



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

March 2009, Volume 70 Number 3

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



Each year on April 18 radio amateurs  
celebrate World Amateur Radio Day



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		vel1dtr@rac.ca
Club Station Mgr. (acting) - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	vel1mr@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	vel1ent@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	vel1tri@rac.ca
2009 Flea market Chair - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Field Day coordinator - Dick Grantham, VE1AI		
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	vel1jbl@ns.sympatico.ca
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD,	823-2761	vel1qd@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.



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

**Deadline for submissions to  
the April Reflector is  
Saturday, April 4, 2009**

## Law of the Theater

*At any event, the people whose  
seats are furthest from the aisle  
arrive last.*

For information about the  
RACHQ mailing list robot that  
sends out RAC Bulletins visit  
[http://rac.eton.ca/racbullemail.  
htm](http://rac.eton.ca/racbullemail.htm)

**The Monthly General Meeting**  
of the Halifax Amateur Radio  
Club will take place Wednesday,  
March 18, 2009 at 1930 hours  
(7:30 PM) in the club rooms in  
the **Saint Andrews Recreation  
Center**.

This evening's program will be a  
presentation about basic satellite  
operation by Bill Elliott, VE1MR.

Guests are welcome

## ELECTION NOTICE

Due to the resignation of John  
Goodwin, VE1CDD, an **election** to  
fill the position of **Club Station  
Manager** for **2009** will take place at  
our March General Meeting. Please  
consider being a candidate. Brian  
Allan, VE1AZV has been nomi-  
nated and has agreed to stand for  
this position. Brian, VE1AZV, is  
temporarily serving as Station Man-  
ager. If Brian is elected as **Club  
Station Manager** then an **election**  
will be held for the position of **1st  
Vice President**. Again, please con-  
sider running for one of these posi-  
tions.

## 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

**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.

Downeast Flea Market	2009-05-09
MS Walk	2009-05-24
Museum Ships	2009-06-06 to 07
Field Day	2009-06-25 to 27
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 or

Home (902) 823-1888 or cell (902) 497-5244

### **TOUR of Radio Canada International**

A tour of RCI near Sackville New Brunswick has been organized and will be **Saturday April 4, 2009**. We can accommodate a maximum of 20 people. A preliminary poll has 18 people signed up so space is limited. Murray, VE1MMD will be contacting these people to make sure they can go on the date selected. If you are interested in going please contact Murray at: Phone: 826-7831 or Email: twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca

This tour will be approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Transportation will be by car, details will need to be worked out later. It is likely that the cost of individuals gas will need to be covered so there will be some cost involved.

The departure time and other details will be determined later.

**TUTORIAL - DX4WIN**

On **Thursday evening April 9, 2009** at the club station there will be a tutorial session on using DX4WIN logging program. Space may be limited depending on response, please contact Howard Dickson, VE1DHD by

Phone: 823-2024 or

E-mail: dhedickson@eastlink.ca

Details of start time and duration will be determined once Howard has a feel for the number of people interested in this tutorial.

**THE HALIFAX MS WALK 2009**

Sunday 24 May 2009 1130 - 1300---

Well it is that time of year and the MS Society and volunteers are busy getting ready for the MS Walk. It is no longer The Super Cities WALK for MS! The marketing materials have gone out and TV ads will begin to air on CTV starting early March till the first week of May, so have a look for it! This years Halifax MS Walk will be held Sunday 24 May 2009 1130 to 1300.

I am pleased represent HARC at all MS Society planning meetings, and to coordinate amateur radio communications for this event.

I am asking for volunteers for this event to email me if you are available. Please note the time of the actual walk. In the past, there has been a request for people to come early to help set up tables and chairs and unload trucks at the Dalhousie Arena. If you are able to help with this it would be greatly appreciated.

Please email me if you are available to help with communications, or communications and set up.

VE1TRB, Terry R. Bigelow CD CPO2 Ret'd

email: trbigelow@eastlink.ca

### **ANTENNA PARTY?? Or installing coax cable connectors**

On **Saturday April 18, 2009** there will be a workshop at the club station. We are working on a project to build simple mono band dipoles for the club and making an offer to people who would like to make their own dipoles. We plan to assemble kits and the price will be the cost of the materials. To be able to do this we must know what people want beforehand. We hope to have prices at the March meeting but ballpark figures will be in the order of \$50 for an 80M dipole and about \$30 for a 10M dipole. So if you wish to assemble a dipole for a particular band let Brian, VE1AZV know at:

Phone: 489-4656 or

E-mail: basailor@eastlink.ca

Details for start and finish times will be determined later.

In the case that we cannot assemble the dipole kits in time for this date the alternative workshop will be how to properly install connectors on coaxial cable. For this workshop you will need the length coaxial cable you want and appropriate connectors for your application. More details will be available at the club meeting.

*Tools Explained: HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****RAC – Whither Bound?**

Dave Goodwin had suddenly resigned as President of RAC citing personal and professional responsibilities. Although I did not always agree with Dave and some of his ideals, I certainly respected the man and the effort he put forth in trying to advance the status of amateurs and amateur radio in Canada. I was impressed with his efforts to bring RAC out of the cloaked existence that it had resided in. He openly responded to questions that past executive of RAC either refused to answer or simply refused to acknowledge.

Unfortunately, time and time again, I hear that the only reason many amateurs belong to RAC is for access to the QSL bureau system. I am among those members. I was hoping for other reasons to say that I was proud to belong. In Canada we all can be proud of the work performed by our QSL bureaus, outgoing, incoming and those on the local scene. The volunteer work performed by the many volunteers certainly speak for itself and certainly adds much to our hobby.

We hope that the “new” executive will be open to the comments and wishes of the members and not revert to the past record of inactivity and indecision, with a number of executive resigning as a direct result. Many of us want RAC to succeed and to move away from the past. Dave Goodwin started the ball moving, it's up to the “new” executive to keep it moving otherwise there may not be a national organization to speak on behalf of Canadian amateurs. In Atlantic Canada, we are fortunate in the quality of representatives that we have associated with RAC, but they cannot do it alone.

We have extended an invitation to the executive of RAC to hold their 2010 AGM in Halifax. We hope that they will accept our invitation and bring some good news concerning a vibrant and ongoing RAC organization.

73, Murray, VE1MMD

**NOTICE: CLUB ACCESS**

The next time you are at the club station you will notice an addition to the entrance door. Tom, VE1GTC with the help of Bill, VE1MR have installed the card swipe access system. You can use any card with a magnetic stripe ( VISA, Air Miles, Drivers License etc. ). To be activated you will need to see Tom, VE1GTC; Brian, VE1AZV, or Murray, VE1MMD so they can activate your access and make a record. No personal information is recorded as you will see when you get activated. Several other members may be able to activate you as well. This will give you access to the main room and library. Tom and Bill hope to have the keypad entry system installed on the radio room door by the time of the club meeting. We may then be assigning codes for that system as well. The best time to be activated or assigned a code will be Saturdays at the club station. Access to the radio room will be assigned by the Station Manager.

Information about BPL & Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site  
<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

*Silent Key -*

Frank Ellery Redden, VE1GG, 75, of Kentville, N.S., passed away Sunday, February 15, 2009, at home. He is survived by his wife, the former Joan Anne Newcomb; 1 daughter, 3 sons, 9 grandchildren, and 3 great-granddaughters.

On-line inquiries may be directed to  
[www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com)

**Membership Reminder**

Please Note - in order to ensure continued, uninterrupted receipt of the HARC Reflector, your membership must be current for 2009. Please renew your membership by the end of March at the very latest in order to receive the April edition of the HARC Reflector. Current, paid-up members for 2009 are listed on the HARC website. Copies of the membership renewal forms can be found in the back of the Maritime Amateur Radio Callbook, or by going to the HARC website - [www.Halifax-arc.org](http://www.Halifax-arc.org) - and clicking on "Membership".

73 Howard - VE1DHD  
 Membership Chairman

**CONGRATULATIONS**

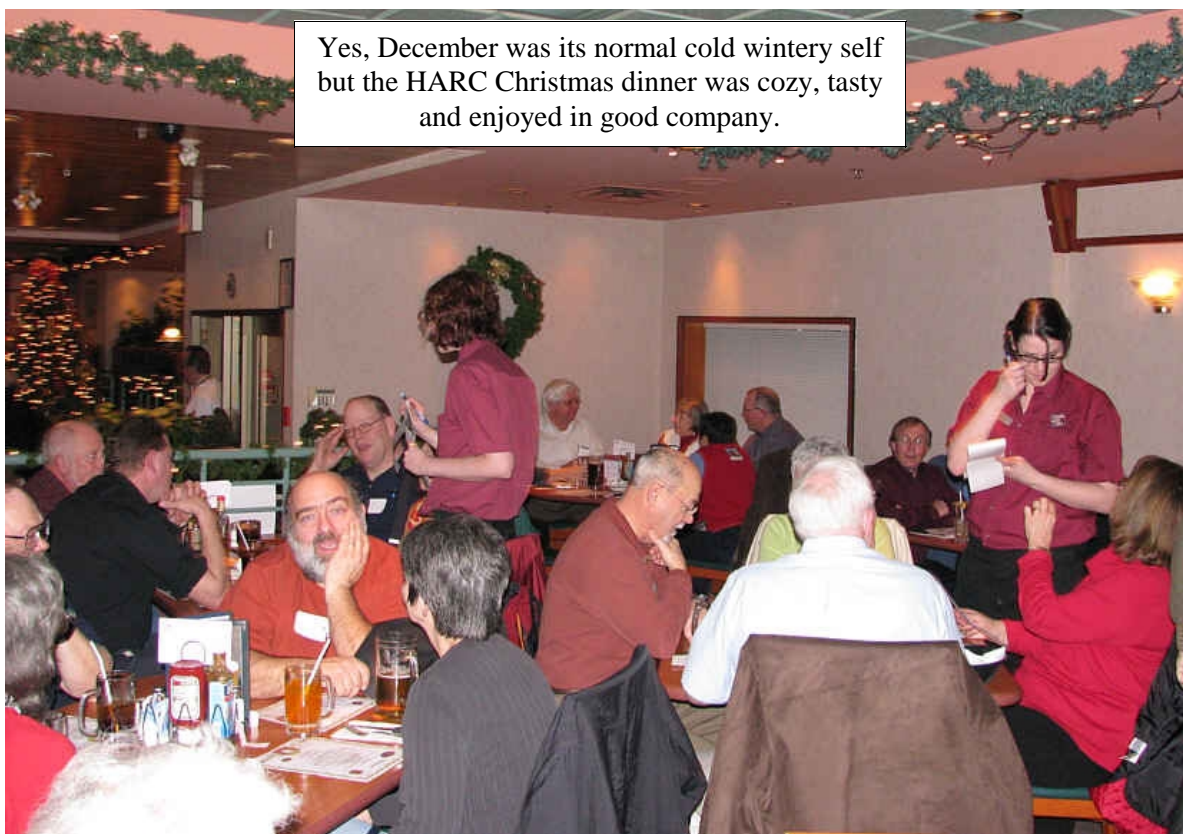
Congratulations to Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, on his excellent showing in the **2008 CQ World Wide WPX Contest**. Howard placed first in Canada in the Low Power SSB Single Operator Assisted - All Band category with a total of 388,515 points. But not only was his score first in Canada in this category but #3 in North America and #13 world wide. Considering the competition this is a tremendous feat - again congratulations Howard.

*Words with two Meanings*

**MAKING LOVE** (*may-king luv*) *n.*  
*Female..... The greatest expression of intimacy a couple can achieve.*  
*Male.... Call it whatever you want, just as long as we do it.*







Yes, December was its normal cold wintery self but the HARC Christmas dinner was cozy, tasty and enjoyed in good company.

Christmas dinner photos by Tom, VE1BMJ

*I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.*

**Puzzler - Do you know?**



What is WSJT ?  
Answer is on pg. 8

*Walking isn't a lost art – one must, by some means, get to the garage.  
- Evan Esar*



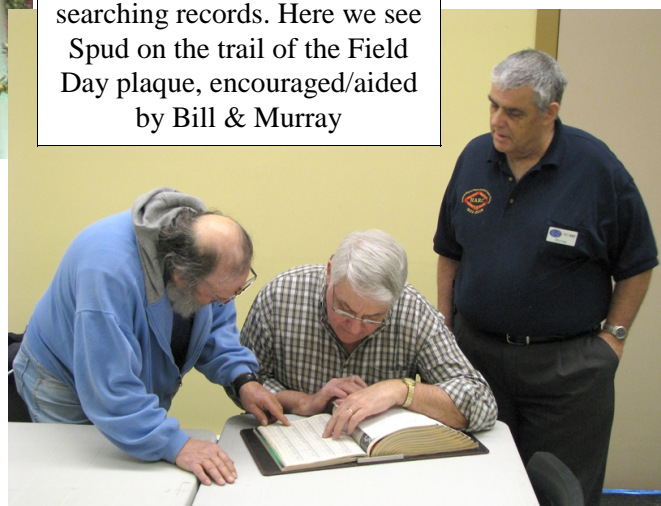
### Attention new Amateurs

Any new amateurs obtaining their call-signs please let Membership chairman Howard, VE1DHD, know by phone 823-2024 or e-mail dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca

Check out the US National Hurricane Center website: Start with the index at

[http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pns\\_index.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pns_index.shtml)

It's not uncommon to find Spud, VE1BC, in the Club Station searching records. Here we see Spud on the trail of the Field Day plaque, encouraged/aided by Bill & Murray



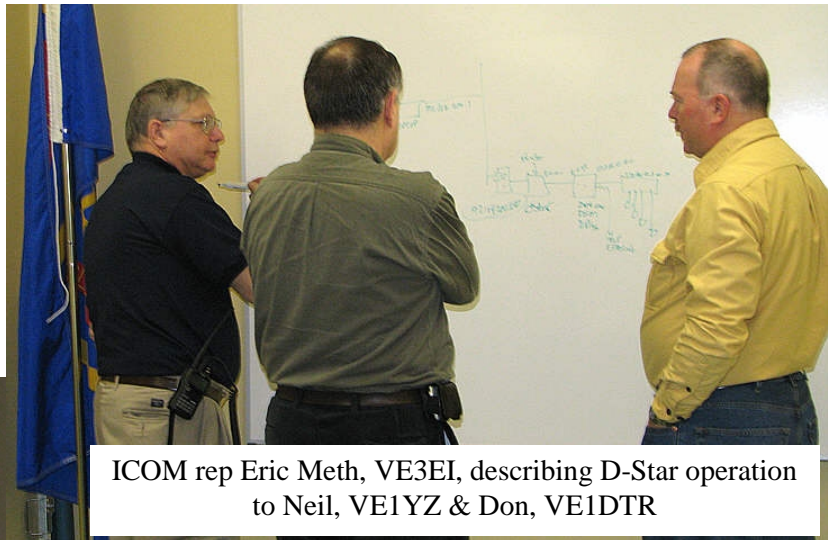
From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 6

W1AW to QSY on 160 Meters: Starting Monday, March 9, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, will begin using a new 160 meter frequency for its CW transmissions. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, there has been what he called "increasing activity" near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz. "In order to reduce the possibility of interference, W1AW will move to 1802.5 kHz," Carcia said.



Saturday, February 21, 2009 the HARC station was a busy place with 50+ hams, 8 or 10 Guides and Eric Meth, VE3EI, the ICOM rep all there. A **Minifest** social and fleamarket had been planned a while ago, accidentally coinciding with GOTA (Guides on the Air) but when we received a call from a Guide leader asking for GOTA demonstrations we knew our new facility could accommodate both (And it did, comfortably.)

Brian, VE1AZV, talking ham radio to one of the 2 groups of Guides who attended. Their leader seems to be taking notes. Wonder if there will be a badge test later?



ICOM rep Eric Meth, VE3EI, describing D-Star operation to Neil, VE1YZ & Don, VE1DTR



To verify the authenticity of an Internet or e-mail Virus Alert, or some of the other warnings floating around nowadays check them out at Snopes. Just go to <http://www.snopes.com/>

MiniFest & GOTA  
photos by  
Howard, VE1DHD &  
Bill, VE1MR



The mini-FleaMarket started at noon.



*How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?*

## Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting February 18, 2009

President Murray Mac Donald, VE1MMD opened the meeting at 1932 hours.

**Regrets:** Helen, VE1HMR and Sam, VE1YVN

**Silent Keys:** Murray, VE1MMD advised that a new policy has been placed into effect. In cases where the club is notified in advance about a "silent key", \*\* a short biography will be presented. Several "silent keys" were reported:

§ \*\* Cy Mills, VE3VEG, (ex-VE1BLO) of Orillia, Ontario (since 1992), died Feb 3, 2009. Bill, VE1MR, gave a short biography indicating that Cy was a long time member of HARC and was active in the hobby.

§ \*\* Michael Holubov, VE1MTH, of Kensington, PEI passed away in mid-January. Fraser, VE1WO, advised that he made a number of inquiries to no avail.

§ Bruce Clark, VE9YM, Moncton, N.B.

§ Frank Redden, VE1GG, Kentville, N.S.

§ Matt Jangega, VE1AGV, of Dartmouth, N.S. on Jan 22, 2009.

§ Jim Smith, VK9NS of Norfolk Island, Australia. Dick, VE1AI reported that Jim was in his '90's when he passed and that he was an avid DX'er. Jim was often the first VK9 that many Amateurs worked.

Murray invited all present to join him in a moment of silence in memory of the silent keys.

**Agenda:** An item (number 14) was added to the agenda.

**Motion:** THAT the agenda be approved as amended. Moved by Bruce, VE1MLW. Seconded by David, VE1EDA. Motion carried.

**Guests/Visitors** – Eric Meth, VE3EI of Niagara on the Lake, Ontario, speaker for Feb Meeting

**Minutes:** Murray, VE1MMD asked for approval of the minutes as posted in the Reflector. It was noted that the Reflector issue stated only the

month, and not the day date of the meeting.

**Motion** THAT the minutes of the January regular meeting be accepted as printed in the February Reflector. Moved by Nigel, VE1NPS. Seconded by Doug, VE1LDL. Motion carried.

**Since You Asked** – Murray, VE1MMD introduced the "Since You Asked" segment, explaining that it arose from members' suggestions that questions asked could have shared answers. To that end –

Sir Frederick School– Tom, VE1GTC visited this federally run school for the hearing and sight impaired. He met with Director, Vickie Jeans, and one of her staff. Tom gave background on HARC and talked about RTTY, licensing and study opportunities. Sir Frederick Fraser is a non-resident school for students. Students have been offered tour of Club. Dick, VE1AI offered to demonstrate RTTY at his home.

§ Questions from Win, VE1WIN, on availability of study materials for the blind.

§ The school for the blind school has a computer that reads, which might be a possible avenue.

§ Dick VE1AI noted that CNIB has an active Amateur Radio Program.

§ Tom will continue this liaison relationship.

**Repeater usage:** Bill, VE1MR, reviewed current repeater use. HARC sponsors ARISS on the Discovery reflector (see policy for details).

§ VE1HNS – IRLP, connectable to MAVCOM, ARISS

§ VE1PSR VHF connectable to MAVCOM, Sunday nets are only scheduled events

§ VE1PSR FM 6M – for general use

§ VE1PSR 70cm Stand alone, linkable to MAVCOM

§ HRM EMO have highest priority

§ Club events 2<sup>nd</sup> priority

§ Nets avoid morning and evening

(added by VE1AI) commutes

§ Non-club events referred to technical committee or executive

§ Echolink not cross connected to IRLP

§ Nets 30-45 minutes

§ More detail given by Bill

**Motion:** Moved by Dick, VE1AI and seconded by Tom, VE1GTC to adopt as the Repeater Policy as amended (add evening commute and add frequencies & sub-audible tone to the call signs) Carried.

**Treasurer Report.** – Rod, VE1BSK reported an income of \$1611.52 during January, with expenses totaling \$375.76 and an overall balance of \$12,749.80.

**Motion:** THAT the Treasurer's Report be accepted as given. Moved by Win, VE1WIN. Seconded by Wayne, VE1TTT. Motion carried.

## Executive Reports

### President:

Station Manager: Murray, VE1MMD gave thanks to John, VE1CDD, who stepped down as Station Manager and indicated that the state of the facilities stood as a tribute to his work. He reported that the Executive had reviewed the matter of access to the Club Facilities. A number of options were reviewed that included the acquisition of a new system or utilization of existing equipment. The cost estimate for implementing the existing equipment is \$50.00. Since a new system (estimated at \$1500.00) was not included in the budget for this year, the Executive determined that the existing systems should be installed. The executive will monitor the situation and, if required, funds to purchase a new system will be included in next year's budget.

2011 Canada Winter Games – There has been no response to HARC's offer to assist so far.

Tall Ships 2009 – We continue to wait for information from organizers.

Executive recognition of extraordinary contribution for Club members:

§ Rob, VE1KS – for the web site

(Continued on page 7)

**Minutes** (Continued from page 6)  
move.

§ Lynn, VE1ENT – for her work on the Reflector. (Murray noted that 82 of 89 responded that the Reflector was their main source of information.)

§ Tom, VE1GTC – for management of the QSL bureau. Members were invited to pick up their cards, update their balances or provide money, if their account is lacking in funds.

§ Past President – Bill, VE1MR for his continued contribution to the club.

**RCI Tour:** Rob, VE1KS had investigated a tour of RCI in Sackville, N.B. Bill, VE1MR invited all interested to place their names on a sign-up sheet circulated in order to gauge interest.

**Second Vice-President:** Tom, VE1BMJ noted that this evening's attendance numbers 41.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership** – Howard, VE1DHD reported 113 members: 4 Life, 89 Full and 20 Associate.

**Basic Course** – Barry, VE1TRI reported that four candidates are interested in taking the exam and two are ready to write. The 2009 Amateur Radio course will start Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Barry will forward this for posting on the web site.

**SAR** – David, VE1AJP reported that there had been no reports of lost people. However, members participated in a number of evidence searches for both the RCMP and HRM Police. He advised that since Field Day, the logistics bus now has heat and plumbing repairs completed and will have air conditioning soon.

**EMO** – David, VE1AJP reported the Police & VGH lost a patient at the Halifax Infirmary site and engaged a search team. David noted that 5 years ago tonight was the beginning of White Juan.

**Training** – Tom, VE1GTC needs to know what is needed for each presentation type. Possible topics:

§ DX4Win

§ Radios for contesting

§ Satellite operation

§ J-pole construction

§ Coax connector installation, etc.

§ Construction techniques

§ Tom noted that a CW Course with Gary VE1RGB is ongoing.

**DX Forum:** It was noted that the speakers for the 2009 DX Forum are high-profile and active amateurs: Marty Lane, George Nicholson N4GRN and Joe Taylor. See February Reflector Page 8.

### **Old business**

**Trailer update** – Brian VE1AZV & Murray VE1MMD reported that that all major equipment, except for the generator, had been purchased. The unit is still over at Dartmouth Surplus.

**Mini Flea Market** – Feb 21 at St. Andrews.

§ Open House starting at 8AM

§ 1130 room open for sellers

§ 1200 room open for buyers

**GOTA** will be also attending on Feb 21.

### **New Business**

**Ham Breakfast** – Tom, VE1BMJ announced that the Ham Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 0900 hours, in Halifax, at the Steak and Stein.

**2009 Flea Market** – Plans under way for Downeast Flea Market on May 9, 2009.

**Web Site** – Murray, VE1MMD, asked members to please forward event information to Rob, VE1KS, as soon as available and at least two weeks before events. Murray reported on the web site update in process and that it will be complete within the next few weeks.

**Station Manager** – Nominees:

**Discussion** – The members voiced opinions on the process of replacing the Station Manager. Brian, VE1AZV was nominated by Don, VE1BN. Seconded by Phil, VE1PB. Further discussion resulted in a motion:

**Motion** To appoint Brian, VE1AZV as interim Station Manager, with an election at the next

meeting to fill the position.

Moved by Dave, VE1NN. Seconded by Doug, VE1LDL. Motion carried.

**Marine Mobile Net** – Win, VE1WIN noted that club members might be interested in the Mississauga Marine Mobile Net – 8:15 to 09:00 daily on 20 m. They are looking for assistance in tracking vessels in the south and propagation has been challenging for Ontario-based participants

**Committees** – Murray, VE1MMD, announced that several committees have been identified and descriptions are posted upstairs. He invited members interested in serving on any to let him know.

**Event Planning** – Don, VE1DTR, described event committee and asked for volunteers to help with event planning – additional volunteers will be needed as the event information is published.

**50/50 draw:** The 50/50 draw was won by Brian, VE1AZV.

**Door prize:** The door prize, (chokes) was won by Ralph, VE1RAR. A second prize, a large tin of Tim Horton's Coffee was won by Howard, VE1DHD.

There being no further business, Dave, VE1EDA, moved the meeting be adjourned at 2042 hours. The evening program was a presentation of D-STAR by ICOM Rep Eric Meth, VE3EI.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen MacRae, VE1HMR, Secretary

Want to check road conditions before you drive?

New Brunswick Highway Cams:  
<http://www.gnb.ca/0113/cameras/allcams-e.asp>

PEI Highway Cams: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/tpwpei/index.php3?number=1016836&lang=E>

Nova Scotia Highway Cams: <http://gov.ns.ca/tran/cameras/camera.asp>

*Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.*  
-- Mark Twain



**From the Mail Bag**

Subject: FW: Amateur radio today...

*There's a good video clip at*

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z9136\\_Nhh4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z9136_Nhh4)

*brought to my attention by Chris, VAICDB. – ed.*

**NASA Mission audio** is now available on IRLP Discovery Reflector 9017. This audio will include Shuttle mission audio as well as ISS air-to-ground comm with Mission Control at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

STS-119 is scheduled to launch from Florida March 11 at 10:20 ADT. This is expected to be a very busy mission (4 space walks planned). With all this activity it might be wise to mention a word or two on courtesy (as discussed). In addition the rule should be "if you bring the Node up then it's your responsibility to make sure that it's taken down."

The parties involved in getting the Mission audio going were Don Trotter (computer), Frank Smith (software and control script development), Rob Ewert (reflector interface and technical support).

73, Wayne, VE1WPH

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 14

Titanic: The "unsinkable" White Star Line passenger vessel was on its maiden voyage from Liverpool, England, to New York City when it struck an iceberg and sank early on April 15, 1912. More than 1500 people perished, while some 700 passengers in 19 lifeboats were rescued by the RMS Carpathia, whose radio operator copied the frantic distress call (the still common "CQD" signal, possibly coupled with the then-new "SOS") transmitted by MGY radio operator Jack Phillips as the Titanic foundered.

*When you lose, don't lose the lesson*

Check out the Belgian Students Cubesat web site

[http://atl.calpoly.edu/~bklofas/Presentations/DevelopersWorkshop2008/session1/6-Oufti1-Amandine\\_Denis.pdf](http://atl.calpoly.edu/~bklofas/Presentations/DevelopersWorkshop2008/session1/6-Oufti1-Amandine_Denis.pdf)

73 Wayne, VE1WPH

### February 25, 2009 **Radio Amateurs of Canada has a new President**

At the February 24th, 2009 Radio Amateurs of Canada Board teleconference meeting, President Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ/VO1AU, announced that he was resigning his position effective immediately. Dave indicated that his decision was motivated by his inability to devote enough time to RAC affairs because of a recent increase in personal and professional responsibilities.

Dave became RAC President on Jan 1st, 2008 at the end of President Earle Smith's tenure. All attending the teleconference thanked Dave for the time he could devote to RAC's affairs both as a Director and then as President.

At the same teleconference meeting, the RAC Board elected Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, the RAC President until the end of the current term on Dec 31/09.

Bob has a long history of working with RAC. His involvement started in the early 1990s as an Assistant Director and he was elected and served as RAC Ontario South Director from November 2001 to January 2005. He was then elected by the RAC Board as Vice president for Field Services, serving from January 2006 to February 2009 when he resigned to accept the appointment as President.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA,

Vice President for International Affairs, Radio Amateurs of Canada

### Answer to Puzzler on page 4



WSJT is a computer program for VHF/UHF communication using state of the art digital techniques. It can decode fraction-of-a-second signals reflected from ionized meteor trails, as well as steady signals more than 10 dB weaker than those required for conventional CW. One of its operating modes, JT65, is particularly optimized for amateur EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) communications.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 6  
400 years ago, Sir George Somers settled the island of Bermuda. To celebrate, the Radio Society of Bermuda (RSB)

<http://www.bermudashorts.bm/rsb/> will use VP9400/xx (xx is the operator's call sign -- VP9LN would use VP9400/LN). Be aware that some Bermudian Novices have three-letter suffixes.

*If you let a smile be your umbrella,  
then most likely your butt will get  
soaking wet.*



International Year  
of Astronomy logo



Great Roman orator, Cicero said that politicians are not born they are excreted. The circus that went on in Ottawa in late 2008 seemed to prove him right. Worse than that was the extent of public ignorance of the rules of governmental succession in our country. -ed.



**REMINDER**

Have you changed your address? E-mail address? Got a new call sign?

We need to know your correct address to get the newsletter to you.

Please inform Howard, VE1DHD at [ve1dhd@rac.ca](mailto:ve1dhd@rac.ca)

of any address changes.

Also please send your change of address to

The Britt Fader Memorial QSL Bureau

P.O. Box 8895

Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5

Is your address correct in Industry Canada's database? It is important that you inform Industry Canada of any change to your address.

*Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself*

*'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.'*

*-- Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy & Billy Carter)*

**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)

**D-STAR Repeater**

We now have a temporary D-STAR repeater operational at the club station.

Eric Meth, VE3EI the ICOM representative who gave the talk on D-STAR at the last meeting left a repeater with us for testing. With the addition of the duplexer for the trailer and a few coax cables we are connected to the vertical antenna on top of the tower. The frequency is **145.250** -. We should have it until near the end of April. Eric also left 3 D-STAR capable radios with us - one mobile and 2 hand helds. It took a while to get the radios correctly programmed but since then we have done a bit of testing. Hopefully we can demonstrate the repeater to members over the next few weeks.

*Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.*



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  
 11346 Peggy's Cove Rd.,                      SEC \_\_\_\_\_                      ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seabright, Nova Scotia B3Z 3A7

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 7

### World Amateur Radio Day to Recognize Amateur Radio's Role in Disaster Communications

Each year on April 18, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925, 84 years ago, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded <<http://www.iaru.org/>>. In 2009, the theme of the event is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication.

"It is not by coincidence that last year's meeting of the IARU Administrative Council (AC) <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/26/10186/?nc=1>> chose this subject at this time," said IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communication Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS. "While the Amateur Radio Service has traditionally made its contributions to emergency and disaster response ever since its very beginnings almost 100 years ago, this role has gained a lot of importance just in the recent past."

Citing the fact that natural, as well as manmade disasters are on the rise, Zimmermann pointed out that today's modern communication technologies are "increasingly complex, infrastructure-dependent and therefore also increasingly vulnerable. The Amateur Radio Service puts two equally valuable assets at its disposal for emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response: A large number of very flexible and mostly infrastructure-independent, local, national, regional and global networks, and a large number of skilled operators, who know how to communicate with often very limited means and to establish communications even under the most difficult circumstances."

Zimmermann said that the tools available to Amateur Radio operators "range from the most robust means such as battery-operated stations operating in Morse code, to links through Amateur Radio satellites and interconnectivity with the Internet, in voice, text, image and data modes. They range from local VHF networks of fixed, mobile and portable stations to shortwave networks that span the globe. All these networks are operated on a daily basis by men and women who are thoroughly familiar with their technology and their intricacies."

"Telecommunications have become a commodity that society takes for granted," Zimmermann stated, adding that "the sudden loss of that service is often felt in a similar way to the loss of shelter, food and medical support. When disasters occur in regions that do not have good coverage by public networks -- or when existing communications infrastructures have just been disrupted or destroyed by such events -- the Amateur Radio Service comes to the rescue. Amateur Radio operators provide communications for the rescuers and relief workers and their organizations and they help to provide communications for those affected by a disaster."

Zimmermann continued: "In fact, contributions to emergency and disaster relief are a major argument for the preservation and the extension of the privileges the Amateur Radio Service enjoys in international and national regulations. This is one of the reasons why more and more Amateur Radio operators -- through their clubs and their national societies -- prepare very seriously for their role in emergencies; however, their skills can be put to use only if they are known by other first responders. Effective response to emergencies can only occur with the work of volunteers in all the various fields, from search and rescue to medical assistance and those who can provide food and shelter. Communication skills are a new, but equally vital commodity."

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 7

### "The Doctor Is In"

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

Scott McCann, W3MEO, of Queenstown, Maryland, asks: I am fairly new to SSB and CW on VHF and was surprised during the September ARRL VHF contest to have worked W2SZ, the RPI Amateur Radio Club station on Mt Greylock in Massachusetts. I was running 2 W CW to a homebrew four element beam 20 feet off the ground. The boys on the mountain were running a lot bigger station than I was.

This station was well over the horizon. I wonder what propagation mode supports this beyond line-of-sight (LOS) communication? I worked several other stations that were also well over the horizon.

The Doctor Answers -- The propagation mode is most likely troposcatter, in which VHF signals are scattered by the troposphere, the lowest region of our atmosphere extending about 7 miles to the border with the stratosphere. Troposcatter is in common use by the military and some commercial users for paths up to a few hundred miles -- generally using high power and high gain antennas.

Troposcatter is also the mode that results in a commonly occurring type of long distance TV transmission. W2SZ -- the Amateur Radio club at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York -- uses big power and antennas from a fantastic location, making this mode a common occurrence. You can find out more about troposcatter and the other propagation modes supported by the troposphere at this Web site

<[www.oelcwj.com/literature/troposcatter.htm](http://www.oelcwj.com/literature/troposcatter.htm)>.

*A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says "A beer please, and one for the road."*