



# REFLECTOR

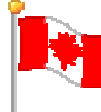
PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

October 2010, Volume 71 Number 8

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



## CY0 Reception at the Club Station Saturday, October 30 at 1PM



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

### Executive

President - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	826-7831	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Sheldon Page, VE1SJP		sheldon.page@gmail.com
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@eastlink.ca
Treasurer - Keith Landra, VE1STN		tkeith.landra@yahoo.ca
Director-at-Large: - Don Trotter, VE1DTR		ve1dtr@rac.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH		wayneph@eastlink.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Sheldon Hartling, VE1GPY		hartling@netpathinc.com
Membership - Sheldon Hartling, VE1GPY		hartling@netpathinc.com
Web page - Frank Smith		frankiansmith@gmail.com
Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
2010 Flea market Chair - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ445-8103		tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Field Day coordinator - VACANT		
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@eastlink.ca
NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH		

### Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Len Morgan, VE9MY	506-696-5279	morgakl@nb.sympatico.ca
RAC Section Manager - Jim Langille, VE1JBL	(902) 667-1485	ve1jbl@ns.sympatico.ca
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD,	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca

### Take-15 Net Controllers

**Due to a lack of Net Controllers the HARC Take-15 Net will be discontinued at the end of this roster.**



Oct. 17	Doug	VE1LDL
Oct. 24	Bruce	VE1MLW
Oct. 31	Win	VE1WIN
Nov. 7	Doug	VE1LDL
Nov. 14	Bruce	VE1MLW

### FIRST AID TRAINING

There is some money in the budget to pay for first aid training. Depending on how many would like to take training will determine how much the club will reimburse each individual.

Someone needs to come forward to organize this or each person must let the executive know when they will be taking the training and costs.

*A clean house is a sign of a broken computer*

The **Monthly General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, October, 20, 2010 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the Saint Andrews Rec Ctr.

Tonight's program will be Wayne, VE1WPH, with a presentation about ARISS

Guests are welcome.

### Reception

Attention HARC members  
There will be a reception in the Club Station at 1PM on Saturday, October 30, for the **CY0 Sable Island DXpedition team**. All are welcome to meet the team members. Remember, our own Gary Bartlett, VE1RGB, is a member of that team.

### Puzzler - Do you know

What is the Novaya Zemlya effect?



Answer on page 5

**Deadline for submissions to the November Reflector is Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010**

### 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

*Events for Your Calendar*

Saturday October 30 - Reception in the Club Station at 1PM for the CY0 Sable Island DXpedition team. All are welcome to meet the team members.

October 16- Greenwood Flea Market

October 16 - Jamboree on the Air

**GREENWOOD  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
22nd ANNUAL FLEAMARKET**

**Date:** 16 OCT 2010 (Saturday)

**Time:** 10:00AM – 1:00PM (Open 8:00AM To Sellers)

**Place:** Greenwood Community Centre, Church Street, Greenwood, Nova Scotia

**Cost:** Admission \$4.00.  
Tables Free To Sellers



**GPS Coordinates:**

N44° 58.512' W064° 55.612'

**Talk In:** VE1WN 147.240+

**Ham radio classes, basic course**

sponsored by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club is being held at the Saint Andrew's Community on Thursdays at 7:00 PM in the club classroom.

The registration fee of \$120 covers 13 classes of instruction, a study guide with some printed material, the exam from Industry Canada given by one of the club's accredited examiners, associate membership in the H. A.R.C. with access to the club, e-newsletter. Reduced cost for the course can be offered to any one who does not need the study guide / manual or hard copy of the text.

For additional information see

[www.HARC.org](http://www.HARC.org)

or contact Barry at 861-3719

or by e-mail: [VE1TRI@rac.ca](mailto:VE1TRI@rac.ca)

*Golf can best be defined as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle, followed by a good bottle of beer.*



**Fall Protection Training**

I will be scheduling a fall protection course this fall. This course is a requirement to conduct work where fall protection is required, on property that is owned or controlled by a government organization (federal, provincial or municipal).

The course will cover the requirements for fall protection equipment standards, how to inspect your own gear, and someone else's (buddy system). The trainer will be tailoring the instruction to our needs as amateurs working on towers and roofs in public places.

The cost of the course will be covered by the HARC and by you attending, you will be asked to take part in activities requiring this certification. Please note, you will not be expected to climb without an experienced, qualified climber.

This is for initial certification and re-certification and is being offered to club members interested in climbing towers.

Please email me at:

[ve1trb@eastlink.ca](mailto:ve1trb@eastlink.ca) if you are interested in this training.

HARC Safety Officer VE1TRB

Terry R. Bigelow CD CPO2 Ret'd

Check out the RAC blog at:

<http://racblog.wordpress.com/transforming-radio-amateurs-of-canada-introduction/>

**Saturday Morning Socials at the Club Station**

Over the past years Club members have met early Saturday mornings at the Club Station (both past and present locations) for casual conversation over coffee and donuts. While the responsibility to organize this function does not "officially" fall under those of the Station Manager it has been adopted by that position until May of this year.

With many of the activities of the Station Manger currently involve more immediate concerns (ie. Club layout and organization, antenna maintenance and upgrades) I would ask that anyone who might be interested in taking the lead on this activity to contact me for support. This does not mean that any one person should become totally responsible for the meetings but to act as a Station Manager delegate who can provide and coordinate a roster of individuals who will be available for a specific week. Individuals who regularly attend the meetings might be best suited to work a schedule out amongst themselves and provide this information to the Station Manager.

Lets get together and make this happen folks.

Thanks, Wayne, VE1WPH,  
HARC Station Manger

**RAC Bulletin 2010-09-14E**

Industry Canada advised both RAC and RAQI on Friday, Sept 10, 2010 that their Montreal office had authorized a number of 430 to 450 MHz frequencies and a single VHF frequency on 145.555 mHz. According to IC, frequencies were chosen to avoid known amateur repeater channels. These frequencies in the 70 cm and 2m amateur bands were temporarily authorized to support communications for many European entrants of a cycling event to be held on Quebec City and Montreal on Sept 10 and Sept 12 respectively. This type of authorized intrusion by Industry Canada of non-amateur communications in amateur spectrum is highly unusual and is a matter of great concern to Radio Amateurs of Canada. RAC will be taking the matter up with Industry Canada officials. RAC will be interested in knowing if actual interference has been caused to amateur communications; please report any observations to [regulatory@rac.ca](mailto:regulatory@rac.ca)

Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, Vice President, Industrial Liaison

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - October**

RAC, Sable Island, QSL Bureau et al.

To paraphrase the late John Lennon – it's time to give RAC a chance. As many of you may know, I have not always been a strong supporter of RAC but I believe the new Executive and Board deserve a chance and support from the amateur radio community. We, in Halifax, were privileged to have RAC Executive and Board members as our guests this past summer when they attended the Maritime DX Forum, and held the RAC AGM in Halifax. Scott Wood (VE1QD) has been actively seeking support for RAC and I would invite you to; if you have not already done so, complete the questionnaire that he has initiated. From Scott's presentation it appears that RAC has become more open and receptive to new ideas. With Industry Canada apparently distributing Amateur Band frequencies to other users, it becomes more apparent that we require a strong national body to speak for the hobby. In addition, many of us use the QSL services through RAC and I would suggest that with the postal rates that we face today, a RAC membership more than pays for itself. As matter of fact, I just renewed my RAC membership after procrastinating for sometime.

As you are aware, a team of hardy amateurs will be going to Sable Island on will be on the air October 21-29. There is a close relationship with the team and HARC and I would encourage you to support them. The team has indicated that they would love to work members of HARC during their stay. The club will be holding a reception for the team at the HARC facility on October 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 1.00 p.m. Please plan on stopping by and saying "Hello" to the team and enjoy light refreshments.

Recently I spent time with our QSL Manager (Tom, VE1TOM) going through the accumulated cards on hand. At last count, Tom has ascertained that there are approximately 20,000 cards in the system. We have purged the system and those having cards and no money on file have had their cards removed and will be destroyed as per HARC Executive agreement. If you believe that you might have cards on hand, please contact Tom (ve1tom@rac.ca) and let him know if you want them - if you do, you will be required to forward funds to pay for the shipping of the cards to you. If you do not wish to receive cards, please let the other person involved in your QSO that you do not exchange cards and let Tom know that you do not wish to receive cards.

At the October Executive meeting, the Executive agreed that following would constitute the practice of providing remuneration for climbers certified for the Club – climbers are entitled to have a meal and gas provided, and the Club would be receive a small donation from the person requesting the work.

It's that time again – election of officers. Each year the nomination chair and committee have a hard job ahead of them in securing members to stand for office. Once again, I would ask each of you to consider having your name stand for office. This year it appears that at least four (4) of the current executive will be stepping down and not reoffering. If you are not prepared to offer and you think you know members would be good candidates, please take the time to approach them and encourage them to run.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Monthly General Meeting in October as I will be away attending the Atlantic Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

73, Murray (VE1MMD)

**Transforming Radio Amateurs of Canada Part 7 -  
Tearing down the Status Quo**

*John Bartlett - VE1OZ / HK3OZ www.hk3oz.com*

**What tells us RAC needs to change?**

- membership is declining
- revenues continue down and RAC will likely fail within 12 to 18 months
- the executive team has suffered infighting and the acrimonious departure of key personnel
- volunteers for key positions are difficult to recruit
- organization is perceived as closed and secretive
- TCA revenue does cover costs
- TCA working group has largely isolated itself from the management team
- membership penetration in Quebec remains poor
- non-members have no status
- a critical membership drive has not been well supported
- cultural change process not supported
- participation at key regional events inconsistent
- financial reports not public
- membership numbers not disseminated
- governance structure flawed

*(Continued on page 4)*

Transforming R.A.C. (Continued from page 3)

- management team dysfunctional
- executive members focused on their specialty
- no mentoring program for volunteers
- no performance review and no consequence for failure
- governmental relationships are weak
- board meetings are closed

**Next steps?**

The change process espouses the following:

- focus on what to achieve rather than attempting to fix problems
- focus on the future and make no reference to the past
- envision (dream of) a preferred future
- develop strategies to realize that future
- create your strategic future
- change is a constant and not to be
- your dream cannot be imposed or mandated
- the only person who has "the answer" is you
- change happens when the entire community is enrolled

**So what's your dream?**

In preparing these notes, I've worked with Peter West, VE3HG. As most of you know, Peter is RAC's Vice President of Public Relations. Peter has a background in group work and professional coaching.

So I asked him to engage in the process - leave the past behind, transport himself into the future and create a dream of what RAC could be.

**Here is Peter's dream:**

"This morning when I awoke, I had a sense that everything had changed. Our RAC management meeting was held last night on an open, regularly scheduled bi-monthly "Go-To-Meeting" webinar site, with over 500 participants (members and non-members alike) who signed in and contributed via email.

The number of directors was much expanded based on population distribution. Now there were three directors from the East, five from Quebec, five from Ontario, two from Manitoba, two from Alberta, two from Saskatchewan, one from the Yukon/NWT and four from British Columbia. The number of Vice Presidents was also expanded to comprise a working group of over 20 volunteers and included the RAC office staff and editor of TCA.

All issues concerning increased Quebec participation were solved by amateurs in Quebec and were quickly adopted by the greater RAC community. While different, these solutions are workable, profitable and Amateur Radio in Canada is the beneficiary of this work.

All representatives on the management group now have voting rights on all issues with the sole exceptions of major financial and constitutional changes. Financial budgets receive approval at the Annual General Meeting by the membership. Extraordinary matters that do arise are brought before the AGM for discussion and vote by all.

Financial reports are published on a public website as are RAC membership numbers. Financial reports are audited and approved annually.

Active committees include our Youth Educational Program and new licensees programs which contribute to the overall growth of Amateur Radio. As well, beginners' programs offered by RAC-affiliated clubs are producing a large and significant impact. Both of these groups have benefitted immensely by close affiliation with their counterparts in the American Radio Relay League.

Once a month, the Presidents' Council meets online with RAC's president and all the presidents of RAC-affiliated clubs. This meeting is open to all.

The government liaison committee meets quarterly with representatives of Industry Canada and negotiations are underway for RAC to administer the licensing of amateur radio operators in Canada. Issues such as interference and tower height restrictions are two of the main items of current interest to this committee.

The TCA committee has found several professional sales people willing to work on commission and ad sales for TCA cover the salaries, production and mailing costs. In fact, TCA is now making a small profit."

**We need to hear from you about your dream**

All the above is just Peter's dream for a better RAC. But it's not necessarily the best dream and it's certainly not the only dream. We need all of your dreams. As RAC members (or future members) your dream is essential if RAC is to survive.

In conclusion, I've been fascinated by the diversity of Amateur Radio around the world. Out of that realization came the thought that **every member and future member** should get to make a wish (create a dream).

We need not be looking to create the perfect RAC. Instead we should be trying to create the perfect RAC's - which would appeal to the divergent interests of all members.

Listening to member feedback is okay but doing something about it is better - and it's better done quickly.

RAC needs to find a new way to expand the Amateur Radio experience. RAC needs to attract the right people, inspire them, and draw out the best in them. Continuous learning and tearing down the status quo is absolutely essential.

OK - there you have it - a seven part blueprint for change.

Your thoughts, opinions, and suggestions are essential; the clock is running and the need for change is urgent.

Respectfully, John Bartlett, VE1OZ / HK3OZ Aug.13 2010

**Club storage:**

- A) We need someone to take this project on.
  - a) several options have been expressed
- B) Once an option has been chosen then detailed planning is required.
  - a) Capital costs
  - b) Associated costs

*Flashlight:  
A case for  
holding  
dead  
batteries.*



The amateur radio repeaters around Nova Scotia don't breakdown very often but it does take skill time & effort to keep them all functioning both as stand alone and selectably networked systems. This summer Tom, VE1TA; Bill, VE1MR, and a few other hams spent a lot of time and covered many kilometers visiting repeater sites around the province, assisting and/or assisted by local hams, fixing problems and improving the functioning of these repeaters. Tom, VE1TA, and Tom, VE1GTC working on opposite sides of the equipment rack at VE1OM (Gore) August 28, 2010



**MISSING...ARISS POSTER PHONE HOME**

In March of 2003 the Club, through a dedicated group of it's members, supported a month long effort to promote Amateur Radio and specifically the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program (ARISS). At the conclusion of this promotion we were surprized to have Canadian Astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield, VA3OOG, drop in for a surprize visit. He was very impressed with our efforts to promote both the ARISS Program as well as increase public awareness of the Canadian Space program. Col. Hadfield provided the Club with a signed "IMAX Space Station 3D" theater poster that include a greeting to it's membership and his personal amateur call sign.

That poster was placed in a marked shipping tube for protection with the intention to have it dry mounted for future presentation as funds would allow. It's last known location was at the old Bloomfield station in the corner next to the locked filing cabinet.

My personal efforts to date have found no trace of this artifact which now holds special significance since the recent CSA announcement that Chris will be Commanding the ISS during a 6 month deployment aboard the ISS set to begin in about 2 years time.

I reach out to the Culb membership to provide any information as to this posters where-abouts or circumstances. Someone would have had to laid hands on this item during the move from the Bloomfield location. Best case scenario is that someone recognized its significance and has stored it for safekeeping while the worst case would be that it has been unknowingly seen as debris. Either way I would save much in terms of continued time and effort if we had a reference point to work forward from.

Please contact me directly in confidence if you can help with information.

Thank you, Wayne, VE1WPH, HARC Station Manger

**Tools Explained:** WIRE WHEEL Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh sh --'



**Answer to Puzzler on page 1**  
 Watching the sun peek above the horizon on a crisp day in the North the sun may appear flattened and it appears before it is supposed to. You are seeing the **Novaya Zemlya effect**. It is a polar mirage that works at both sunrise & sunset on a calm day with cold air near the ground and a warm layer above it. The difference in air-density of these layers makes a "light pipe". Some of the sunlight is reflected off this creating 2 visual effects; the sun rises sooner and sets later than it should and looks distorted. The effect is named after the Russian high Arctic island where it was first observed by Dutch explorers in 1597. These explorers, were forced to over-winter when their ship was trapped in the ice. They were ecstatic when the sun rose many days earlier than they'd predicted. The reason – the Novaya Zemlya effect has been famous ever since.

- Cowie Hill repeater building:**
- A) We need some one to take on coordination of finishing the siding.
  - B) Recommendations for changes or renovations of building.

**The Halifax Amateur Radio Club  
Monthly General Meeting  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
MINUTES**

President Murray MacDonald (VE1MMD) opened the meeting at 10:30 hours.

Silent Keys – Irene Wheaton (VE1CF) In Parrsboror.

Approval of Agenda

**Motion** – THAT the agenda be adopted as distributed.

Moved by: Doug (VE1LDL);

Seconded by: Win (VE1WIN)

Motion carried.

Introduction of new members and guests – Elwin VA1BAE, Alan VE1AWW and Alan Otto of Dartmouth - VE1KAO.

Approval of Minutes of June monthly meeting.

**Motion** – THAT the minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 monthly meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club as published in the September edition of the *Reflector* be approved.

Moved by: Dave (VE1EDA);

Seconded by: Fraser (VE1WO).

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Keith (VE1STN) reported June expenses of \$4245.48 and income of \$1,905.67. Closing total cash was \$8846.08 and the closing bank balance as of the end of August 2010 was \$8,136.58. Reported for the end of August 2010 – August expenses of \$75.60 and income of \$45.00, with closing cash of \$8,863.48 and a net Club Bank Balance as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of August of \$8,227.58.

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

Moved by: Keith (VE1STN);

Seconded by: Bill (VE1MR).

Motion carried.

**Executive Reports:**

Second Vice-President – Sheldon (VE1SJP) door prize for this evening is a set of vice-grip pliers.

Secretary – Howard (VE1DHD) reported having received a request from Gary (VE1RGB) one of the

VY0 DXpedition team members for the Club to hold an informal reception at 1pm on Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> in the Club station for Club members to meet the Sable Island team. This was discussed by the Executive and approved.

President – Murray (VE1MMD) – indicated that there are a number of positions in the club that are unfilled at the present time. These are important roles (see below).

**Committee Reports:**

Membership (Sheldon, VE1GPY) – Howard (VE1DHD) reported for Sheldon, indicating that there are 4 Life members; 24 Associate and 111 Full members for a total of 139 paid-up members for 2010. Sheldon also looked back as far as 2002 at the numbers of non-renewing members each year. This past year saw the largest number of non-renewers at 33

Maritime DX Forum - Scott (VE1QD) – Scott reported on the success of the 2010 DX Forum. The one unfortunate event was the withdrawal of Tim Ellam (VE6SH) our Banquet speaker because of a death in the family. The financial outcome of the 2010 Forum is good. There is a current bank balance of \$6869.22 plus contribution from RAC for room rental of \$224.25 for a total current balance of \$7093.47. We have in hand a preliminary bill from the university in the order of \$5200. But some small items that need to be negotiated. Looks like our surplus will be in order of \$500 - \$800 as planned.

Basic Course – Barry (VE1TRI) – Barry reported that there have been a number of people who have expressed interest in taking the course this year. He is expecting in the order of 12 to 13 to register on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of September.

QSL Bureau – Tom (VE1GTC) – absent. Murray indicated that there are on the order of 20,000 unclaimed cards in the bureau. The Executive has agreed that any cards

that remain unclaimed in the Bureau for two years will be destroyed.

EMO – Dave (VE1EDA) reported that the City Watch system has developed a major flaw and as a result the callout that was made in preparation for hurricane Earl was very poorly responded to. Barry Manual had requested several people to attend the EOC and standby to handle traffic during the storm. Dave urged that in the case of an emergency, all Radio Amateurs should listen on VE1PSR (the callout repeater). Dave (VE1AJP) and Barry Manual have been exploring ways to more actively involve all Hams in severe weather events in the future and will report back to the Club.

Search & Rescue – Dave (VE1AJP) – David reported a relatively quiet summer. After hurricane Earl there was a call for a lost biker near Spider Lake. The police were able to get the coordinates of the individual by pinging his cell phone and this aided in getting him extracted quickly.

**Old Business:**

FT-1000 – update – Bill (VE1MR) reported that the radio is now back in service in the Club Station and working well. The only suggestion is to keep the power throttled back to around 100W out.

Trailer Project – update – Bill (VE1MR) indicated that the trailer is on his property but he has not had time to get any further work done on it. There are a number of smaller projects related to the trailer that need to be done and he is looking for support.

Tube Bank - update – Bill (VE1MR) reported having assisted Tom to get a large portion of the tube bank out of Tom's garage, but there is still a need to find a permanent location for the tubes.

*(Continued on page 7)*



*Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?*

Replacement for HARC Treasurer – a call was again made to identify someone to replace Keith as Treasurer.

HARC Long-term Storage – the membership agreed in June to budget in 2011 for a container. There was no further information on the building that Barry Manual was looking into for long-term storage.

#### **New Business:**

First Aid Course – Murray reported that the Club has set aside up to \$300 for Club members to take first aid training. Murray indicated that there are a number of upcoming courses that take place on weekends. Interested members are to get in touch with the secretary.

Field Day 2010 – Safety Report – Murray thanked Terry and his safety crew for their assistance at Field Day this summer. Terry submitted his final report (copy included with the September minutes). Terry recognized the Club Executive for their support of safety generally, but in particular with respect to tower climbing and Field Day events. Because Field Day this year was located on a federal site (York Redoubt) we had to meet a large number of federally dictated safety-related regulations. We were able to meet all of the expected requirements. However Terry indicated that in spite of our best efforts, there were a couple of areas where we did not fully meet a couple of minor expectations and these will now be addressed in future events.

JOTA 2010 (Doug VE1LDL) – Doug indicated that he had been contacted by the Scouts requesting the assistance of the Club in setting up a station at Camp Harris on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Sam Semple (VE1YVN) will assist Doug. Anyone who is able to assist is invited to communicate with Doug.

Laptop Computer Purchase (Howard VE1DHD) – Howard reported that Sheldon Hartling has been able to purchase on eBay three identical second-hand IBM ThinkPad T60 laptops

for use within the Club station and for field-related events.

Nominating Committee Chair – required – no volunteers.

Flea Market 2011 (May 14<sup>th</sup>) – identify co-chair - required – no volunteers.

Field Day 2011 Chair - required – no volunteers.

Callbook 2012 edition – Editor - required – no volunteers.

50/50 Draw - \$ 19.50 was won by Scott (VE1QD).

Door prize – was won by Jack (VE1OU).

There being no further business, on a motion by Doug (VE1LDL) the meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours.

Guest Speaker: Scott (VE1QD) – Reinventing RAC.

Respectfully submitted  
D. Howard Dickson, VE1DHD,  
Secretary, HARC

#### **The Brit Fader Scholarship**

was awarded in 2009 & 2010 in the amount of \$1000 to assist with post-secondary education for a young Canadian Radio Amateur. If the scholarship is to be awarded in 2011 and remain self-sustaining the fund needs some donations. Please make an income tax deductible donation to The Brit Fader Scholarship fund.

*If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labour!*

#### **“Solar power” and the First Discovery of natural gene transfer between multi-cellular species:**

Elysia chlorotica, the green sea slug that inhabits the saltwater marshes of eastern Canada (and found near Halifax), is being hailed as the first animal to feed itself using photosynthesis. This sea slug which shares North American habitat with a species of algae, *Vaucheria litorea*, has evolved to absorb some of the plant's photosynthesis-enabling genes into its own DNA. Early in life each slug ingests key chlorophyll producing cells from the algae in its environment. But the slug's own built-in photosynthesis functions kick in after that, sustaining the 3 cm. long mollusk for the rest of its 1 year life cycle.

From research led by U of Florida biologist Sidney Pierce.

From the ARRL Letter, Sept.16, 2010

#### **Amateur Radio in the Classroom: QST Article Sparks New University Program**

Court Sullivan, KF5HYE, James Boshart and Jake Rhodes, KF5HYD, complete the calibration process on 3 radio-telescope units in preparation for an interferometry research project in which the 3 units will be interconnected to simulate a much larger dish.

It all started with the June 2009 issue of QST. Larry Barr, K5WLF -- Planetarium Manager at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas -- was reading QST when he came across an article about exploring the basics of radio astronomy through a homebrew, easy-to-construct radio telescope. The article -- written by ARRL Education & Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME -- showed how to turn an everyday satellite TV dish antenna into an instrument that can be used to not only broaden horizons and expand the understanding of our universe, but to marry the magic of Amateur Radio and astronomy.

Barr quickly got to thinking. He showed the article to his supervisor, Dr Shaukat Goderya, the Director of the Astronomy Education & Research Program at TSU. Barr and Goderya began brainstorming on how they could do something like that in the department. And thus began the latest research program in radio astronomy for the Tarleton Observatory.

**From the Mail Bag**

Sent to the Reflector by Nigel, VE1NPS  
Unique Callsign-SSIDs PLEASE

Time for my annual rant about unique callsign-SSIDs and multiple simultaneous connections to APRS-IS. Whether we like it or not, APRS is a world-wide network transported on an archaic but effect transport mechanism called APRS-IS. This world-wide interconnect brings some baggage along with it, most important of which is the requirement for -every-station to use an unique callsign-SSID combination. Use of duplicate callsign-SSIDs causes dropped packets, improper gating of packets to RF, multiple responses to messages, etc. The biggest issue I tend to see is when someone sets up an RF station and a weather station using the same exact callsign-SSID (no SSID is actually a SSID of zero). However, there are other instances such as software configured to make multiple simultaneous connects to APRS-IS thereby having the appearance of multiple stations with the same callsign-SSID.

PLEASE review your station and software configurations to ensure that there are -no- duplicate callsign-SSIDs being used. Remember that if you are not transmitting directly to RF (a weather station connected only to the Internet, for instance), that station can use a non-numeric SSID. Even when gated to RF, those stations will be interpreted correctly even by the D-700s and D-7s. Do not use zero (0) as a SSID. This can confuse some software, especially if connected directly to a TNC. Use no SSID instead (just a callsign).

For those of you running servers or software with multiple simultaneous connection capabilities, please restrict your configuration to a single upstream (outbound) connection. Due to the primitive techniques that must be employed to reduce loops, having multiple connections actually decreases reliability by introducing dropped packets due to those packets being considered looped packets.

Summary: every piece of software and every station MUST have unique callsign-SSID combinations; every piece of Internet-connected software MUST use only one connection at a time to the rest of APRS-IS.

73, Pete Loveall AE5PL



The winner of the 2010 Brit Fader Scholarship was Kate English, VA7KJE (licensed last year). Kate will be attending University of British Columbia to pursue a degree in Forest Resource Management.

**The 2010 Brit Fader Scholarship**

*Has been received by this year's winner per the following exchange. -ed*

Rodney and I got the bank draft for the \$1,000 scholarship and sent it to Kate English. Her email acknowledging receipt is *below*

My vote was for the middle picture – ie the one in front of the lake. Will you arrange to see if TCA will publish the picture and her bio – also should we put it on the HARC website?

Paul, VE1ARH

Sent: Sept.28, 2010 Subject: Brit Fader Scholarship

Hello Paul,

I am letting you know that the check came in the mail today. Thank you once again for awarding me this scholarship. I look forward to viewing my picture in the magazine.

Thank you, Kate English, VA7KJE

**RAC Bulletin 2010-019E - President's Bulletin from El Salvador**

As Vice-President International Affairs Lamoureux, VE2KA has pointed out the two of us are in El Salvador.

What are the key issues that would bring us here? Every three years the Assembly that governs Region 2 of the International Amateur Radio Union [IARU] [encompassing all of the Americas] meets to strategize on key issues effecting amateur radio. Of particular interest to Canadians is that we are profiling the recent non amateur use of amateur frequencies in the recent ProTour Bicycle Race in Quebec as an unwarranted intrusion into amateur frequencies. Canadians will also be interested in HF band planning in 40M [now that short wave commercial stations have left the band] strategies to enhance effective response to hurricanes and other emergencies that require amateur radio support. Vantroi Pena HI8VP of the Republica Dominica will add a very human touch to that discussion as he was one of the Republica Dominica amateurs that set up 2M repeaters at the Haitian/Dominica Border and crossed into Haiti to provide assistance during that calamitous earthquake. Galdino Besomi, CE3PG, and Dagoberto Arcos Rojas, CE5COX will share their experiences during the Chilean earthquake.

Vice-President Lamoureux, VE2KA, is also a Director of IARU Region 2 and his expenses are being paid by IARU. Mr. Bawden, VE4BAW is in El Salvador at no expense to the R.A.C.

Geoff Bawden VE4BAW,



**QSLing** – how to make the QSL Manager’s life a bit easier and enhance the chance that you will receive a card back in the mail



I have been serving as the QSL manager for a small group of HARC members who, for the past five or six years have been travelling to a Maritime island each spring for what we call our “spring fling”. It is an opportunity for friends to get together and enjoy good fellowship, great food and to have some fun on the air for a long weekend in late May. We don’t make a huge number of contacts – 1500 to 2000 or so over three days is a good year – but it is a lot of fun and the islands that we activate are important for a lot of Hams world-wide. This past year for example we activated Campobello Island in southern New Brunswick. This past year I also took over as QSL manager for Fred Archibald’s IOTA DX-pedition team. We activated White Head Island in the middle of the Bay of Fundy off of Grand Manan this year and within a week I had over a dozen QSL requests and by the middle of September I had processed close to 150 requests – all direct. Now I don’t, by any stretch of the imagination think that this makes me a QSL manager expert, but I can tell you that from my experiences I have learned a great deal and have already begun to implement “lessons learned” in my own personal QSLing activity. So, in an effort to make life just a bit easier for other QSL managers, and to enhance the chance that your rare island or country QSL requests will be successful, I am outlining below some of the pitfalls that I have encountered.

First, let’s look at the SASE – what does that mean. It is a “self-addressed, stamped envelope”. Well what this means to many is that they put their return address on an envelop, include one US dollar along

with their QSL card and hope for the best. There are several things that could go wrong here. The first is not having all of the relevant information on one side of the QSL card. Many have their call on the front and the actual QSL data on the back, and on the surface that may not seem unreasonable. However QSL manager for a very large and rare DX-peditions will be handling literally thousands of cards. If they have to flip from the front to the back of each one to get all of the necessary information it takes added time and who knows, it may even contribute to repetitive wrist syndrome! So, tip #1 – put your callsign, your address and the QSL contact data ALL on the back of your card.

Okay, so you are sending a QSL request to, for example, the US. Do you put a Canadian stamp on the return envelope? Of course not. Stamps are a form of legal tender – like currency, and are absolutely worthless in another country. However, you would be absolutely amazed at the number of Americans who send a SASE with US postage affixed and expect that it will be returned to them with a QSL card enclosed. It just won’t happen. Those cards go straight to the bureau! There are however several things that you can do. You can enclose sufficient funds (the US \$1 bill has become accepted worldwide as the way to go). BUT, you have to understand that with increasing postal rates and the declining value of the US “green-back”, a single US dollar these days does not quite cover postal costs. For example – it costs \$1.00 Canadian to purchase a stamp for a letter to the US. With tax that becomes \$1.15 and with the exchange rate currently close to par, a single US dollar will not fully cover the cost of sending a card to the US. There is the cost of printing cards to be considered too. So, my tip #2 –

those hoping to get a return QSL card, should think about the appropriate amount to enclose. If it is an international request, the best way to go is to include an IRC (International Reply Coupon) that is good worldwide as accepted postal currency.

The mention of IRC brings up another important topic. In the fall of 2009, the “old” Michelangelo-style IRC was phased out and is no longer valid postal currency; there is now a new one in circulation. If you send one of the old IRC versions it is worthless at the other end and again, you can expect your return QSL to come via the bureau. Tip #3 – make sure that you are using the current and valid IRC if you are enclosing one.

If you want to be absolutely sure that your QSL request will be met favorably by the Ham at the other end, I would recommend the following – tip #4 try to purchase stamps in the correct denomination for the country that you are sending your QSL request to. Affix those stamps to the return envelope and for an added bit of insurance, add one US dollar as well. That will help to defray the cost of card printing and the DX-pedition in general. The Ham on the receiving end will appreciate your generosity, I can assure you! There is a Ham in the US who makes a business of selling foreign postage – look up

[www.net1plus.com/users/ryoung/index.htm](http://www.net1plus.com/users/ryoung/index.htm).

It may seem like a small and picky point, but you would not believe how much more difficult it is to handle a QSL card that is not the standard 3.5X5.5 inches. You may

*(Continued on page 10)*

#### **Tools Explained:**

**PRY BAR:** A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

*QSLing* (Continued from page 9)

think that your over-sized card is going to attract a lot of attention – and it will, but likely not positive attention.

When QSL managers are handling thousands of cards, it is easy to make mistakes. You can help to ensure that those mistakes don't happen to you. I would suggest – tip #5 – that you print your callsign on the back of the return envelop up near the top so that when the envelope is sealed it won't show. Again, this may seem like a small point, but it will guarantee that the wrong card does not get into your envelope.

Speaking of sealing of the envelope. Do you have any idea what the glue on some envelopes tastes like? It costs a bit more, but – tip #6 - use a self-adhesive envelope; I can guarantee you that the QSL manager will thank you.

Finally, here are a couple of additional tips. QSL managers are really busy people. You may think that your QSL card is the most beautiful

thing in the world, and you may love to share your Radio Amateur life history by adding a one-page bio – I can tell you that most QSL managers could care less. They just want to get the pertinent information off “the back of your card” and get their card back into the system to you. Most don't look at or care about anything else. And, if you send off a QSL card without a SASE don't expect to get a card in the return mail; in fact, it is unlikely that one will ever come. Even if you enclose an envelope and some equivalent of return postage, but don't address the envelope, the really busy QSL manager is just not going to take the time to address it for you. So, tip #7 – make sure that you include a properly addressed return envelope, and oh yes.....use an envelope just big enough for the return QSL card to fit into. What's wrong with legal-sized envelopes? Well really nothing, BUT, they are bigger than required, and again are more difficult

to handle. A return envelope of the correct size just makes life for the QSL manager a bit easier.

I hope that these tips will be helpful and if you follow all of them I expect that you will see your QSL return rate increase.

73, Howard – VE1DHD

To see some Ham Radio video clips start at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikCZ6\\_NkVcs&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikCZ6_NkVcs&feature=related)

Sent in by John Brady, VE1WZ

To make the most of **our web page** please send photos, notices of events, and ham radio news items, etc. to

Frank Smith; e-mail

[frankiansmith@gmail.com](mailto:frankiansmith@gmail.com)

The HARC Reflector is also available on the web, a month after the paper copy (photos in colour) by connecting to [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)

*When in doubt,  
just take the next small step.*



## CONSIDERING the FUTURE of RAC: QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & RESPONSE

A brief presentation and discussion on 15 September 2010 at the monthly meeting of HARC was a start in our consideration of the *Process to Transform RAC* that is now underway. However, for many of us, we need a little more time to consider our responses. Maybe, we also need a chance to turn over various ideas within our smaller groups such as frequent coffee meetings. Others may not have been able to attend the meeting, but also have something to say. Please take the time to respond in your own way to the follow questions. This can be anonymous. Please mail them to: K. Scott Wood, VE1QD, 232 Moser Island Rd., Glen Margaret, NS B3Z 3H5, or e-mail them to [kswood@dal.ca](mailto:kswood@dal.ca). If you wish to reach me by phone, call my home at 823-2761.

The material obtained from our meeting, responses to this questionnaire and notes from any subsequent meetings will be used to fashion a contribution to a Planning/Visioning meeting that RAC will hold in October as part of the transformation process. Some of the important background materials and links to the RAC Blog can be accessed from the HARC Home Page: [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org).

1. What hopes and dreams do you have for RAC, i.e. looking ahead what would you like it to be and to do?
2. When you consider your “ideal” RAC, what steps do you believe are necessary for your dream to be realized?
3. Are you a member of RAC?
4. If no, why not? What would motivate you to join RAC?
5. Are there other comments that you wish to share?

If you need more space for your answers, please use additional pages, being sure to indicate what question the response belongs to. Thanks for sharing your views. I will feed back to everyone a summary of the responses.