



REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

January 2007 Volume 68 Number 1
club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Happy 2007 and Good DX



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Peter Whalen, VE1PJW		ve1pjw@rac.ca
Secretary - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Director-at-Large - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL		leblanc@accesscable.net
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ		swinwood@hotmail.com

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

75th Anniversary Chair - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ		swinwood@hotmail.com
Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK		ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	hdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	hdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
2007 Flea market Chair - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI		bdiggins@chebucto.ns.ca
Field Day coordinator - John Hopkins, VE1HMH		john.hopkins@ns.sympatico.ca
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@rac.ca
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	
RAC Atlantic Dir. (acting) - Len, VE9MY (506) 847-5656		lmorgan@nbnet.nb.ca
NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca

The **General Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola Streets).

The meeting, will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room.

The evening's entertainment will be Doug (VE1CYR) speaking about Geocaching.

Guests are welcome.

NOTICE OF MOTION

As required by the HARC's constitution for a purchase exceeding \$500.00, a second vote will take place at our January meeting on the motion for approval to purchase equipment and a monthly monitoring fee to cover the installation of a recordable card entrance system for the club station.

Law of the Alibi: If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

If you cannot take the net on your particular trade places with one of the others. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



Jan.	14	Win	VE1WIN
Jan.	21	Peter	VE1PJW
Jan.	28	Doug	VE1LDL
Feb.	4	Herb	VE1HX
Feb.	11	Charles	VE1MCR
Feb.	18	Pierre	VE1PTR
Feb.	25	Chris	VA1CDB

Students attending Sir John A. MacDonald High School are scheduled to participate in an ARISS contact in February thanks mainly to the efforts of Wayne, VE1WPH.

ARISS is an educational outreach of a nine-nation consortium. See web site:

<<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>>

Deadline for submissions to the February Reflector is Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007

RAC's web site is www.rac.ca

GENERAL INFORMATION



TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

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 -

PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

Events for Your Calendar

Downeast Flea Market – The Halifax Forum has confirmed our reservation for May 12, 2007. Barry, VE1TRI will chair this effort.

In **2008** we'll celebrate the **Halifax Amateur Club's 75 years** of operation. What special project or activity would you like to suggest and/or be involved with?

Bob, VE1PQ, is chairing this celebration. Contact Bob to become part of the planning & execution. The brain-storming has started.

Has your QSL Bureau Account run dry?

Chock it up to being an absent-minded professor, but I still feel dumb! I was checking out the membership page on the HARC website this morning when I noticed the link to an important message on the Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau page. I followed the link and was reminded of the wonderful feature that allows me to search the QSL Bureau site to see how much money I have left in my account. Fully expecting to find that I had plenty of reserve, I was embarrassed to discover that I was in arrears to the tune of \$0.81 and had 57 cards sitting there waiting to be sent to me. I quickly grabbed my cheque book, dashed off a cheque for \$10.00 and put it in an envelope addressed to:

The Brit Fader Memorial
QSL Bureau
c/o Bob Burns – VE1VCK
20 Shea St.,
Lower Sackville, NS
B4C 2A9

I urge everyone, even if you think you have money in your QSL Bureau account, to take a couple of minutes to go and check it out. Remember, only absent-minded professors can use the absent-minded professor excuse!!

Seriously, the QSL Bureau has over 10,000 ----- YES 10,000 ----- cards sitting there gathering dust because

NEW TO AMATEUR RADIO

On December 16, 2006 there were thirteen (13) candidates from our fall Basic Radio Course who successfully passed their exam. We welcome the following new Radio Amateurs to our ranks:

Gary Cooke, VE1GLC	Basic +
Bruce Hollett, VE1MLW	Basic +
(moved up from Basic)	
Jamoon Kim, VE1ILS	Basic +
Scott Melvin, VE1SCT	Basic +
Michael Orr, VE1MKO	Basic +
Sheldon Page, VE1SJP	Basic +
Colleen Prentice, VE1PIE	Basic +
Bill Roberts, VE1VOY	Basic +
Francis Shin, VE1ILJ	Basic
Barrie Smallshaw, VE1CSY	Basic + and Advanced!

Don Trotter, VE1DTR	Basic +
Alan Uren, VE1URN	Basic +
Carol Wilson, VE1CBW	Basic +

There were three other candidates who just missed qualifying and will rewrite this month. This was a remarkable class. Twelve candidates scored better than 80% and eight of them better than 90% (seven scored 97-99%). Both Jamoon Kim and Francis Shin, originally from Korea, performed remarkably well, considering that English is their 2nd language, and several people without previous backgrounds in electronics were among the highest scores.

the individual to whom they are to be sent does not have sufficient money in his/her account. I expect to reduce that down to 9,943 as soon as Bob gets my cheque. Please help to make Bob's life just a little bit easier this year and give him the funds to get your cards out of hock and in the mail to you.
73 Howard – VE1DH

A recent mail out has reduced a number of accounts to either "not enough for another mailing" or "in arrears". Please check your Bureau account status. -ed.

Devin Nakumura, although not officially a member of this class, deserves special mention. Devin lives in Wolfville and passed a test administered by a local examiner with 85%. He is 13 years old and now is licensed as VE1DEV. There are several of us in HARC who have assisted him, along with hams in the Valley, in getting into amateur radio and on to the air. We extend a special welcome to Devin.

On Thursday, 25 January 2007 from 7:00 –9:30 pm we will be offering an exam for those who may wish to qualify as an amateur radio operator or who wish to upgrade to a higher qualification. The exam will be held at the Knightsridge Fire Service Training Centre just off Dunbrack on Knightsridge Street. Please let me know if you wish to write an exam at that time.

Since we will not be offering a formal course this winter, I will set up a self-study group along the same lines as were successful used during the spring of 2006. If you know of any who wishes to study for their ham ticket, ask them to contact me. If self-study proves too difficult for some, they will be welcome to join our Basic Radio Course next fall.

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD,

Silent Key

Michael Conrad VE1MCA
December 21, 2006

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, # 47
Lakshadweep DXpedition to begin in mid-January. The VU7 DXpedition under the auspices of the National Institute for Amateur Radio (NIAR), will kick off with a 3-day hamfest Jan.15. The DXpedition will continue for approximately 10 days. The NIAR DXpedition plans to operate as VU7RG in honor of the late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, VU2RG. See <http://www.vu7.in/>

Mothers of teens know why some animals eat their young.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new year of the Halifax ARC. You have chosen a new executive for 2007 - see page 1 of this newsletter. We will try to keep the club dynamic and exciting for all members.

You, as members must let us know what you want the club to do this year. Participation of you, and other members, dictate what we can do in the way of events and projects. Hopefully we can complete some projects begun in previous years and start some new ones.

We are currently down to 7 net controllers, the ideal minimum is 10. The more there are the less each has to do and if someone can't take the net on his evening there is more chance another will pick it up. If you would like to do a little something for the club this is ideal, not very hard and not very often. Please contact me.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

HF & Dxing by Richard (Dick) Grantham, VE1AI

We are very very near the absolute bottom of the sunspot cycle. Does that mean there is no DX to be had? Well not at all. There is all kinds of good stuff on the bands. I mean good stuff, and not just for those new to DX but also even for the seasoned veteran like myself. This week I worked some great DX, some very very rare DX, some new IOTA's and some good prefixes.

DXCC is not the only target for a DXer. Yes we all want the 100 countries (entities for the purists) but don't stop there. Keep chasing all the countries all the time. Keep track of the countries you work on each band and each mode for the "DX Challenge" sponsored by ARRL.

Become involved with IOTA (Islands On The Air). There were several rare IOTA Islands on this past week or so, such as A35TN/N on a new IOTA island number OC- 191 for Oceania -191 located in the Tonga group. Another very rare catch was C6ARI on NA-219, a newly listed Island in the Bahamas. This is fun stuff. It keeps you focused busy and necessitates you keeping you station in good order.

Some of the other rare stuff ... look at 1A4A a very very rare bit of DX from the country "The Sovereign Military order of Malta", which is a tiny little country yes a real country located within the city of Rome. Check out the web site for some very interesting bits on this operation www.1A4A.org.

They have some good info on the SMOM country. They have not been that easy to work as the pile-ups have been immense and at times unruly, unfortunately, making it uncomfortable, ugly and almost useless to try but ... but very satisfying when you hear your call coming back ... yeah!

How do you get to know this kind of DX is around? Well if you can join the other DXers already on UHF, there is a lot of information available. Also get on a DX cluster. You can do this via the internet or 2meter packet. You should join both ARRL and RAC. ARRL has a multitude of services & benefits as well as a DX internet bulletin which is e-mailed right to you. This provides information on which DX stations are active or what is coming up in the near future. There a many other bulletins available from a variety of sources. Your RAC membership allows you to send out QSL's in bulk to them for world wide distribution.

Don't think just because the water is shallow that there are no fish to be caught....those big ones are there, just under the weeds, over there near the bank. Its fun to catch them!

Your Membership is Important

By the time you read this, it is my hope that you and yours will have had a very Merry Christmas and as we now all look forward to 2007, let me wish you a very happy, healthy and radio-filled New Year.

This coming year is going to be a very busy one for HARC as we prepare for our 75th anniversary celebrations in 2008 – just 12 months away now. Your Anniversary Planning Committee chaired by Bob (VE1PQ) is working arduously on your behalf to plan what we all hope will be a very memorable event for HARC. But, it takes more than the good ideas of a planning group; the ultimate success of our anniversary celebrations will require input and participation of the whole membership.

There are many ways that you will be able to contribute, but right now, we need you to renew your membership in HARC for 2007. In 2007, membership dues will represent the largest single source of revenue for our Club. And, in order to ensure the solvency of the Club this year (remember we won't be producing a Callbook in 2007 but are holding off until 2008 to produce the Anniversary edition) and to allow financial flexibility in seeding anniversary initiatives, we need to bolster our bank account with 2007 membership dues. Please take time right now to fill out a Membership Renewal form – if you have not already done so. You can get a copy of the Membership form from the HARC website.

And finally, PLEASE, if you have a phone number and email address, we would like to have those so we can contact members without having to do special postal mailings.

73 Howard – VE1DHD
Membership Chair

*A balanced diet is
chocolate in both hands.*

Safety Corner January 2007

By Terry, VE1TRB

Well another year is over and done with and most of us made it through safely. Another Basic Course has shown an excellent success rate, even as compressed as it was. Congratulations to our new hams and the instructors. A person once said to me "Safety is pretty well just common sense and if it doesn't make sense it probably isn't right" He was partially right. The problem is the hidden dangers that you are not aware of. This is why it is so important to have safety incorporated into each subject during your basic course. We must remember that safety does not just have to do with safety of the people around you; it also includes the safety of the equipment that you are using. An antenna or radio isn't much good if it isn't installed properly and safely. If you are going to run a feed line under ground to an antenna in the middle of your yard, you might want to make sure you can clearly identify where that line lays. It might save you from putting a shovel through it.



If you are planning on installing a tower, make sure you are using the proper fasteners, and after the tower has been up for about 6 months to a year, you might want to check the security of the fasteners. Large changes in temperatures, and high winds, along with the vibration caused by the wind blowing through the tower sometimes cause fasteners to become loose.

If you are planning on installing a tower or antenna, or anything for that matter, and if you're not sure or experienced in what you are doing, ask someone. You might even want to ask more than one person, get a few ideas, and make your decision based on the information you gather.

I came across some interesting pictures out on the west coast where a repeater site succumbed to the forces of 100MPH wind (see: www.ve7ed.com). Take a look at the pictures and see if you can determine the cause of the failure.

At any rate, I hope to see our new hams at up and coming antenna jobs, especially if you're interested in climbing.

REMEMBER SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

If you have any comments or questions that you would like to see addressed in this column, please feel free to send me an email. ve1trb@rac.ca

... way to further prevent email addresses from making the rounds is to send emails not using the TO: and CC: fields, but to put all addresses in the BCC field. This hides the addresses of everyone you send an email to and does the same for the recipients, therefore nothing for a email harvester to gather.

As always, any suspicious emails, particularly ones with executable attachments, delete them without opening.

73 Rob VE1KS

From the Mail Bag

New Hams – From an e-mail to, and shared by, Joe, VE1EEE.

Colleen and I received our call-signs this past week. We both have HF privileges.

Colleen: VE1PIE

Sheldon: VE1SJP

73, Sheldon.

Thanks to Bill Corkum for drawing attention to: <http://www.coastalradio.org.uk/spudstory.htm> Here you can read about the history of marine communications as it applied to the Halifax, Nova Scotia area, especially that connected with and around station VCS as researched and written by Spud Roscoe, VE1BC. - ed.

Hello everyone,

If you would like to see pictures of how my first tower was put up, go to the following link: <http://www.wcarc.on.ca/volnoantparty/volnoant.html> Notice I said my first tower. I have another almost ready to go up if only it would stop raining! Note also that I have been able to mow the grass now that the tower is in the air and out of the way!

For pictures of the recent Scout Jamboree On The Air at my place, go to <http://4thorleans.ca> then click on "Scouts", then "Dragon Troop", then "JOTA". For those not familiar with JOTA, on a specified weekend in October, Scouts visit nearby Amateur Radio Operators, and speak with other Scouts all over the world. The leader of a Scout Troop in Ottawa is a co-worker, and brought a dozen Scouts down to my place Friday evening. We had an unseasonable snowfall, and had 2 inches of wet snow on the ground. Nevertheless, the Scouts set up their tents, eating enclosure, kitchen and tables, and spent the evening in my front yard. We were on the air early the next morning, talking with Scouts in Europe and the USA. After lunch the Scouts were shown how to find hidden transmitters using Radio Direction Finding techniques. They were then sent off to find a pilot who had to eject from his burning jet, and who could transmit on his radio but not speak because his throat was burned. Unfortunately, they didn't find him, and the pilot (their Troop Leader) is still out there! We finished off the day with a demonstration of APRS - Automatic Position Reporting System - by Brad, VE3BSM.

The Scouts enjoyed themselves so much they want to come back for 2 nights next year!

Cheers, AI, VO1NO

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!

Vietnam, AFVN, and Collins

Dr. Frederick Archibald, VE1FA

This article was written. at the request of the Collins Collectors Association for hams who are interested in Collins Radio history and stories of how its amateur gear was used in the military.



AFVN Hon Tre. Bunker, wing tank/shower and long building (home)
Not Universal Studios.

Thirty-seven years. Amazing. It seems only yesterday that I received that cheery little note from Dick Nixon: "Congratulations! You have been selected for induction into the United States Army...."

I did have one option though: after three days in the cozy confines of Ft. Dix, NJ and having been repeatedly told that as a draftee I was sure to be put in a "combat arms" military occupational specialty (MOS), I signed up for three years instead of the two required of a draftee to get an MOS more to my liking. Cook? no. Clerk? no. "Field radio operator?" Hmmm... Don't the Viet Cong use those tall whip antennas in the elephant grass as aiming stakes? Fixed station HF transmitter repair? Sounds kind of stable and sheltered-not to mention I like radios.. OK!

Course 32C20 at Ft. Monmouth NJ was one of the best organized, best taught courses I had ever taken. Some of my university professors could have learned from those sergeant instructors! The 26-week course had really well-designed booklets for each week, from basic theory to practical troubleshooting. The labs used 15-lb. VOMs, master oscillators the size of an R-390A (the O-330) and American Beauty soldering irons the size of my forearm: this must be the Army! We had plenty of hands-on with subunits and complete Collins, RCA and TMC HF transmitters, up to the huge 40kW AN/FRT-52.

We were assured by our instructors that none of the big HF gear we were being trained on was in Vietnam, so when, at the end of the course, I looked at my orders I wondered

where I was going that used Army Post Office San Francisco. The directory in the base post office informed my friend Bill and me that we would be mailing from Cholon, which further detective work revealed to be the Chinese quarter of Saigon. Oops...

August 1970. **Thump!** A rather heavy touch-down at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The door was opened and a furnace-like blast of hot humid air blew into the plane: "must be a record heat wave" I commented to a crewman as I debarked. "Naw" he laughed, "this is unusually cool." He was right.

Bill and I were directed to a barracks where we spent a week looking through barbed wire at the grimmest collection of shacks, fetid water, and piles of offal I had ever seen: one of Saigon's camps for refugees driven from their farms and villages by the war.

"Archibald! Blumel! Git yer butts over to Building 7B at the MACV Annex now!"

We sat quietly near the back of a big meeting room as it slowly filled. Our seat-mates were all First Sergeants, Sergeant Majors, and field-grade officers. What were two lowly worm E-4s doing here?

Ten-Hut! We jump to our feet: a general walks in. Wow! I'd never even seen one of those critters in the flesh before. He spends 30 minutes explaining how, as MACV (Military Assistance Command

Vietnam) instructors, we would accompany the ARVNs (South Vietnamese troops) in the field showing them how to effectively operate machine guns, field artillery, clear tunnels, etc.. Bill and I looked at each other and thought the traditional draftee thought: "there must be some mistake-we shouldn't be here!"

At the end, everyone leaps to attention, the general leaves, then everyone else leaves-except us- and the familiar cry "Archibald! Blumel! Git yer..." rings out, and we're back out in that mad Saigon traffic. Turning onto Hung Tap Thu Street we pull in to a big rambling building with "A.F. V.N. American Forces Vietnam Network" emblazoned over the entry. We soon learned that AFVN was part of the American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) and because it was a joint services organization (a mix of army, air force, marine and navy guys) we were in MACV. No diving into tunnels with a pistol? Too bad...

AFVN Saigon didn't look much like it's portrayal in the movie "Good Morning Vietnam!" with Robin Williams. It was a mix of audio production studios, a newsroom, with clattering Teletype machines, a TV set for news announcers, thousands of records and movies, and repair shops and parts stocks. It was the heart of a country-wide AM, FM, and TV network, with nine detachments up-country.

(Continued on page 9)

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Monthly General Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1934 with 34 members and guests in attendance.

Silent Keys: There were two (2) silent keys to report:

Jim Crouse – VE1AJN – Dartmouth
Jim Dwyer – VE1LTD - Timberlea

Guests / Visitors:

Mike Orr (new member)

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) President;
Rob (VE1ks) 1st. Vice-President;
Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) 2nd
Vice President; Murray Mac Donald
(VE1MMD) Secretary; Fraser Mac
Dougall (VE1WO) Treasurer, Dick
Grantham, (VE1AI), Past President,
Brian (VE1AZV), Station Manager.

Regrets: There were no regrets received.

Minutes of the October 18, 2006
monthly general meeting: It was
moved by Doug (VE1LDL) and seconded
by John (VE1HMH) that the
minutes of the October 18, 2006
meeting, as printed in the November
edition of the Reflector, be adopted.
Motion was carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer's report: Fraser (VE1WO)
reported that opening balance for the
month was \$12,364.81. He reported
that income for the month was
\$1,170.04 and expenses were
\$418.19.

It was moved by Bob (VE1PQ) and
seconded by Jim (VE1JIM) that the
Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion
was carried.

Secretary's report: Murray
(VE1MMD) advised that he had
nothing to report.

President's report: Bill (VE1MR) advised
that he had nothing to report.

1st. Vice President's report: Rob
(VE1KS) reported that he had acquired
a server from Dalhousie University at
no cost. The server had been taken out
of service and was surplus to their needs.
He advised

that the executive had authorized up
to \$200.00 for the purchase of a new
motherboard to upgrade the existing
Discovery Computer. With the donation
of this server, the motherboard was
not required but a set of rails was
needed to rack mount the server. It
was agreed to purchase the rails in lieu
of the motherboard.

2nd. Vice President's report: Howard
(VE1DHD) reported that the Steak
and Stein on Young Street had been
selected to host the Club's annual
Christmas dinner. Members were reminded
to contact Howard if they planned to
attend.

The door prize for the November
meeting was a magnifying glass.

Station Manager's report: Brian
(VE1AZV) advised that he had finished
refurbishing the station vertical.

Member at Large: Vacant.

Past President: Dick (VE1AI) reminded
those present of the E.M.O. exercise
scheduled for November 18th. He advised
that volunteers were required to either
man the E.O.C., to operate from home
or to operate the club station.

Committee reports:

Membership: Howard (VE1DHD) advised
that he had taken on the position and
duties of Membership Chair. He thanked
Tom (VE1GTC) for all that he had done
during the past number of years as
Membership Chair. Those present also
expressed their thanks to Tom.

Search and Rescue: Dave (VE1AJP) reported
that nine (9) search teams had been
called out to assist in the search for
a missing youth in the Berwick area.
Dave recognized George Snow's (VE1CAW)
efforts as radio operator on site. Dave
reported that the bus was experiencing
major mechanical problems.

EMO: Tom (VE1GTC) reported that
an EMO Communications course was held
on November 4th with four (4) people
in attendance. Tom also reported that
he & Doug (VE1LDL) would be going to
Amherst on Satur-

day the 18th to conduct a communications
course.

Field Day: JOHN (VE1HMH) reported
that he had taken on the position and
duties of Field Day Chair. He raised the
issue of a location for the 2007 field
day and it was agreed to table the matter
until the January general monthly meeting.

Course: Scott (VE1QD) reported that
the examination for recent graduates was
scheduled for December 16th. He advised
that he was looking at establishing
another self-study class.

75th Anniversary: Bob (VE1PQ) reported
that the committee had held their third
meeting. He advised that the committee
has made significant progress and that
a final report will be prepared for, and
presented at, the January general monthly
meeting. He reiterated that in order for
such an undertaking to be a success, it
would require the involvement of each
and every member of the club. He reminded
all that the events are "for you, about
you and including you".

Old Business:

There was no old business to address.

New Business:

It was moved by Dick (VE1AI) and
seconded by Lorne (VE1KLF) that a security
system, including a monthly monitoring
program, for the club station be purchased.
It is anticipated that the system cost
will be \$750.00 and the monthly monitoring
fee will be \$25.00. Dick agreed to purchase
and install the system. The motion passed
and will be published in the November
edition of the Reflector and a 2nd vote
taken at the January general monthly
meeting.

50/50: Bruce (VE1NB) won the 50/50
draw in the amount of \$20.00.

Door Prize: Lorne (VE1KLF) won the
magnifying glass.

It was moved by Dick (VE1AI) that the
meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned
at 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD
Secretary, H.A.R.C.

SCOTT MELVIN Wins HandHeld

Scott Melvin, VE1SCT, got a great start in Amateur Radio when he won the draw for a nice ICOM two meter handheld at the HARC Christmas Dinner, just four days after passing his exam. The handheld was donated by Howard and Jean Dickson, and intended for a successful member of the 2006 Basic Radio Course. Congratulations to Scott Melvin and a warm thanks to Hoard and Jean.

K. Scott Wood, VE1QD

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 47

Special prefixes to honour historic Fessenden transmissions: At the request of R.A.C, Industry Canada has authorized radio amateurs in Canada to identify with special prefixes to mark the 100th anniversary of Reginald Fessenden's radio accomplishments. Canadian Amateur Radio operators may use the commemorative prefixes from Dec.1, 2006, through Jan.31, 2007. In call sign districts 1 through 9, those with VE call signs may identify using CG; those with VA call signs may identify using CF, plus the assigned call sign district & suffix. Holders of VY call signs may identify using CI; those with VO call signs may use CH, plus their assigned call sign district & suffix. A Quebec native, Fessenden is probably best known for his Christmas Eve 1906 broadcast that included his violin rendition of "O Holy Night" and a Bible reading. He transmitted a second short program on New Year's Eve 1906.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, #46

[DXpeditioning Basics](http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/dx-basics.pdf) available as a free ARRL download: Thinking about going on a DXpedition? Check out Dxpediting Basics, by ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, a Dxpediton veteran. The 26-page booklet covers DXpedition objectives, organization, whom to work, pileup management, QSO mechanics, frustration management, problems & follow-up.

<<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/dx-basics.pdf>>

Interim Report of the HARC75 Anniversary Planning Committee

To the Executive and Membership of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club

January 2007 Executive and General Meeting

The first meeting of the HARC75 Anniversary Planning Committee was held on September 18, 2006 comprising of 8 members; Fraser (VE1WO), Gary (VE1RGB), Howard (VE1DHD), Scott (VE1QD), Bob (VE1PQ), John (VE1HMH), Tom (VE1GTC), Rob (VE1KS), Darryl (VE1HUP).

Over the past four months and five meetings we have had some very productive meetings and made significant progress in putting some meat on the bones of a beast of uncertain size & shape. The experience & background of each member has brought significant clarity to the planning process.

The Committee has been able to produce an outline of events, a time line, decide on a slogan, and identify resources and sub-committees required to make this event a success. Meetings were held at Bloomfield, members' homes and one business location.

The one thing that has continually been brought to the forefront is the fact that to make this a successful event will require the participation of every Club member in some way or another. We have been able to identify chairs for most committees but are still looking for a few more volunteers. Once we have all the chairs filled for the committees, there will be a need for others to work on these committees.

There are still challenges ahead of us. In the next month or so, decisions will need to be made regarding venue location, PR chair, advertising and interim funding.

But...it's all looking good! This will be an outstanding event for HARC in 2008. Other clubs are claiming to be 75 years old but HARC certainly can claim to be active *continually* over that span of years.

Activities are being considered that will include all family members, a DX Forum, a mega flea market, contests, prizes, banquets, socials, special speakers, exhibits and much more. And you can be part of all of this!

We are also realists. At every meeting we ask ourselves if we will be able to achieve our goals or do we need to change our plans based on the support we are receiving from the HARC membership. So far, so good...

Your Club Executive and HARC75 Planning Committee are excited about this opportunity to create an event that you will remember and be remembered for.

It is a party! You are all invited to help make it happen and enjoy the fruits of 75 years of communications and public service in the Halifax region.

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Bob Swinwood
(VE1PQ) Chair
HARC75 Anniversary
Planning
Committee

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From the Mail Bag



"Beverage Antennas. Want to add a couple of new countries to your DXCC list? If so, put up a Beverage. Their performance as receiving antennas is nothing short of spectacular. Jeff, VE1ZAC, has designed and built one from first principles. I put up a DX Engineering Beverage. Both of us have written short articles about them, with pictures. Go to <http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/jhsmith/myweb4/index.htm> and scroll to the bottom right. If you like mice, read "MOUSE" as well. Otherwise ignore the rest of the site. It's just a couple of guys playing around."

73, Gary, VE1RGB

Several people have mentioned problems with accessing the web site for the material Gary and I are writing. The address might be case sensitive. Anyhow, here is the link:

<http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/jhsmith/myweb4/index.htm>

Cheers, Jeff VE1ZAC

It is with deep regret and much sadness that I have to inform Radio Amateurs of Canada members, Canadian amateurs, and our friends everywhere that General Manager Deborah "Debbie" Norman VA3RGM became a Silent Key late in the evening of Monday November 27 2006.

So many of us have known Debbie through many years of working with her at CARF, through the merger with CRRL and many years with Radio Amateurs of Canada. In so many ways she was the voice of RAC, the cheerful personality on the other end of the phone line. On behalf of RAC's members and your many friends in amateur radio, Debbie, our sincerest thanks. May you rest in peace.

73/88 Earle Smith VE6NM
President Radio Amateurs of Canada
Chair Board of Directors

Well, after a lot of work and after a lot of delays caused by the miserable weather we've had this fall, my 6 meter yagi is finally in the air! Tom VA3NFA, Darryl VA3RDC, Jeremy N0CALL and I put the tower up this past Saturday afternoon. Fortunately, we had a sunny day, with temperatures around 10 degrees C. For pictures please check Tom's blog at <http://va3nfa.blogspot.com/2006/11/antenna-party-at-vo1nos-place.html>

The antenna is a Cushcraft 6176B, 6 element yagi on a 34 foot boom. It is mounted atop a steel mast extending 9 feet above a 56 foot tower, putting it at an overall height of 65 feet. The tower is actually a self-supporting type, but rather than dig a huge hole for a concrete base (impossible at my location due to a layer of rock 18 inches below the surface), I opted to guy the tower at two heights, using 4-way guys rather than 3. Once again, I used the "falling derrick" method to lift the tower and antenna into place, obviating the requirement to climb the tower. A 30 foot tower (3 pieces of Rohn 25) on a tilting base was erected next to the base of the main tower. Steel cables were run from the top of the 30-foot tower to the main tower. A block and tackle, attached to the guy anchor and top of the 30-foot tower, was then used to pull the 30-foot tower down. This lifted the main tower and antenna up. Because of the mechanical advantage of the block and tackle, two people were able to pull the tower up. Check out

http://www.n6rk.com/falling_derrick_gme/falling_derrick_gme.html for a detailed explanation and many photos of the falling derrick method.

Of course, a tilt-up base is required for the 56 ft. tower to do this. I didn't want to spend several hundred dollars having a special base custom built, so I made a base out of pressure treated lumber and used steel cables to allow the assembly to pivot. The base rests on 3 concrete blocks, and the tower is further insulated from the ground by 3 cutting boards from the Dollar Store. I thus have the option to load up the tower on 80 meters or possibly 160 meters later. It will be well grounded in the summer though. The base will also be given a few coats of oil paint to keep the weather from damaging the wood.

There are 2 yardarms at the top of the tower, with 4 halyards. I'll probably put up a star and lights for Christmas, but the eventual plan is to have 4 x 40 meter dipoles supported from the tower, phased using a Comtek phasing unit. This will give good gain and excellent front-to-back. We used a similar 2-element phased array for 40 m. on our DX'pedition to the Magdalen Islands this past summer, and were very impressed with its performance.

In standard antenna party tradition, once the tower was safely secured, we retired to the deck and kitchen for BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs and beer!

I still have another tower to get up before winter hits. I want to put up a 32 foot tower for the remaining VHF/UHF bands (2 meters through to 1296 MHz, including 903 MHz). It will be a temporary setup - I want to get a higher tower for a more permanent solution. I am in a relatively rare grid (FN24), and a lot of contest operators want to be able to work me in the January VHF/UHF contest, especially Tom, VA3NFA, who will be a rover and will appreciate the extra multipliers my station will give him!

I also want to shunt feed the HF tower for 160 meters, and put out several Beverage antennas for receive. I started laying out radials for the 160 antenna yesterday, and tried to adjust the Omega match. It wouldn't load up, so I may actually be able to use a Gamma match instead (one fewer capacitor, so less loss). For pictures of the HF antenna being raised, check out <http://www.wcarc.on.ca/vo1noantparty/vo1noant.html> If worse comes to worse, I can always put up an Inverted L antenna for 160 over the winter.

73, Al, VO1NO / VE3

Vietnam, AFVN, and Collins*(Continued from page 5)*

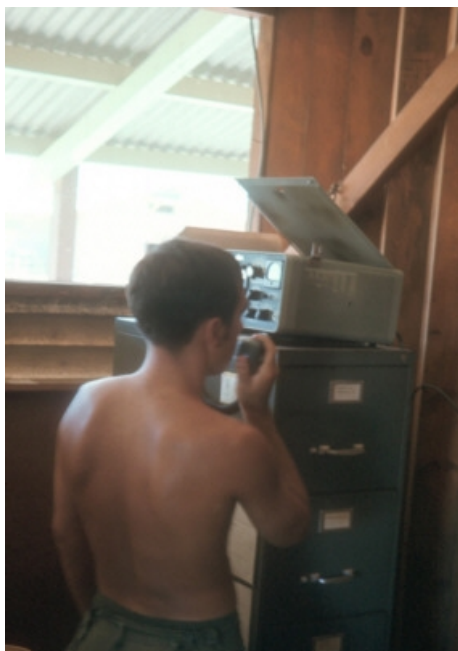
Looking into a small room, I saw a console with several KWM-2As, two 30S-1s (I think) and some more gray Collins boxes. "Our in-country communications". AFVN's nine detachments (transmitting sites) were up to 400 miles away, from Cat Lo and Can Tho in the south through Qui Nhon, Bam Me Thuot, Da Nang and the DMZ to the north. A lot of the programming broadcast from the remote detachments was produced in AFVN Saigon and AFRTS stateside and sent by pairs of phone lines (mostly microwave links, as the VC would of course cut actual wires). One phone line carried 100-2500 Hz and the second 2500-5000 Hz, which were mixed back together before modulating the transmitter. Later I found that when the high line dropped out the audio was muffled but usable, but if the low one went, our AM or FM signal sounded pretty bad!

Bill was sent to Qui Nhon, and I was sent first to Hon Tre, the peak of an 1800-foot high island rising out of the South China Sea off Nha Trang. This great location allowed us to provide FM and TV to Cam Ranh Bay, Phan Rang, and bases far up and down the coast (Figure 3). Following a traumatic ride off the mountain strapped in/outside a UH-1 (the door gunner's seat), piloted by the Red Baron, I took up residence in Dong Ba Thin (DBT), a base with 200 choppers, Airbourne Rangers, a MARS station, a 10 kW AM transmitter needing a technician (me), and most of the world's dust and heat.

In 1970, the US was pulling troops out of Viet Nam, and AFVN Dong Ba Thin had just gone from five production/technical personnel to two: Sgt. Bob Anderson and me. Bob was a very talented DJ/program producer. If you were there, then you will remember "Soul '70" and other good music programs; that was Bob.

My job was to maintain all the studio equipment (badly neglected) and the Gates BC-10H 10kW AM transmitter and all associated equipment to keep "Dong Ba Thin: The Big 900!" (kHz) on the air. The transmitter shack was on 55 gallon drums on swampy land and had a corrugated roof held on with sandbags. Fortunately, the 200' tower was professionally installed, as the shack was less than 200' from it.... There was a Hammarlund SP-600 as station monitor: hardly necessary, as the corrugated metal roof of my "hooch" (250 feet from the 10kW antenna) had 60 volts of RF compared to ground: my monitor was a 470-ohm resistor and diode in series with a speaker to ground. The speaker hung a foot from my head, next to my M-16, over my bed.

On a filing cabinet in the hooch was a Collins KWM-2A, permanently on and set to 7100 kHz. A 40m dipole up 15' ran from the roof to a perimeter light pole. A 312B-4,



Talking on radio; (morning radio net) "Detachment four bravo: all present and accounted for. Problems again with line XV1D, starting at 16:30 yesterday. Over."

but no tuner. License? What license? You think the FCC's gonna show up at this door? Every morning AFVN Saigon would come on at 8 AM, make any announcements needed, and then call the detachments in sequence for our status reports. Being Det.4b, I could use the first announcements as my wake-up call, answer the call of nature, and be at the radio in time. It ran pretty much as a well-organized 40m amateur net would, although we had rules for what could and couldn't be said on the air. A lot of gear in 'Nam didn't tolerate the climate well, but AFVN's network of KWM-2As worked nearly perfectly. Almost every day of that year (Sept. '70-Aug. '71) all 9 KWM-2As could be copied by each other and by Saigon. This ancestral "Collins net" was really useful for locating parts, and getting tech and production questions answered. For example, a typhoon took the roof off my transmitter shack: in the process a great deal of salt lagoon water and much of the sand from the rotten sandbags holding the roof on went into the BC-10H's modulator and PA sections. Salt water, sand, and 5500 volts don't mix, and "The Big 900" went QRT-explosively. I got on the KWM-2A and quickly located modulator transistors, a tank coil, transmitting micas, etc., at various other detachments, which were flown the same or next day to Cam Ranh, 5 miles from me.

Was "my" KWM-2A perfect? No. Two failures: the first was the classic arc-over on the 5R4 socket-hardly surprising in that humid heat. I had found a WW2 BC-312 in The Cam Ranh junkyard (where we went for jeep parts: no one wanted to service our joint services vehicle), and used a ceramic socket from the old set to fix the 516F2 supply. I noticed the second failure one morning when AFVN Saigon didn't wake me up: the KWM-2 was dark and there was a

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Vietnam, AFVN, and Collins

(Continued from page 9)

funny smell. I opened the 6146 cage and saw fused to a plate cap what at first looked like a McDonald's french



Ramshackle collection of buildings marching up hillside

fry gone wrong: one of the small lizards that hung around the lights had crawled inside the PA cage to get warm. It did.

At that time I had no amateur license, but curiosity got the better of common sense, and late one night I QSY'd to about 7200 and called "CQ CQ , XV2AB XV2AB" Instantly a JA came back, then two W6s. To my barefoot KWM-2A on a low 40m dipole! I could hear the excitement in their voices. Vietnamese amateur activity was pretty rare in 1970. I began thinking about what the AFVN colonel in Saigon would likely say/do if he found out, and XV2AB went permanently QRT....

Before Vietnam I had never heard of MARS (Military Affiliate Radio Service), but I had noticed 200 yards down the road a big log-periodic antenna. I wandered in one day and Al explained about MARS. My mom was pretty worried when I shipped out, and I wanted to talk to her. "Come back about 10 PM" Al said. I did, conditions were pretty good and we contacted a K1 in Massachusetts. DBT was right on the salt-water lagoon that separates the Cam Ranh peninsula from the mainland, so propagation was very good. He patched through to my mom in Hyan-nis and I gave her a big surprise! I made many calls home. I visited the MARS station often-always with a

little AM radio in my pocket, because I had to get back fast if the AFVN trans went down.

I don't remember all the details of the MARS gear, but there was a nice long console with at least two KWM-2As, a 30S-1, 30L-1, and I think a Henry 2K. There was a MARS station at nearly every big base, and as far as I know they all used the S-line and/or KWM-2s. While I was there I don't think any of the Collins MARS gear at DBT ever had a problem that couldn't be fixed with a new tube or fuse. Hams across the US made the MARS patches with professional speed and efficiency. Several times I heard Barry Goldwater K7UGA handling calls. You couldn't help thinking: "now there's a politician who really cares about the serviceman!" For the life of me, I can't remember MARS DBT's call, but I think it was AB8??. I remember them operating just below 14.0 MHz, very easy with a KWM-2A.

Al the op at the MARS station was Al Helfrick, K2BLA, and when he discovered I had a little shop in the transmitter shack, with a VTVM, scope, etc. he became a regular visitor. He was probably the only GI ever to build a solid state SSB transmitter while on duty in Vietnam.

How important was the MARS station? You were often under stress and tension, seeing nasty things. Feelings of dislocation, isolation, and depression were common. To talk even briefly, in real time, to a parent, wife, or girlfriend "back in the world" made you feel a lot better. I know it made me feel much better and I only endured a few mortar attacks. However, Dong Ba Thin was home to some Airbourne Ran-ger units who were inserted by chopper for weeks at a time into VC-infested areas: MARS was pretty darn important to guys like them.

In Ft. Monmouth, Vietnam, and later at Ft. Huachuca I worked on and used a wide variety of the Army's HF

gear. The Collins KWM-2 really stood out with its combination of easy portability, reliability, effectiveness, and low cost. The AN/TSC-38 tactical comms. van contained \$800,000 worth of heavy HF metal, mostly solid-state. I'm convinced that if half the units inside it were thrown away and replaced with a coffee maker, big air conditioner and a KWM-2A, the van would have been twice as effective. Thanks, Art and Barry!



The author at AFVN Dong Ba Thin, 1970. Ellsworth J. Bunker was US ambassador to South Vietnam at the time, but unlike the author, he never needed to use his namesake.

Club Name Tags with club logo, callsign, and name (first name only OR first & last names) are available through David Nimmo, VE1NN

Price \$5.00each e-mail David with callsign and name at dnimmo@accesswave.ca

Language Quirks: If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, two geese. So one moose, 2 meese?

