



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 8895  
HALIFAX NS  
B3K 5M5

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



## Stay Prepared for Hurricane Season; There Are Still 3 Months Left



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

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### Non Club Contacts

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The September, 2013 **General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, September 18 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.

The evening's program topic will be "How I got started in Amateur Radio and where I went" presented by VA1YL, Helen Archibald - (7:30-8:30pm).

For meeting agenda see the HARC web site

Guests are welcome

### Notice of Motion

The Executive is recommending that the Club replace our MFJ 249 Antenna Analyzer. The Unit is in excess of 15 Years old and is becoming difficult to use. Numerous repairs have been carried out in the past.

The recommended replacement is RigExpert AA-520. This is a state of the art unit covering 1 to

(Continued on page 2)

### Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. We would like at least 2 or 3 more. **If you want to join**, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

Sept.	15	Doug	VE1LDL
Sept.	22	Bruce	VE1MLW
Sept.	29	Emil	VE1ESP
Oct.	6	Peter	VE1PJW
Oct.	13	Win	VE1WIN
Oct.	20	Erik	VE1JEH



**Deadline for submissions to  
the October Reflector is  
Saturday, October 5, 2013**



*The stages of golf are  
Sudden Collapse,  
Radical Change,  
Complete Frustration,  
Slow Improvement,  
Brief Mastery, and  
Sudden Collapse.*



### 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*

Sept. 21 - demonstration at Mic Mac Mall

Sept. 21 - Flea Market in Riverview, NB.

Sept. 26 Amateur Radio Basic Course begins if someone comes forward to take on the duties of Course Co-ordinator

Oct.3 – RAC Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Hamilton ARC

### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Greenwood Flea Market

19 October 2013

Greenwood Community Centre  
Church Street, Greenwood

Directions: Exit 17, Hwy 101, to Kingston, and follow signs to Greenwood. Church Street is just outside the Main Gate of the 14 Wing Air Force Base.

Talk-in: VE1WN, 147.24+

Times: 8 AM for sellers, 10 AM for buyers.

Admission: \$4 per person.

Tables: Free

To reserve table(s), contact Guy, VE1NC, 902-825-6151, or [ve1arc@rac.ca](mailto:ve1arc@rac.ca), or the Friday night Maritime Net.



There will be the usual door prizes, and a raffle for a piece of equipment (TBA).

### *Silent Key*

Paul Follini, VE1SS, died this spring after a long decline

### *Silent Key*

Fred Allen, VE1PBX, became a Silent Key July 27, 2013.

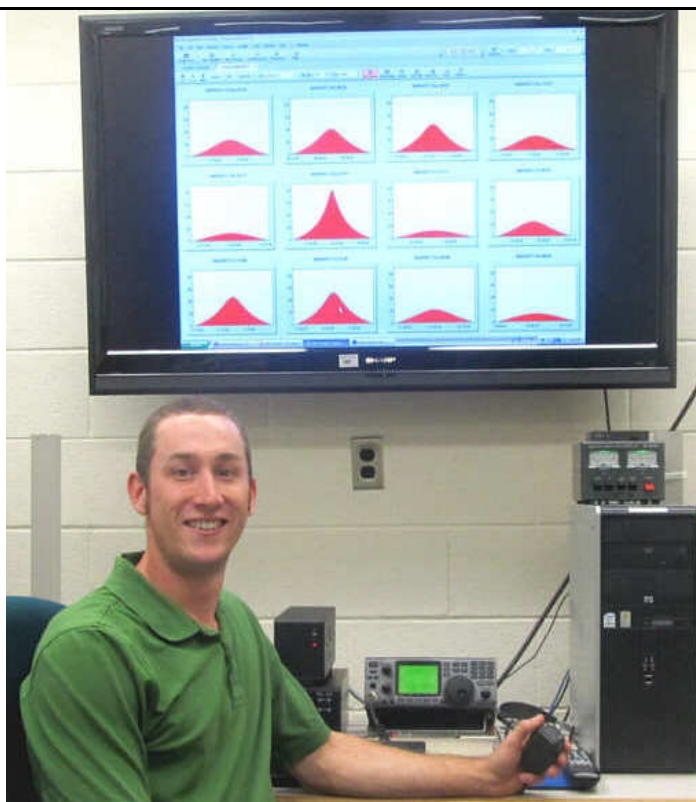
He had just turned 84 recently but was in declining health for the last little while.

Fred's funeral was held at the Saint John Anglican Church on the Old Sackville Road.

### 2013 Brit Fader Scholarship

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club is pleased to announce that Alex Cushley (VA3CUS) has been awarded the 2013 Brit Fader Scholarship.

Mr. Cushley is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Physics at the Royal Military College in Kingston Ontario. Alex received his Amateur Radio license – Basic with honours – in 2009, and is a



member of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club. He has been involved with “High Altitude Balloon Experiments”, and with setup and maintenance of the VE2RMC Ham Radio satellite ground station; he also participated in the 2012 ARES exercise in Kingston.

Alex is most interested in using Ham Radio to support science experiments and his academic pursuits, including tracking, telemetry and down-linking of balloon and satellite data.

The purpose of the Brit Fader Scholarship is to assist in cost of pursuing post-secondary education in a technical field, in electronics or electrical engineering.

### *Silent Key*

George Whitman Cody, VE1HH, died September 5, 2013.

A ham for 61 years, George was a member of the Pictou County Amateur Radio Club and was part of the EMO organization.

### *Silent Key*

Gord, VE1EO, became a silent key Saturday morning, Aug. 18th.

Photo's thanks to Doug, VE1LDL; Tom, VE1GTC; Rick, VE1RGG; Ian, VE1IGP; Howard, VE1DHD; & George, VE1GV

### *Notice of Motion* (Continued from page 1)

520 MHZ and is able to interface with a computer which increases its flexibility .

The AA 520 is available through Radio World at a cost of \$ 599.00 plus shipping and HST . Estimated total cost will be \$ 706.10 .

A Notice of Motion will be raised to Approve this Expenditure at the September General Meeting . Expenditure not to exceed \$ 750.00 .

Once the AA 520 has been placed in service, the MFJ 249 will be offered for sale as Surplus Equipment.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: September 2013**

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer months. While the Club has taken a break from the usual routine, there has still been lots of activity: a successful Field Day in June, the MS Bike Tour in July, two Pizza Nights at the Club and work on various projects.

We purchased a 40 foot insulated storage container that is now located on HRM property on Cowie Hill. Modifications will be made shortly so that we can efficiently store our field equipment (towers and antennas), some Club records and other equipment that is currently located in several locations. Tom, VE1BMJ, has moved the Tube Bank to Dartmouth where it will be managed by Dallas Hubley, a HARC Associate Member. We received a gift of a number of 900 MHz Band antennas from East Link, thanks to George Groisman, a company Radio Network Engineer and a radio amateur (CX2BBU). This is stimulating thoughts about making use of this UHF amateur band. Are you interested in having one of these antennas and putting 900 MHz on the air?

The TCA just arrived in my box and the RAC Affiliated Club Challenge was announced by Len Morgan, VE9MY and Deputy Director for the Atlantic Region. Details about this program are posted on the HARC website. Its main purposes are to promote recruitment of new members to amateur radio and to Radio Amateurs of Canada. HARC is a RAC Affiliated Club so I hope that in the coming months we can mount a credible entry into the 2013 Challenge. The idea originated with HARC, and we have worked with RAC on its implementation.

Being HARC President this year has given me a greater appreciation of the diverse aspects of amateur radio in which our members are involved. While looking through the contest scores in the TCA, I was impressed by the number of HARC members who are active contesters, including: VA1CHP, VA1MM, VE1NB, VE1RGB, VE1ZAC and VE1ZD. However, Gary, VE1RGB, is a clear leader in both the number of events in which he participates and his often winning scores. All of these hams also are members of the Maritime Contest Club, a group that is making itself well-known in the Radio Sport world.

Our next community event will be a demonstration of amateur radio at Mic Mac Mall on Saturday, 21 September. The event is being lead by Dick, VE1AI, who will welcome participation by Club members. See him at this month's meeting. Our Basic Radio Certification (BRC) course starts on 26 September, and it looks like we will have a large group of candidate/students.

September always seems like the start of the year, so it is a good time to announce a new aspect of our monthly meetings. Members are invited to take part in the ***One Item Swap Shop***, i.e. You may bring **one** item to the monthly meeting that you wish to sell or trade.

An interesting fall session is in front of us. Be sure to attend our meetings and let us share your company.

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD

*She's always late. In fact, her ancestors arrived on the "Juneflower."*

**Executive for 2014**

The Members of the 2013 Executive have all agreed to return and serve for 2014. Although all positions are currently filled, a call for additional Nominations from the floor will take place at the Annual General Meeting in November. There are two Committee Chair that require filling for 2014, a Basic Course Co-ordinator and the Nominating Committee. If anyone is interested in filling either of these positions, please contact the Executive.

**HARC Archival Project**

We are looking for Club Photos and Press Clippings to add to the material already placed in HRM Archives. If anyone has any of this material please contact Fraser VE1WO or Spud VE1BC. It would help if photos contain information regarding time, place of event and people shown. Photos will be returned if requested.

Fraser Mac Dougall VE1WO

**900 MHz ANTENNAS**

A variety of 900 MHz antennas have been donated to the club. Anyone wishing to experiment with 900 MHz and would like to get one of these antennas please contact Bill, VE1MR or any one of the executive. This is currently an unused band in our area and it might be nice to have some activity, either FM or SSB/CW/Digital. Any thoughts on what might be a good club project using these antennas???? Anyone know of any good used commercial 900 MHz radios available????

The winner of the HARC membership draw was Paul Robinson, VE1AVD.



**HARC Rookie of the Year Award**

We are very pleased to announce the institution of a **HARC Rookie of the Year Award**. The idea was proposed to the Executive by Murray MacDonald, VE1BB, and approved at our July meeting.

**Purpose:** To encourage newly licensed operators to participate in the amateur radio hobby on a regular basis. Candidates will be assessed using a set of criteria shown below, and one member will be recognized as the HARC Rookie of the Year.

The Award is to be made annually, if a suitable candidate has been identified, at the HARC Christmas Event.

**Open to candidates who are:**

- 1) A member of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, and
- 2) A new hams in their first year of operating since being licensed.

The Award will be in the form of a plaque.

A **panel** of three (3) HARC members, elected by the membership, will assess the candidates and recommend the name of the successful member to the Executive. The panel will use the following **criteria**:

- 1) Attendance at Club meetings
- 2) Attendance at and participation at Field Day
- 3) Attendance and participation at a Club sponsored Flea Market
- 4) Attendance and participation at other Club activities, e.g. Museum Ships Weekend, Ham Breakfast, etc.
- 5) Submission of a station log showing regular on air activity.
- 6) Other ham/community activities.

Nominations can be forward to any member of Executive or the Panel, when established.

K. Scott Wood, HARC Executive

*Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.*

**SABLE ISLAND DXPEDITION 2013 (CY0P)**  
**--The HARC Connection--** By **Gary VE1RGB**

Even before he obtained his current lofty office, our HARC President Scott, VE1QD, has been good at volunteering me for stuff. I say this as the lead-in to this story because he's the one that got me into it. First, a few years ago, he volunteered me to be the logistics guy for an American-led DXpedition to CY0 Sable Island. In due course, and as the direct result of Scott's initiative, I found myself recruited by Randy, N0TG, who was planning that next trip to Sable on behalf of himself and two others. Thus I became the ground support/logistics guy for that venture and for two more planned DXpeditions to Sable Island (and one to St. Pauls, CY9). I fear I will never shed the job! In keeping with my background, I even invented a name for my position: SALAC which stands for Strategic And Logistics Administration (for) CY0. Yes, I know that definition really doesn't mean anything but it did make me feel important.

This has led to an enormous amount of work, a lot of which was of my own volunteering since I recognized opportunities where I could save the DXpeditioners money and, at the same time, I put a little money into the companies that support HARC. [Sable ain't cheap; the return airfare alone is \$10,000 including the landing fee.] So, for example, I manufactured all the coaxes for the first expedition; some forty-four of them as I recall. They were all built of the very best of materials, procured locally, assembled by someone who considers himself reasonably good at producing a quality cable assembly and I was very proud of them. Randy, N0TG, who did all organizing with me, supplied the proper tools for handling RG-58 and PL-259s and building them was a fun project. If you handle PL-259s and either RG-58 or RG-213-sized coax, do yourself a favour and buy proper tooling for the job (jacket stripper, coax cutter blade, etc). It changes a challenge into a breeze; a potentially sloppy job into a something to show off; from a dread to an anticipation. Don't wait for 50 years like I did.

When I was all done making cable assemblies, Jeff, VE1ZAC, and I joined every danged one of them end-to-end with barrel connectors and Jeff, using lab quality test equipment, measured the characteristics of the final coax cable product and supplied me a test printout to send to Randy just to kind of show off. (I worked in aerospace QA at one time; a QC report on my work just seemed right somehow.)

But more than being able to verify the after-manufacture condition of the new cable assemblies, Jeff also measured the total loss of the string of coaxes — the 40-odd barrel connectors and twice as many associated PL-259's all connected in series. The resultant long run of coaxes was swept from 160M to 10M — a transmission line of some several hundred feet. By deducting the measured loss of the coax from the total loss in the whole affair, he very accurately calculated loss contributed by the connections. Here's the qualitative result: while I cannot now remember the exact numbers (Jeff has them), one thing became instantly clear: the actual losses in PL-259s and barrel connectors are insignificant regardless of power. I think I've heard that one should expect a loss of 1 Watt per connector (or maybe it was 1%). It's not! It's a tiny fraction of that. One can comfortably use as many properly assembled connectors as necessary in a feed line / RF transmission system and the other guy's S-meter will never know it. [And, the measured losses in the coaxial cable were superior to (i.e., lower than) what was advertised in the manufacturer's specification]. — So I did that, and a whole bunch of other

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SABLE ISLAND DXPEDITION 2013 (CY0P) (Continued from page 4)

logistical-type things; support to CY0 has been reasonably significant.

This whole activity has been gratifying from my perspective, if not sometimes busy. There was personal satisfaction to be gained from providing a needed service and doing it the very best I could. It was made clear to me repeatedly and with sincerity that my work was being appreciated. As an unexpected reward, Randy and his associates have been more than generous with me in terms of providing resources and in granting me the outright gift of a considerable number of valuable left-overs from the two trips that I have supported. I have been in the process of donating these items on their behalf. For example, I have a new 10M Yagi still in the box for the first guy that contacts me and convinces me that he wants it, needs it, and is going to put it to immediate use and not store it away unopened. Contact me (Gary) at

Ph 860-0810. Email [ve1rgb@rac.ca](mailto:ve1rgb@rac.ca) Wellington.

More importantly than that, I think, the whole Sable Island DXpedition planning experience has allowed me to prove once again that my personal understanding of amateur radio is correct. It's not the gear; it's not the DX; it's not the contests; it's none of that stuff; it's the people. I will not try to name them all for fear I'll miss someone, but guys like Randy, N0TG, and Murray, WA4DAN, have been the principles with whom I have had the pleasure of working. Their respect for Canadians in general and VE amateur radio operators in particular have been ably demonstrated. They are welcome ambassadors from our neighbour amateur radio friends to the south. If my understanding of ham radio history is correct (learned from one of the first licensed hams in Canada) there has traditionally been close comradeship within the American and Canadian amateur radio populations going back to the roots of the hobby. I really like doing business with these guys, and they know what they are doing.

Having said that, while normally they don't make mistakes, this year they did: thinking that I would decline a CY0 invitation to come along as I have in the past when invited to go along to CY0, this year I accepted. They will live to regret it ☺

I have some objectives, several, in fact.

First, I want to have fun. That should be easy. The trip leader's stated objective is to have fun, not meet some imposed schedule of operating hours & bands & times & modes & quotas & advertised operating frequencies. Having said that, I expect there will be operations 24/7 and enough CW to satisfy even me. )One can only hope.) Operators will set challenging but realistic goals for themselves, which is the way it ought to be. And then of

course there is the island itself to explore. It is a fascinating place to be and provides no end of interesting distractions. There is even a geo-cache out there and I know its coordinates! All I need to remember is to not go outside in the pitch black on a windy, rainy, foggy night. Not without a GPS anyhow. (Note to self: set in a new HOME on my GPS.) Space is too limited to explain the grounds for this particular precaution.

Second, and more directly related to HARC, I want to make sure I satisfy as many local needs as I can. I will only be operating 100W into a low (35 ft) multi-band wire dipole, but that antenna is so low that it will in fact be spewing out a lot of high angle radiation, which will be good for close-in targets. [I promised a JA, in writing, a CW QSO on 80M CW using that set-up but I don't think he believed me and my trip-mates have openly scoffed. In writing, [I may have over-promised.] For all days but one, I expect to operate from, say, 1500 hours local to about 0300 hrs local the next morning. I've got a good ear for calls starting with VE/VA/VY. That will be helpful because my pile-up management experience is limited to two previous trips to Sable Island (1992 and 1995) and I'm expecting to set up Split backwards more than once. Or answer my own CQ if I forget that I am using a canned message, then send UP to myself.

Another goal -- participate in a contest. This time, I will be operating with my HARC hat off and my MCC hat on. Assuming that I have something left in the tank mid-way through this DXpedition (1-11 Oct )

See <http://cy0dxpedition.com/>

There is a contest at the end of the first week,

See <http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>

the California State annual QSO Party. I have not missed one of them in eleven years, and I don't intend to miss one now. Therefore, although I won't be so rash as to call out boldly with a CQ CA from the DX entity of CY0 I can, however, do what I do best: stay on the move and furtively conduct S&P.

My goal in this one will be the same as it always is: get a sweep of (work a station in) every one of the 58 California counties. Can be done but it's hard with wires and 100W; the best I have ever done is find 51 of them. The fun is in the chasing of the mobile HF operators who, while driving through the State, keep activating new counties and producing new multipliers. Their routes are published and a contester can use that information to better his/her score by anticipating the positions of the various mobile drivers. (CQP demands thought as well good operating.) I'll need the break after a week of pile-ups.

With the prior permission of the CQP Contest Committee and for the purposes of this contest, I am going to be

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*Why is it that no matter what colour bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?*



The 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> of August 2013 saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual running of the **Ledwidge Lookoff Rally** in Nova Scotia.

The event this year was expanded to a two day format, with a formal Parc Expose and Spectator Stage close to Dartmouth.

On Saturday morning, the teams proceeded to rural Tennycap, where they traveled the stages at low speed, in normal street cars. The teams made pace notes during their two passes of the roads. These notes would be read back to the drivers by the co-driver at speed during the competition late Saturday and Sunday. These notes allow the driver to make a judgement on speed, corner direction and how to address any cautions noted.

On Sunday the competition heated up, as the teams headed north to the beautiful Noel area of Nova Scotia. Members of the Halifax Club and the local Amateur community gathered to assist in the running of the event by providing valuable car tracking and communications services.

The teams would depart the service park in Noel and transit to Tennycap for 3 attempts on a 12.7km single track stage through the woods. At the conclusion of the morning stages, lunch was provided for the volunteers, as the teams returned to the service park in Noel for an hour service and fuel stop. Most of the teams faired well, with flat tires and minor mechanical issues seeming to be the only gremlins for the morning.

The afternoon saw the logistics of the stages reversed, and while it may be a similar piece of road, the general feeling from the competitors is that it completely changes the nature of the stage. Another 38km's of stage later, the event concluded, and the teams and volunteers returned to Noel for dinner and the awards presentation.

When the dust settled, (quite literally) It was Jon Conrad and Clarke Paynter who stood on the top step of the podium, completing the 87 km of stages over the two days in just over 56 minutes.



The Winner overall, John Conrad/Clarke Payner on the Tennycap stages Sunday AM

Special thanks to VE1PS, VE1LDL, VE1LV, VE1LVW, VE1RAR and VE1CHL for their assistance.

Photo of the event are available at the Bluenose Autosport Club website:

<http://www.bluenoseautosport.ca/hmmerk/BAC-LLPR-25Aug13/SlideShow/index.htm>

<http://www.bluenoseautosport.ca/hmmerk/BAC-LLPR-24Aug13/SlideShow/index.htm>

Ian, VE1IGP



The top three on the podium: First Place: John Conrad/Clarke Paynter, Second Place: Ian Pearce/Gordon Sleigh, Third Place: Wayne Pitts/Cindy McCarron"



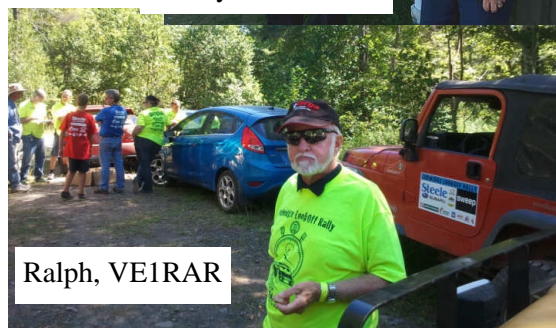
Car 4, Ian Pearce/Gordon Sleigh on the spectator stages Saturday Afternoon



Hal, VE1LV, & Betty, VE1LVW



The volunteers Gather for the morning briefing, visible are VE1LDL, VE1LV, VE1LVW, VE1PS, as well as many others from the motorsport community"



Ralph, VE1RAR

SABLE ISLAND (CY0P) (Continued from page 5)

viewed as part of Nova Scotia and therefore be a multiplier to the California operators (i.e., Sable Island is part of Nova Scotia and territorially in the ARRL MAR Section of NS/NB/PI). I can't wait until I get the chance to make my first QSO when I send the MR exchange from CY0P to a CQP contester that needs Sable Island DXCC/IOTA on that band. A DXCC Entity; an IOTA; a contest multiplier – the operator at the other end gets all three for the price of one! I doubt that this ever been done before in a CQP contest. (If it has, I don't want to know about it). Someone down there just *has* to receive an unexpected gift!

I have wanted for a long time to finish testing the Elecraft P3 Pan Adaptor for which I lucked in and was one of the Field Testers. I am expecting the P3 to prove inordinately beneficial on the DXpedition by providing the following services to the team:

1. First and foremost, it will be a labour-saving/throughput enhancement tool for the operator at that station. I expect the P3 to ease operator workload & fatigue by identifying for him the targets to respond to while tuning through the pileup (i.e., those where the operator can see a discrete frequency great enough in consequence to be seen above all the other stations transmitting in the background on the same frequency). This will speed-up the process by eliminating time wasted on trying for signals that are being over-ridden by stronger stations; instead, one can see and get the big guys out of the way first, while saving the operator's ear from straining against signals that he will never fully acquire in the QRM until it is thinned out.
2. Instant intelligence on the level of activity on every band. One push of a button on the K3 will cause the P3 to show all stations in the bottom 100 kHz of any given

band of interest.

3. Knowledge about band conditions (e.g., atmospheric noise; QSB, Auroral QRN, etc)
4. Instant knowledge of the location on the bands of the other concurrent DXpeditions that we know are planned;
5. Instant recognition of unanticipated pile-ups;
6. Selection of the optimum TX QRG for any operator at any time on any band as well as the amount of space available for spreading out the pile-up; and
7. Monitoring of my own transmit frequency for QRM such that remedial action can be taken

In other words, I expect the P3 to be useful for operational and tactical management of the three stations as well as being totally indispensable to the operator faced with all those signals coming at him at once. Whatever I discover, I intend to write the experience up and provide it to both Elecraft and maybe submit it to NCJ Contest Magazine where I published my first report on using the P3 in a small contest station.

Finally, I want to see if I can live off freeze-dried rations for eleven days. I have 24 packages, total weight 9 pounds, total cost \$154.17 (after discount). If required, I will supplement that with Sable Island cranberries and Ipswich Sparrow wings served dipped in the very hot sauce I bought in Tarpon Springs, FL. (It has a skull and crossbones warning on the label.) To save weight (and the other guys don't know it yet) I intend to take turns eating off their plates and using their cutlery and leaving mine behind. I have my own cup.)

A lot of people in HARC have contributed to providing these various opportunities for me. HARC, through a Field Day in about 1989 – and that damn Bruce, VE1NB, – got me into liking this CW contesting and DXing stuff,

Jeff VE1ZAC exhibited an uncommon amount of patience while training me on the engineering I never learned in UNB, Dick VE1AI sold me such winners as the beloved FT-890, and HARC provided me the opportunity to cut my teeth on a DXpedition to Sable Island in 1992. And Scott keeps sending me customers! What more could a person ask for.

The DXpedition leader is Murray WA4DAN and my other partner is Rick AI5P. I know them both. They have a tonne of DXpedition experience (see the website link above) and are in a class by themselves when it comes to events like CY0P 2013. They will be operating CW/SSB/RTTY, especially on the higher bands, both with QRO and both typically using monoband Yagis. I'll obviously work anything I can hear, but while the other guys have the inclination and the drive and the equipment to work Asia, I'm thinking my station will likely attract the Europe and North American crowd most of the time. Having said that, I'll obviously want to try the Yagis but that might require me to get out of bed too early (antennas are first come, first served!).

Keep your eyes on the CY0P web site as activity picks up towards a 30 Sep 2013 departure (with unforeseen delays always possible).

### One Item Swap Shop

We thought we might try something a little different on meeting nights. Look around your shack and see if there is an item you would like to turn into cash or trade for something different. Bring this one item to the meeting and see if anyone is interested in buying or trading something for it. Put an asking price and your name on or by the item. If you do not sell, trade or otherwise relieve yourself of the item then you must remove the item.

**From the Mail Bag**

I have made some changes to my web site. I have an up to date version of the club history at:

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

It is now rather lengthy and takes a little while for it to load.

The web site is: [www.ve1bc.com](http://www.ve1bc.com)

I have updated my history of the Gypsum Fleet that some may find of interest. I have also included a history of the two small railroads the Cornwallis Valley and North Mountain Railways that operated in Kings County years ago.

73/88, Spud VE1BC

A note to let you know that the New Glasgow repeater and links are up and working.

Kevin, VE1KK upgraded the controller firmware and reprogrammed the controller.

They got it installed and working Tuesday August 27.

This is the first RC210 controller running the latest firmware to go operational in the system.

The link system should now be all up and running. VE1RTI, VE1GYS and the Cape Breton system should be available now.

In the next few weeks we hope to get to VE1OBN - the Cape Breton system gateway and correct several problems there.

We will also be upgrading VE1RTI and hopefully resolve a couple of problems there.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

*Golfer: "Please stop checking your watch all the time. It's too much of a distraction."*

*Caddie: "It's not a watch - it's a compass."*

**New 6 Meter Beacon....**

Passed on by Ken, VY2RU

Hi all, A new six meter beacon has been set up on the rock, this time it's operating from the Gibraltar Amateur Radio Society's club house.

It's operating on 50.012.5 Mhz.

The beacon consists of a Yaesu FT-857 donated by one of our club members John (ZB2JK), 5 watts output into a temporary inverted V dipole .

The call sign is ZB2SIX/B, in IM76HD.

For further info you can look it up on Qrz.com.

73, de Ron ZB2B

**Ham Radio Software is made Open Source....**

Passed on by Ken, VY2RU

Makoto Mori JE3HHT has made his popular amateur radio software MMTTY, MMSSTV and MMVARI open source enabling anyone to experiment with the code MMTTY, MMSSTV and MMVARI were originally developed by Mako JE3HHT.

MMTTY supports RTTY, MMSSTV supports Slow Scan Television (SSTV), and MMVARI supports RTTY, PSK, and MFSK.

As of August 1, 2013, all three applications are released to open source development under the LGPL license.

There are three discussion groups for the software:

- MMTTY Yahoo Group
- MMVARI Yahoo Group
- MMSSTV Yahoo Group

Further information at:

<http://mm-open.org/>

The CW for "@" is di-dah-dah-di-dah-dit

**2013 DX Most Wanted Survey....**

Passed on by Ken, VY2RU

Carl, N4AA, editor of 'QRZ DX' and 'The DX Magazine', reports that by popular demand, many countries have been added to the survey for this year.

To participate, fill out the survey form at: <http://dxpub.com/survey/survey2013.html>

Deadline for entry is October 15, 2013

The results are usually published in the January-February 2014 issue of "The DX Magazine", and the worldwide results will be posted to the Website around January 15th, 2014, as well.

The breakdown by mode/Low Bands will be published in the Mar/Apr 2014 issue of the magazine.

**Manuals for Chinese Ham Radio Rigs....**

The Baofeng UV-5R is a popular low-price HT, but the manual is somewhat lacking. A new site provides a detailed manual for this and other rigs

The (Chinese) Radio Documentation Project aims to provide high quality and in-depth user manuals for Chinese handheld two-way radios.

Free and open source documentation for everyone.

See: <http://radiodoc.github.io/>

Ken, VY2RU

**Easy Way To Test A Battery**

*Does anyone know if this is genuine? -ed*

(The video is only 90 seconds long.)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_m6p99l6ME](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_m6p99l6ME)

*Sign at a Tire Shop in Milwaukee:*

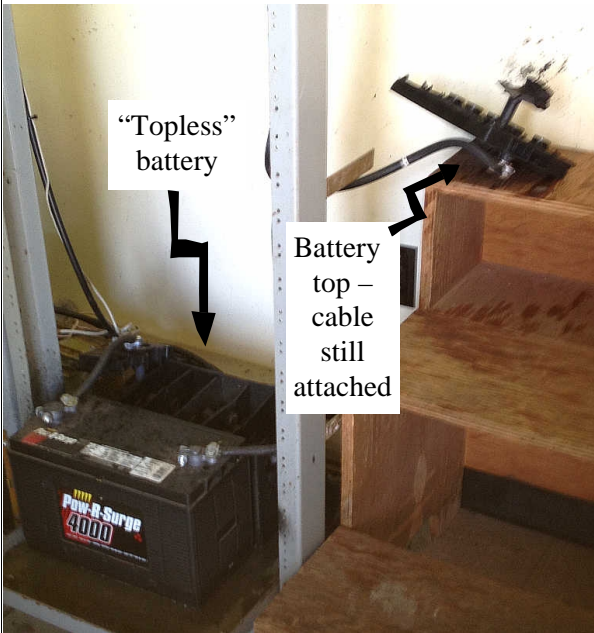
"Invite us to your next blowout."



Subject: Re: Oban Sent on 2013-08-21,

I arrived to find a battery blown up on the 24 volt site backup. Also the ham repeater had no power. The ups that we put in last year is fried but never even blew a fuse on the repeater. I realigned to correct frequency. Hopefully it will stay

George, VE1GV



Update: Bill:

I took the ups back to the club. It has a couple electrolytics blown up and some transistors burnt out of the circuit board as well as something about 6 inches square that is covered in plastic melted in an oblong ball. Must have been a lightning strike to do that kind of damage.

TPW is going in to clean up and replace the battery. I'm probably going back to replace the alarm card and anything else running on 24volt in the site. If you look in the picture attached, the black thing on the plywood step is the top of the back battery. That's where I found it. There is a little acid around the ham repeater but the RCMP repeater blocked most of the spray that way.

George, VE1GV

### The Maritime Amateur

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



*To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.*

### Astronaut Luca Parmitano, KF5KDP, making Ham Radio contacts....

ESA astronaut Luca Parmitano KF5KDP has been making random voice contacts from the International Space Station (ISS) to other radio amateurs on Earth on 145.800 MHz

When the astronauts put out a CQ call, in range of Europe and Africa, they transmit on 145.800 MHz FM but operate "split" listening for replies 600 kHz lower on 145.200 MHz. If you are lucky and hear them calling CQ just remember to activate your rigs repeater shift to ensure you reply on the correct frequency. You should never transmit on 145.800 MHz.

The International Space Station is traveling around the Earth at over 28,000 Km/h. This high speed makes radio signals appear to shift in frequency, a phenomenon called Doppler Shift.

This Doppler shift will cause the ISS transmit frequency of 145.800 MHz to look as if it is 3.5 kHz higher in frequency, 145.8035, when ISS is approaching your location. During the 10 minute pass the frequency will move lower shifting a total of 7 kHz down to 145.7965 as the ISS goes out of range. To get maximum signal you ideally need a radio that tunes in 1 kHz or smaller steps to follow the shift but in practice acceptable results are obtained with the radio left on 145.800 MHz.

In the UK we use narrow 2.5 kHz deviation FM but the ISS transmits using the wider 5 kHz deviation used in much of the world. Most rigs can be switched between wide and narrow deviation filters so select the wider filter. Hand-held rigs all seem to have a single wide filter fitted as standard.

You can receive the ISS outdoors using a 2 metre hand-held with its helical antenna but a 1/4 wave whip will give far better results.

Cor PD0RKRC reports "On Monday, August 5, 2013 I had a short contact with Luca, anyone made an audio recording? Please send it to my e-mail address see QRZ.com. Thanks in advance!"

For the current status of the amateur radio stations on the ISS see: <http://www.issfanclub.com/>

### Hurricane Season — Why Things Have Been Quiet So Far From an Update on the Atlantic Hurricane Season 2013, September 5th 2013 by Bob Robichaud

Although a Saharan Air Layer is still detected on satellite imagery (which is likely why the season has been quiet so far) it is now showing signs of diminishing which is typical for the Fall

- The Saharan Air Layer (SAL) is a warm and very dry layer of dusty air that develops over the Sahara Desert in Africa
- Occasionally that layer propagates across the Atlantic Ocean with the easterly Trade Winds
- This layer can reach as high as 20,000ft and creates a stable situation of warm air above cooler air
- Tropical cyclones need humid air, an unstable atmosphere and low wind shear
- A thick Saharan Air Layer will impede tropical cyclone development because: 1) The air is too dry 2) The environment is more stable 3) There tends to be higher wind shear

# Amateur Radio Support for the MS Bike Tour, 2013



(Left to right) Doug, VE1LDL was with Bike Repair 1; Amanda; Peter, VE1PJW, was with First Aid 2; Tom, VE1GTC, was with Mobile Support 1; Sheldon, VE1SJP was with Flag Vehicle 1. No one got a photo of Colleen, VE1PIE who was with MS Staff 1 (on route). Also missed from photographs were Howard Dickson VE1DHD, & Jim Harris VA1HA,



A rare (though hazy) shot of Rick, VE1RGG, who for many years has arranged and coordinated (and continues to) amateur radio communications for the MS Bike Tour. This year Rick rode with Bike Repair 2.



Sheldon, VE1SJP, was with Flag Vehicle 1



At Rest Stops volunteers provide snacks, water, juice, pop ...

301 Cyclists participated in the 2013 MS Bike — Windsor to Wolfville. As of Sept.5 \$255,000 had been raised

Everything ran very smoothly with minimal bike servicing called for and the weather was great for a bike tour weekend. We hams have been providing

Herb, VE1HTD was with First Aid 1



radio communications service for the MS Bike Tour since 1993. The number of years of service provided by the volunteers is listed on the right hand side of the following web page.

<http://www.pccatlantic.ca/rg/msbt2013/assignments.html>



Tom, VE1GTC, was with Mobile Support 1. This was Tom's 10th year of radio comm's for the MS Bike Tour

Terry, VE1TRB, who brought, set up and tended the HARC portable repeater at a central high point shows the repeater to Cyclesmith bike repairman Paul Shaw

