



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR



PO BOX 8895  
HALIFAX NS  
B3K 5M5

May 2015, Volume 76 Number 5  
club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)

**There will be a call for nominations for First Vice-President to replace Chuck Kelly, VE1MDO, who is moving away**



HARC Club Station phone number - 902-490-6421

### Executive

President - Brian Allen, VA1CC	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
First V.P. - Chuck Kelly, VE1MDO	402-5502	chuck.kelly@nautel.com
2nd V.P. Paul Legault, VA1PAL	818-9073	pajolegault@g mail.com
Secretary - Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF	240-4302	VE1JHF@Gmail.com
Treasurer - Jim Guilford, VE1JG	466-2124	jimguilford@gmail.com
Director-at-Large: - Ian Pierce VE1IGP	469-3474	igpearce@hotmail.com
Director at Large (Educational): Scott Verge, VE1SRV	412-3448	scott@ve1srv.net
Station Manager: Alex Tikhomirov, VE1RUS	444-1271	a.texer@gmail.com
Past President - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
Director Emeritus - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government & Media Relations – VACANT

QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC 477-7081 tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

EMO Coordinator - David 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 bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Reflector Dist. - Carol Wood, VE1HAZ carolwood@accesswave.ca

Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD dhickson@eastlink.ca

Web page content contact – Howard Dickson, VE1DHD dhickson@eastlink.ca

Basic ham course - Scott Verge, VE1SRV 412-3448 scott@ve1srv.net

2015 Flea market Chair – Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF 240-4302 VE1JHF@Gmail.com

Youth Coordinator - VACANT

Field Day coordinator - Alex Tikhomirov, VE1RUS 444-1271 a.texer@gmail.com

Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB veltrb@eastlink.ca

NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI 861-3719 veltri@rac.ca

Honorary Legal Counsel – Paul Radford, VE1ARH

### Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Everett Price, VO1DK vo1dk@rac.ca

RAC Section Manager – Craig Seaboyer, VE1DSS cseaboye@stfx.ca

RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca

### Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation.  
**We need more net controllers.**  
**If you want to join, contact Bill, VE1MR**



May	17	Scott	VE1SRV
May	24	Doug	VE1LDL
May	31	Bruce	VE1MLW
June	7	Peter	VE1PJW
June	14	Win	VE1WIN
June	21	Gary	VA1GGM

Photos this issue thanks to  
Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL; Doug  
Grace, VE1DFG; Paul, VA1PAL,  
Jeremy, VE1JHF; Pauline, VE1PAV

*Government is the great fiction,  
through which everybody  
endeavours to live at the expense of  
everybody else.*  
*Frederic Bastiat, French  
economist (1801-1850)*

The **May 2015 General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, May 20, in the Senior's Room on the 1st floor of the St. Andrew's Centre, 3380 Barnstead Lane, Halifax.

6:30 – 7:30pm - Social Hour with refreshments

7:30 – 8:30pm - Presentation: RAC - Current Successes and Plans: A Talk via Go-to- Webinar or Skype, or, VE4BAW (To be Confirmed) maybe, in person  
Presenter: Geoff Bawden

8:30–9:30pm Regular Monthly Business Meeting

Guests are welcome

### The Maritime Amateur

Ham Radio  
for Maritimers by Maritimers  
[www.maritimeamateur.ca](http://www.maritimeamateur.ca)

*He, who laughs last, thinks slowest.*

**Deadline for submissions to the June Reflector is Saturday, June 6, 2015**

### 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*

May 24 - The MS Walk 

June 6 – The Down East Flea Market

June (the last full weekend) – The ARRL Field Day – A test of emergency preparedness

July – the MS Bike Tour

July - Islands On The Air Contest sponsored by the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain)

The Basic Amateur Radio Course will be held starting Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7 pm. Cost, \$145. The Coordinator is Scott, VE1SRV

An Advanced Amateur Radio Course will begin January 7, 2016.

Coordinator Scott, VE1SRV, has set up a website for the course with the pertinent information (cost of course = \$300, number of seats, etc.) at

[ve1srv.net/advanced](http://ve1srv.net/advanced)

If interested in either Basic or advanced course e-mail Scott at [scott@ve1svr.net](mailto:scott@ve1svr.net)

The **fall 2015 Basic Amateur Radio Course** is still looking (and hoping) for donations of two “working” 2m or 2m/70 cm radio sets, complete with power supplies, mic’s and antennas. Radio sets can be new or used, but **MUST** be in good working order. These will be awarded once again to two students who demonstrate perfect attendance during the 2015 course. It proved a good incentive for last year’s students!

-Scott Verge, VE1SRV

From the April, 2015 RAC Report

**Dayton Hamvention** will be held at the Hara Arena Complex on the north side of Dayton, Ohio from May 15 to 17. This is the fifth year in a row that Radio Amateurs of Canada will be operating a Booth at Dayton. RAC officers, Directors and many other RAC members will be there to

*(Continued on page 5)*

**MS Walk 2015**

It’s that time of year again and we are winding up to provide communications and other things for MS Atlantic and the MS Walk. This year, it is scheduled for

When: Sunday May 24 2015,

Where: starting at the Canada Games Center.

Checkin and registration will be starting at 11:30 with the walk starting at 1:00.

You will need a handheld 2 meter rig



and a fold up chair you can set up at your designated station. If you’ve never done any community activities like this, it will be a great way to learn, and if you require volunteer hours, you can get them here too (just ask for a letter and the MS folks will be glad to fix you up).

If you are interested in helping out this year please send me an email.

Terry, VE1TRB

Terry R. Bigelow CD CPO2 Ret'd  
email [ve1trb@eastlink.ca](mailto:ve1trb@eastlink.ca)

**Brit Fader Scholarship** – The Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) will once again this year be offering a \$1000 scholarship to any young person with an Amateur Radio license who is planning on attending a post-secondary institution this coming September (2015). If you know of any young person in your club or community who has a valid Amateur Radio license and is planning on attending a post-secondary institution (college or university) this fall, PLEASE pass the following “Call for Applications” on to them.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

73 Howard, VE1DHD, for the Brit Fader Scholarship Committee

**Brit Fader Scholarship Trust Announces 2015 Call for Applications**

The Brit Fader Scholarship was established in 1993 by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club and endowed through the generosity of Club members and Radio Amateurs throughout the Maritime Provinces of Canada. This scholarship is intended exclusively for post-secondary educational use, including graduate studies, to provide assistance with the cost of tuition, room, board, books and/or other fees essential to the advanced education of the recipient.

**The amount of the 2015 award will be \$1000.00.**

Applicant must be a citizen of Canada, but without regard to gender, race, national origin, handicap status or any other factor and must be performing at a high academic level.

Applicant must hold an active Basic

Class or higher grade of Canadian Amateur Radio license.

This Scholarship will be provided for attendance at an accredited Canadian post-secondary technical school, college or university, with **preference given to applicants who have been accepted into a program in the field of electronics or electrical engineering.**

Application submissions must be **postmarked no later than July 11th, 2015.**

A zipped application package (Criteria; Application Form; Reference Form) is available for downloading from the HARC website at:

<http://halifax-arc.org/britfaderscholarship>.

D. Howard Dickson – VE1DHD  
for the Brit Fader Scholarship Committee of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club

**NOTICE:** If you are interested in getting fall arrest certification for tower climbing. please contact an executive member. No course is currently scheduled but you want to be sure to be on the list for a seat.

*Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for Ma y, 2015**

Well, looking out my window now tells me that winter is finally over and spring is at hand.. This is the time of the year that we get outside and check our antennas, coax and guide wires. Hopefully, everyone's antenna survived the winter snow storms As I write this, there is a lot of good dx on and of course antennas play a major role in hearing this sometimes rare dx.

HARC is moving towards the busy summer schedule with the Flea Market on June 06 weekend and then our Field Day event later in June at the club station. Drop in and say hello to the guys, pick up your QSL cards and generally check things out as there is always something happening there. Please note that our events are listed on our web site and that there is also a lot of other really good info there.

**FLASH : THE EMO COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE** (message handling) **WILL SOON BE ONLINE ON OUR WEBSITE** for viewing. Currently, there are practice sessions on Sunday nights at 19:30 hrs. on VE1PSR (147.270 +). This document will help prepare you for response to a disaster whether you are asked to go to the EOC or a JEM site, club station or a field location. It is so important to know the rules and procedures for message handling in order for traffic to flow in an orderly fashion and so that all the details of the message are transmitted properly. We have so many different radios and modes of transmissions that we need to update our own qualifications in order to be effective. We need to do this for EMO AND GET OUR NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED operators list up to date. This is all part of being ready to participate at any time, any where and under any conditions. This is what Field Day is all about as well because it lets everyone know how fast we can respond to a situation - set up to operate using station equipment, generators , mobile trailer, tents and so on. Field Day is more than a social event as it proves our ability to meet EMO requirements. We need to **PRACTICE OUR CRAFT**. An exercise once every 2 or 3 YEARS is hardly getting ready to participate in an emergency. We need to have the proper Equipment- **TRAINING** and **PRACTICE** to make it with EMO. Make this happen for the club and for EMO! Be on the air, practice and be ready. Be recognized as an EMO responder.

I'm looking forward to going mobile and working good dx from the car using my Kenwood TS480-SAT and a helical wound vertical antenna attached to a mag mount on the car roof. This system works really well as Japan. Australia. and other dx is available. I will be operating as VA1CC/VE3 for the month of July. As always I will be listening for VE1/ VA1 call signs. Get ready for an exciting summer of events.

73' Brian Allen- VA1CC, President- H.A.R.C.

*There were 100 hams, mostly (but not all) local ones involved during the extended aftermath of the Swiss Air crash at Peggy's Cove. Fortunately a large portion of us had completed Amateur Radio for EMO training a short time before this dreadful accident required our response. -ed.*

*Fascinating Error in Judgement: "Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible" -- Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.*

Congratulations to Richard MacDonald who successfully passed the Basic Amateur Radio exam on Monday, April 13, with honors. Examiner – Jim, VE1JIM



Congratulations to Alex Day, VA1ACD who successfully passed the Basic Amateur Radio exam on Saturday, April 25. Examiner – Bill, VE1MR



**Voice message handling practice** takes place on VE1PSR 147.270 + on Sunday at 1930 hours. Every second Sunday it alternates with digital communication practice.

Dates to work with:

VOICE	DIGITAL
May 10	May 17
May 24	May 31
June 7	June 14
June 21	June 28 (Field Day)

There may be a change due to special occasions but all will know in lots of time.

Anyone wishing to become involved with the **practice sessions** please contact Tom Caithness for voice practice

tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca  
or Dave Musgrave for digital.  
david.musgrave@ns.sympatico.ca

Anyone wishing to become involved with the emergency communication message handling please contact either David or Tom.

Tom, VE1GTC

Do you have a radio-related story, technical article, picture, news, comment, etc. that you would like to share in the HARC Reflector? Send it (or them) to Reflector editor Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT by E-mail at bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca or snail-mail at

15 Lakeland St  
Beaverbank, NS B4G 1A6

**Fall Protection Course**

The Club hosted a Fall Protection Course Saturday, 25th April, 2015. The course was attended by Don Mosher VE1DRM, Brian Allen VE1AZV, Terry Bigelow VE1TRB, Alexey Tikhomirov VE1RUS, Paul Legault VA1PAL, and Dave Charbonneau VE1DDC. The course started at 0900 and covered all aspects of Fall Protection, with emphasis on what we do in support of club members. The course also included discussions on numerous experiences so as to prepare our newer climbers for what they may be faced with. Thank you all for your participation in this training as this is vital knowledge to keep safe in what we do.

HARC Safety Officer VE1TRB  
Terry R. Bigelow CD CPO2 Ret'd

The HARC had a display at this year's Hobby Show at the Shearwater Aviation Museum.

Craig, VE1JMA; & Doug, VE1LDL, were there from setup



Craig at the HARC display - Doug is behind the camera

on Saturday to tear down on Sunday, with Saturday support from Brandon, VE1BMF and Graham VE1GFA and Saturday lunch assistance from Tom, VE1GTC. They had a WinLink kit on the air, some PSK-31 on HF. There was some interest expressed, especially from hams who want to get back on the air but only a couple of people wanting to take the course.

Manning the HARC Amateur Radio display at **Geequinox 2015** on Saturday, April 25 are Bill, VA1ALW; Bruce, VE1MLW; Brian, VA1CC; and David VE1AJP, and his son Ian.

*David is the one wearing the Locutus monocle.*

*The dragons weren't with the HARC. -ed*

*Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?*



Bill VA1ALW and Bruce, VE1MLW



Just finished building & trying out the so called **yoyo antenna** I've been working on. I refer to this as a yoyo antenna but actually it's a campers portable clothesline with the rope removed. Available at Walmart for \$4.50 each plus \$35 for wire, coax connector and fiberglass purchased elsewhere. This will cost you about \$60 if you have to purchase everything. My first contact with this was to Morocco on 20 meters with the antenna hung between pictures in my living room at 5 watts using 40 feet as a long wire; the balance of the wire was in the spool.

I had thought of this neat portable antenna system a few years ago but had no reason to move forward on the design. Recently I purchased a portable HF radio (Elecraft KX3) that I want to use for some QRP operation from wherever I want to go locally. I retrieved my idea of this portable antenna from my brain archives and revamped it. Now recently I had found out that there is such an antenna called the yoyo antenna – good for different frequencies - and a 90 degree converter. The other unusual item is the stereo bands but you must purchase different yoyo's for each band or tie several together to accomplish this mission. I was devastated but my idea is different and so I moved forward in the design. I ended up with a finished product using 22 gage braided wire. Sixty five feet of wire fits in each spool and when two are placed together you make a dipole operating from 80-10 meters depending on the length spooled out.

Now what makes this work is the center portion of the dipole using a piece of fiberglass with a coax connector and speaker wire connectors that the ends of the yoyo wires plug into. There is a hole through the fiberglass that the wire goes through first to take up the strain when set up for use so that there is little strain on the connector when in use. The rope at the end is used to tie to a tree but



I'll use fiberglass electric fence posts to terminate the line and a painters pole for the center that goes up 12 feet and some guy rope for vertical support.

Now there's more to the story. I can use this same yoyo wire plugged into the radio to be used as a long wire and the second yoyo can be used as a counterpoise if needed. This antenna fits into your pocket or takes up little space in the radio travel bag. Funny how I had this idea for years and only discovered the yoyo configuration a short time ago. My set up is more versatile and covers all the HF bands of interest so I guess it is my idea after all.

Doug, VE1DFG



*From the RAC Report (Continued from page 2)*

meet and greet and to tell you what Radio Amateurs of Canada has been doing for you lately.

The **2015 RAC Annual General Meeting** will take place in Martensville, Saskatchewan on Saturday, July 4. Once again, we will have an Internet connection to allow our members to attend no matter where in the country they may be. Many thanks to the Meewasin Amateur Radio Club for hosting our meeting in conjunction with the 2015 Saskatchewan Hamfest.

Since 2010, **RAC** has held **planning meetings** every two years in order to plot our course. This year, the meeting will be in the Toronto-Mississauga area with the cooperation and support of the Mississauga and Peel Amateur Radio Clubs. A public session will be held on the evening of Saturday, May 23 and there will be presentations by members of the RAC Executive, Directors and other key volunteers. We look forward to seeing you at the public session. We also expect to have an online meeting for those who cannot come in person. Complete details will be made available on the RAC web.

*You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone you've just met? That's common sense leaving your body.*

**New Transatlantic 144MHz Beacon**

The EI2DKH transatlantic 144MHz beacon is fully operational as of 12 April 2015.

Transmitting JT65b with CW ID on 144.488 MHz every even minute and listening on 144.155 MHz every odd minute.

Any call signs received are uploaded to a publicly accessible webpage at: <http://86.43.106.118/ei4hq/ei8jk/>

During major meteor showers the beacon will switch to FSK441

Beacon details;  
4 x 5 element LFA-Q (22.24 dBi)  
QTF 270 Deg  
(sponsored by InnoVantennas <http://www.innovantennas.com/>)

Antenna height 60m asl  
TX power 75 watts

*Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go.*

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting minutes  
15 April, 2015**

Meeting convened at 2105 by Brian, VA1CC. (late start due to lengthy presentation)

Members present:

PV, SRV, WIN, JEH, BBT, DTR, QD, FA, BC, ?, LDL, MFT, RUS, CHB, WO, MR, IGP, GTC, AJP, CAW, George, GFA, Amanda, Jayne, JIM, VA1PAL, VA1CAW, JHF, JG, CC, BMF

Silent keys: VE1ALP

Meeting minutes from March were read out loud by the Club Secretary, Jeremy VE1JHF.

Moved for acceptance by Tom, GTC.  
Seconded by Jim, JIM  
Passed

Treasurers report: Jim, VE1JG, presented the Treasurers Report  
Moved for Acceptance by JG  
Seconded by Bill, MR.  
Accepted

Brian reported that Richard MacDonald and Michael Leblanc (VE1LEB) passed their recent examinations at the Club.

Executive Reports

Scott, SRV announced that Jim Flowers (VE1JIM) was leaving the Club and moving out west, he asked Jim to give a brief overview of his time with the Club, and asked everyone to sign a card for Jim.

Jim received a round of applause from those present.

Scott then reported on 2 courses that he'd recently put on, one on "Greening your station" about using alternative energy to power your station, and one on "Preppers and Ham radio"

He reported on the Advanced Course upcoming in January 2016, the cost of the course, and how many seats there are.

He has a website set up for the course with the pertinent information. (ve1srv.net/advanced)

Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 is the date for the Basic Course for this year.

There were a couple of questions fielded by Scott.

Brian reported that Check Kelly (2<sup>nd</sup> VP) has left the club to move back to the States, but that Don Trotter,

VE1DTR has stepped forward to fill the position.

Don's appointment will be ratified at the next meeting.

Brian then brought up the subject of the recommendations of the Kingfisher report as they relate to the future of the Club.

There was a lengthy discussion on the subject by those present about how it could affect the Club and what we can do about it.

Several suggestions were put forward by members as to what we could possibly do in the near future to alleviate this situation.

Amanda advised the members present of the upcoming events that the Club participates in and stressed the need for volunteers for these events, and admonished those in attendance to volunteer.

50/50 Draw: DBT  
Door Prize: Won by Ian VE1IGP

Meeting Adjourned 2200

Respectfully submitted  
Jeremy Fowler, VE1JHF  
HARC Secretary



*Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.*



*Douglas Casey, Classmate of Bill Clinton at Georgetown University*

These pictures are from the Prepper's and Ham Radio class held by Scott, VE1SRV, at the club on April 11th. Attendees learned various things about emergency radio use, portable radio's, antennas and appropriate frequencies. They were also shown what is available to licensed Ham's and given a tour of the club's radio room. It was a good opportunity to bring in interested people. It also resulted in four more names for the Basic course in the fall.



Antenna Work at the HARC Club Station

April finally brought a snow-free roof and mild enough temperatures to comfortably tackle roof-top antenna repair for the HARC club station vertical. Spearheaded by Station Manager Alex, VE1RUS, the work crew (Brian, VA1CC; Bill, VE1MR; Ian, VE1IGP; Gary, VA1GGM; Paul, VA1PAL) took the vertical down, replaced the defective part and reinstalled the antenna. Having run out of time, fine-tuning will have to be scheduled for another day.



Stella Awards –  
Outlandish Lawsuits & Settlements



*Jerry Williams, of Little Rock, Arkansas, garnered 4th Place in the Stella's when he was awarded \$14,500 plus medical expenses after being bitten on the butt by his next door neighbour's beagle - even though the beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. Williams did not get as much as he asked for because the jury believed the beagle might have been provoked at the time of the butt bite because Williams had climbed over the fence into the yard and repeatedly shot the dog with a pellet gun.*

## From the Mail Bag



Worth watching the complete 20 minute video just to read the commentaries throughout this amazing video!  
- Ken, VY2RU

Highlights of the Sun, by SDO Over Last 5 Years....

The Sun is the source of what, in part, is needed for ionospheric HF propagation. For the last five years, we have had an amazing front-row seat to the Sun's activity, minute by minute: the SDO spacecraft. And, we expect many more years of super high definition viewing.

Here is a video with highlights of the last five years of solar activity as seen by the SDO spacecraft. This is worth seeing on a larger monitor, so try to view it full screen on something larger than your palm. The music is pretty good too. It is worth the 20-some minutes of stunning viewing. Be sure to share!

Enjoy!.... Link to video:

<http://g.nw7us.us/5yrsofSunBySDO>

*I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.*



Latest HARC History

Hi

I have the history right up to date on my web site [www.ve1bc.com](http://www.ve1bc.com)

Spud VE1BC

Dear MS Society Volunteers,

National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate and thank the thousands of Canadians who donate their time and energy throughout the year. It is also a time to raise awareness of the vital contributions made by volunteers that enrich our communities and our lives. It is estimated that Canadians volunteer two billion hours each year, and the impact of volunteering goes well beyond those hours given.

Volunteers form the bedrock of Canadian communities and like a stone thrown into a lake – the actions of MS volunteers make a direct impact. As a volunteer with the MS Society of Canada, you play a critical role in ensuring we keep those living with MS at the centre of our work. Whether you provide

care to someone living with MS, facilitate a support group, serve on a chapter board or committee, contribute your time and energy to a fundraising event or awareness campaign, provide administrative assistance in one of our offices, or hold any other volunteer role, we truly appreciate everything that you do in support of our mission to end MS.

We believe our **MS Volunteers Rock**, and as the theme for this year's National Volunteer Week campaign, we want to celebrate the outstanding contributions made by volunteers like you. Across the division, thousands of volunteers make a difference in the lives of people affected by MS and to highlight this impact we have a weeklong campaign sharing our message of gratitude and profiling our outstanding

*(Continued on page 9)*

*Check this out, nice Award Certificate and fairly easy to obtain.*

<http://itu150.ure.es/english/>

- Ken VY2RU

Award and Special Trophy "150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITU"

This year 2015, the month of May marks the 150th anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.

To commemorate this important event, the Spanish Amateur Radio Association URE, member of the IARU, launches the following Special Award, available to all licensed radio amateur or SWL worldwide. Will be valid contacts made in any mode or band between 160 meters and 6 meters with the 11 special stations with the prefix AO150. The

suffixes of the 11 Special Event Stations are the letters of ITU's motto for its 150th anniversary

Therefore, the 11 different stations are: AO150I, AO150N, AO150O, AO150V, AO150A, AO150T, AO150G, AO150E, AO150H, AO150R and AO150U

DATES: From 1st (00.00Z) to 30th (24.00Z) May, 2015

AWARD: Diplomas will be awarded in three different categories depending on the number of special stations AO150 contacted by the applicant (or received in case of SWLs)

SILVER DIPLOMA

Stations outside of Europe: It will be awarded for contacts with at least 4 different Special AO150 stations, whatever the mode and band

GOLD DIPLOMA

Stations outside of Europe: It will be required contacts with at least 4 different Special AO150 stations, each of them in at least 3 different bands, whatever the mode used.

PLATINUM DIPLOMA

Stations outside of Europe: It will be required contacts with at least 6 different Special AO150 stations, each of them in at least 3 different bands, whatever the mode used.

All Diplomas will indicate the Name and Call Sign of the applicant and its position achieved in the ranking of his/her DXCC by number of total valid QSO.

The online query of the log and the position of participants in the ranking of slots can be followed daily on the website of the organization at:

<http://itu150.ure.es>



*(Continued from page 8)*

volunteers. Please check the MS Community blog throughout the week of April 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to celebrate the variety of ways that MS Volunteers are Outstanding! ... every volunteer brings a unique contribution to the MS Society of Canada. You are truly appreciated and make a difference every day in the lives of people affected by multiple sclerosis. Thank you for being an outstanding volunteer.

Sincerely,  
Sylvia Leonard, National Vice-Pres.,  
Talent, Programs & Services  
Yves Savoie, President & C.E.O.,  
MS Society of Canada

*This e-mail was circulated early in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquake. It underlines the importance that Amateur Radio can have during emergencies. -ed*

DNEPAL Earthquake Emergency -  
Amateur Radio Emergency Frequency: 14.105 MHz on 20M for Emergency Traffic "ONLY" with CT7AGC (Colin) as Controller.

Back Up Frequency: 14.215 MHz on 20M

**PLEASE KEEP THESE FREQUENCIES FREE FOR TRAFFIC ONLY!!**

We have at present several stations causing interference - One whistling and another sending RTTY using 4X1TT call sign who is one of the Controllers.

If possible please try to pin point the bearing direction of these signals and report the info to the Controller on 14.215 MHz.

At this time there is a request for stations with large antenna installations to come forward to act as "Controllers" as propagation changes and to give the present Controllers a break.

**AGAIN - PLEASE KEEP THESE FREQUENCIES CLEAR!!**

### Using WebSDR's worldwide for the ISS

Martin Ehrenfried G8JNJ describes how he uses WebSDR's to listen to ISS transmissions on 145.800 and 145.825 MHz. The SUWS SDR at Farnham can even receive the 143.625 MHz ISS comms channel.

We were treated to more Slow Scan Television (SSTV) pictures from the International Space Station (ISS) on the weekend of April 11/12.

During the Sunday evening passes a Cosmonaut suddenly decided to try some ad-hoc voice contacts between SSTV transmissions. Quite a few other stations were calling RS0ISS, but I didn't hear any actual two-way exchanges. I made a very late, hurried and half-hearted attempt to call near the end of the pass, when my collinear antenna was most likely to be effective, but the ISS was very quickly out of range.

I was also monitoring the Russian VHF-2 comms frequency 143.625 MHz FM on the new extended 143 MHz band on the SUWS WebSDR in a second browser window, and heard a very short transmission from

a Cosmonaut near the end of the UK pass. I suspect they were attempting to call Moscow as they started to come into range.

When the ISS dropped out on the SUWS WebSDR, I swapped over to the Russian <http://sdr.22dx.ru/> WebSDR and heard some full contacts during a long pass over the Russian mainland.

With the exception of Asia (Bangkok SDR seems to be very deaf) it's now possible to switch between WebSDR's at different locations and catch just about all Amateur transmissions from the ISS. In fact it's possible to set-up multiple browser tabs, one for each WebSDR and just leave them set on 145.800 MHz FM with squelch enabled, so that voice or SSTV traffic can be heard on each SDR in turn when the ISS passes into range.

SUWS WebSDR

<http://websdr.suws.org.uk/>

A list of WebSDR URLs and Martin's audio recording are available at

<http://amsat-uk.org/2015/04/14/using-websdrs-for-iss/>

On 01/05/2015, Ron, VE1AIC, installed the final piece of his D-Star system (the remote repeater part).

Since last summer his VE1UHF-B UHF D-Star repeater has been running 24/7 on 443.300+ from his QTH. It's a full-duplex MSR-2000 and has a working range of about 15km. The controller is a Raspberry Pi2 running G4KLX repeater and ircddbgateway.

In Jan of 2015 he added a VHF port to the system. For 4 months the VHF repeater ran from his QTH on low power, and on test freq, while waiting for the site road to be plowed or the snow to melt.

VE1UHF-C the VHF D-Star repeater is active on 146.715- at this time. It now runs 25w into a single dipole so coverage reports are appreciated.

The web URLs for info and monitoring:

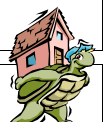
Dashboard for VE1UHF D-Star repeaters: <http://ve1aic.no-ip.com:82>

Ron's D-Star website page: <http://ve1cra.net/main/dstar.html>

REFLECTOR 69C Audio monitor feed on Radio-Reference:  
<http://ctdstar.org/radio-reference.htm>



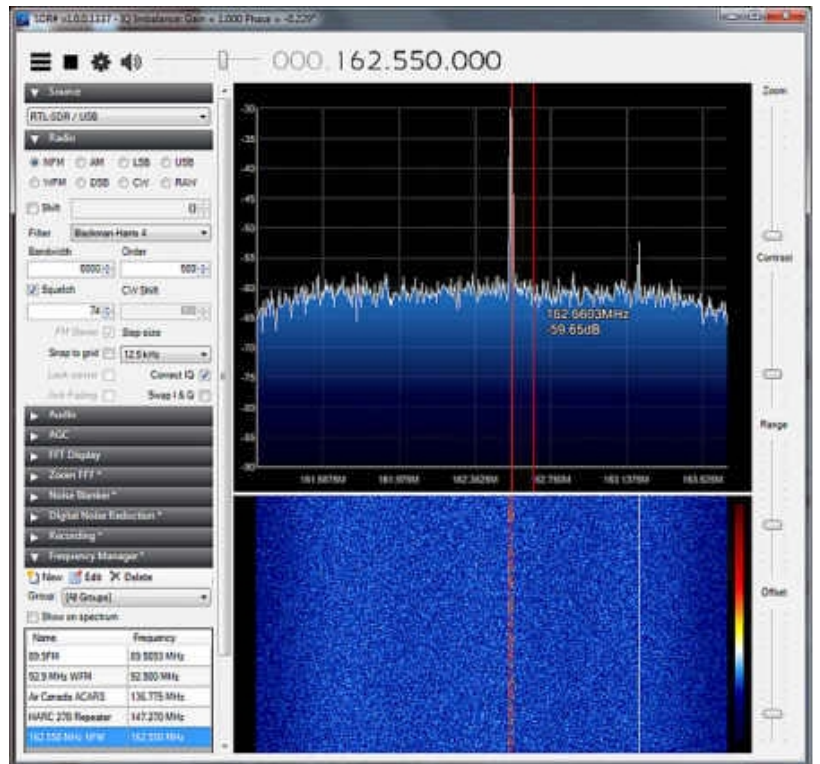
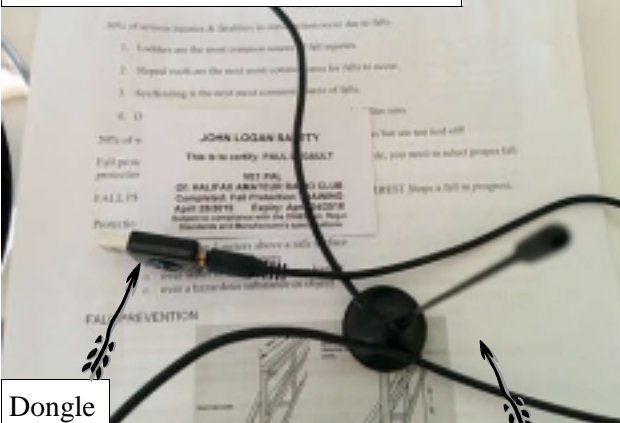
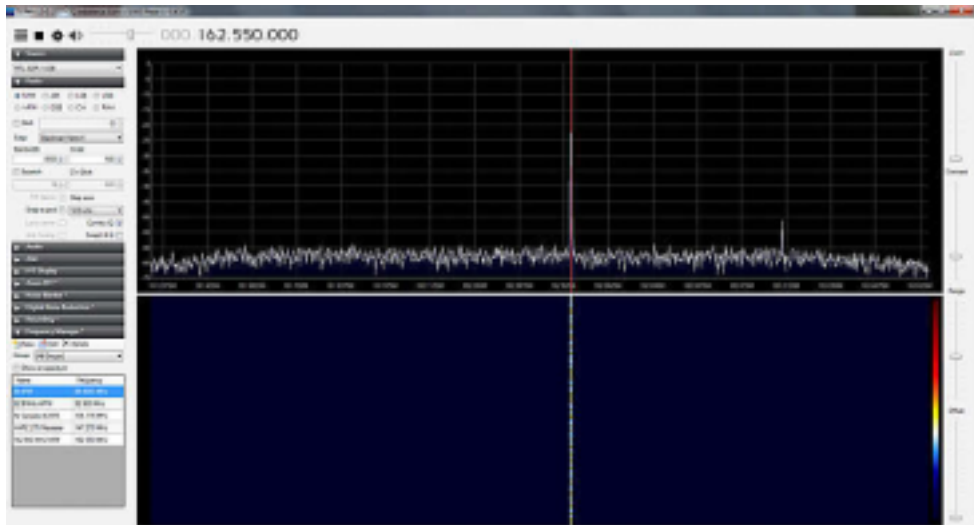
*If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?*



Chuck had some info on the HARC main page that pointed me towards looking online for an RTL2832U receiver USB dongle. \$9 and a little bit of research online and it is working as a receiver for a wide range of frequencies. the research was needed to find out that it needs a low level access driver because the default driver is meant for receiving broadcast digital TV available in Europe and Asia. Antenna upgrades will likely allow it to be much more useful as the stub it comes with is basically blind at HF.

Here are some screen shots.

Paul, VA1PAL



Paul's fall prevention course card and course material are in the background



The Dongle does not look like much in the picture but that tiny little object on the end of the antenna cable is all there is. I left it edge on as emphasis to how tiny it is. It is a powerful little gadget. It gets warm because it literally using power to capture and channel so many analog to digital conversions.

Paul, VE1PAL

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 by e-mail to [dhickson@eastlink.ca](mailto:dhickson@eastlink.ca)  
 The HARC Reflector is also available on the web (photos in colour) via [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)

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

*"Men always want to be a woman's first love – women like to be a man's last romance."*  
 - Oscar Wilde

Definition: *WRINKLES:*  
*Something other people have.*