



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

March 2007 Volume 68 Number 3

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



## The First Day of Spring is March 21



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	443-5906	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	465-4665	leblanc@accesscable.net
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ	860-4454	bob_swinwood@hotmail.com

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

75th Anniversary Chair - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ	860-4454	bob_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	dhedickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhedickson@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, March 21, 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 Operation of the MAVCOM, IRLP and Echolink linking systems - by Rob (VE1KS)

Guests are welcome.

### Needed: QSL Bureau Manager

After 13 years as Manager of the Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Bob Burns, VE1VCK, has announced his decision to withdraw from the Bureau. Many thanks to Bob, who with his wife Dianne, spent many hours over the years sorting, tracking and sending QSL cards.

Please consider taking on this function which is important to a great many hams. More on page 3

### Take-15 Net Controllers

#### NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation.

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



March 18	Doug	VE1LDL
March 25	Charles	VE1MCR
April 1	Herb	VE1HX
April 8	Chris	VA1CDB
April 15	Pierre	VE1PTR
April 22	Peter	VE1PJW

In 2008 we'll celebrate the **Halifax Amateur Club's 75 years** of operation. Bob, VE1PQ, is chairing the planning committee. Contact Bob to become part of the planning and the doing.

*Bath Theorem: When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.*

**Deadline for submissions to the April Reflector is Saturday, April 7, 2007**

### 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*

May 6 – The **Halifax Super Cities WALK for MS**. Terry, VE1TRB will be the co-ordinator for this event. If you wish to help out, please contact him – ve1trb@rac.ca.

**2007 Downeast Flea Market** – The Halifax Forum has confirmed our reservation for Saturday, May 12.; Social get together Friday evening. Barry, VE1TRI, is chairing this event. Contact Barry to help.

June 23, 24 – **The ARRL Field Day** John, VE1HMH is the co-ordinator this year, contact him to volunteer your help with the organizing.

July 28 & 29 - IOTA

July 9 & 10 – International Museum Ships Weekend – see page 5.

July 28 & 29 - The **MS Bike Tour** participants need amateur radio operators with our gear and skills for safety and “logistical” purposes. The HARC has been asked to continue our tradition of providing communications for the 2007 NS RONA MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Bike Tour. Tom, VE1GTC will be the liaison and co-ordinator for this event. If you wish to help out, please contact him.

For more information visit  
[www.mssociety.ca/atlantic](http://www.mssociety.ca/atlantic)

August 19, 2007 (Sunday) - The sixth **International Lighthouse Day**

The 2007 AMSAT Symposium and Annual Meeting will take place in Pittsburgh.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 06  
The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit:  
5A7A - Libya, operation November 15-30, 2006;  
VU7LD - Lakshadweep Islands, operation December 1-30, 2006;  
VU7RG - Lakshadweep Islands, operation January 14-26, 2007;  
ZL9BSJ/P - Auckland & Campbell Island, operation of Sept.12, 2006  
YU6AO - Montenegro, operation effective June 28, 2006.

**The Down East Flea Market** will  
When: May 12<sup>th</sup>

Where: at the Halifax Forum Complex (Multi Purpose Room).

Doors will open at 0630 for sellers and 0900 for buyers

Admission: \$4.00 per person

Tables will be free for sellers. Anyone seeking tables are invited to contact Dave (VE1NN).

A social event will be held on Friday evening and a breakfast held on Saturday morning prior to the opening of the Flea Market.

Volunteers are needed; interested members are asked to contact Barry (VE1TRI).

*I went to the gas station today and asked for five dollars worth of gas. The clerk farted and gave me a receipt*



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 09, Mar.2/07 The "Summits on the Air" (SOTA) <<http://www.sota.org.uk/>> mountain-topping radio operating award program starts March 1 in New York & New Jersey. It's being launched with a partial summit list under the leadership of Andrew Pepper, KC2EUS. SOTA encourages Amateur Radio activity from the summits of hills and mountains at least 150 meters above the surrounding terrain in countries around the world. "Chasers" working SOTA stations also are eligible for award points. Originating in the UK, SOTA already has gained a foothold in Ireland, Germany, Greece, Switzerland, South Africa, Austria & Hungary. SOTA US Region web site is  
<<http://www.kc2eus.org/sota/>>

For information on the IOTA program see the IOTA Web site  
<http://www.rsgbiota.org/index.php4>

### **International Lighthouse Day - Sunday August 19 2007**

The sixth International Lighthouse Day intends to raise the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids, promoting our maritime heritage. Many lighthouses and places of associated interest will be open to the public, and there will be special events at lighthouses and lightvessels throughout the world.



There will be radio and press publicity before the event. Trusts and Friends groups will be able to use this day to raise awareness of their work and involvement in the preservation of the history of lightkeeping.

Also on this weekend, amateur radio operators around the world will be transmitting from lighthouses with the objective of fostering international relations. Over 350 lights in 50 countries (check) will be on the air. See [www.illw.net/2007\\_list.htm](http://www.illw.net/2007_list.htm) for the latest list of participants.

For the latest news on what's happening, visit the Association of Lighthouse Keepers website [www.alk.org.uk](http://www.alk.org.uk)

Joy Adcock Press and Publicity Officer Association of Lighthouse Keepers  
Email: [publicity@alk.org.uk](mailto:publicity@alk.org.uk) [www.alk.org.uk](http://www.alk.org.uk)

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 06, February 9, 2007

**FSDXA St. Brandon (3B7) DXpedition Receives ARRL Colvin Award**

A planned September DXpedition to St Brandon (3B7) will benefit from a \$5000 ARRL Colvin Award support grant. The Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) team is scheduled to operate as 3B7C <<http://www.3b7c.com/>> from Isle du Sud from Sept.7 until Sept.24. Located in the Indian Ocean, St Brandon (Cargados Shoals) is part of the Republic of Mauritius and was number 45 overall on the latest available most-wanted list of DXCC entities, but West Coast US DXers put it at number 18.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Winter is winding down and spring is just around the corner. I hope not too many got caught with the early change to Daylight Savings Time.

Club events are sparse in March and April, but May starts with several events and more are planned for June. There are announcements and appeals for participation and operators for various events. Look on page 2 for most of these.

Recently Bob Burns, VE1VCK lost his wife Dianne. Bob has decided to give up the Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau, I will have a write up on the QSL Bureau and appeal to see who is interested in taking on this job.

Terry, VE1TRB has agreed to be the MS Walk liaison, this is not a particularly onerous job but does require someone who can meet with the MS Society people, possibly during normal working hours. There are already several volunteers to help out with the walk itself. The MS Walk Liaison is mostly needed for the purpose of information passing and some co-ordination. Please contact Terry to help out.

On page 5 you will find an appeal for operators for the Museum Ships Weekend. This year we hope to operate from 2 museum ships, so we will need more operators than usual. This may be a great chance to get familiar with club gear in preparation for Field Day.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

**The Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau - Manager needed**

The bureau takes up some room and requires some time each month. Bob says it takes on average about 4 or 5 evenings depending on the number of cards that arrive in the mail. It will also be an advantage if you have some help during the entering of cards in the data base and during a mailout.

The Bureau comes with containers to hold the sorted card in envelopes, a complete computer with software, printer, sorting rack, some consumables ( envelopes, address and other stamps, labels, etc. ) and signage for flea markets and such.

The post office box is at the Almon Street post office and I believe the bank account is currently in a TD bank.

The club will pay expenses for travel and meals etc. ( up to \$200 per year ) if you take the bureau to a flea market. There is an expectation to have the bureau at some of the local flea markets.

This is an important office for the club and serves the entire Amateur community in Nova Scotia and some elsewhere as well.

**City Watch Callout List**

This is just a reminder that all HARC members who have provided their home phone numbers to the Club, are on a City Watch callout list. City Watch is intended to be used to get phone messages to large numbers of people very quickly in an emergency, and as communication experts and potential responders to local emergencies, that is why our membership is on the system. To ensure that everyone is familiar and comfortable with the system, Howard (VE1DHD) periodically uses City Watch to send non-emergency messages to Club members. He tries to keep these non-emergency uses to a minimum – for example providing information and reminders about important Club activities like the Christmas Dinner and the Ham Breakfast.

If you object to having your number on the system, please drop Howard a note (VE1DHD@RAC.ca) and he will remove your name and number and you will not be called in the future.

**Puzzler – Do You Know?**

What was the first proposed use for Hertzian waves?



Answer on page 10

**Understanding Engineers  
(Take One)**

*Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.*

**Take-15 Net controllers needed**

We are in need of more Take-15 net controllers. I had planned to start phoning likely candidates but have not found the time. Several had to drop off the list for various reasons.

This is not a difficult task and if we can get a few more on the list then your turn will not come up that often.

This net is informational and any late breaking club news is aired here. Often this may be the only place you might hear about a late breaking club event.

Being a net controller is a small way you can be of service to the club and get to know some of the local Amateurs. If you are new to Amateur Radio it is also a great way to expose yourself to a wider base of people on the air.

Please consider doing this for the club and let me know if you would like to give it a try.

Thank You - Bill Elliott, VE1MR



**Safety Corner March 2007**

By Terry, VE1TRB

It's amazing how much attraction safety in general is getting isn't it? I've had people ask me if it's just another money grab for the government and businesses. I really don't think so. There are some that feel safety regulations are just there to keep the "little guy" from being able to make an honest buck. Or maybe they are so restrictive it stops us from being able to do our job. In all honesty, trying to decipher some regulations and trying to be compliant is not always that easy. Most of the time, if you know what you are doing, you are probably naturally going to do the job safely anyway, just be careful you don't get too complacent.

Safety may very well include environmental concerns, such as safe stowage of POL (Petroleum Oils and Lubricants). A leaking fuel tank not only is a fire hazard, it is also an environmental hazard.

How about stowage or mixing of different chemical agents, if one chemical mixes with another chemical, what might happen? I remember when I was a young ordinary seaman in the Navy having to clean out the heads (that's the bathroom) we used to use this soap called Teepol, which is the same stuff we used to remove soot off the outside of the boiler tubes in the ships main boilers. This stuff was pretty strong by itself, but of course, like all good sailors, I always wanted to do a better job, so what would we try to mix with the Teepol? Bleach! That was not good. We had to evacuate that part of the ship until the chlorine gas had cleared out. Never did that again! I heard someone say "If you have never made a mistake in you life, you've never lived" well, I guess I lived my life to the fullest, and I'm sure I will continue to.



If you are unsure of a particular chemical, here is the a link to the NIOSH pocket guide to chemical hazards: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/> it will give you some very interesting information, including first aid, symptoms, and a lot of other interesting information.

**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](mailto:ve1trb@rac.ca)

*(Think you're having a bad day?) .. Two animal rights protesters were protesting at the cruelty of sending pigs to a slaughterhouse in Bonn, Germany. Suddenly, all 2,000 pigs broke loose and escaped through a broken fence, running madly. The two protesters were trampled to death.*

**Nametags** bearing the club logo are available for \$5.00. If interested, please contact Dave, VE1NN

Visit the NSARA website:  
<http://users.eastlink.ca/~bdeathe/NSARA/>

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 05 February 2, 2007

**Portugal now reported BPL-free:** Citing news media accounts in his country, Portugal, Carlos Mourato, CT4RK, says telecommunications corporation Oni has withdrawn its investment in broadband over power line (BPL), known in Europe as PLC (power line carrier). "With this news we are proud to proclaim Portugal a free BPL/PLC country!" Oni reportedly has said its decision was not a matter of technology but good business. The company says BPL/PLC performed well but failed to attract the customer base the company felt it needed in the face of competition from other broadband services. Utility EDP, which closely co-operated with Oni in the BPL/PLC effort, now has severed its fiscal relationship with the company.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, #04

January 26, 2007

AMSAT News Service reports that AO-27 (EyeSat-1) <<http://www.ao27.org>> has been recovered and returned to operation. Launched in Sept. 1993, AO-27 has been listed as non-operational. Michael Wyrick, N3UC, of the AO-27 command team told ANS that after addressing problems with the microsat's AFSK modem, ground controllers were able to upload operational software. AO-27 is on during ascending (south-to-north) passes at about 30 degrees north latitude, but it's impossible to say when the satellite will be operational for a given location. An initial 20 seconds of telemetry are followed by 5 minutes of analog repeater operation. AO-27 then transmits another 60 seconds of telemetry before shutting down. The satellite carries a Mode V/U FM repeater; uplink at 145.850 Hz; downlink at 436.795 MHz. "Please keep in mind that AO-27 is 13 years old." Wyrick advised users. Ground controllers are seeking help in logging telemetry from AO-27. Visit the Logging AO-27 Telemetry page <<http://www.ao27.org/tlm.shtml>> for info.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 08

February 23, 2007

AMSAT OSCAR Coordinator Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced that Argentina's Penuensat-1 satellite will be known as Pehuensat-OSCAR-63, or PO-63. The 2nd Argentine Amateur Radio satellite, Pehuensat-1 is in a 635 to 640 km sun-synchronous polar orbit (97.92 degree inclination). It was launched Jan.10 from India. PO-63 will transmit voice messages in 3 languages (English, Hindi and Spanish)-on 145.825 MHz followed by AX.25 1200 bps packet. Named after the native Patagonian Pehuen tree, Pehuensat-1 was developed by the Argentina School of Engineering at the National University of Comahue, the Argentina Association for Technology & Space and AMSAT-LU. More information is on AMSAT-LU Web site: <http://www.amsat.org.ar/> Reception reports are welcome  
<http://www.amsat.org.ar/?f=z>



A number of HARC members were aboard the **CSS Acadia** on the weekend of September 16 & 17, 2006. Brian, VE1AZV had received an invitation from the Museum for us to operate CSS Acadia's radio room as part of the Halifax Waterfront Weekend celebrations. While there, Brian, VE1AZV; Tom, VE1GTC; Betty, VE1BSW; & Doug, VE1LDL accepted an invitation to lunch aboard Acadia.

And lots of contacts were made.

For information including a listing of vessels planning to participate in 2007 see the K1USN Web site

<http://www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html>



Donna, who looks after the ship and crew for the museum, made a QSO or two Friday afternoon.



Admiring the certificate that was presented to the museum for having the ship on the air for the Museum Ships on the Air weekend earlier in the summer.



Aboard CSS Acadia Tom, Betty & a crew member chow down on corned beef & cabbage; (rumoured to be Tom's favourite meal). Desert was spotted dick.

HARC has received a letter from Museum ship New Jersey inviting us to take part in the **International Museum Ships** weekend event scheduled for June 9 & 10 Brian, VE1AZV, is hoping to put both the Acadia and the HMCS Sackville on the air for this event.

Interested? You would be welcome to participate.

HARC has **Anderson Powerpole connectors** for sale at \$1.25 each (one red and one black connector for one complete end ). A complete mating pair requires 2 connectors. Place orders with Tom Caithness VE1GTC [tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca)

*A friend is someone who thinks you're a good egg even if you're slightly cracked or sometimes slightly scrambled.*



## **Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Monthly General Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2007**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1935 with 43 members and guests in attendance.

Silent Keys: There were a number of silent keys to report::

John Perkins – VE1FH – Lake Fletcher (former president of HARC and NSARA)

John Walker – VE1YS – Ellershoushe

Ernie Wallace – VE1GH – Pointe Du Chene, N.B.

Edith Hartlin – wife of Win Hartlin – VE1WIN

Elizabeth Clarke – wife of Ralph Rosere – VE1RAR

Guests / Visitors:

Jim Power – VE1CU (new member)

### Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) President; Dick Grantham, (VE1AI) 1st. Vice-President; Peter Whalen (VE1PJW) 2nd Vice President; Murray Mac Donald (VE1MMD) Secretary; Fraser Mac Dougall (VE1WO) Treasurer; Doug Leblanc (VE1LDL) Director-at-Large; and Brian Allan (VE1AZV), Station Manager.

Regrets: Regrets were received from Bob Swinwood (VE1PQ) Past President.

Minutes of the January 17, 2007 monthly general meeting: It was moved by John (VE1HMH) and seconded by Jim (VE1JIM) that the minutes of the January 17, 2007 meeting, as printed in the February 2007 edition of the Reflector, be adopted. Motion was carried.

### **Executive Reports:**

Treasurer's report: Fraser (VE1WO) reported that opening balance for the month was \$10,293.59. He reported that income for the month was \$ 687.57 and expenses were \$628.03.

It was moved by Bruce (VE1MLW) and seconded by Tom (VE1GTC) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion was carried.

Secretary's report: Murray (VE1MMD) reported that he had received correspondence from the Bid Committee for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in which they "would be pleased to engage the support of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club during the hosting phase, if Halifax is accepted as the Host City". The Club executive had written to the Committee offering assistance in the form of setting up and operating stations and providing on site communications.

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

1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President's report: Dick (VE1AI) reported that he had decided on the best type of alarm system to install for the club station and that he would be purchasing and installing the system shortly. He advised that ample notice would be provided to club members prior to the system being activated. Dick reported that a "contesting workshop" was under consideration and requested that interested members contact him.

Dick expressed concern that the field day exercise was not going to be held at the E.O.C. this year. He suggested that we participate either in a contest or an emergency exercise from the Centre. He felt that this would present an opportunity to fulfill our obligation to the CBC for use of the repeater site as well as ensuring that he communication system at the E.O.C. is operational. Dick introduced Tom (VE1BMJ) who reported on the pitfalls he encountered in installing a tower on his property.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice President's report: Peter (VE1PJW) reported that the annual Ham Breakfast is scheduled to be held at the Steak and Stein on Young Street this Saturday (February 24<sup>th</sup>). Members were reminded to contact Dave (VE1NN) if they planned to attend.

The door prize for the February meeting was a "power wrench".

Station Manager's report: Brian (VE1AZV) advised that the International Museum Ships weekend event was scheduled for June 9 / 10<sup>th</sup> and that we would have two (2) ships on the air for the weekend. He reported that in addition to the CGS Acadia, Murray (VE1MMD) had been successful in obtaining approval to use the HMCS Sackville. Brian acknowledged that he will be seeking volunteers to operate from both ships and members are requested to let Brian know if available.

He reported that he has held a number of sessions with new members on the use of the club equipment. On February 17<sup>th</sup> thirteen (13) Girl Guides and four (4) leaders attended the club facilities where they participated in the Guides on the Air program. Brian reported that numerous contacts had been made both on HF and VHF. He acknowledged the leadership of Gary (VE1WAN) in preparation for the event.

Member at Large: Doug (VE1LDL) advised that he had nothing to report.

Past President: Bob (VE1PQ) sent his regrets and advised that he had nothing to report.

### **Committee reports:**

Membership: Howard (VE1DHD) advised that currently there are two (2) Life Members, twenty eight (28) Associate Members and ninety three (93) Full Members for a total 2007 membership of one hundred and twenty three (123).

Search and Rescue: No report was available.

EMO: No report was available.

Course: Howard (VE1DHD) reported that in Scott's (VE1QD) absence, he would be the contact person for the self-study program. The new candidates have all received their materials and have commenced study.

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Fraser (VE1WO) reported that plans for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are proceeding well and that an updated report will be presented shortly.

*(Continued on page 7)*

Flea Market: Barry (VE1TRI) reported that the Down East Flea Market would be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Halifax Forum Complex (Multi Purpose Room). Doors will open at 0630 for sellers and 0900 for buyers. Tables will again be free for sellers and the admission for buyers will remain at \$4.00. Once again a social event will be held on Friday evening and a breakfast held on Saturday morning prior to the opening of the Flea Market. Anyone seeking tables are invited to contact Dave (VE1NN). Volunteers are required and interested members are asked to contact Barry (VE1TRI).

### Old Business:

Field Day 2007: John (VE1HMH) reminded all of this year's Field Day on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. He advised that he wanted to have an inventory of the field day equipment carried out. Tom (VE1GTC) reported that he and Murray (VE1MMD) would be conducting a count of the kitchen equipment.

### New Business:

Following discussion it was moved by Spud (VE1BC) and seconded by Helen (VA1YL) that a list of members and their call signs be included on the HARC web site. Motion was carried.

Reports / Announcements: Helen (VA1YL) reported that she is the Canadian Coordinator for the Guides on the Air program. She advised that she would appreciate receiving any reports of involvement in the GOTA program. Helen also spoke on the "YL" Challenge and encouraged all members to participate by working 40 "YL" stations during 20007.

50/50: Paul (VA1XBN) won the 50/50 draw in the amount of \$34.00.

Door Prize: Helen (VA1YL) won the "power wrench".

It was moved by Lynn (VE1ENT) that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 2027.

Respectfully submitted,  
Murray Mac Donald, VE1MMD  
Secretary, H.A.R.C.

Good Morning:

I noticed the Truro Club dinner in Reflector so Joan and I ran up. Just Barry, VE1TRI and I there from the Halifax Club. Here are a couple of photos. It was a great dinner, the food was great, and if I could have left this damn tinnitus home and could hear better I am sure the conversation

was great as well. We thoroughly enjoyed it just the same.

The Truro Club seemed very pleased that we went and Barry managed to sign up a couple of tables for the flea market. There was a VE4 from Winnipeg there that was the farthest from home.

73, Spud VE1BC

P.S. Joan and I sat next to Steve VE1SD and Phyllis Dickson  
[www.treemile.com](http://www.treemile.com) and had a great visit.



*As you  
slide  
down the  
banister  
of life,  
may the  
splinters  
never  
point the  
wrong  
way.*

*"I got rid  
of my  
husband.  
The cat  
was  
allergic."*

**QsoNet** is a new system which uses the internet to receive audio signals from a ham radio transmitting station then instantly reflects the audio back to all stations listening on that frequency. The result is a simulated ionosphere for worldwide amateur radio communication. See <http://qsonet.com/index.html>

The HRM EMO/ham Advisory Committee Web page is at [www.ve1hre.ca](http://www.ve1hre.ca)

The agreement between the Dept. of Motor Vehicles and the Amateur radio community for **call sign plates** is through NSARA. To apply for amateur radio call sign plates to use on a motor vehicle licensed in Nova Scotia:

1. Obtain an "Application for Ownership, Permits, and Plates" from your local Registry of motor vehicles office,
2. Complete the form (Sections 1,2,3,5,6c, & 8)
3. Send the completed form to :

John Hugh Brown, VE1CZC  
P.O. BOX 131  
NEW GERMANY, NS B0R 1E0

E-mail [j.brown@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:j.brown@ns.sympatico.ca)

**From the Mail Bag**

Durham Radio Sales and Service Inc. ([www.durhamradio.com](http://www.durhamradio.com)) from Whitby, Ontario will be supporting the Radio Community of the Maritimes by attending the Down East Flea Market in Halifax on Saturday, May 12, 2007.

Your club members can benefit from our attendance in several ways:  
Save on expensive shipping of bulky and heavy items e.g. antennas, power supplies, lengths of coax  
Compare similar items for look, feel and features e.g. GPSMAP60CSx vs. GPSMAP76CSx; FT8800R vs. TMV708A

Save shipping on low cost items e.g. coax seal, connectors, patch cords ...

Attending the Down East Flea Market this year will be: Lee McMurter – VA3LHM – Sales Manager  
Larry Goucher – VA3FHG – Sales Representative

We would appreciate it if you would inform your club members of our attendance at the Down East Flea Market in your club newsletter, e-mail lists, nets and at meetings. We encourage your members to let us know well in advance what specific products they wish us to bring.

You can contact us by e-mail: [leemcm@durhamradio.com](mailto:leemcm@durhamradio.com), or phone via our toll free order line 1-888-426-1688

Web site - [www.durhamradio.com](http://www.durhamradio.com)

Thank you for supporting a Canadian radio retailer.

**REMINDER**

Have you changed your address?  
E-mail address? Got a new call sign?  
We need to know your correct address to get the newsletter to you.  
Please inform Howard, VE1DHD  
[ve1dhd@rac.ca](mailto:ve1dhd@rac.ca)

*I stand corrected!. Ed.*



Hi Lynn:

Hope all is well with you and Bill and the rest of the gang in Metro! Just got the February Reflector via e-mail....as usual, always a good read...however couldn't help but notice...."The Canadian flag was first flown on February 15, 1975".... probably was flown "somewhere" then for the first time....but we had a ceremony on board HMCS Bonaventure in San Juan, Puerto Rico to swap it for the Naval ensign on February 15, 1965!.....thought I should bring this typo to your attention!

73s, Dave, VE1RCN

The red and white maple leaf flag first flew at 10 AM on February 15th, 1965 not 1975. See the front of the Reflector. I stayed up after a night shift to be one of the first to fly it and I only wish I had kept the old one I removed.

73, Spud

You guys may already be aware of the sale of Cushcraft, if not here is the info.

- Ken VY2RU

Cushcraft, the well known US makers of Amateur Radio HF VHF and UHF antennas, have been bought by the United Kingdom based Laird Group PLC.

A press release quotes Martin Rapp, CEO of Laird Technologies as saying "The combination of the two companies uniquely positions Laird Technologies to grow the combined business in emerging markets of RFID and WiMax." There is no mention in the statement of plans for the Amateur Radio Antenna division.

73 Trevor M5AKA

Looks like Hosstraders is no longer!  
<http://www.qsl.net/k1rqg/>

Ken VA3KA

To All Radio Amateurs...

From the Hosstraders, Joe K1RQG, Bob W1GWU, and Norm W1ITT  
Re: Hosstraders Tailgate Swapfest

The October 2006 event was the last Hosstraders. After careful consideration, we have decided to discontinue hosting the event. A combination of factors have led to this difficult decision. We've been running Hosstraders for a third of a century, but we've always done it "our way" and we feel that the result has been an event unique in the Amateur Radio world, certainly in New England. A number of things have been taken into account, but foremost in our mind is that we want Hosstraders to be a quality experience in every way, and not to slowly run it into the ground just for the ride. We want to take things out on a high note, while we can still be proud of our efforts.

Briefly, the factors that led us to this point are problems with site logistics, the changing face of flea marketing due to internet commerce, changes in directions of Amateur Radio, and just the fact that we have done it for a third of a century and we are getting old and tuckered out. It is not our intent to elaborate further on these matters. Nor do we intend to anoint or endorse any successors, or go into the business of Hamfest Consulting, so please don't ask. We are unaware of any person or group in the region with the experience to "take over". Therefore, be very cautious of anyone who comes forward claiming to be the "new Hosstraders". Running an event of Hosstraders' size and impact is more challenging than it appears! What's the next step? Well, for us, we plan to relax and play radio. For the rest of the Amateur community in the Northeast, we'd suggest that you get off the internet and on the air. Support your local clubs and their events. Put up an antenna for some ham who needs a bit of assis-

*Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?*



tance and help to maintain the fraternal aspects of our hobby.

We wish to thank you for your great support these many years. We often hear from hams who have been attending Hosstraders since those early days in Seabrook. Since that first event where 61 of us met on a flat grassy field we've had lots of fun and made lots of memories. We've also donated over \$1.3 million to the Shriners' Hospitals for the care and support of severely burned and crippled kids. We are proud of that, and those who participated can share in that pride. The need still exists at the Hospitals, so if you wish to make someone happy, perhaps each year on the anniversary of Hosstraders, you could send a check along to Boston, Springfield or Montreal. They will not waste it!

We hope you'll remember the times we all had together at Seabrook, Deerfield, Kingston, Rochester and Hopkinton. You can be sure that we will never forget.



Feb.17/07 **Guides on the Air (GOTA)** 2007 Gary VE1WAN, brought these guides and four guide leaders into the Halifax Club station for some Amateur Radio fun. Gary and Brian, VE1AZV spent several hours with them. Gary's comment "it was fun and they all did well and they will earn a badge for their experience on the air."



**Guides on the Air** is still alive and well. The best resource for GOTA is the UK Guide association page:

<http://www.guides-on-the-air.co.uk/>

The UK Guide Association set the dates for GOTA (which they call TDOTA - Thinking Day on the Air). It is now always on the third full weekend in February. They also maintain a list of stations participating, with notes as to times & frequencies. They have an email list as well, so that stations can reach out to other stations & set up skeds.

UK Guides is taking advantage of the new licensing in the UK to try to get interested kids their tickets with a few TDOTA sessions. The two make a great partnership.

I am the CLARA (Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Assoc.) coordinator for GOTA for all of Canada, but truth be told, I let Liz at UK Guides do most of the work for me. I mainly refer hams and Guiders to the UK Guide page, although I also try to find hams for interested Guiders. My web page is:

<http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/hfarchibald/>



I took part again this year and had a total of 17 girls & about 6 adults in the shack. Saturday morning we worked several UK Guide stations. In the afternoon, we talked to Joyce VE6JOY and then various US stations. Sunday afternoon we talked to US OMs.

If you know even one Spark, Brownie, Guide or Guider, have fun and maybe infect a new person with the ham bug on the third weekend next February.

73 Helen VA1YL [hfarchibald@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:hfarchibald@ns.sympatico.ca)

<http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/hfarchibald/>

also see: <http://www.guides-on-the-air.co.uk/>



*Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?*

*A: Rename the mail folder "Instruction Manuals"*



*Thanks to Howard, VE1FV,  
for sending this. -ed.*

From a Queens County Times article.

### **Queens County Ham Recalls Bridge Collapse (1971)**

Howard Henderson, VE1FV, of Great Hill, Brooklyn is now a retired Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company technician, but on the Sunday afternoon during the LaHave ice jam of 1971, he was enjoying the day off work, indulging in his pastime of amateur radio at his home, in Liverpool; communicating in CW with Ken Burrows, VE1AOC.

Ken, working for Columbia University at the time, was radio/electronics officer aboard the research vessel Robert D Conrad, off the coast of west Africa.

During their conversation, Howard's telephone rang. The voice on the other end of the line was that of Irvin Himmelman, a technician at the Maritime Tel & Tel central office in Bridgewater. Himmelman had just witnessed the collapse of the bridge across the LaHave, and the subsequent loss of all connections with head office in Halifax.

All communication cables had been lashed to that structure. (Those were the days before microwave towers.)

The accident literally cut off Queens and Lunenburg counties from the rest of the world. Areas affected included New Ross, Chester, all communities the east side of the LaHave, and all communities the West side of the LaHave and as far west as Port Mouton.

When the bridge went down, and red alarm lights began flashing in the telephone company's toll office on North Street, Halifax, employees in the city had no idea what had just occurred.

Himmelman, knowing Howard's hobby was amateur radio, asked for help in contacting officials in Halifax to let them know the situation. Howard immediately went on the 80 meter band (3.750 MHz) and called

CQ Halifax with "urgent traffic". His request was answered by the late Angus MacDonald, VE1YO, a blind amateur radio operator in Dartmouth who was very active in the hobby and often communicating with hams locally and globally. Angus relayed the message to Maritime Tel. & Tel. across the harbour in Halifax. The link between Liverpool and Halifax for emergency communications and planning had thus been established.

From 4.20 to 11 PM, the only link from this South Shore area to the Halifax toll office (and the rest of the world) was via Howard's amateur radio station and Angus MacDonald's radio room in Dartmouth.

Manpower & cables were ordered to replace the communications gap across the LaHave River. The hams maintained the link, providing emergency communications for Maritime Tel. & Tel. and customers, until one circuit could be established that night

See <http://queenscountytimes.ca/environment/icejam.html>



### **Answer to puzzler on page 3**

The first proposed use for Hertzian waves was in weather forecasting. They found they could detect lightning with a coherer (an early detector that was a glass tube filled with iron filings that would change when in an electrical field.)

*Do you have a radio-oriented story, question, answer, article, notice, picture or letter to the editor that you would like to share by having it published in the HARC Reflector? Get them to HARC Reflector editor, Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT [ve1ent@rac.ca](mailto:ve1ent@rac.ca)*

*Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.*

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, #04

### **SUITSAT-2 GOES TO COLLEGE**

11 electrical engineering students at the College of New Jersey had a hand in designing some of the software defined radio hardware that will fly aboard SuitSat-2. The college seniors studied "Software Defined Radio," taught by adjunct professors Bob McGwier, N4HY, and Frank Brickle, AB2KT; both members of the (ARISS) SuitSat-2 team.

This SuitSat will have a software designed Amateur Radio transponder (SDX) on board. SuitSat-2 is being viewed as a test bed for the hardware AMSAT hopes to launch on its Phase 3E Eagle satellite.

Team members Steve Bible, N7HPR, and Joe Julicher, N9WXU, provided circuit boards employing "bleeding-edge" technology -- dsPIC33F 16-bit direct memory access digital signal controllers to serve as SuitSat-2's heart & brain. The students have implemented modulators & demodulators for SSB, FM, BPSK & AFSK using Matlab (a high-level technical computing language).

Brickle said "Given the complexity of what the SDR/SDX in SuitSat-2 will be required to provide, the applications need to run in an unprecedented software environment: preemptive multitasking under freeRTOS," (an open-source, round-robin operating system for embedded devices).

The students ran with the challenge, Brickle reports. What surprised him most, was that the students focused on taking new approaches to "very fundamental engineering issues that aren't flashy or trendy."

The SuitSat-2 team, under the leadership of Lou McFadin, W5DID, has been working on the design of a power converter for the solar panels, the internal housekeeping unit, the antenna mount, the transmitting & receiving hardware and how it will mount atop the suit's helmet. An ISS crew could launch SuitSat-2 during a spacewalk as early as next fall.

-- Rosalie White, K1STO/ARISS