



# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

June 2009, Volume 70 Number 6

club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)

## Plan to take part in some of the summer 2009 Ham Radio Events. See Pg. 2



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

### Executive

President - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	826-7831	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Dick, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.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		ve1dtr@rac.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@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 - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Field Day coordinator - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@eastlink.ca
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.



June 14	Charles	VE1MCR	August 9	Charles	VE1MCR
June 21	Doug	VE1LDL	August 16	Doug	VE1LDL
June 28	Bruce	VE1MLW	August 23	Bruce	VE1MLW
July 5	Win	VE1WIN	August 30	Win	VE1WIN
July 12	Charles	VE1MCR	Sept. 6	Charles	VE1MCR
July 19	Doug	VE1LDL	Sept. 13	Doug	VE1LDL
July 26	Bruce	VE1MLW	Sept. 20	Bruce	VE1MLW
August 2	Win	VE1WIN			

The **Monthly General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**.

The speaker will be: **Dick Grantham, VE1AI** on preparations for Field Day

Guests are welcome

**Deadline for submissions to the September Reflector is Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009**

## NOTICE

The EMO net will **not** be held during the summer months. Check the September Reflector to determine when it will restart.



### Puzzler - Do you know?

Who invented the Taser stun gun?



Answer is on pg. 4

### GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:  
EMO Net: **CANCELLED** for summer  
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

**Events Committee Report**

The Events Committee is just getting started for 2009 and several people have volunteered to help out. I'm planning to have the first meeting a little later in March for the committee to get together and review the requirements for each of these events. The following list outlines the potential activities that the Club will participate in during 2009.

Museum Ships	cancelled *
Field Day	2009-06-27 to 28
Northern Lights Lantern Festival	2009-07-11
Tall Ships 2009	2009-07-16 to 20
Waterfront Days	2009-07
MS Bike Tour	2009-07-25 to 26
Lighthouse Weekend	2009-08-15 to 16
JOTA – Jamboree on the Air	2009-10

If you are interested in helping out with event planning or participating in any of these events, please contact the Events Committee Chair,  
Don, VE1DTR, at: [ve1dtr@rac.ca](mailto:ve1dtr@rac.ca) or  
Home (902) 823-1888 or cell (902) 497-5244

\* Due to construction planned for the Maritime Museum's pier this summer, Museum ship Acadia will not be open during the Museum ships on the Air event and Museum ship Sackville is still tied up in the Dockyard and thus is inaccessible to us

**Field Day 2009**

Field day is rapidly approaching and as always will be one of the clubs most popular activities. It follows after a very successful flea market this year. Support for the event has been super, as always.

When: the last full weekend of June, 27 and 28

Where: we will be 'F' Class this year from either our backup emergency communications facility at the HARC Club station; or from the EOC in Dartmouth. (there is a possibility that the Dartmouth site could be undergoing extensive renovations) the final decision will be made before the May club meeting and will be announced then.

Who: everyone is welcome to participate, the more the merrier.

Other activities: we are planning to have extra activities this year for those who are not operating on the air at the time to have some fun, and generate more interest in the mid field day hours.

To help out, please contact me by  
phone 434-8046 or e-mail [ve1ai@rac.ca](mailto:ve1ai@rac.ca).

Lets all turn out and do it up big time again, as is our tradition.  
Dick VE1AI

**EMO Communications Course** will take place

When: June 20, 2009 0900 hrs until about 1500 hrs

Where: at the EMO EOC, 21 Mount Hope Ave.

Bring your own lunch or there are some places to eat near by.

Introduction to WINLINK will be included.

Please register with Dave Musgrave [ve1eda@rac.ca](mailto:ve1eda@rac.ca)

**PEI Amateur Radio Flea Market**

Sponsored by the Summerside Amateur Radio Club (SPARC).

Where: Wilmot Community Centre,  
110 Gillespie Ave, Summerside, PE  
(Behind the Shell Station on Water Street East off Hwy 1A)

When: **Saturday July 11, 2009**

Doors open to the public at 9:00 AM

How Much: Price at the door is \$5.00 per person and includes breakfast.



Tables for sellers, both private and commercial are free.

Talk in repeater will be VE1CFR on 146.850 (-)

Please contact Rodney, VY2CGA, by email to reserve table space.

There will also be a social Friday evening July 10, 2009 at 8:00 PM at the Wilmot Community Centre.

Please visit website regularly for updates and special notices.

<http://www.summersidearc.com/fleamarket2009.htm>

**RAC Bulletin 2009-018E - Canadian Hams in Geneva.**  
2009-05-27

Two Canadian Hams, Ken Pulfer, VE3PU and Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN are presently in their second week attending a WRC preparatory meeting in Geneva. Ken is there representing the IARU while Bryan represents RAC on the Industry Canada delegation.

In today's Plenary session, Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, representing the ARRL on the US Delegation, announced his retirement after 19 years as a Working Group Chairman. Subsequently, Canada nominated and the Plenary approved Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, as Paul's replacement.

RAC wants to congratulate Ken and wish him the best in this new important position.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA

Vice President International Affairs, Radio Amateurs of Canada

**Anderson Powerpole connectors** are for sale through the HARC at \$1.25 each. Place orders with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC; [tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca)

*Tools Explained: BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.*



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – May**

Field Day – what memories these two words must invoke with many of us! Whether it is the friendship, the food (either good or bad), the fun or the competition, field day certainly contains all these elements – plus more.

This year, HARC is attempting something different as we move from one of the regular locations that we operate Field Day from to operating from the St. Andrews Center site. As many of you are aware, the HARC site at St. Andrews has been designated as the back-up amateur radio emergency communications center for the HRM EOC. This designation allows for the Club to operate from St. Andrews and will certainly provide for many opportunities to test out equipment and our ability to operate from a high-density residential area.

I would encourage you to take this opportunity to join with many of your friends (new and old) in participating in Field Day 2009. Set up commences at 3.00 p.m. on June 26<sup>th</sup> with operating beginning on June 27<sup>th</sup> also at 3.00 p.m. and continuing until 3.00 p.m. on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Come out and join in, whether it be in assisting in setting up or tearing down, whether it be operating or logging, whether it be filling out QSL cards for contacts made or assisting with work on the new communications trailer, you are more than welcome.

We have a history of faring quite well in the actual Field Day operations and anticipate no change this year. But as with all events, the participation of Club members is necessary. Dick (VE1AI) is this years Chair and I am certain that he would love to hear from you and invites your participation. Plan on attending the June monthly general meeting for further updates

73, Murray, VE1MMD

**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.

**NOTICE**

If you are interested in getting fall arrest certification for tower climbing. please contact an executive member. Another course will not take place before next year but you want to be sure to be on the list for a seat.

*"It's just too hot to wear clothes today," Jack says as he stepped out of the shower, "Honey, what do you think the neighbours would think if I mowed the lawn like this? "Probably that I married you for your money," she replied.*



*Silent Key*

Larry Zwicker, VE1AKS, passed away late June 1, 2009. Larry had/ has been a HARC Member for a number of years. He had not been active for a while due to ill health and he had been in the Hospital for a couple of weeks.

Amateur Radio / Civil Defence  
1959-1960 Organize Liverpool Radio Club- Civil Defence

*Howard Henderson VE1FV prepared the following History from clippings from the Advance (1959=1960) -ed.*

LIVERPOOL - Amateur radio operators and others, holders of Civil Defence restricted operators' certificates, organized the Liverpool Civil Defence Radio Club here.

Earl Thompson, VE1AA, one of the first "hams" in the district, was elected to the chair. Other officers are George Crowell, VE1LB, vice-president; Mrs Audrey MacDonald, secretary-treasurer; and Walter Fraelic VE1RL, director to Nova Scotia Amateur Radio Association. A. F. Wigglesworth, VE1US, Civil Defence director, was chairman.

On June 25 and 26, members of the club will operate three stations in the field under emergency conditions for a continuous 24-hour period in order to test equipment and operating procedures. The event will take place on Wile's Hill, back of Milton.

The emergency feeding staff of Civil Defence welfare will provide the feeding arrangements during the period and this will also be an exercise for this group, which is currently conducting a course.

**Amateur Radio Club Meets**

Anyone interested in learning about amateur radio as a hobby is invited to attend the November meeting of the Queens County Amateur Radio Club.

Guests will have an opportunity to

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Hams for Civil Defense (Continued from page 3)*

find out about requirements for the Department of Communications examination leading to a certificate of proficiency in radio, the role and purpose of amateur radio and equipment necessary.

The special October meeting included a radio demonstration by Howard Henderson, secretary-treasurer.

Earl Thompson, honorary president, an amateur radio operator since 1925, and one of the first in Nova Scotia, spoke on his early experiences in the hobby.

Walter Fralic, vice-president, discussed the obligation of the Amateur radio operator in local, regional or national emergencies and gave examples of action by local amateurs during recent years.

Barry Mouzar, activities manager, outlined requirements for examinations, including Morse Code and theory of radio.

The meeting was chaired by Albert Fulton, president

Details on the 2nd and final "introductory" meeting for interested citizens may be obtained by telephoning any club member.

The gatherings are being held as the result of numerous inquiries by Liverpool area residents interested in amateur radio.



### Answer to Puzzler on page 1

The inventor of the Taser stun gun was Jack Cover. He began to develop the Taser in the 1960's, in response to a rash of airplane hijackings, as a safer weapon to use by sky marshals. (A bullet piercing the fuselage of a flying plane could cause the plane to crash.) In 1993 the company of Tom & Rick Smith launched a compressed air propulsion version to Cover's Taser. A company spokesman said that among projectile stun guns, the Smith's devices are the most widely sold around the world, used by police & military agencies in 45 countries. In addition, more than 180,000 have been sold to private citizens. (source: the Los Angeles Times)

*'Discovery consists in seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.'* -Albert Von Szent-Gyorgyi

Hello Friends!

The program for the **2009 MDF** is now completely in place and planning for all the implementation details are coming along very nicely. Now is the time when I begin looking eagerly in my mailbox for your registrations. Attached you will find the complete, updated registration package. It includes:

1. The third MDF announcement with event details
2. A list of all the past MDF presentations and participants
3. The program schedule
4. Guidelines for ARRL DXCC card checking
5. The MDF Registration Forum
6. Presentation about the MDF Fund

**The Final Speaker Added.** In addition to the fine speakers announced earlier, we have added Murray Lycan, VE7HA/7J1AQH. Murray is a noted DXer and contester in the Pacific region and now ICOM's new representative in the Atlantic Region. Murray will be our after dinner speaker and will talk about the role ham radio has played in his life, i.e. Ham Radio: A Door-opener for Life!

**Sponsors.** For the last five years, Cushcraft has supported our efforts to develop the MDF by providing a nice antenna as a door-prize. John David, Laird Technologies Manager of their Cushcraft Amateur Radio Products Division, will be on hand to award this year's prize - one of their MA5VA antennas (a compact five-band, HF vertical). New sponsors, providing door prizes this year are Jentronics, a local electronics parts supplier for industry and ham radio, and Nova Communications, a wireless voice and data communications company located in Dartmouth, NS.

**Feedback at the Dayton Hamvention.** In May I attended the Dayton, Ohio Hamvention. Because of good coverage of the MDF in the DX Bulletins and ham radio magazines, and direct contact via my own distribution lists, I was pleased to find that people were aware of our program, and even better that some were planning to attend. I expect, as a result, we will draw participants in 2009 from the widest range of locations ever.

**Registration and Payment.** At this point in time I have received early registrations equal to about 16% of our target total. I hope you will send yours to me by mail soon. Those writing cheques in US dollars, I will find one or more interesting things to add to your registration package to compensate for the difference in the exchange rates.

Also please notice the appeal to make an extra donation to the Maritime DX Forum Fund. These donations allow us to keep the basic event price low and, therefore, accessible to everyone. The voluntary contributions will go towards covering some speaker travel costs and MDF development initiatives. You can add an amount to your registration form. All the details about this are in your registration package.

Feel free to contact the Chair of the MDF, Scott Wood, VE1QD - either by e-mail (velqd@rac.ca) or by phone at 902 - 823-2761 - with any questions you may have.

Best wishes and welcome to Halifax in August 2009!

Scott, VE1QD E-mail: VE1QD@RAC.CA

Contest Winners Then and Now



Bertus Backer of Lower Sackville, an employee of Dartmouth Naval Armament Depot, had just won a trip for two to Bermuda when this photo was taken in 1965. He won the trip for collecting the most amateur Radio contacts with Bermuda, achieving that distinction for the second year in a row. Backer, who died on Sept. 25, 2007, had moved to Canada from Amsterdam in 1953. His ham radio operator call letters were VE1AGH.

*John Brady, VE1WZ, and Nigel, VE1NPS both sent me this write-up from the Chronicle Herald. Thank you, gentlemen -ed*

HARC's 2009 Amateur Radio course is scheduled to start Thursday, September 17, 2009



Merle, VE1VCI, placed second in the NSARA contest this year and since NSARA president Tom, VE1TA, and Bill, VE1MR, planned to be in her neighbourhood doing repeater work on Saturday, May 30, (2009) Tom arranged to present Merle with her certificate in her ham shack. Merle's CW skills go back many years. As a young woman she taught code to World War II signalmen.

Go to URL <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/morse.htm>  
That link will take one to absolutely everything -- EVERYTHING! a person would ever want to know about CW, including formats for typical messages, etc. Gary, VE1RGB

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 20  
May 22, 2009

"THE DOCTOR IS IN"  
THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Mario Bedard, VE2FZH, of St-Andre de Kamouraska, Quebec, Canada, asks: Is an antenna tuner of any use in a receiving system with a long wire or dipole antenna? If not, should I disable it while strictly receiving?

The Doctor Answers -- This is one of those "that depends" kind of questions. A mismatched receive antenna will result in a reduction of both signal and atmospheric noise reaching your radio. If the atmospheric noise is much stronger than the internal noise in your radio, the resulting signal-to-noise ratio will be almost the same, even though the signal will be weaker. It is often the case -- especially on 20 meters and above -- that the external noise may not dominate and you won't hear weak signals that you might have heard with the tuner properly tuned.

It is somewhat more complicated with a transceiver with an internal automatic tuner. There may be no way to adjust it without transmitting, especially a problem if listening outside the amateur bands. That means that in listening mode -- unless it remembers the settings for each band -- you may have a mistuned tuner. That can be much worse than no tuner. If it's easy to bypass the tuner, try it each time and see which is better.

Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org>; or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

*When it comes to chocolate,  
resistance is futile.*

### Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting May 20, 2009

**Welcome:** President Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD opened the meeting at 19:30 hours.

**Silent keys:** Murray advised the membership that John Doull, VE1WC died recently. Scott, VE1QD spoke to John's memory. Barry Mouzar, (ex-VE1AZX) VA1BM, school chum, amateur, former HARC member, recently passed away. Barry was a brother-in-law to Howie Henderson, VE1FV. Gary Foster Lloyd, VE1JB's death was reported in the current issue of the Reflector.

**Approval of the Agenda: Motion:** The Training Committee report by Tom, VE1GTC was added to the agenda.

**Motion:** THAT the agenda be accepted with the addition a Training Committee Report.

Moved by Doug, VE1LDL. Seconded by Brian, VE1AZV. Motion carried.

**Guests/visitors:** Robert Tennant (Bedford) and guests Bruce Hollett (Fall River) and Doug Allen, introduced themselves.

#### Membership

Self-introduction followed.

#### Minutes:

**Motion:** THAT the minutes of the May regular meeting be approved as printed in the April Reflector. Moved by Don, VE1DTR. Seconded by Scott, VE1QD. Motion carried.

#### Treasurer:

Rod, VE1BSK, reported a Starting Balance of \$11,917.46. Income for the month was \$644.22, expenses \$2066.19, with an ending balance of \$10,346.67. See attached report for details.

**Motion:** THAT the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved by David, VE1EDA, Seconded by Sheldon, VE1ARG. Motion carried.

#### President's Report:

**RAC:** Murray, VE1MMD, reported

that a letter was received verifying that RAC has accepted the offer of HARC to host the 2010 RAC AGM.

**QSL Cards:** As per the President's Message in the May Reflector, if members do not wish to receive QSL cards, please advise Tom VE1GTC so any on site or that may come in can be discarded.

#### Station Manager:

**Recognition:** Brian, VE1AZV gave Girl Guide 2008 Recognition Certificates to Doug VE1LDL, Murray VE1MMD, and advised one has been received for himself and Win, VE1WIN (not present).

**Antenna workshop:** The antenna kits are in at a cost of \$46.75 each, which includes tax and shipping. Five members requested kits and are asked to email Brian [velazv@rac.ca](mailto:velazv@rac.ca) as to their best date for the work to be done.

**Museum of the Atlantic: June 6-7** is the Museum Ships' Weekend. Over 100 ships worldwide ought to be available for contacts. Volunteers will be needed for both Saturday and Sunday, morning and afternoons, to work SSB and CW. Don, VE1DTR will contact Graham regarding the Sackville being accessible to HARC.

**Membership:** Howard, VE1DHD reported 4 Life, 124 Full, 21 Associate for a total of 149 members.

**Basic Course:** Barry, VE1TRB reported that 6 more people have booked for September for a total of more than 10 students for the upcoming course. Fees will not be accepted until registration. Barry recommends that a poster to encourage recruits be available for the 2010 Flea Market. Dick, VE1AI, suggested that HARC connect with a school to interest young people. Barry advised that a new RAC manual will be published this year; unfortunately it is not a replacement for the older study manual, so new ones will be purchased from Durham. One copy of the RAC manual will be purchased for refer-

ence

**EMO:** David, VE1EDA, reported that the EMO group is reviewing how our current service might function within new parameters presented by ARES. Fifteen years ago there were no ARES groups within the area.

**SAR:** David, VE1AJP, reported that a member of the SAR team has written a plug-in software program that permits tracking of SAR members' activity, which was impressive when the team was deployed by the police recently.

**RAC:** Scott, VE1QD reported that in Dayton, he spoke with folks about amateur radio operator training, as once through the exams new hams need to get experience to gain a comfort level. He also spoke with RAC President, Bob Cook, and suggested that he or another senior executive member attend the DX Forum to discuss 2010. Atlantic Representative, Len Morgan will be here.

**DX Forum:** Scott, VE1QD encourages early registration. Marty Lane will speak on his project to get young people into the hobby. Scott gave a brief outline of presentations to be made by other speakers.

**Field Day** Dick, VE1AI confirmed that the St. Andrews facilities will be the site of Field Day during the last full weekend of June. The general meeting room, kitchen and club station will be in service. Barricades will be in place to guide the public (and other users of the school). Access to the building will be blocked overnight. Dick noted there will be a technical challenge getting the desired separation between antennas. Brian, VE1AZV, also suggested that a visitor center be planned for Field Day. Page 2 of the current Reflector states June 27-28<sup>th</sup> in the "Coming Events section. Set up will begin Fri-

*(Continued on page 7)*

*How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?*

*May Minues (Continued from page 6)*

day at 1500 hours. St. Andrews (HARC facilities) are also primarily set up as back up to EOC and for this site to be utilized is appropriate. A generator may be provided by EMO, if needed, along with a guard. St. Andrews is also a potential evacuation centre (having 2 gyms and a kitchen). Dick encouraged everyone to sign up. Both SAR vehicles and EMO and HARC trailers will be on site.

Chairman – Dick, VE1AI

Cooking – Murray, VE1MMD, and Tom, VE1GTC will set up. Frank and Carol will cook.

Publicity – Rod, VE1BSK

SSB – Rich, VA1CHP

CW – Gary, VE1RGB

VHF & Satellite – Bill, VE1MR

GOTA – Scott, VE1QD,

Facility for meet and greet – Scott, VE1QD and Murray, VE1MMD

SAR – Dave, VE1AJP

Bonus points – Scott, VE1QD

Volunteers are also needed to write out and send QSL cards as new contacts are made. This activity will be overseen by Don, VE1DTR. There may also be work parties on the trailer while it is here.

#### Training:

**EMO Communications:** Tom, VE1GTC announced an EMO Communications course to be held June 20<sup>th</sup> at the EOC from 0900 – 1500 hours. Participants ought to bring their own lunch. Content will include criteria previously taught along with new information currently being researched. Contact Dave, VE1EDA if you will attend.

**Advanced Course:** Several people have expressed an interest in an advanced level amateur radio course. Jeff Smith is willing to mentor students and would expect 5-6 people. An advanced licence permits output of 1000 watts and to sponsor repeaters and club calls. Contact Tom if you wish to do the advanced course. It will likely be held at Jeff's resi-

dence. Jeff is also an antenna specialist. The start date is to be determined.

**Flea Market** – Tom, VE1BMJ reported that approximately 250 people attended based on revenue. Numbers are down from 2007 by about 75 people. A small profit of \$200 was realized for both HARC and DARC. Seed funds have been returned. Tom expressed thanks to those who helped; Helen for brochure and paperwork; Dave Nimmo and Bob for looking after the tables; DARC for sending 6 folks to help set up in the morning; Doug for manning the door until start up; Leo and Judy for working on the registration along with Mary Fraser. Some new hams helped out: Eric helped with security; Alan VE1BMM and his mother helped out. With everyone pitching in it allowed others who work hard at the flea market to get out and enjoy it, too. As for why numbers were down, it could be due to the economy; maybe because commercial vendors didn't attend. While it may be becoming more difficult to have good surplus for sale, Bill felt comments were very positive. It was noted that all flea markets have experienced declining enrolment. Ideas for future will be written up; Tom would like to do more of an exposition than flea market, with a station set up and items of interest to others. Murray, VE1ALS has completed the books for the Flea Market. Murray, VE1MMD outlined club equipment and apparel sales.

**MS Walk:** Terry, VE1TRB reported that everything is in place for the event coming up this Sunday. He expressed thanks received from the MS Society.

#### **New Business:**

**Royal Astronomical Society (RAS):** Members were asked if they were

interested in conducting an ARISS contact with the international space station in late August.

**Motion** – THAT the HARC support an ARISS contact for the RAS in August.

Moved by Murray, VE1MMD. Seconded: Doug, VE1LDL

**GOTA:** Scott, VE1QD noted that on Field Day, in order for the GOTA group to get points, he will need a coach to assist. Brian, VE1AZV volunteered his help.

**50/50 Draw:** Brian, VE1AZV won \$20.

**Door Prize:** A set of weatherproof flashlights and a desoldering tool was won by Graham, VE1GCO.

There being no further business, Brian, VE1AZV moved the meeting be adjourned at 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen MacRae, VE1HMR,  
HARC Secretary

Check out the news on the Maritime Amateur Web site at

<http://www.freewebs.com/ve1jbl/maritimeneews.htm>

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 40 The World Radiosport Team Championship Sanctioning Committee (WRTC-SC) has announced the next **WRTC** will be held **in Russia** for the first time **in 2010**. The Soyuz Radiolyubitelei Rossii (SRR) -- the Union of Radio Amateurs of Russia -- will be the primary sponsor. SRR President Roman Thomas, RZ3AA, is the host committee chairman. The event will be held in the vicinity of Moscow in conjunction with the IARU HF World Championship in July 2010. The committee plans to publish qualification rules & procedures and establish a WRTC 2010 web site as soon as possible. The WRTC-SC expressed its gratitude to the Russian team for its hard work in preparing the proposal and undertaking initial planning for the event.-- Contester's Rate Sheet <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/>>

**Tools Explained STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER:** A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 22 HIGH SPEED TELEGRAPHY ON THE WORLD STAGE

The October 1936 issue of QST reported on the first official "Amateur Code Speed Contest" ever held. Eugene A. Hubbell, W9ERU, took home the silver trophy with his winning speed of 52.2 words per minute. Held at the ARRL Central Division Convention that year, the contest required operators to decipher plain language text for two minute intervals that ranged in speed from 25 to 52.7 words per minute. "Only bona-fide amateurs, holding at least an amateur operator's license, were eligible" to compete in the contest, the article stated <<http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/toppdf.cgi?id=18072&pub=qst>>.

Fast forward to 1995. Competitors from 15 countries on three continents traveled to Siofok, Hungary to show off their CW operating skills in the first IARU High Speed Telegraphy (HST) World Championship. According to Barry Kutner, W2UP, HST has long been considered a sport in Europe, especially Eastern Europe, similar to chess or an Olympic sport. Kutner was the sole US representative at the 2005 HST World Championship in Macedonia. In 2009, he is leading a team of seven this September to Obzor, Bulgaria for the Ninth High Speed Telegraphy IARU World Championship <<http://www.hst2009.eu/>>.

Kutner said that most of the participating IARU Member-Societies hold a national competition in their country, seeking members to field and sponsor a team to the World Championship. Competitors must be licensed Amateur Radio operators, except entrants in the younger categories may be SWLs. The IARU HST World Championships follow rules set forth by the IARU Region 1 High Speed Telegraphy Working Group

<<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/archives/hstrules.pdf>>.

There are nine categories including category A, women 16 and younger; category B, men 16 and younger; category H, men age 40-49; and Category I, men 50 and older). Each country can only send two competitors per category, for a maximum of 18 competitors.

There are three main competitive events at HST meets: Transmitting, receiving and receiving Amateur Radio call signs via RUFZxp <<http://www.rufzxp.net/>>; the sending and receiving portions of the competition are referred to as the Radioamateur Practicing Tests (RPT). There is also a pileup competition.

In the RPT, random letters and numbers are sent via Morse code -- five characters at a time -- at a high speed. Separate competitions are held for the reception of only the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet, only the 10 Arabic numerals or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation symbols. Competitors may choose to record the text by hand on paper or by typing on a computer keyboard. The competition starts with one minute of transmission sent at an initial speed defined for the entry category (usually 50 letters per minute for juniors and 80 letters per minute for the other age categories). After each test, the competitors' copy is judged for errors. Subsequent tests are each conducted at an increased speed until no competitor remains who can copy the text without excessive error.

The transmission tests require competitors to send five character groups in Morse code as fast as possible. Competitors send a printed message of five character groups at a specific speed that is judged for its accuracy by a panel of referees. Like the receiving tests, there are separate competitions for sending five character groups of only letters, only numbers or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation symbols.

Kutner noted that 100 letters per minute is equivalent to 25 words per minute and 100 numbers per minute is equal to 36 words per minute. The mixed category of 100 letters, numbers and punctuation is equal to 29 words per minute.

The Amateur Radio Call Sign Receiving Test uses a software program called RufzXP that generates a score for each competitor. Rufz is the abbreviation of the German word Rufzeichen-Horen that means "listening of call signs." In RufzXP, competitors listen to an Amateur Radio call sign sent in Morse code and must enter that call sign with the computer keyboard. If the competitor types in the call sign correctly, their score improves, and the speed at which the program sends subsequent call signs increases. If incorrect, the score is penalized and the speed decreases. Only one call sign is sent at a time. The winner is the competitor with the highest generated score.

There is also a Pileup Trainer Test that simulates a pileup situation on the air -- numerous stations attempt to establish two-way contact with one particular station at the same time. This competition uses a software program called MorseRunner <<http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/>>. In this test, more than one amateur radio call sign is sent at a time via Morse code that is generated at different audio frequencies and speeds, timed to overlap each other. Competitors must record as many of the call signs as they can during a fixed period of time either by recording the call signs by hand on paper or by typing with a computer keyboard. The winner is the competitor with the most correctly recorded call signs.

HST has definitely come a long way since 1936 when Hubbell dazzled the crowds with 52.2 words per minute; competitors at the IARU HST World Championships consistently have speeds of more than 500 characters per minute -- 100 words per minute. If you are able to copy and/or send CW at dizzying speeds, why not think about attending the next IARU HST World Championship? For more information on HST events, contact Kutner via e-mail <[w2up@arrl.net](mailto:w2up@arrl.net)>.



## INTERESTING HISTORY LESSON

Railroad Tracks Contributed by Nigel, VE1NPS

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder 'What horse's ass came up with it?', you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two horse's asses.) Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank.. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRB's. The SRB's are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah . The engineers who designed the SRB's would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRB's had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRB's had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass. And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important? Ancient horse's asses control almost everything... and CURRENT Horses Asses are controlling everything else.

[www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca) RAC's web site has URLs to swap shops all over the country

## The Missing Q Signals

*Some Q signals have never made it to the ARRL's official list. Here are some that could be useful in appropriate situations. As with regular Q signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a trailing question mark is used.*

- QLF I am sending with my left foot.
- QLF? Are you sending with your left foot?
- QRC Warning, rag chewer on frequency.
- QRC? Are you a rag chewer?
- QOK Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.
- QOK? Was my last transmission OK?
- QFH This frequency is MINE! - go elsewhere.
- QFH? Is this frequency hogged?
- QBS It's getting deep in here.
- QBS? Did I tell you about the one that got away?
- QZZ I fell asleep at the mike.
- QZZ? Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?
- QBA My antenna is BIG!
- QBA? How big is your antenna?
- QHI I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.
- QHI? Are you leaving after only one transmission?
- QBO Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.
- QBO? Buddy, can you spare some soap?
- QNO I am sending through a non-standard orifice.
- QNO? Are you sending through a non-standard orifice?
- QCW I am going to whistle Morse Code on FM (or SSB)
- QCW? Why are you whistling Morse?
- QET Phone home.
- QET? Has anyone called me from another planet?

From <http://www.qsl.net/kc4gzx/kc4gzx/rant.htm>

Passed along by Ross VE1RFB





Hams came from Mahone Bay, Halifax, New Glasgow & Antigonish to work on the Fairmont repeater on Sunday, May 30/09.  
L to R VE1CEL, Archie MacLellan; VE1CHU, Bill MacGillivray; VE1AFN, Scott Hale; VE1TA, Tom Cohoon; VE1MR Bill Elliott; VE1KK, Kevin Kehoe. Missing from photo is VE1VCE, Roger Porter, And to the relief of all, the blackflies weren't too bad.



VE1RTI, the Fairmont repeater