



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895  
HALIFAX NS  
B3K 5M5

March 2011, Volume 72 Number 3

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



If you have not renewed membership  
this is your last Reflector



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

## Executive

President - Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO	865-4198	<a href="mailto:fmac@ns.sympatico.ca">fmac@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
First V.P. - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	<a href="mailto:ve1mr@rac.ca">ve1mr@rac.ca</a>
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Secretary - Betty Caithness, VE1BSW	477-7081	<a href="mailto:betty.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca">betty.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Treasurer - John Goddwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	<a href="mailto:ve1cdd@rac.ca">ve1cdd@rac.ca</a>
Director-at-Large - Sheldon Harling, VE1GPY		<a href="mailto:hartling@netpathinc.com">hartling@netpathinc.com</a>
Club Station Mgr. - Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	835-4865	<a href="mailto:wayneph@eastlink.ca">wayneph@eastlink.ca</a>
Past President - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ		<a href="mailto:bob_swinwood@hotmail.com">bob_swinwood@hotmail.com</a>

## Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - VACANT

QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 [tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca)

EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP 466-8723 [dgeorge@dal.ca](mailto:dgeorge@dal.ca)

EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA 435-4333 [ve1eda@rac.ca](mailto:ve1eda@rac.ca)

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Web page - Frank Smith [frankiansmith@gmail.com](mailto:frankiansmith@gmail.com)

Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 [ve1tri@rac.ca](mailto:ve1tri@rac.ca)

2010 Flea market Chair - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ445-8103 [tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca)

Callbook Editor - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, 823-2024 [dhedickson@eastlink.ca](mailto:dhedickson@eastlink.ca)

Field Day coordinator - Phil Bently VE1PB [pbently@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:pbently@hfx.eastlink.ca)

Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB [ve1trb@eastlink.ca](mailto:ve1trb@eastlink.ca)

NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 [ve1tri@rac.ca](mailto:ve1tri@rac.ca)

Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH

## Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Everett Price, VO1DK [vo1dk@rac.ca](mailto:vo1dk@rac.ca)

RAC Section Manager - Jim Langille, VE1JBL (902) 667-1485 [ve1jbl@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:ve1jbl@ns.sympatico.ca)

RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 [ve1qd@rac.ca](mailto:ve1qd@rac.ca)

## GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:

TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM

### 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 - TX=82.5

PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz

LAN NODE

**Please note that the club mailing address will be changing to**  
P.O. Box 8895

Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5

We will share the QSL bureau  
PO Box which is more convenient for mail pick up.

### Puzzler - Do you know

Why does the HARC hold  
the call VE1FO?

Answer on page 3



The **March Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the Saint Andrews Rec Ctr.

Dave George, VE1AJP, will provide the March entertainment and he is confident that everyone will enjoy it. It is similar to, yet different from, his previous presentation to the club.

Guests are welcome.

## NOTICE of MOTION

This will be a second vote on this motion, since the expenditure will be over the \$500 limit for one vote.

It was moved by Scott Wood (VE1QD) and seconded by Bob Burns (VE1QC) that we upgrade the HARC VHF/UHF capability as outlined in the February Reflector.

See page 9 of the February Reflector for all the details. See also the minutes in this newsletter.

## Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation.

We would like at least 1

more. **If you want to**

**join**, let Bill Elliott,

VE1MR, know.



March 13	Emil	VE1ESP
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March 20	Bob	VE1PQ
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March 27	Win	VE1WIN
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April 3	David	VE1NN
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April 10	Doug	VE1LDL
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April 17	Bruce	VE1MLW
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April 24	Emil	VE1ESP
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*Events for Your Calendar*

March 13, Sunday – NSARA Contest

April 2 & 3 – the Annual Hobby Show at the Shearwater Museum - We plan to set up several radio demonstrations. Arrangements for space have been made and several people have said they'll help with equipment and time but we need a coordinator.

May 14, 2011 DownEast Fleamarket. Contact Chairman Tom, VE1BMJ, to lend a hand.

the MS Walk on May 29

June 25-26, 2011 - the 2011 ARRL Field Day.

July – Museum Ships Special Event

July & August – Pizza Nights

July 23-24 – MS Bike Tour

Contact Rick Gardner, VE1RGG, to help with communications

Last weekend in July – the Radio Society of Great Britain sponsored Islands On The Air (IOTA) contest.

August 5 & 6, - 8th Maritime DX Forum – Registration is now open, For more information, check out the MDF page on the HARC website  
[www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)

August – International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend

For more information see

<http://www.lighthouse.fsnet.co.uk/events/intlighthouseday.html>

October – Greenwood Flea Market

*It's winter in Canada  
And the gentle breezes blow  
Seventy miles an hour  
At thirty-five below.*

*Oh, how I love Canada  
When the snow's up to your butt  
You take a breath of winter  
And your nose gets frozen shut.*

*Yes, the weather here is wonderful  
So I guess I'll hang around  
I never could leave Canada  
Cuz I'm frozen to the ground!*

*Silent Key*

Jack Kiuru, VE1ZK, passed away in Florida in November. Jack was a past President of HARC as well as involved in many other organizations. Jack's obituary was in the Feb.10 Halifax Herald.

The NSARA Contest takes place each year on the second Sunday in March. That's March 13, 2011

**Publicizing Amateur Radio**  
The HARC is preparing to demonstrate our hobby at the Hobby Show the April at Shearwater Air base. Volunteers to demonstrate and talk with folks

**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

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.

**Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?**

Yearly rates are:

Full = \$25

Associate = \$15

Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at the same address (only 1 newsletter)

Contact Membership Chair Frank Wilson, VE1FHW

**Safety Note:** Smart Phones putting you and your kids at risk

Turn off the GPS info in your smart phone settings before taking a picture with that smart phone and posting it on line.

Not all phones have the GPS ability to embed the position information in the pictures you take with the phone, but many of the newer ones do - watch this video then fix your smart-phone (if you haven't already):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2vARzvWxwY>

**RNZI New Radio Heritage Hawaii Calls KGMB & KORL**

You can enjoy Hawaiian radio memories at the permanent on-line exhibition, the Art of Radio Hawaii, at [www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net). Many great Hawaii Calls are featured with colourfully illustrated logos and art-work.

The Radio Heritage Foundation is a registered non-profit organization connecting popular culture, nostalgia and radio heritage across the Pacific. See website

[www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net).

*I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.*

From the ARRL Letter fr March 3, 2011  
DX News: Spratly Islands DXpedition Postponed to 2012

In the March 3 edition of The Daily DX, Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, reports that the planned DXpedition to the Spratly Islands has been postponed until April 2012. According to DX0DX Team Leader Chris Dimitrijevic, VK3FY, the postponement is due to circumstances beyond the control of the DX0DX Team and "in the best interests of the Team of Operators." The DX0DX DXpedition was originally scheduled to run January 6-February 1, 2011. Spratly currently sits at #32 on DX Magazine's "Most Wanted" List.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MARCH 2011

Here we are in mid March. Daily Saving Time has arrived, and the first day of Spring will be March 20. We have survived another Nova Scotia Winter.

We now have a Field Day Coordinator, Phil Bently, VE1PB, has agreed to take on this task. Please consider volunteering to assist Phil in this very worthwhile venture.

The Club had a very successful GOTA morning on February 19. A Dartmouth Guide group of nine Young Ladies and their Leaders visited the Club Station. We demonstrated various aspects of the Ham Radio and all of the Girls were successful in making an on the air HF contact. Thanks to the Club Members who assisted.

The Club Breakfast took place at Tom's Family Restaurant on February 26. In spite of the weather, we had a reasonable turn out, and those who attended enjoyed a pleasant morning. Thanks to Rod, VE1BSK, for arranging this.

We will again be taking part in the Annual Hobby Show at the Shearwater Air Museum in April Second and Third. We will be demonstrating VHF, HF, Digital and Winlink.

Please make use of our E-mail, VE1FQ@rac.ca to contact the Club. We continue to monitor this address.

73, Fraser Mac Dougall, VE1WO

### Special Interest Group

Interested in getting together and experimenting with the different digital modes, have some FUN, and maybe even learn something new? Lots of club members have skill and talent in these areas. With sufficient interest we might even try digital contesting.

How about it guys and gals? Let's share what we know and learn what we don't!

How about Saturday Mornings at the club March 19th 10AM?

Show up Saturday or contact John VE1CDD

**Deadline for submissions to the  
April Reflector is  
Saturday, April 9, 2011**

### A simple but twisted home remedy

*If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives. Then you'll be afraid to cough.*



### Answer to Puzzler on page 1

One of the faithful and enthusiastic members of the H.A.R.C. before the war was Doug Smith, VE1FO. He joined the R.A.F. in 1938 and during the war was cited for bravery and credited with knocking out important enemy trains in North Africa on several occasions. On his last raid anti aircraft batteries felled him. His grave is located in Misura, Libya. In commemoration and remembrance the Halifax Amateur Radio Club has claimed his call, VE1FO, as their station call. (15) Misura is the same as Misratah, Libya or located within Misratah. The VE1MK call sign was not retained and was assigned to M. S. Killen, North Sydney in 1949.

*from Information provided  
by Spud, VE1BC*

### EMO Training on March 5

by Tom, VE1GTC

The HARC hosted a Basic EMO Communications course on March 5, 2011.



The course encompassed recent changes to message handling. It also provided an introduction to Paclink.

The course was attended to completion by VE1HAZ Carol Wood, VE1PIE Coleen Prentice, VE1ESP Emil Pineau and George Snow VE1CAW.



Those completing were presented with the new certification card for HRM EMO communicators.

Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, & David Musgrave, VE1EDA were the course instructors.

2011 is the 150th Anniversary of the first lighthouse built at Cape Sable Island. The lighthouse was built in 1861 after the wreck of the Allan Line steamship 'Hungarian' on the Cape Sable ledges with the loss of over 200 passengers and crew in February of 1860. Although there had been numerous requests before the tragic loss of so many lives to have a light house built there, it fell on deaf ears in the government until the big tragedy happened.



Work on the lighthouse began the following summer in 1861 and was completed by November 12, 1861 when the lamp was first lit by light-keeper John Hervey Doane.

- from Finn Bower,  
Shelburne Museum

The live web cam showing Halifax's Armdale Rotory is great for traffic viewing and Road conditions.

<http://www.novascotiawebcams.com/halifax/armdale-rotary.html#axzz1AmMziRUo>



**USE OF PORTABLE LADDERS;**

There have been some questions regarding the use, markings and grades of portable ladders. Canadian (CSA) standard CAN3-Z11 explains the minimum standards for portable ladders. This document explains the Grades, markings, weight restrictions, and the safe use of portable ladders.

I attempted to download this standard directly from CSA but there is a charge, I found the following link that explains the standard quite well. The document is the property of the University of Regina and is available free of charge.

[http://www.uregina.ca/hr/assets/files/health\\_safety/Portable%20ladder%20safety-WEB.pdf](http://www.uregina.ca/hr/assets/files/health_safety/Portable%20ladder%20safety-WEB.pdf)

Terry R. Bigelow VE1TRB  
Safety Officer, HARC



### **Iron Pyrite a Candidate for Solar Panels**

Researchers at the University of California-Irvine have said that they could soon turn iron pyrite, also called fool's gold, into a cheaper alternative to the rare & expensive materials now used to make solar panels. A prototype could be available within a year.

Existing types of cells such as cadmium telluride and amorphous silicon use materials that are either very scarce, potentially toxic or not very efficient. Some of the needed "rare earths" are available only from a single U.S. mine in California or from China which is clamping down on exports of the material.

One of the challenges with using fool's gold is that it has poor voltage. It is full of microscopic pockets that trap electrons limiting conductivity and the ability to convert solar energy into electricity. The UC-Irvine team lead by Matt Law is working on ways to plug those pockets.

Source – Los Angeles Times

**QSL cards by HARC**

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club has negotiated a special price on the printing of high-quality QSL cards. Cards are printed in full-colour front with black text on the back of white card stock. The usual turnaround time for card orders (1000 minimum) is 2 to 3 weeks. The cost for 1000 cards is our printing cost; delivery is FOB the Halifax Club. A one-time only \$25.00 donation to HARC is expected on each new order or on subsequent orders where significant changes in the card design are required. Support your club and have your QSL cards printed via HARC.

For information on current pricing and card design options, contact Howard at: VE1DHD@RAC.ca

**The project to replace the aging Hubble space telescope** with the James Webb telescope includes a \$130million contract for Canadian telescope parts. Com Dev of Kanata, Ontario is the main contractor.

The space telescope will collect light from the universe with a 6.5

meter dish. Four camera-like instruments will turn that light into pictures. Canada is supplying one of these instruments as well as a guidance system that references a distant star to hold the telescope extremely steady and keeps the pictures sharp.

While the Hubble telescope orbits a few hundred kilometers above the earth taking pictures with visible light, the James Webb telescope will hover 1.5million km up pointing away from both Earth and our sun looking at infrared light from hot objects.

Source: the Ottawa Citizen



Not only radio communications...

*From an article in the Montreal Gazette "Fine feathered war heros" by David Bird Director of the Avian Science & Conservation Ctr., MacDonald campus of McGill University*

**The lowly rock pigeon** has played a very significant role during a number of wars notably in both World Wars and the Korean War. These birds have a remarkable talent for finding their way back to their loft over distances of thousands of kilometers and from unfamiliar places in all kinds of weather. They have been valued as faithful carriers of messages during times of war & peace. War pigeons were parachuted behind enemy lines in containers for use by the resistance to carry information critical to the Allies. Other birds were released from mobile lofts, tanks & aircraft to take vital messages back to headquarters. These actions made them targets for enemy soldiers using guns and trained falcons. Tens of thousands died and a number became feathered folk heroes.

Paddy – released by the Americans in Normandy was the first bird to arrive back in England with news of the success of the D-Day invasion

G.I.Joe – Awarded the Dicken Medal for flying 30 Km. in 20 minutes to deliver a message canceling a bombardment of Colvi Vecchia, saving the lives of 1,000 British soldiers who had entered the area ahead of schedule.

Cher Ami - awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm for heroic service. On his final mission, October, 1918 the bird, having been shot through breast or wing delivered a message in a capsule hanging from a ligament of its shattered leg. The message saved the lives of 200 US soldiers.

For info on films about war pigeons ("Flight", an 8-minute DVD film and a longer film "The Pioneers" by Alessandro Croseri visit [store.pigeonsincombat.com](http://store.pigeonsincombat.com)

**February 19, 2011 morning – Guides On The Air at the HARC club station** was a busy time with John, VE1CDD; Doug, VE1LDL; Terry, VE1TRB; Fraser, VE1WO; and Tom, VE1GTC each conducting sessions around different aspects of our hobby. It was the 3rd GOTA at HARC for one Guide; the 2nd for another. Helen, VA1YL, was heard operating with a group of Guides from her ham shack but the signal quality didn't permit an exchange. Station Manager Wayne, VE1WPH, was behind the camera.



Hands-on Morse code with Terry, VE1TRB



*Foreground* Doug, VE1LDL, explains Packlink. (David, VE1EDA, was responding from his home QTH). Some of the girls, using Packlink, sent messages to their home e-mails and one received a reply. At the other station Fraser, VE1WO, is on HF SSB. Each of the Guides made a voice contact.



Photos by  
Doug,  
VE1LDL  
& Wayne  
VE1WPH

Group photo includes “basic” student Dwane



Using PSK31 under the eye of John, VE1CDD. (The Guides' typing skills were impressive.)

*How come abbreviated is such a long word?*

Did they enjoy themselves? VE1HRG@Winlink.org received this message Saturday afternoon

I just want to let you know I had a FANTASTIC time! Thank you  
Olivia

**The Halifax Amateur Radio Club  
Monthly General Meeting  
February 16, 2011  
MINUTES**

President Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Silent Keys –

Jack Kiuru – VE1ZK – Halifax, Nova Scotia. Club President in 1991  
Marcel Brun – VE9MMB – Shediac, N. B.

Approval of Agenda

**Motion** – THAT the agenda be adopted with an addition.

Moved by: John Goodwin (VE1CDD); Seconded by: Tom Caithness (VE1GTC).  
Motion carried.

Introduction of guests –  
Karl Webb (VE1KWW)

Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2011 monthly meeting.

**Motion** – THAT the minutes of the January 19, 2011 monthly meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club as published in the February, 2011 edition of the *Reflector* be approved.

Moved by: Bruce Hollett (VE1MLW); Seconded by: Don Trotter (VE1DTR).  
Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

John Goodwin (VE1CDD) reported that the opening balance was \$8,837.64, expenses for the month of January were \$750.32, income was \$1,004.00, petty cash \$19.19, outstanding cheques \$547.54 owing to Estate which results in a net bank account balance of \$8,660.10. Full report is attached.

**Motion** – THAT the report of the treasurer be approved.

Moved by: John Goodwin (VE1CDD); Seconded by: Doug LeBlanc (VE1LDL).  
Motion carried.

**Executive Reports:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – No report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – Rod Padmore (VE1BSK) was absent; however, Rod had dropped off snacks for the

social this evening and set up coffee which will be provided at the next few meetings to see how people like it.

**Station Manager** – Wayne Harasimovitch (VE1WPH) reported that besides GOTA this Saturday at the club station, the Girl Guides Heritage Explosion will take place August 11 to 17 at the Boy Scout Camp in Musquodoboit (Nadoc). John Goodwin (VE1CDD), Bill Elliott (VE1MR) and Wayne will be setting up a station for the girls to learn about amateur radio. Wayne has been working with Sacred Heart School. A VHF radio and antenna will be installed shortly. Two teachers at the School are interested in getting their licenses. The School is interested in incorporating amateur radio into their science program. The goal would be for graduates to graduate from this program with their amateur radio licenses. Questions and discussion.

**President** – Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) passed on information from Jim Langille (VE1JBL) regarding Exercise Handshake to be held on Tuesday, February 22. (E-mail from Jim attached to the *filed copy* of these minutes).

Fraser reported that he received an e-mail from Tim Dunlop asking if the club plans to take part in the MS Walk on May 29 and the MS Bike Tour to be held July 23-24.

It was moved by Bill Elliott (VE1MR) and seconded by Bruce Hollett (VE1MLW) that the club support both events.  
Motion Carried.

Fraser also received an e-mail from Randy Rowe regarding the Sable Island Dxpedition (copy attached to the *filed copy* of these minutes) Discussion.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership** – Report given by Frank Wilson (VE1FHW) (copy of his report is attached). The club has 52 fully paid up members for 2011 as well as 17 associate members and

4 lifetime members.

**Basic Course** – Barry Diggins (VE1TRI) welcomed several new graduates to the meeting. Barry also reported that one person is taking the course on his own and that two people wrote their exam on January 22.

**Search and Rescue** – David Musgrave (VE1EDA) reported on one search for a 22 year old and 16 year old who were saved in the nick of time as they were poorly dressed and had gotten wet.

**EMO** – Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) reported that there will be a Basic EMO Communication Course held on March 5, 2011, at the club. If you are interested, please let either Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) or David Musgrave (VE1EDA) know. Passing this course would mean that you would be certified for the next 3 years. A recertification course will be held in September. Passing this course would also mean certification for the next 3 years.

**Call Book** – In Howard Dickson's (VE1DHD) absence, Scott Wood (VE1QD) reported that the committee has met and things are moving ahead. Scott is looking after advertising and needs help from members to identify possible advertisers. Discussion.

**Old Business:**

Wayne Harasimovitch (VE1WPH) reported on the possible upgrade of the club satellite equipment. He went over orally the Notice of Motion in the February Reflector. Basically it appears that if we can sell the current equipment at the suggested prices we will be able to use that money for the new-to-the-club equipment that will be purchased from Bill Elliott (VE1MR) and John Goodwin (VE1CDD). Both Bill and John have agreed that the club can defer payment to them for up to one year for the new equipment until the old equipment has been sold.

It was moved by Scott Wood (VE1QD) and seconded by Bob

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

Burns (VE1QC) that we upgrade the HARC VHF/UHF capability as outlined in the February Reflector.

After discussion, Motion Carried. This must be voted on a second time at the March 16 general meeting.

Scott Wood (VE1QD) reported that the 2011 DX Forum to be held on August 5 and 6, 2011 is on track. Scott mentioned that George Nicholson (VE1GPN), who is a member of the club, and Wes Lamboley (W3WL) will be making a presentation.

Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) reported that he has a possible Chairman for Field Day but this has not yet been finalized. We may know in the next week or so.

#### **New Business:**

Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) reported that the Ham Breakfast will be held at Tom's, 565 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville on Saturday, February 26, at 8:30 a.m.

Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) reported that the Hobby Show will be held at Shearwater Museum the first weekend in April. Dave Nimmo (VE1NN) has reserved two tables for the club. We need a co-ordinator for this event but there were no volunteers. Fraser asked that anyone who is interested should e-mail or call.

Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) reported that GOTA is to be held at the club on Saturday, February 19. At least six club members will be present to help out with this. Fraser asked that anyone who is interested in this event should drop in.

50/50 Draw - \$21.00 was won by Paul (VE1AVD).

Door prize - was won by Dave Gillie.

There being no further business, on a motion by Doug LeBlanc (VE1LDL), the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m..

Social evening followed.

Respectfully submitted

Betty Caithness, VE1BSW, Secretary

#### **Subject: E-mail Etiquette HOW TO FORWARD E-MAIL**

Most of us often get forwarded messages. More than anything I worry about my email being forwarded & being picked up by a 'worm' virus or spam email. Let's stamp out messy emails & Trojan or worm viruses.

Do you really know how to forward e-mails ? 50% of us do; 50% DO NOT.

Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail? Do you hate it?

Every time you forward an e-mail there is information left over from the people who got the message before you, namely their e-mail addresses & names. As the messages get forwarded along, the list of addresses builds and builds, and all it takes is for one person's PC to get a virus, it can send that virus to every e-mail address that has come across his/her computer. Or, someone can take all of those addresses and sell them or send junk mail to them in the hopes that you will go to the site and he will make \$0.05 for each hit. That's right, all of that inconvenience over a nickel!

How do you stop it? Well, there are several easy steps:

(1) When you forward an e-mail, click on "Forward". Then DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top ). It only takes a second. You MUST click the "Forward" button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message.

(2) Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or Cc: fields for adding e-mail addresses. Always use the BCC : (blind carbon copy) field for listing the e-mail addresses. This is the way the people you send to will only see their own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it, it's that easy. When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say "Undisclosed Recipients" in the "TO:" field! of the people who receive it.

(3) Remove any "FW:" in the subject line . You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

(4) ALWAYS hit your Forward button from the actual e-mail you are reading.

(5) Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and email addresses. A FACT: The completed petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and email address on a petition.

(6) One of the ones I hate is the ones that say that something like, "Send this email to 10 people and something really cute will happen". IT AINT GONNA HAPPEN!!!! I don't let the bad luck ones scare me either, they get trashed.

(7) Before you forward an Amber Alert, or a Virus Alert, or some of the other ones floating around nowadays, check them out before you forward them. Most of them are junk mail that's been circling the net for YEARS! Just about everything you receive in an email that is in question can be checked out at Snopes. Just go to <http://www.snopes.com/> Its really easy to find out if it's real or not. If it's not, please don't pass it on.

So please, in the future, let's stop the junk mail and the viruses.

*"Life's tough ... it's even tougher if you're stupid." - John Wayne*

**From the Mail Bag**

*Feb.22 several HARC members were at the Club station taking part in the ongoing Exercise Handshake. The following is an exurb from the Nov.23, 2011 Maritime Amateur web page*

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

I want to thank everyone who took part tonight. Very nice to see quite a few amateurs from Pictou County take part and also amateurs from New Brunswick coming in via the IRG system. There were many who checked in either on emergency backup power or had backup power they could use if need be.

Always nice to hear from Red N1XLY in Connecticut and contacts from Maine Dave N1DP and Blair KB1UET.

Congratulations to the Truro ARC who had 10 members take part during the exercise.

TOTALS: There were 78 radio operators during the evening, 11 repeaters used and a total of 85 contacts.

Next month, HRM EMO (Dartmouth ARC & Halifax ARC) will be Net Control for the amateur part for Exercise Handshake. Hopefully you will have a chance to check in with them during the evening.

Next Exercise: March 29th, 2011

Exercise Handshake is a monthly exercise for radio operators and emergency responders to familiarize themselves with TMR radio and other modes of communications equipment they have at their disposal. It is designed for groups or departments either responsible for emergency communications or groups such as amateur radio operators designated to assist with communications for EMO and ARES. The exercise is on the last Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm Atlantic Time, 2300 UTC.

Did you know there is not a single amateur radio dealer in the Maritimes? I bet you did! Icom Canada is seeking a qualified entrepreneur to open a dealership for its division of Amateur products in the Maritimes. The dealer would require a commercial storefront, preferably in the HRM; no basement operations would be considered. If interested, please contact Murray Lycan VA1CQ at

[mlycan@icomcanada.com](mailto:mlycan@icomcanada.com)

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From the ARRL Letter Jan.6, 2011

General Motors Turns to Ham Radio to Solve Antenna Problem

When General Motors -- the world's second largest auto maker -- encountered a problem with the AM/FM antenna on its 2011 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, it was at a loss as to what to do. Spy photographs showed a pre-production version of the car with a long whip-style antenna on its rear fender. After what GM called "an outcry among Camaro enthusiasts," the company decided to rethink the antenna. But how?

On hardtop Camaros, the antenna is integrated into the rear windshield, but given the disappearing nature of this car's roof, that wasn't possible on the convertible. So GM turned to two antenna engineers -- Don Hibbard, W8DBH, and Gregg Kittinger -- who were tasked with doing what some thought was impossible: concealing the AM/FM antenna without sacrificing radio reception, while not putting it inside the Camaro's windows.

Hibbard and Kittinger managed to find a way to bury the AM/FM an-

*How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?*

tenna inside the svelte spoiler perched on the car's rear deck lid. All that is visible is a shark fin antenna (used for satellite radio, OnStar and cellular signals), while the separate whip antenna -- built into the spoiler -- is used to receive AM and FM radio signals. He and Kittinger knew they had to find a way to preserve the vertical polarization of an AM/FM antenna, so they tried a few possibilities before coming up with the idea of placing the half-wavelength horizontal antenna in the spoiler. According to GM, this is a first.

The spoiler AM/FM antenna is an active antenna module that does all its impedance matching and amplification before sending back to the receiver. But when asked about the possibility of an amateur antenna in the spoiler, Hibbard just chuckled. "This antenna just receives, it doesn't transmit," he told the ARRL. "We can get away with a receive-only antenna in the spoiler. I'm not so sure about a ham antenna."

Hibbard said that the unorthodox placement of the antenna within the body of the vehicle created a number of technical challenges, such as balancing form by preserving the car's styling and maintaining unimpeded audio reception. "Where other automakers have tried and failed, Chevy succeeded," said Hibbard. "We hope to take what we've learned with the Camaro convertible, build on it and apply it to future vehicles."

Hibbard said that with work and kids in college, he has not found as much time as he would like to be active once again on the air; he counts 15 meters as his favorite band and SSB his mode of choice. "I really enjoy contesting, ARRL Field Day and the ARRL Sweepstakes," he said. "I also love experimenting and seeing what I can do. After all, I'm a ham."