



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895  
HALIFAX NS  
B3K 5M5

March 2013, Volume 74 Number 3

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



**NEW! Is the HARC Meeting Cancelled by Weather? See Banner on Web Page**



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

## Executive

President - Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 [ve1qd@rac.ca](mailto:ve1qd@rac.ca)  
First V.P. - Bill Elliott, VE1MR 865-8567 [bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca)  
2nd V.P. - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL 465-4665 [leblanc@accesscable.net](mailto:leblanc@accesscable.net)  
Secretary - Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF [VE1JHF@Gmail.com](mailto:VE1JHF@Gmail.com)  
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD 865-5731 [VE1CDD@eastlink.ca](mailto:VE1CDD@eastlink.ca)  
Co-Treasurer - Jim Guilford, VE1JG 466-2124 [jimguilford@gmail.com](mailto:jimguilford@gmail.com)  
Director-at-Large: - Ian Pierce VE1IGP  
Club Station Mgr. - Jim Flowers, VE1JIM 443-8657 [ve1jim@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:ve1jim@ns.sympatico.ca)  
Past President - Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO 865-4198 [fmac@eastlink.ca](mailto:fmac@eastlink.ca)

## 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)  
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT 865-8567 [bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca)  
Reflector Dist. - Carol Wood, VE1HAZ [carolwood@accesswave.ca](mailto:carolwood@accesswave.ca)  
Membership - Carol Wood, VE1HAZ [carolwood@accesswave.ca](mailto:carolwood@accesswave.ca)  
Web page - Brandon, Detmers VA1BSD [brandon.detmers@dal.ca](mailto:brandon.detmers@dal.ca)  
Basic ham course - Erik Hein, VE1JEH 826-7145 [bravojehe@gmail.com](mailto:bravojehe@gmail.com)  
2012 Flea market Chair - Murray MacDonald, VE1BB  
Callbook Editor - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, 823-2024 [dhickson@eastlink.ca](mailto:dhickson@eastlink.ca)  
Field Day coordinator - Brian Allen VE1AZV  
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 - Craig Seaboyer, VE1DSS [cseaboye@stfx.ca](mailto:cseaboye@stfx.ca)  
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 [ve1qd@rac.ca](mailto:ve1qd@rac.ca)

## Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. We need at least 2 more. **If you want to join**, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



March 17	Win	VE1WIN
March 24	Erik	VE1JEH
March 31	Doug	VE1LDL
April 7	Bruce	VE1MLW
April 14	Emil	VE1ESP
April 21	Peter	VE1PJW

*Sign on a Plumber's truck:*

Don't sleep with a drip.  
Call your plumber

Visit the NSARA website  
<http://nsara.ve1cfy.net/>

International Women's Day is  
celebrated annually on March 8.

The March 20, 2013 **General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held in the Senior's Room on the 1st floor of the St. Andrew's Centre, 3380 Barnstead Lane, Halifax.

Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m. As usual, refreshments will be available.

For our March program Craig MacKinnon, VE1JMA, will talk about ***Being a Radio Amateur with a Disability: Challenges and Opportunities*** will.

Guests are welcome

Celebrated each **April 18, World Amateur Radio Day** marks the anniversary of the founding of the IARU in 1925 and provides an opportunity to present a positive image of Amateur Radio to the general public.

Photos this issue thanks to: Doug, VE1LDL; Sheldon, VE1GPY, Ron, VE1AIC; Chris, VA1CDB and Brent, VY2HF

**Deadline for submissions to the April Reflector is Saturday, April 6, 2013**

## GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:  
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM

**CLUB REPEATERS:**  
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz + TX=82.5  
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +  
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -  
access tone 151.4 Hz  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5  
**PACKET:** VE1NSD 145.050 MHz  
LAN NODE

*Events for Your Calendar*

April meeting program - Roger Sturtevant, VE1SKY, will talk about ***Adventures on VHF: Working Weak Signals with Rare Propagation.***

May 26, 2013 – MS Walk.

Contact Tom Caithness, VE1GTC; or Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB, to help with communications

June 1 – Downeast Flea Market will be held at the St. Andrew's Centre.

June, 22 & 23 - Field Day 2013

July – Museum Ships Special Event

July 27/28, 2013 – MS Bike Tour  
Contact Rick Gardner, VE1RGG, to help with communications

July 27 & 28 - IOTA (Islands on the Air)

July 17 & August 21 – Pizza Nights

Aug. 25, 2013 – Bluenose Auto Sport Club Car Rally This year's race will take place on .

August – NSARA Picnic

August – International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend

For more information see

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

**Basic Radio Licensing Exam.**

To arrange to write at the March 23, 10AM sitting contact Erik Hein, VE1JEH, by phone at 826-7145 or e-mail [bravojehe@gmail.com](mailto:bravojehe@gmail.com)

**Basic Radio Licensing Course**

If you know of anyone who is interested in getting an amateur radio license, please have them get in touch with Erik, VE1JEH

By phone at 826-7145 or by e-mail [bravojehe@gmail.com](mailto:bravojehe@gmail.com)

*God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.*

**Meeting Cancellation Notification Policy & Procedure:**

The January meeting of HARC had a very low attendance. About a dozen of us foolishly braved the terrible driving conditions to get into the Club meeting. President Scott and I drove in from St. Margaret's Bay. As we were creeping along, Scott pointed out that we really need a way to inform members if driving conditions are too bad to hold a meeting and potentially risk lives. In other words we need an emergency alert plan and cancellation policy. Therefore, we have developed a streaming red banner for the top of the HARC website that will be activated in case of a meeting cancellation or should another form of emergency arise that members need to know about.

So, in the future, if the weather looks bad, before you set out under potentially risky conditions, check the Home Page of the HARC website. If the Executive decides to cancel a meeting, we will activate our streaming red banner on the top of the HARC website Home Page. It will let you know of meeting cancellation and/or other important information for Club members. So, before you leave home this month for the March Club meeting, check the Home Page of the HARC website for any update.

Howard Dickson (VE1DHD)

**New Website Policy & Procedure:** I was recently browsing the HARC website and to my horror I discovered that we still had the 2008 edition of the Callbook search engine listed; we had 2011 QSL Bureau data listed, and much more very stale-dated material. The problem to a large extent is a result of individuals not passing on new material/information to the Web Master for inclusion on the website. Also, our Web Master - Brandon Detmers - is a young fellow - compared to the majority of our Club members - who has a very busy job at Dalhousie in Communications Services, and he also "has a life" beyond Amateur Radio.

As a result, I agreed with Scott to help out by being the person to whom all website-related materials are to be sent, and I will do my best to monitor content and ensure, in an effort to keep the site current. After all, our Website is the world's window into our Club, and we don't want to appear moribund!!

Once I get information that needs updating, I will either pass it on to Brandon for entry onto the site, or if it is a relatively simple update, I can now do that myself.

So please, help us to keep our website current and a valuable asset to our members as well as the rest of the world. The website has now been updated and there are a couple of new features -- have a look.

Howard Dickson (VE1DHD)

Halifax Information Radio 107.7 FM in the event of emergency becomes a communications arm of EMO.

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

*Sign outside a secondhand shop:*

**WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - Bicycles, Washing Machines, etc. Why Not Bring Your Wife Along and Get a Wonderful Bargain?**

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE    March 2013**

You might think winter is a less active season for the Club, but that's not true. On **5 January** we had an ARISS contact with the International Space Station from CP Allen High School and on **Saturday, 16 February** we operated from the Club Station with four Girl Guides and three of their leaders. The event – GOTA – Guides on The Air – featured Tom, VE1GTC, Terry, VE1TRB, John, VE1CDD, Doug, VE1LDL, and Jim, VE1JIM, who provided demonstrations of various modes of communication and helped the Guides make HF contacts. At the monthly Club meeting on **20 February**, Dave, VE1AJP, and Sheldon, VE1GPY, gave us quite a show about the new DIY – do-it-yourself – *maker movement*. This hybrid of electronics and computer building projects with many possible ham radio applications is a promising interface with younger generations. On **23 February** we had our annual Ham Radio Brunch and social gathering. Thanks to all involved in making these things happen. Of course, there also has been the usual Club social gathering at 10:00 am on Saturday over a cup of coffee.

We now have a Field Day Chair, thanks to Brian, VA1CC, volunteering. Carol, VE1HAZ, who has done an excellent job as Membership Committee Chair, has had to step down due to her work load. Fortunately Carol has agreed to continue taking responsibility for distribution of the Reflector. Many thanks, Carol! We still need people to lead key activities or projects. The general rule is that we can only take on activities and projects for which a leader and willing workers can be found. Contact Fraser, VE1WO, if your talents are available for an interesting assignment.

At our January Club meeting Ian, VE9IM, RAC 1st VP, reported about the progress being made in putting our national organization on a solid footing. As a RAC Affiliated Club, we take an active interest in its health and effectiveness. By enrolling more of our HARC members in RAC, we help to strengthen its membership base and finances, and its ability to provide services and leadership. Moreover, increasing the number of HARC members who are also members of RAC has other benefits for us. It allows us to purchase RAC Affiliated Club Liability Insurance (\$10 million) at a significantly lower cost. As a bonus, **RAC members** of an Affiliated Club that is insured under the RAC Club Insurance Program also receive the same liability coverage for their own personal amateur radio activities at no cost, as a benefit of their RAC membership!

HOWEVER, the cost of RAC Club Insurance is based on the total number of people covered, whether they are RAC members or not, because the coverage applies to all Club members. As this program is offered as a benefit of membership, there is a surcharge for members of an Affiliated Club who are not members of RAC. Thus HARC would pay an extra \$11 per non-RAC member in order to obtain RAC Club insurance. For example, assuming a HARC Membership of 150, where 60 are RAC members, the surcharge would be \$990, making it too expensive. For every 10 additional RAC members we enrol, we would save \$110 and be closer to being able to take advantage of this program and its extended benefits to each of you as individuals.

In the next few months RAC will start to identify and honour those Affiliated Clubs across Canada with the highest level RAC membership. I hope that HARC will be among that number. I can provide on request a RAC membership form, and will make them available at each Club meeting. If you want to talk to me about RAC membership, please call, email or catch me at a meeting.

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD

**Past Presidents Message    March 2013**

We have a Field Day Chairman, Brian Allen, VE1AZV has agreed to take on this task.

The Executive received an e-mail from Carol Wood, VE1HAZ, requesting that we find a replacement for Membership and Reflector Distribution. Her increased work commitments do not allow her to spend the required time on this task. Anyone who may be interested in taking over this, please contact the Executive.

We are still looking for a replacement co-ordinator for the Basic Course which will begin in early September.

The Club also requires a Project Manager for the Proposed Remote HF Station for HARC

Fraser Mac Dougall, VE1WO

**Executive Reports for March, 2013****1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report**

Nothing to report  
Bill, VE1MR

**Secretary's Report**

"Nothing to report."  
Jeremy, VE1JHF

**Station Manager's Report**

Nothing to report  
Jim, VE1JIM

**Report of Director-at-Large**

Nothing to report

**2013 Membership Incentive**

Jim Guilford, VE1JG, the winner of the major door prize at this years Flea Market, has graciously donated the Duel Band Alinco Handheld radio back to the Club as he has no present use for it. He asked the Executive to decide what the most appropriate use of this radio would be.

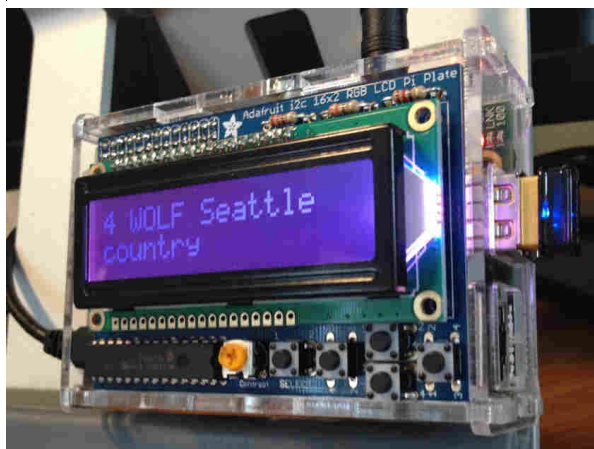
The Executive has decided that we would use this gift as an incentive for Membership for 2013 . Any person who takes out a new membership or renews their existing membership prior to the end of March 2013 will be eligible for the draw which will take place prior to the April Monthly Meeting. The winner will be announced at that time.

Sign during a conference:

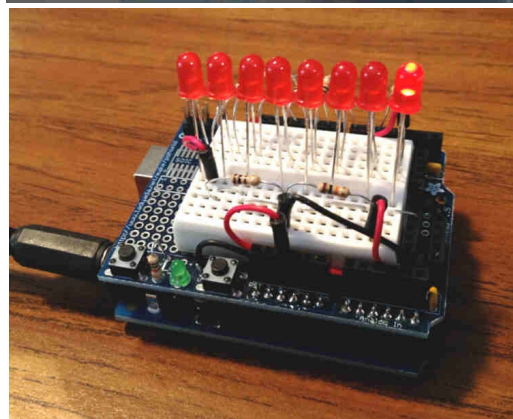
FOR ANYONE WHO HAS  
CHILDREN AND DOESN'T  
KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY  
CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

David, VE1AJP & Sheldon, VE1GPY introduced us to **Arduinos & Raspberry Pi** at the HARC's February meeting.

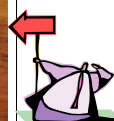
Here are pictures of some of the projects David and Sheldon, briefly talked about and demonstrated. Sheldon sent these pictures & comments.



A Raspberry Pi microcomputer with an LCD "Pi plate" running a program that makes it an Internet radio. It receives streaming digital radio directly from the Internet using a WiFi adapter. Eventually it will become the new innards of a 1940 wooden Addison desktop radio Sheldon is rebuilding.



A little demo that flashes LEDs in sequence.



It's built on a prototyping "shield" that is snapped on top of an Arduino UNO micro-controller.

This is another Raspberry Pi attached to the back of a 24" TV and configured as a media server. This little \$35 computer does a reasonable job of streaming video content directly from the Internet and from in-home media servers.



We used it to view episode 85 of Ham Nation (<http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation/85>)

The TV remote control works the XMBC media centre running on the Rpi.



Examples of inadequate proof-reading of news item titles

"Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges"  
You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?

"Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant"

See if that works any better than a fair trial!

*Do you have pictures, an interesting or funny radio-related story, an article or a question you would like to share via the HARC Reflector? Please send it/them to Lynn, at [ve1ent@rac.ca](mailto:ve1ent@rac.ca) Please show "For Reflector" in the "Subject" box so I don't miss it. -ed*



GOTA February 16 2013  
Halifax Amateur Radio Club

Halifax Club Members Involved were

Tom VE1GTC  
Terry VE1TRB  
John VE1CDD  
Doug VE1LDL  
Jim VE1JIM

Club Members gathered at the Club Station at 9:30 and started preparation. Doug and Terry established an IRLP Link with the Fredericton Amateur Radio Club, VE9ZC, who were also hosting a Guide Company.

After some time, an HF Link was also established on 40 Meters with the Fredericton Club as well as a Link with Helen Archibald, VA1YL, in Canning .

The Portable RMS Express Unit operating on VHF was also set up and placed in operation.

John brought his Laptop Computer with Echolink Installed; this was placed in operation

The Guide Company, with Four Guides and Three Leaders arrived at 10:00.

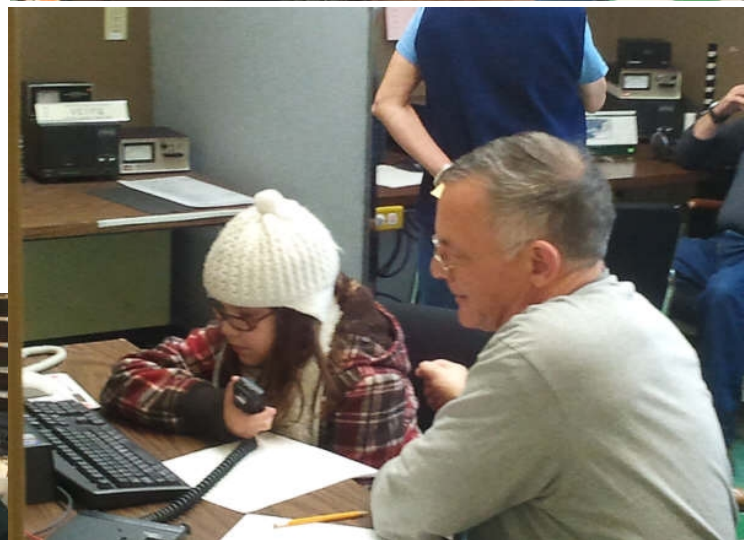
#### Demonstrations:

Sending CW by Tom VE1GTC  
VHF IRLP by Terry VE1TRB  
HF by Jim VE1JIM  
Echolink by John VE1CDD  
RMS Express (E-MAIL) by Doug, VE1LDL and Tom, VE1GTC

This was a very successful operation; the Guides were all able to make contact with other Guides and Amateurs on all Modes.

Special thanks to all Club Members who took part.  
Fraser VE1WO

Pictures sent by Doug, VE1LDL



To make the most of **our web page** please send photos, notices of events, and ham radio news items, etc. to Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, Howard Dickson  
e-mail [dhdickson@eastlink.ca](mailto:dhdickson@eastlink.ca)  
The HARC Reflector is also available on the web (photos in colour) via [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)

*Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?*

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club**

General Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2013

Meeting called to order 2040

Members present: JIM, GPY, LDL, GTC, VBT, HAZ, QD, BC, CU, AVG, MLW, EK, CAW, RGB, JEH, WO, VA1MM, RN, CDD, SBC, DHD, ASP, LSR, IGP, BMJ, AI, JMA, BMF, GFA, JHF, MR, ENT, RVS

Silent Keys reported: VE1's ATA, ALA, AMZ, AYP, CYR, YY, ZB, VY2JBM

Motion to accept agenda: MLW, second: MR

Motion to accept minutes: JIM, second: DHD

Treasurers report given by John (CDD)

Motion to accept: MR, second GTC ... passed

Brief report on purchase of portable antenna by John (CDD)

Motion to accept: Fraser (WO), second Dick (AI)  
Passed

Brief report on GOTA event and thanks to all those who participated ... there were 4 guides and 3 leaders.

Request for those planning to attend the upcoming brunch to advise Scott so that they can advise the Steak and Stein.

Scott reported that everything has been finalized with regards to the transition of the executive, with the filling of the 2 vacant positions to be completed tonight.

He also reported that he had closed the safety deposit box at the bank and had purchased a fireproof chest in lieu of to hold anything of value that we may need to protect.

Scott advised that Spud and Fraser had discovered the original ARRL certificate for the clubs affiliation from 1934, and that was going to be placed in the fireproof box.

Thanks to Howard (DHD) on his work on bringing the website up to date.

Scott urged people to bring non hams to our gatherings to promote the hobby, and outlined his plans for further education to the public about ham radio.

He also urged people to consider taking a membership in RAC.

Fraser (WO) of the nominating committee took over at that point to ask for any further nominations for the positions of 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Director-at-Large.

Hearing none, Doug (LDL) was proclaimed the new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, and Ian (IGP) was proclaimed the new Director at large.

He then advised that we still have several positions to fill with regards to: Field day coordinator,

Project station manager for Remote Station installation and Basic Course coordinator.

Membership report by Carol:

116 Full time members

27 Associate members

4 Life members

He reported that she had taken 13 renewals this evening, and reminded everyone that next month would be the last month that people would get the Reflector if you have not renewed yet.

EMO / GSAR report by Dave George (AJP): Dave reported about the upcoming emergency communications course in April and the details thereof, and asked for anyone interested in coordinating the voice portion of the exercise to contact himself or Barry Manuel.

He then gave a follow up report on the fire at the GSAR HQ, and their fundraising efforts with regards to that, as well as their recent purchase from Crown assets of a vehicle to replace the Suburban, and the repairs to the other vehicles and the building that had been completed.

He reported about the fundraising efforts of the Provincial Ground Search and Rescue association and that they had hired a marketing company to carry that out, and that donations to them were not being disbursed to the local associations as people might think.

He then reported about some searches that the group had been involved in recently.

Erik (JEH) gave a report on the Basic Course and the plans for the upcoming course this fall, and that there were 12 people interested in this year's course, and asked that anyone interested in looking after this year's course come make themselves known to the club.

Howard (DHD) gave an update on the changes that had been made to the Club website and asked that anyone having information that they would like to appears on the website to please contact him.

Ian (IGP) presented a plaque to the Club for their participation in the Bluenose Auto Sport Club Car Rally, and Ron Mackenzie from the BASC gave a quick talk on the event and passed along his thanks for our past participation.

This year's race will take place on Aug. 25, 2013.

**Old Business:**

Flea Market date has been settled for 1 June 2013 to take place in the gymnasium at the Club building and we will make use of our facilities for parts of the event.

He advised that this change was necessitated by the increase in price of the Forum space that made it prohibitive for us to use that space.

Scott advised about the NSARA meeting that would take place at the flea market.

Scott informed the Club about the RAC Affiliated Club Challenge and his submission to RAC with regards to same. HARC has approximately 40% participation in RAC, and requested that the membership who were not members in RAC consider becoming one, and that there would be membership forms available for anyone wishing to do so.

Remote Station: nothing to report, still looking for a project manager.

Long term storage: Still have to determine a plan soonest with cost esti-

(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

mates, and that we are looking at the idea of using a shipping container for storage.

**Tube bank:** Brief update on the Tube Bank from Tom (BMJ), advising that he needs the space currently taken up by the tubes and asked that anyone interested please get in touch with him.

**New Business:**

Next month's speaker will be Craig (JMA) on Amateur Radio and disabled people.

Brief discussion about the Brit Fader scholarship.

**Shearwater Hobby Show:** Update on the Shearwater Hobby Show and our quest for a better space on the floor at the show.

**MS Walk / Bike Tour:** Brief update on the MS Walk to take place on 26 May 2013 and the Bike Tour 27/28 July 2013.

Terry (TRB) and Tom (GTC) are looking after the Walk, and Rick (RGG) is looking after the Bike Tour.

50/50 Draw won by Jim (JIM)

Door Prize (\$25 Gift Cert.) won by Laurence (LSR)

Adjournment: motioned and seconded @ 2145

Respectfully submitted  
Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF  
H.A.R.C. Secretary

<http://www.ve1bc.com/files/Manuscript%20VE1FO.pdf>

The latest copy of my history of HARC is on my web site at the above URL. This has the last field day, a note on the loss of HMS BOUNTY, etc. Please take a minute to look it over and let me know anything that is missing, etc. There are now 369 pages. It is not possible to email it to anyone but if one wants a copy I can forward a CD.

Spud VE1BC



### Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Awarded

Recently, the following message was sent to Chris Beattie, VA1CDB

"I am pleased to advise that His Honour Brigadier-General the Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd), Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, would be pleased to present you with your Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in a private investiture on Thursday, February 14th at 2PM at Government House."

Chris & all of her family were at the investiture.

The citation was "Forty Four years of voluntary dedication to Canada – 20 years with the Community and 24 years as a Veteran's Advocate."



Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia J.J. Grant stands beside H.A.R.C. member Chris Beattie, VA1CDB, wearing her Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

**How to Replace Mouse Balls** This is said to be a real memo sent out by a computer company (IBM) to its employees in all seriousness. It went to all field engineers regarding a computer peripheral problem. The author of this memo was quite genuine. The engineers rolled on the floor! Especially note the last couple of sentences.



*To whom this may concern Re: Replacement of Mouse Balls.*

*If a mouse fails to operate or should it perform erratically, it may need a ball replacement. Mouse balls are now available as FRU (Field Replacement Units). Because of the delicate nature of this procedure, replacement of mouse balls should only be attempted by properly trained personnel. Before proceeding, determine the type of mouse balls by examining the underside of the mouse. Domestic balls will be larger and harder than foreign balls. Ball removal procedures differ depending upon the manufacturer of the mouse. Foreign balls can be replaced using the pop off method. Domestic balls are replaced by using the twist off method.. Mouse balls are not usually static sensitive. However, excessive handling can result in sudden discharge. Upon completion of ball replacement, the mouse may be used immediately. It is recommended that each person have a pair of spare balls for maintaining optimum customer satisfaction. Any customer missing his balls should contact the local personnel in charge of removing and replacing these necessary items. Please keep in mind that a customer without properly working balls is an unhappy customer.*





## From the Mail Bag



American satellite starts transmitting after being abandoned in 1967

An American satellite, abandoned in 1967 as a piece of Space Junk has begun transmitting again after 46 years.

An Amateur Radio Astronomer in North Cornwall accidentally picked up the signal and after cross checking with various lists, has identified it as LES1 built by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and launched in 1965. The satellite failed to reach its intended orbit owing to a wiring error and has been drifting out of control ever since.

Phil Williams G3YPQ from near Bude noticed its peculiar signal drift caused by its tumbling end over end every 4 seconds as the solar panels become shadowed by the engine. 'This gives the signal a particularly ghostly sound as the voltage from the solar panels fluctuates' Phil says.

It is likely that the on board batteries have now disintegrated and some other component failure has caused the transmitter on 237Mhz, to start up when its in sunlight.

LES1 is about the size of a small car, It is not likely to re-enter the atmosphere for a long time as the orbit is still relatively high. It poses no threat other than that caused by the thousands of other pieces of space junk in orbit.

Phil says its remarkable to think that electronics built nearly 50 years ago, 12 years before Voyager 1, and long before microprocessors and integrated circuits, is still capable of working in the hostile environs of space.

Listening to the signal you can easily imagine the craft tumbling over and over every 4 seconds and the transmitter starting up as the sun rises. He refers to the hobby as 'Radio-Archeology'!

Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News

73, Lewis VE3QJ

This might be interesting viewing.

Bob (VE1PQ)

Ham Radio in Hollywood: Last Man Standing to Feature Amateur Radio

Storyline - In an episode scheduled to air Friday, March 15, the hit ABC comedy Last Man Standing -- starring Tim Allen as Mike Baxter, KA0XTT -- will feature a secondary ham radio storyline. This is the first time that the show will highlight Amateur Radio in its plot, showing various cast members on the air and communicating via ham radio.

In episode 217 of Last Man Standing to air March 15, Mike's daughter Mandy (played by Molly Ephraim), gets her cell phone taken away as punishment. She discovers Mike's home shack in the basement and uses ham radio to make faraway friends. According to Last Man Standing Producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, the home shack is a brand new set built just for this episode. The ARRL provided many of the awards and certificates -- including 5 Band DXCC, 5 Band Worked All States, 5 Band Worked All Continents, VUCC (for 50 MHz), the Diamond DXCC Challenge and the Morse Code Proficiency Certificate -- seen on Mike Baxter's home shack wall.

Bob (VE1PQ).

**I.S.S. - Is Somebody Singing**  
Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield KC5RNJ/VA3OOG has been a very busy fellow while on the International Space Station (ISS). Among his activities has been creating music.

Most recently he has been working with Ed Robinson (of the Barenaked Ladies - Big Bang Theory theme song creators). The result has been I.S.S. (Is Somebody Singing) which was recently released with a National fanfare in Canada.

I hope you take a moment and enjoy this CBC video:

<http://music.cbc.ca/embedded/concerts/Chris-Hadfield-and-Barenaked-Ladies-ISS-Is-Somebody-Singing-2013-02-05/videos/Chris-Hadfield-and-Barenaked-Ladies-ISS-Is-Somebody-Singing>

Wayne VE1WPH

*Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.*



Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, VA3OOG

### The Space Station

<http://www.wimp.com/orbitaltour/> will take you to the Space Station and a "personal tour" by Sunita Williams. She explains how all aspects of human needs are handled. It lasts about 25 minutes.

See Ron's (VE1AIC) online album of shots taken at Stonepark school during their March 7, 2013 ARISS contact.

<https://plus.google.com/photos/105298466899445387419/albums/5852697226158350705>



**ARISS / Stonepark School Contact Thursday, March 7, 2013**

Photos by Ron, VE1AIC

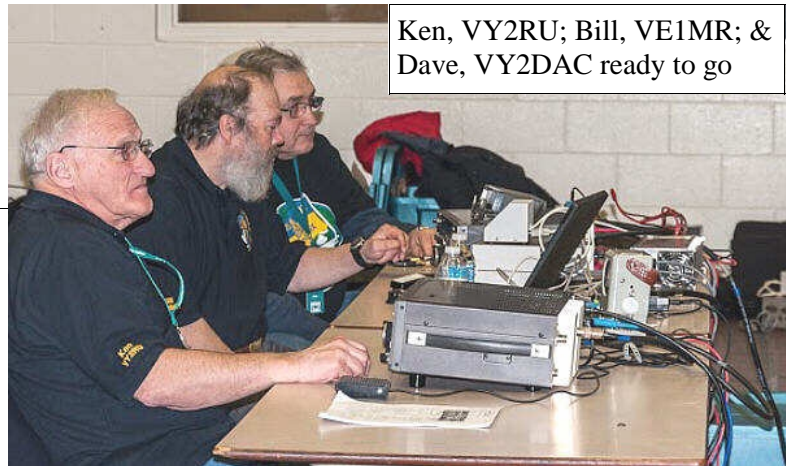


The school roof sprouted antennas (temporarily) to follow the space station's pass

UPEI professor Libby Osgood speaks to students prior to "zero hour".



Ken, VY2RU; Bill, VE1MR; & Dave, VY2DAC ready to go



### Ham radio equipment setup at Charlottetown's Stonepark School for the March 7, 2013 ARISS Contact – primary & Secondary stations.

The set up we used for the primary station at Stonepark Intermediate School for the ARISS contact : The antenna was a KLM 22C (13 dBc) on a reinforced PVC cross boom, Yaesu G-5600B rotator system computer controlled via a Satellite Tracker JR. powered by Nova for Windows.

There is circularity switching available but we did not use it or have it hooked up.

A Mirage/KLM KP2 pre amplifier is mounted just off the end of the antenna boom using a short length of LMR400UF (26 to 28").

The preamp gain is supposed to be about 20 dB - realized gain is probably in the 8 to 10 dB range.

We use a 20 foot piece of LMR400UF (0.4 dB loss measured) for the tail from the antenna preamp to flex around the rotators.

Then a 65 foot piece of LDF4-50 (0.4 dB loss measured).

Then a 40 foot piece of FSJ-50 (0.4 dB loss measured).

All these use mating N connectors with no adapters

The 40 foot piece of FSJ4-50 goes to the bias T that supplies the power for the preamp.

The preamp is RF switched so no PTT line is used to turn it on or off.

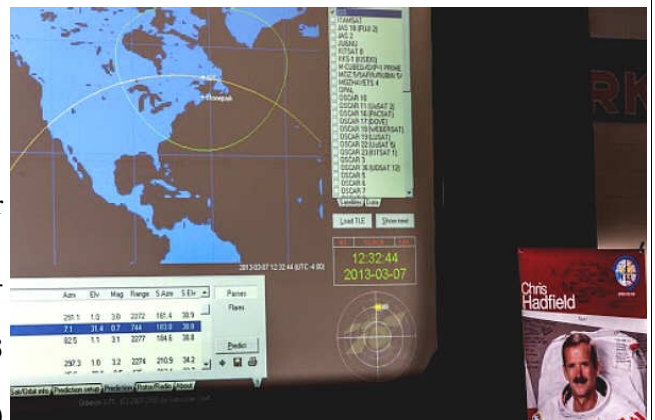
The Bias T is connected directly to the output of a Daiwa NS-660PA SWR and Power Meter using a double male N adapter

The input of the Daiwa is fed using a short piece of Belden 9913 (about 2 foot) from the Mirage B 1016G power amplifier.

The amplifier is fed with a short piece of RG-214 (about 2 feet) from the radio.

The radio is a Yaesu FT-736R

For doppler adjustment we go with the recommended procedure from the ARISS team which is to program 7 memories starting 3 KHz above to 3 KHz below center frequency in 1 KHz steps.



Tracking the Space Station. No one wanted to waste any of the precious 10 minute window

*A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up three thousand times the memory.*

(Continued from page 9)

I use the discriminator meter setting on the FT-736 to determine when to switch memories.

It also helps if you have looked at the doppler shifts predicted by the pass prediction software you use.

Listening to the down link audio

will also give indications when you should change memories.

At Stonepark the received signal was quite good near LOS and I am sure the last 30 seconds would have been fairly good as well.

The secondary station was very similar also using an FT-736R but the antenna was a Diamond X500N vertical also with the same type of preamp at the antenna.

The cables were similar except we had 50 feet of LMR400UF, 60 feet of LDF4-50 and 30 feet of FSJ4-50 - total measured loss of about 1.9 dB.

We used a Bird 43 Wattmeter with 250 Watt slug for the secondary station.

I am sure the secondary station would have performed nearly as well as the primary - I looked over at the meter on that radio when we were having some noise on the down link and it was still near S9.

The primary station had about 0.7 dB less loss than the secondary station but both were maximized for the length of line with what was readily available.

My goal was to have an overall line loss of less than 2 dB - we may not have quite achieved this for the secondary station but it was certainly a lot less on the primary station.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

From a message sent to Lou McFadin, W5DID, ARISS US Hardware manager from Bill Elliott, VE1MR.

Photo by Brent, VY2HF



Contact was established by Mike Morrison, VY2CO

Photo by Ron, VE1AIC



Hams & friends who contributed to the success of the contact

Back row, left to right: David Cosh, VY2DAC; Ron MacKay, VE1AIC; Ron, Huybers, VY2HR; Brent Taylor, VY2HF; George Meggison, VY2GM; Front row left to right - Eric Thibodeau, Bill Elliott, VE1MR; Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH (ARISS mentor); Ken McCormick, VY2RU.

As reported by Kenneth, Stonepark Intermediate School, Charlottetown, PEI, Canada was a success. The students completed all of the 18 planned questions with enough time remaining for closing remarks from the school followed by audience applause. Chris was able to respond and offer a farewell to PEI. Contact was concluded with 30 seconds remaining in the pass.

Comm was established at the scheduled AOS time. Initial signal was noisy but improved as elevation increased (as expected). D/L Signal strength and audio quality were good during the first half of the pass but did begin to drop off at approximately TCA. This condition continued to degrade gradually as the pass progressed through to LOS. While signal strength and audio quality fluctuated (estimated 3 cycles) above and below the mean. Generally speaking, the comm was still readable above background "white" noise through the TCA to LOS portion of the pass.

Audience estimated to be 450 to 500 with School Board, local government and municipal representatives in attendance. The event was recorded by undergraduate media students from Holland College. A video release is expected shortly. Radio, television and newspaper were represented. I invite you to view the following CBC Television link. Allow the piece to run for a moment then advance (slide); the run time goes to 20:44

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/News/Canada/PEI/Compass/ID/2341381530/>

73 - Wayne, VE1WPH

Also see video of the contact at

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/News/Canada/PEI/ID/2341239360/>