLD)

Tech support: What anti-virus program do you use?
Customer: Netscape.
Tech support: That's not an anti-virus program.
Customer: Oh, sorry... Internet Explorer.



With a current membership of 20 Hams from all points in the Maritimes, **the Maritime Contest Club** is dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of Radio-sport. Contact ve1rgb@rac.ca or ve1op@rac.ca for more information, or to join our Reflector.

International Year of Astronomy logo →

2009 has been designated the International Year of Astronomy. A Hubble repair mission should be going up this spring so it might also be good to have an audio source available on 144. It's a good opportunity for Amateur Radio exposure on the back of a UN supported endeavour.



ARISS@HARC

In an effort to make the HARC membership more aware of the Educational Outreach Program Amateur Radio on the International Space Station or ARISS I will be posting monthly updates to the Reflector. This will include all aspects of the ARISS programs including details on how HARC contributes to this unique international effort. I hope that you will find the information entertaining and informative.

Lace-up you space boots Cadets. This months submission will give you a glimpse into what a "direct" ARISS contact is actually like.

I would be happy to answer any questions regarding ARISS or satellite operations from readers via my contact info listed in the 2008 Maritime Callbook or ve1wph@amsat.org.

"The month of December was a busy one for the Canadian component of the ARISS International team. Both Steven McFarlane, VE3TBD, and Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH, had virtual back-to-back ARISS contacts involving Canadian schools.

On December 4, 2008 at 14:23 L Quispamsis Middle School hosted a direct ARISS or Amateur Radio on the International Space Station contact with Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, KE5AIT. Using the Space Station's ITU Region 2 call sign NA1SS, Mike answered all of the 20 questions of the students ((5 from the Quispamsis Elementary School (K- Gr.5) and 15 from the Quispamsis Middle School (Gr. 6-8)).

Live webcasting of the 1-hour event (which culminated with the contact) was provided by Aliant. During that time a total of 1209 locations from around the world. A 0:37 min. edited version of the contact is available at www.aliant.net/SpaceStation.

Later in the month Steve added to his list of mentored schools by providing technical assistance to the King George Elementary School in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. The 394th ARISS contact took place as scheduled on December 15th at 16:51 UTC and involved Expedition 18 Flight Engineer Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE and 10 eager students. A very creative video of the contact is available at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-_POms8AHY&feature=channel_page.

Till next month, 73. Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH, ARISS Mentor

Visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Canadian_Amateur_Radio_Group/

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the General Meeting
November 19 2008**

President Bill Elliott, VE1MR opened the meeting at 1945 hours, having allowed time for late arrivals due to a snow storm.

Silent keys: Bill VE1MR reported the passing of David Harrison, VE1BBW, Port Williams, NS and Gertrude Weeks, VE9WA, a resident of Harvey Station, NB.

Approval of the Agenda: Peter, VE1PJW moved the approval of the agenda as distributed.

Doug VE1LDL seconded the motion. No additional topics were added from the floor. Motion carried.

Guests/visitors: No guests.

The club members introduced themselves.

Minutes: David, VE1AJP requested that the October SAR report be changed to read Lakeside Burger King in place of Burnside Burger King as the site mentioned.

Motion: THAT the minutes of the October regular meeting be approved as printed in the November Reflector noting the correction requested by VE1AJP.

Moved by Tom, VE1TA and seconded by Wayne, VE1TTT. Carried.

Treasurers report: Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO reported October expenses of \$209.57, an Income of \$973.52 and an overall Balance \$11,330.60.

Motion: THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

Moved by John, VE1HMH. Seconded by Tom, VE1GTC. Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

Secretary: Helen, VE1HMR stated there had been no incoming correspondence.

President: Bill, VE1MR reported that club members finished weather-proofing the Cowie Hill building with tarpaper for the winter and had tidied up the site. Secondly, that a member is considering the position

of Safety Officer but a reply is yet to be received.

1st Vice President: Not present

2nd Vice President: Tom, VE1BMJ advised that the Christmas Dinner will be held Wednesday, December 17th, at the Young Street Steak & Stein, 1800 hours for 1830. A comment that the charge is greater than last year was noted and members advised that the \$24 includes HST and gratuity. The door prize for the evening is set of two gift boxes of chocolate liqueurs.

Station Manager: Brian, VE1AVZ stated there was no report for this evening.

Director at Large: Doug, VE1LDL thanked Sam VE1YVN, Wayne VE1TTT, Dick VE1AI and Bill, VE1MR for their assistance with the Jamboree on the Air. Over 60 boy scouts sent their name in CW to earn a certificate.

Past President: Bob, VE1PQ thanked the membership and executive for their support during the past year.

Committee Reports:

Membership: On behalf of Howard, VE1DHD, Bill, VE1MR reported there was no change to membership numbers since October.

Basic Course: Barry, VE1TRI reported that three formal lessons remain to be given. Examiners will be available for Saturday, December 13th and a follow up exam can be set for January. A home study course will be started in February, in response to requests arising from Musquodoboit EMO exercise.

EMO: David, VE1AJP reported the EMO communications exercise held with Sheet Harbour and local area communicators was not as successful as hoped. However, deficiencies that were found can be worked on both in Halifax and Sheet Harbour. Participating hospitals will provide input so their equipment needs can be met.

Search and Rescue: David,

VE1AJP reported that a lost dog walker in Spryfield two weeks previously could be heard but wasn't easily found. However, eventually the individual was rescued by one of the teams.

Nominating Committee: David, VE1NN reported that candidates have agreed to stand for all positions and that there are two for some positions.

Web Site host update: Rob, VE1KS reported that the club must move from its current host site and must also secure domain name ownership from our current web host who hold ownership rights. The site will be contracted to a Canadian Web hosting company. Rob is working with Brian, VE1NSX on HARC's behalf. Costs will remain essentially the same but there will be few extra features. The transfer will be completed by the end of December.

Other: None

Old Business:

Deferred Motion to host RAC AGM in 2010: Scott, VE1QD advised that he has reviewed alternatives and rental for an appropriate venue for the RAC AGM would be more expensive than the club would otherwise experience (either with the Flea Market or the DX Forum events). Scott wrote Dave Goodwin but awaits Dave's response to his query about financing that may be supplied by RAC. Scott will continue to pursue options. If done with the DX Forum, the Best Western at Chocolate Lake has excellent facilities that are not too expensive so he will make inquiries.

Discussion: The specific question as to what amount of money is RAC expecting the Halifax club to expend on their AGM should be posed. Scott did ask Dave what dollar difference (over club expected costs) RAC would underwrite. Members agreed the topic should be further deferred until January.

New Business:

(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

Motion to write off the HARC 75 deficit: Fraser, VE1 WO reviewed the final costs of the HARC75 celebrations and recommended that branded products be transferred to the club and the deficit be written off in order to close the books for that one-time event. Fraser stated that he had conferred with an accountant to ensure he was recommending an appropriate procedure.

Motion: THAT the HARC75 deficit of \$2918.70 be written off and the branded item assets be turned over to the club. Moved by Fraser, VE1WO. Seconded by Peter, VE1PJW. Motion carried

Presentation: Bill, VE1MR, presented a Special Merit Award to Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, for his work

on researching HARC and writing the club's history. This award would have been presented during the Anniversary Banquet had Spud not been away at that time.

QSL Bureau Account: Tom, VE1GTC reported that the QSL Bureau bank account is now at the Scotia Bank (with other club accounts) as a separate account. Required signing authority was also changed to deal with ongoing business.

No Announcements.

Door Prize: Scott, VE1QD won the set of chocolate liqueurs.

50/50 Draw: Bob, VE1PQ won the 50/50 draw.

There being no further business,

Doug, VE1LDL moved the meeting be adjourned at 2015 hours.

After a short break, members reconvened for the Annual General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen MacRae, VE1HMR, Secretary

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.



There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'."



The membership year is from January 1 to December 31.

All members receive the newsletter.

HALIFAX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP - For 2009

- Same address as last year New address
- I would like newsletter as PDF E-Mail (Please note by taking newsletter online You save the Club significant mailing and printing costs)

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 (\$25.00) Associate member (Non Voting) (\$15.00)

Family membership (one newsletter) (\$25.00) + \$10.00 each additional. Amount submitted \$ _____

☒ Mail to: Howard Dickson - VE1DHD CERT _____ CARD _____
 Membership Chair SEC _____ ENTERED _____
 11346 Peggy's Cove Rd.,
 Seabright, Nova Scotia B3Z 3A7

From the Mail Bag

I just wanted to inform you about my new book, "Hogwash for Hamsters" and would be grateful if you could mention it to your club members. A recent review in the Ontario Swap Shop (online) went as follows:

From the Ontario Swap Shop (Nick):

"A very funny MUST READ full of traditional style HAM HUMOUR. It is targeted for older hams that can relate to all of what our hobby is today, and was really all about in the past. I think the newer hams should also enjoy it a great deal. It is VERY TASTEFUL, and a joy to read over and over again. If you remember when times were POLITE AND A LOT DIFFERENT, and all of us enjoyed the very funny {AND SOMETIMES CORNY} humour from early commercial radio and golden age TV, this book is for you. Jerry has recreated that very same feeling using modern content. It put a big smile on my face, and it sure takes away the stress of the day. A wonderful attempt to create a nice new original addition for your HAM RADIO book collection. " GREAT JOB JERRY " DE NICK "OSS

The book is published in Canada and can be found only at: www.trafford.com/08-1259

Thank you so much and very 73!!!
Jerry Spring, VE6CNU, Calgary

Having seen my yagi antennas drooping when covered in ice following freezing rainstorms, I've often wondered about methods to dislodge the ice before the booms or elements snap. Apparently, freezing rain is a problem in Finland as well. Finnish hams have developed a simple yet ingenious method to knock ice off - check it out at

<http://www.oh8lq.com/deicer.html>
73, AI, VO1NO / VE3

Celebrating radio heritage across the Pacific.

This is a personal invitation to all RAC members, friends, and family to visit www.radioheritage.net to enjoy the stories and photos of the Pacific's radio history....and enter our new Art of Radio Hawaii competition. Please pass this on to everyone through newsletters, blogs, forums and mailing lists.

We also welcome memories, stories and memorabilia about anything to do with radio and how it's enjoyed by your members and friends. Many people have great memories of radio, personalities and events! Check out our Canadian content too in such stories as 'Across the Pacific' and 'Tale of Three Cities'!

You'll also enjoy our initial amateur radio articles about Early ZL3 Amateurs and our Radio Shacks Gallery from around the world. We'll be adding much more amateur radio content in the future and we also encourage your members to make safe provision for their QSL card collections in the future.

Your friends and family can also enter our current Art of Radio Hawaii competition to win a copy of the 2009 World Radio TV Handbook for themselves! Read on and good luck!

To celebrate Hawaii's 50 years of statehood in 2009, the Radio Heritage Foundation [www.radioheritage.net] is running a new competition open worldwide.

It's on-line exhibition 'Art of Radio Hawaii' features great art work of letterheads and logos from Hawaiian AM radio stations since the 1930's, and is already amongst the most popular content at www.radioheritage.net.

To enter the competition, simply

Check out this website

[http://www.astronomynovascotia.ca/index.php?](http://www.astronomynovascotia.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=55)

[option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=55](http://www.astronomynovascotia.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=55)

73 Wayne, VE1WPH

visit the 'Art of Radio Hawaii' exhibition before Feb. 14, 2009, and send an email to info@radioheritage.net headed 'Art of Radio Hawaii Competition' with the answer to this question:

What is the callsign of the Hawaiian AM radio station that began broadcasts in 1957 from the Kaiser Hawaiian Village Hotel in Waikiki?

You'll see the art work for this station logo in the exhibition, along with many others in a nostalgic tour of the island state's radio dial.

The prize is a brand new copy of the 2009 World Radio TV Handbook that also contains a full list of all 32 AM and 57 FM radio stations on air in Hawaii today. It also includes many website details, so you can listen in to your favorite Hawaiian radio stations wherever you live in the world!

Judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Entries are only by email and must be received by February 14 2009. As a condition of entry, your email address will be added to a mailing list to receive newsletters and other mailings from the Radio Heritage Foundation.

The Radio Heritage Foundation is a registered non-profit organization that connects radio heritage and popular culture across the Pacific. It's volunteer based and welcomes donations of time, skills, memorabilia and funds to continue its projects.

Website: www.radioheritage.net.
Email: info@radioheritage.net.

From Murphy's Lesser Known Laws
The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

5MB Hard Disk in 1956

In September 1956 IBM launched the 305 RAMAC, the first computer with a hard disk drive (HDD). The HDD weighed over a ton and stored 5MB of data.

Start appreciating your 16 GB jump drive!



5 MB hard drive
in 1956

18 Gb storage device
in 2008

Fits on a keychain



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 1

The ARRL's Triple Play Award

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/>>, is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the January 1, 2009 and must be confirmed via Logbook of The World (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 40

October 10, 2008

2009 DXPEDITION TO DESECHEO ISLAND

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has selected a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, to lead a DXpedition to Desecheo Island, KP5 (IOTA NA-095), in early 2009 <<http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/Refuges/Desecheo/default.htm>>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list <<http://hamgallery.com/countries/>>.

Desecheo, a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico, is part of the FWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR) <<http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/>>.

Johnson told the ARRL that about eight years ago, a group of Dxers wanting to activate Navassa and Desecheo Islands formed an organization, the KP1-5 Project <<http://www.kp1-5.com/>>. According to its Web site, "The purpose of the KP1-5 Project is to work toward a solution to the closure of Desecheo and Navassa Islands to Amateur Radio operators by achieving lawful, periodic access to these islands pursuant to US Fish and Wildlife Service authorization.

The CNWR also stated certain conditions that would have to met to be considered for selection, such as completing unexploded ordnance awareness training (Desecheo has been used in the past by the US Air Force as a bombing range and for survival training).

. USFWS has not announced the actual dates of the operation yet, but the DXpedition is expected to take place between January 15 and March 30, 2009. A Special Use Permit will be issued as per USFWS regulations. We look forward to activating an entity in the Top 10 Most Wanted that is located in our own back yard!"

In 1979, upon the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC), Desecheo Island was added to the DXCC list for contacts made after March 1 of that year. KP4AM/D -- with operators N4EA, KP4Q, N4ZC, KP4DSD, KV4KV (now KP2A), KP4AM (now W4DN) -- made the first DXpedition Desecheo in March 1979. Various groups have made their way to Desecheo since the first trip, but other than a brief operation in December 2005, there has been no activity from the island since 1994.

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of activity is due to the FWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The FWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island."

Winter mantra: "I shovel therefore I am."

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

THE "DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Jim Kueck, KC9LMO, of Long Grove, Illinois, asks: I greatly enjoyed the article about feeding a dipole with low loss balanced line in July 2008 QST. I have put up a half wave 40 meter dipole fed with 300 Ohm twin lead, with an antenna tuner at the radio. This \$15 antenna has worked very well on 40 and 20 meters, with many European contacts logged using just 100 W.

Is there any concern about having RF in the shack with the twinlead as a feed line? I have read that a long wire antenna can pose this problem and want to be sure that I'm not slow cooking myself with this feed line going right in back of my operating position.

The Doctor Answers -- The short answer is no, but the long answer is longer! If the dipole is fed in the center, the two sides are at the same height and the transmission line is perpendicular to the antenna, the currents on the two sides of the balanced transmission line will be equal and opposite and there is virtually no radiation outside of an imaginary tube a few times the wire spacing around the wires.

If all of those conditions are not met, there may be some radiation from the line, but it will generally be a small portion of the total signal. Note that if you were to feed the dipole with coax, if you didn't have a balun at the antenna, the current on the outside of the shield would likely be higher than that from a not quite balanced dipole fed with balanced line. Note also that the pickup on a transmission line that is not perpendicular to the antenna would be about the same on coax as balanced line.

So my conclusion is that balanced line and coax are about the same in this regard, as long as you stay more than a few inches from the line -- it can have high RF voltage in places. If you notice effects of large common mode currents on you feed line -- typically a hot chassis or RF feedback -- you will want to address them for many reasons, but even then I have trouble imagining an RF safety issue especially at the 100 W level.

One caution is that twinlead may be more susceptible to picking up RFI as it works its way to the tuner. Keep it as far as possible from your PC or other potential RFI generators.

From the ARRL Letter - DXPEDITION TO DESECHEO ISLAND

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that they will be able to mount a DXpedition to Desecheo Island (KP5, IOTA NA-095), February 12-26, 2009 <<http://www.kp5.us/>>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on the Most Wanted list, kept by "DX Magazine." Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

Per USFWS rules, only 15 operators will be allowed on the island at one time.

Johnson said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 46

New Basic Antenna Book by Joel Hallas, W1ZR, Available from ARRL

For something that is often so simple to make, an antenna is remarkably difficult for many people to understand. The antenna is one of your shack's most important elements and can make your radio system a success. Now available from ARRL, "Basic Antennas: Understanding Practical Antennas and Design" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9994>> is a comprehensive introduction to antennas -- basic concepts, practical designs and details of easy-to-build antennas. You'll learn how to make antennas that really work. This book will provide a foundation in antenna theory and design necessary for anyone undertaking more advanced topics and projects such as those presented in "The ARRL Antenna Book"

<<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9876>>.

This new book includes an introduction to antennas, as well as sections on dipole antennas, antenna impedance, transmission lines, practical two element arrays, wideband and multi-band antennas, monopole antennas, reflector antennas, Yagis for HF & VHF loop antennas, antennas for microwave applications, vehicle antennas, antenna measurements and an introduction to antenna modeling

"Most people involved in the radio arts come from a background in the circuitry required to define radio equipment," Hallas said, "and many have difficulty making the transition to the electromagnetic side of radio. 'Basic Antennas' is intended to assist those with a basic knowledge of radio technology in making that important leap from the circuit domain to the antenna domain." Hallas said the technology presented in the book is developed using the "minimum of mathematical concepts to allow introduction of basic principles in an easy to read manner." Upon completion of this book, readers should have enough understanding of the basic principles of antenna systems to be able to make decisions about selecting antennas for their applications or using more advanced antenna materials properly.

Joel Hallas, W1ZR, (BS & MS degrees in electrical engineering) has been a radar and telecommunications systems engineer, engineering manager, telecommunications executive and college teacher. Now QST Technical Editor, he is also the author of "Basic Radio -- Understanding the Key Building Blocks" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9558>>.