



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR



2050 Hammonds Plains Road
Hammonds Plains, NS
B4B 1P3

February 2021, Volume 82 Number 2

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org

Due to Covid-19 the HARC Monthly Meetings Continue to be Virtual

HARC Club Station phone number - 902-490-6421

Executive

President - Brian Allen, VA1CC	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
First V.P. - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE	292-9924	VE1PYE@bellaliant.net
2nd V.P. - VACANT		
Secretary - Roger Stein, VA1RST	403-3738	burch.craft@gmail.com
Treasurer - Bill Simm, VA1ALW		williamrham@live.ca
Member-at-Large: -John Bignell, VE1JMB		johnmbignell@gmail.com
Station Manager: - Don Trotter, VE1DTR		don_trotter@hotmail.com
Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
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Membership - Vacant

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Basic ham course - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE 292-9924 VE1PYE@bellaliant.net

2021 Flea Market Chair - Vacant

2021 Field Day Coordinator Vacant

Safety Officer - VACANT

VA1MMA Project Manager - Dick Grantham, VE1AI rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca

NSARA Director - Bill Elliott, VE1MR 865-8567 bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH

Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Al Penney, VO1NO dir.atlantic@rac.ca

RAC Section Manager - Dave Hull, VE1HUL d.hull@ns.sympatico.ca

RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2191 ve1qd@rac.ca

All phone numbers must be preceded by area code 902 when dialling, unless otherwise indicated

The **February 17, 2021 General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, February 17. The method (**virtual**) and time will be sent in an e-mail. Check your e-mail for details as the date approaches. Also check the web site for any other updates. **Currently there is no access to Station 50.**

Guests are welcome but need to send an e-mail to the club to be able to be on the invitee list

Just spent 15 minutes searching for my phone in my car.

While using my phone as a flashlight.

Take-15 Net Controllers

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



Feb. 14	Cam	VE1BIT
Feb. 21	Gary	VA1GGM
Feb. 28	Bill	VA1ALW
March 7	Cam	VE1BIT
March 14	Gary	VA1GGM

We can all agree that in 2015 not a single person got the answer correct to, 'Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?'

Deadline for submissions to the March 2021 Reflector is Saturday March 6, 2021



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 and TX tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5
PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz
LAN NODE

2m H.A.R.C. Crossword Puzzle Challenge

John Bignell, HARC Events Committee

With the success of the 2metre "get on the air" challenge in January. The HARC Events Committee would like to invite amateur radio operators to join us on February 6, 2021, at noon. For the 2-metre Crossword puzzle challenge.

At noon, the committee will set up a local 2-metre net in Halifax for participants to check-in. A series of questions are then broadcasted over the air, with details that will help hams solve the crossword puzzle. The words will be made up of questions found in the basic ham course question bank.

The first part of the challenge will be to get the crossword puzzle sheet. On the morning of February 6, we will start broadcasting an SSTV image and a WinLink Telnet to access the crossword puzzle sheet. The winlink details and frequencies will be posted on the HARC website. Plus if participants are not successful in accessing the crossword puzzle sheet, they can request us to email a copy.

This is a fun challenge to get HARC members comfortable with receiving SSTV or Winlink files. While working with 2-metre bands to complete the challenge. These are all good skills that will help amateur radio operators build confidence in radio communications if they are needed for a volunteer event or community disaster.

On February 6, the HARC Events Committee will be announcing the results of the "Get on the Air" Challenge and would like to thank everyone that was involved. The committee hopes to have an event on the first Saturday of each month. We are currently working on a Fox Hunt, SSTV challenge and other amateur radio events. If you have any suggestions or ideas for future events, please let us know.

There will be a (FREE!) Virtual Hamfest Saturday March 6, 2021 from 9AM to 4PM Eastern Time if anyone is interested.

Fill out the form you will find at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6l9G85Tmya9s4Kam6If5bBF9aGce-AIZdRbYfUuzguLjVLQ/viewform>

TO REGISTER FOR MAINE VIRTUAL HAMFEST (FREE!) so I can add you to the distro list for the hamfest and get a head count

Our Big Keynote speaker will be Dr. Bob Heil K9EID! We also have Riley Hollingsworth presenting on the Volunteer Monitoring Program which replaced the Official Observer program in 2018.

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

The March 13-14 2021 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo is in full planning mode with many exciting new things underway for the upcoming event. In addition to the world-class line-up of 60+ speakers and workshops (for a complete list and early bird registration go to www.qsotodayhamexpo.com), the Expo team is proud to announce an entire speaker track dedicated to the amazing world of AMSAT - the worldwide group of amateur radio operators who share an active interest in building, launching and then communicating with each other through non-commercial amateur radio satellites. To date, over 70 amateur radio satellites have been launched. At the Expo, there will be 9 sessions by AMSAT experts who will discuss everything you need to know about taking advantage of this satellite network. These include:

Introduction to Amateur Radio Satellites (Douglas Quagliana, KA2UPW)

Getting On the Air with Satellites (Bradford Clint, K6LCS)

How to Enjoy Amateur Radio Contacts With the International Space Station (Frank Bauer, KA3HDO)

Implementation of LDPC Encoder on FPGA (Anshul Makkar)

Debris Mitigation in Earth's Orbit (Anshul Makkar)

Digital Multiplexing Transponder from the Open Research Institute (Michelle Thompson, W5NYV)

Solving the ITAR and EAR Problem for the Amateur Radio Satellite Service (Michelle Thompson, W5NYV)

Remote Labs for P4XT Engineering Development (Paul Williamson, KB5MU)

In addition to the speaker track, AMSAT will have a booth at the Expo where attendees can talk to experts, enthusiasts, operators and technicians about this very cool technology. Booth visitors can also get contact and membership information for the thirty member AMSAT societies around the world.

Michelle Thompson, W5NYV, an AMSAT Director, said that "operating within the Amateur Radio Satellite Service is one of the most rewarding privileges of holding an amateur radio license. There has never been a better time to be involved in amateur radio satellites since some long-standing regulatory burdens have been lifted and advanced technology has never been more affordable and accessible. We have opportunities now that were not available as of even a few years ago. AMSAT is fortunate to contribute to the Expo by showcasing the truly amazing work going on

(Continued on page 4)



Puzzler - Do you know?

What are Data breaches?

Answer to puzzler is on page 5

The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 day planner

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for February, 2021

Good day fellow amateurs: just sitting here working some cw dx with lots of activity on 20m - the contest is the European dx contest and this is just one of many events you can get into. The bands have been fairly active this past couple of weeks and I have a number of contacts on 17m that are throughout Europe.

A good event calendar is wa7bmn and a good spotting program is DX WATCH.COM or DX SUMMIT.COM

We now have a swap shop on our web page: just click swap shop and it takes you immediately to HAMSHACK where you can post items you want or to sell and see items across the country as well as local. Menu driven and very easy to use.

I just checked my email to see many of you going through the membership renewal process, this is good to see and I hope many more of you will get yours in soon. Many of us, including me, are so happy to have amateur radio as a hobby as it allows us to be inside so much of the time with Covid 19 and still get out to the world via radio. I have renewed so many relationships with amateurs all over the world and even made new friends. There are ways to get your DXCC or IOTA (ISLAND ON THE AIR) OR WORKED ALL STATES OR WPX awards and so on. Now there are so many different modes like ssb: cw: slow scan: fm: digital like ft4/ ft8 – jt65 and so on. There has been 6 meter openings as well to the United States.

I was into the club on Friday and there was no mail. While there I hung a 2021 wall calendar and filled in some of the possible events. The CTV news announced the Transport Canada ruling that NO cruise ships would visit the port of Halifax and that a new announcement would come in February of 2022. That means any involvement at The Museum of the Atlantic will not happen again for this year. As I mentioned earlier that the Xenon international event has been cancelled are so many others around the world including our events locally.

Well there is not much else happening at the club, we keep planning to get more work done at Cowie Hill and station 50 and Bill and Jason are doing a lot of work in the repeater network. We are going to submit a grant proposal to HRM for computers and test equipment. Again, with Covid and its toll on budgets, we may get some help or nothing as there are other priorities within the city.

Everyone be safe, do the right things to stay safe and I look forward to seeing you on the virtual meeting on the Wednesday 17th of February for our General meeting at 7pm. Have fun on the radio too - it's important for our mental health as well.

73 - Respectfully, Brian Allen- VA1CC,
President of the HARC

Membership Registration Process

Membership may be initiated or renewed using any of the following methods:

(1) Download and save our new Fillable PDF membership form to your computer. Then open it using Adobe Reader (which you can download for free from their website), or other PDF Reader then fill in the form and print a copy and mail it along with appropriate cheque payment to our postal address. Halifax Amateur Radio Club
2050 Hammonds Plains Road
Canada B4B 1P3
Attention: Membership chair

(2) **Interac e-Transfer** The process to do an Interac e-Transfer is as follows:

- Download and save our fillable membership application form to your computer. Then open it in your PDF reader - we recommend Adobe Reader; fill it in and save it to your computer. Then, e-mail a copy of your completed mem-

bership application form to membership@halifax-arc.org
Please be sure to indicate on the form that you are paying by Interac e-money transfer.

- Then, go to your on-line banking site and **send an Interac e-money transfer to treasurer@halifax-arc.org . e-Transfers are automatically deposited in the HARC bank account**
- The Treasurer will confirm receipt of the funds with you and will notify the Membership Chair.
- The Membership Chair will then issue a 2021 e-Membership Card by email confirming that your annual membership has been paid.
- (3) Alternatively, you can come to one of our monthly club meetings and Membership Chair will be happy to renew your membership.

Do you have any inquiries or comments? Send us an email.

News from the Valley

Despite COVID-19 (and generally miserable shortwave propagation), four members of the Kings Co. ARC (three of whom are also in HARC) decided to get together for the 24-hour RAC Winter Contest.

Since 2006, hams in both HARC and KCARC have gathered for the annual Canada Day and Canada Winter RAC contests at the house and radio shack of Fred (VE1FA) and Helen (VA1YL) Archibald in metropolitan Canard, (just south of Canning). The shack/workshop is fairly roomy, allowing lots of snacks, chairs, and kibitzers. This time Wayne VE1BAB and Bob VE1RSM made up the foursome. We four meet frequently, so consider ourselves in a common bubble.

On 19-20 December 2020 we ran the Winter Contest as a mixed (SSB + CW) multi-op, single transmitter at 500-700W station in the MOST-HP class. A new RAC rule allowed us to use a second transmitter to work new multipliers only, but we stuck to a single TX. As always, we used two antennas; a 486' circumference delta horizontal loop 48-54' above ground, and a Mosley Classic 33 tri-bander at 53'. Sometimes we run as VE1LD (KARC's call) but this time we ran as VE1RAC. As usual, we logged with N1MM, optimized by our expert Bob.

Fred + Helen started at 8PM local on Dec. 19th, joined by Bob a little later, and we worked 'till about 1 AM. Bands 80 and 160 were surprisingly good! As all of us are approaching old geezdom, we then shut down for the night. Wayne and Bob arrived on the 20th, and we ended up working 15 of the 24h of the contest.

Propagation was spotty: 10m never opened and 15m was very weak, but 20, 40, 80, and 160 varied from poor to magic patches (in amongst the QSB) of amazingly good prop!

Results: 1088 total QSOs 651 SSB (Fred + Helen), 437 CW (Wayne + Bob)

-76 multipliers, 38 CW and 38 SSB

-worked all provinces and territories except Nunavut (VY0)

-Max QSO rates: 4 Qs/min for 1 minute, 2.3 Qs/minute for 1 hour (138 Qs/hr)

-Total score: 489,592 Amazingly, considering conditions and where we are in the sunspot cycle, this was our best score ever in the Canada Winter Contest!

Problems?? Nothing tests a station like being in a contest, and though our current station has been tweaked and peaked for years, we did have a new problem which certainly cost us lot of points: the logging computer seized up several times. The problem was that I (Fred) had replaced the 12" computer screen with a 23" screen, which acted as an improved HF antenna, dumping too much of the radio's RF energy into the logging computer on 20m.

Why do we do this twice a year? (1.) It's nice and social, both in the shack and on the air. (2.) It keeps us sharp and improves our radio skills. (3.) It improves the station. (4.) It's fun!

PS If you would like to join us (after we're vaccinated) for the Canada Day or Winter contests, let Fred or Helen know!

De Fred VE1FA

People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.

2021 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

(Continued from page 2)

around the world in the amateur satellite scene. And the Expo is an ideal partner to show it off to the wider ham audience."

Said Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, QSO Today host, "AMSAT is making a major contribution to the upcoming Expo by helping our attendees to learn about this exciting technology, new developments, and how they can apply it to their everyday activities. These presentations will range from beginner to expert - so there will be something for everyone interested in space communications at the Expo."

Anyone can attend the QSO Today Virtual Ham Radio Expo from their home or office. Early Bird Tickets are just \$10 (to help cover the cost of this event, \$12.50 at the "door") and include entry for the Live 2 day period as well as the 30-day on-demand period). Registration can be found at www.qsotodayhamexpo.com.

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio® in the United States, is a QSO Today Expo Partner. FlexRadio is the Expo's Platinum Sponsor, and Gold sponsors as of this time include Elecraft, RFinder, and Connect Systems.

For more information, go to www.qsotodayhamexpo.com

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The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

RAC Welcomes new Atlantic and Midwest Directors

<https://www.rac.ca/rac-welcomes-new-directors/>

As reported in the January-February 2021 issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine, following the call for nominations for Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada's Atlantic, Ontario North/East, Midwest and British Columbia/Yukon Regions, RAC would like to welcome the following Radio Amateurs to our Board of Directors 2021:

Al Penney, VO1NO, was elected as the new Director for the Atlantic Region (see bio below)

Ed Richardson, VE4EAR/VE4VT, was elected as the new Director for the Midwest Region (see bio below)

RAC would also like to welcome back the following Radio Amateurs to our Board of Directors:

Keith Witney, VE7KW, was re-elected as the Director for the British Columbia/Yukon Region

Allan Boyd, VE3AJB, was re-elected the Director for the Ontario North/East Region.

Al Penney, VO1NO, Alphonse (Al) Penney, VO1NO, was born and raised in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

A Remco crystal radio kit Christmas gift, and the acquisition of a Halicrafters S-38D shortwave receiver as a boy sparked a lifelong fascination with the "magic of radio".

Al was licensed in early 1977 after taking an evening course sponsored by the local Department of Communications (DOC) Radio Inspector.

Al has served on the Executives of many clubs throughout Canada and the USA, including Vice-President of the West Island ARC in Montreal, and President of the VE2CMR ARC, Halifax ARC, West Carleton ARC in Ottawa, and the Pike's Peak Radio Amateur Association in Colorado Springs while serving at NORAD

Headquarters.

More recently he co-founded the Annapolis Valley Amateur Radio Club in Nova Scotia, a "virtual" club that appeals to those who do not like to take part in more traditional clubs.

Al has been involved with teaching prospective Amateurs since the early 1990s. He is one of the primary instructors for the Halifax ARC for their Basic and Advanced courses, and organized and taught the RAC Online Basic Course in response to the global pandemic.

Al has been the RAC Band Planning Coordinator since 2013, and spearheaded the effort to update the Canadian HF band plans and have them published in a graphic format. He is currently coordinating the update of the VHF/UHF band plans. He lives in Aylesford, Nova Scotia on 10 acres he would like to turn into an antenna farm!

Ed Richardson, VE4EAR/VE4VT, has been a licensed Amateur Radio operator since 1983.

He was bitten by the radio bug in the early 1970s after discovering the excitement and challenge of listening to distant radio stations.

Introduced to the hobby of "ham" radio by his neighbour, Sandy, VE4SZ, Ed made the decision to get his licence and at the same time decided that a career in electrical engineering was what he wanted to do.

Professionally, Ed has worked as a microwave design engineer. Designing amplifiers, oscillators, filters, mixers and power amplifiers all the way to 28 GHz. Since 1998, has been Ed employed as the Communication Systems Engineer for the City of Winnipeg.

Ed joined the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Repeater Society in 1994. After five years as Technical Director, he assumed the role of President in 2000 and held this position until 2019.

As the Manitoba Frequency Coordinator for the past 14 years, Ed has worked with his counterparts in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Minnesota and North Dakota to keep the VHF/UHF bands organized in this region.

Ed is a founding member of Radiosport Manitoba and is currently serving as its President.


Both Al and Ed began their two-year term on January 1 and I look forward to working with them.

Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA
RAC President and Chair

Alan Griffin
RAC MarCom Director

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 **Answer to Puzzler on pg.2**
Data breaches, or data leaks, happen when hackers steal sensitive data from a company's servers or databases. If the hackers can crack the company's security and access user or customer data — which, depending on the company they target, can include social security numbers, other ID numbers, passwords, addresses, passport numbers, credit card info, and so on — they can sell this data to identity thieves. Data brokers, companies who collect and sell people's personal information, are frequent targets for data breaches.

*The midget fortune-teller
who escaped from prison
was a small
medium at large.*



Halifax Amateur Radio Club Virtual General Meeting Minutes 20 January 2021

1. Welcome to the HARC virtual monthly meeting for January 20, 2021: The virtual meeting was called to order by President VA1CC Brian at approximately 1915.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda: A request was made to accept the agenda as presented by Brian, VA1CC. A motion was made by Tim, VA1TIM, to accept the agenda, seconded by Doug, VE1LDL.

The motion was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes for November 2020 as printed in the January Reflector: A motion was made by Don, VE1DTR to approve the minutes, seconded by Fraser, VE1WO. The motion was approved.

4. Report of any Silent Keys: The following amateurs in the Maritimes have passed since the last club meeting:

Ina R. Everett, VE1INA, November

21, 2020, Mono ON

Kenneth C. Ellis, VY2IX, November

23, 2020, Souris PE

Normand Richard, VY2NR,

November 25, 2020, Wellington

Station PE

Ralph E. Grezard, VE1DIG,

November 30, 2020, Liverpool NS

Robert S. Aulenback, VE1JR

December 5, 2020, Lunenburg NS

Peter M. Whynot, VE1JPW

December 27, 2020, Liverpool NS

Lynwood E. Webber, VE1LEW,

December 27, 2020, Dartmouth NS

Donald E. Craig, VE1ANZ,

December 28, 2020, Summerside ,PE

John J. Church, ex VE1ARM, Dec.

30, 2020, Fredericton NB

Karen M. Pearce, VE1KHP, Jan.5,

2021 Dartmouth NS

Jack A. O'Dell, VE9JK, Jan.12,

2021, Dieppe NB

Additional information can be viewed at <https://www.westcumb.ca/maritime-silent-keys-2020>

5. Correspondence: None to report

6. President's Report: Brian, VA1CC noted the year 2020 closed out with no Annual Christmas gathering at the Swiss Chalet due to COVID. A detailed Presidents report will be elsewhere in the Reflector.

7. Treasurer's Reports: Bill

VA1ALW was absent, no report.

8. Notice of Motion: Second reading of 2021 Budget No additional questions were received. Bill, VE1MR moved for acceptance of the 2021 budget as presented at the November meeting. Don, VE1DTR seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

9. Station Managers Report: Don, VE1DTR reported the Technical Committee has been doing Website updates, As has been reported previously, the Swap n Shop section has been disabled and removed due to a 'hack' into the system. A new method is being investigated and Don demonstrated a product called Hamshack to handle gear for sale or wanted, managed by a fellow in BC. This soon will appear on the HARC website. All of Canada is included. A trial will be run and a donation will be sent upon a successful completion of the trial period. A positive response was received at the meeting. No additional work has been done on the remote station due to difficulty of getting into the station.

10. Education Report: Jason, VE1PYE reported that all requests for amateur radio basic license training are being referred to the RAC Online course. An Advanced course is being advertised by RAC for this Fall. A couple of study guides are still available for sale at the station. Brian reported a Travis Sewell, VE7TES from Langley BC has moved into the area. He has requested a new call sign VE1AAW and has joined the club.

11. Old Business:

Grant submission preparations: Brian, VA1CC reported that

DonMosher HRM EMO said to submit any Grant requests through Gary Murphy VA1GGM for the 2021 budget year. Newer laptops for Field Day and PC replacements along with an antenna analyzer with capability to 1296 mhz are under consideration.

Search and Rescue: Dave, VE1AJP reported just a couple of quick call outs and call offs. Dave reported on a 'battery' of problems with the new call out rig! The rig is back in the shop to sort out a battery/starting/charging issue.

Cowie Hill tower study update/work:

Before any additional antennas can be added to the Cowie Hill tower, a load study was requested by HRM's Don Mosher. Roger, VA1RST has been in contact with an engineer at Trylon Towers requesting (1.) the original design capacity of the current tower and (2.) a budget proposal to do an updated load study to current code requirements with current antenna configuration. Roger is waiting to hear back from Trylon.

Station 50 Satellite Tower install update: Brian, VA1CC reported that installation of this 30' tilt over that is on site is scheduled for installation this Spring.

12. New Business:

Notice of Motion: Tom Caithness recommended for Life Membership:

In recognition of service and participation over a lengthy period, the Executive has nominated Tom Caithness, VE1CTC for Life Membership in the HARC. Tim, VE1TIM moved for this nomination to go forward, Doug, VE1LDL seconded, 28/28 in favor.

Notice of Motion: Murray MacDonald, VE1BB recommended for Life Membership:

In recognition of service and participation over a lengthy period, Executive has nominated Murray MacDonald for Life Membership in the HARC, Dick, VE1AI moved for this

(Continued on page 7)

January General Meeting Minutes
(Continued from page 6)

nomination to go forward, Jason, VE1PYE seconded, 28/28 in favor.

Ham Shack swap shop update:
described in the Station Managers report above.

Web site updates ..new look /feel:
described in the Station Managers report above.

Brian, VA1CC asked for any current photos of club activities and to send them in for the club web page.

13. Round Table:

Dick, VE1AI reported a great 6 meter opening the other night from NFLD to NC and west to IL. Keep a watch on 50.125 the call frequency. Sunspots are starting to appear and the HF bands are coming alive. Check the WA7BNM contest calendar. The OPDX bulletin is a real good one per Scott, VE1QD. There are a lot of Facebook groups related to specific equipment that is a good information source. Dick also said there is an occasional burst on the 440.350 UHF repeater that he, Bruce and Mike use to coordinate their DX strategy. Jason said it may be a new user in a wrong mode setup. Brian made a pitch to get on Tuesday night with Operation Handshake to contact Fraser, VE1WO. Alistair, VE1PAB is on from Station 45 doing Operation Handshake. A few members had trouble logging into the Zoom meeting, could be your internet provider. Condolences to Ian VE1IGP in the loss of his mother Karen VE1KHP.

14. Motion for Adjournment: Don, VE1DTR motioning to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at approx 2020 hours.

Respectfully submitted by Roger
Stein, VA1RST,
HARC Secretary

Silent Key

Gerald Pelletier VE9GLP (SK)

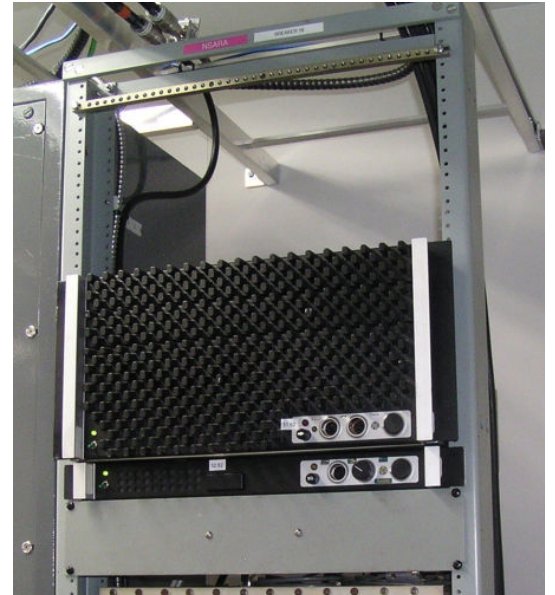
RECENT REPEATER WORK

The 6M repeater at Gore had become unusable because of interference and we could not determine where the interference was coming from. We decided to get permission to install a 6M repeater at the Shubenacadie provincial site. We had been at the Gore site to try to determine if we could stop the interference and decided to remove the repeater controller for use at the new site. Jason VE1PYE had a low band PYE repeater available and used QRP Labs ProgRock programmable crystal kits in place of the required crystals. Jason also took on the project of retuning a Sinclair F series Hybrid Ring duplexer that we had. This was a several week project that required cut and try for the cable lengths between the cans as well as disassembling 2 of the cans to cut the internal tuning stubs shorter to achieve a higher frequency than the original.



Jason, VE1PYE retuning the 6M duplexer

We were given permission to install the repeater and duplexer at the Shubenacadie site (VE1SHU). At the end of December 2020 we were able to install this repeater. We got the duplexer into position with the help of Gordon, VE1GVY. Jason had already interfaced the PYE repeater to the controller and had mounted the controller in a cabinet mounted on a rack plate so installation was quite easy. We tested the antenna, assembled and routed the cables from the repeater to the duplexer and from the duplexer to the antenna. Initial tests showed all was working correctly. Later testing showed the coverage was much less than the Gore site but was still usable for many of the 6M operators. The frequency remained the same as at Gore, 51.620 + 1 MHz.



From the Mail Bag

Rick NE8Z/HC1MD generously presents the details of his 2011 trip to Mt. Athos and visit with friend and fellow ham, Fr. Apollo SV2ASP. Only pilgrims are allowed to visit (no tourists) and are ordinarily prohibited from taking pictures, but Rick received special permission to do so during his 9-day stay. Rick's photos and memories of Fr. Apollo, Mt. Athos, Greece and the culture of this special place reveal a world that few will ever see. Thank you, Rick!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qbk0YyYFmE&feature=youtu.be>

Sent in by Ken, VY2RU

Silent Key

Dave Vail VE1GM contacted Roger Belliveau VE1RV today Jan. 30, to give him the sad news about Bernie. Bonnar, VE1UT. No obituary at this time.

Roger will have a moment of silence on the Old Times Club net Sunday morning.

Bernie's wife, Veralyn, (VE1VAR) noted: We are having a private family graveside service for him at the little Tusket Lakes Cemetery in front of the farm in the spring

Jim Langille VE1JBL

Needed

The H.A.R.C. needs a new Safety Officer

Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PK has withdrawn from this position due to health issues.

Please contact President Brian if you are interested in taking on this position. Pat will help you with the transition.

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

Greetings all Amateur Radio Operators,

Some of you have already received this notice so apologies for sending it again but thought this may be a good chance to promote Fusion to those amateurs who have not had the chance to get involved yet.

Always looking for ways to entice operators to try new things in the hobby.

One of our local amateurs in the WestCumb ARC is starting up a YouTube channel to dedicate to the hobby.

Robert Mannette VE1RMJ from Oxford NS is setting up a channel to operate live feeds for radio nets and other events.

His first mission is to live stream the Maritime Fusion Net held each Wednesday night at 7pm in the CQ Maritimes room 60207. This has become a very popular net averaging 47 check-ins each week. As many as 19 Fusion repeaters throughout the Maritimes are connected for the net each week.

Everyone who connects to the channel will see the Wires-X program used by some Fusion operators and NCO's to see what repeaters and personal nodes are connected to the net and also see who is talking and the repeater they are using.

If you only want to listen to the net you do not need to be close to your radio, just turn on your computer, phone or even your television to broadcast the YouTube channel.

This will also be great for operators who are not into Fusion yet as they can also follow the net and see how Fusion works.

If you are interested in this, please go to his YouTube site click on Subscribe on the right-hand side near the top of the page. Here is the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaMlua0X9GLP3j3P7MpCpgQ>

Hopefully, we can get more hams interested in the mode. For more information about the Maritime Fusion Net go to

<https://www.maarc.ca/maritimefusionnet.html>

I also have a large email following for Fusion Radio including reminders and recaps of the net. If you would like to be added to this list let me know via jimve1jbl@gmail.com

Any questions about this or anything to do with amateur radio send it along and I will try to answer your questions or if I don't have an answer will find someone else to answer it.

All the best and stay safe,

Jim Langille VE1JBL

www.maritimeamateur.ca

Continuing with the last notice, the test video of the Maritime Fusion Net this past Wednesday is now online for viewing.

For those who do not have the Wires-X programming or for hams who are not into Fusion yet here is an example of the weekly net. The first real video recording will be this coming Wednesday, Feb. at 7pm AT. Yvon Hachey VE1VON from Dieppe NB is scheduled to be the NCO.

<https://maritimeamateur.ca/news-information>

Here again, is the link to watch and listen to the net next week.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaMlua0X9GLP3j3P7MpCpgQ>

Have a great weekend and stay safe,

Jim Langille VE1JBL www.maritimeamateur.ca

473 Green Road, Tidnish Bridge NS B4H3X9,

Phone - 902-661-1465, Cell/Text 902-694-5524

Ottawa, Ontario

ARISS Event: February 5, 2021 – As part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, NASA Astronaut Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, will connect with students from the Ottawa Carleton Virtual Online School in Ottawa, Ontario and answer their questions (see below), live from the International Space Station (ISS).

The ISS call sign is scheduled to be NA1SS event and the will take place on Friday, February 5, 2021 at 17:41:04 UTC 40 deg via AB1OC. It is recommended that you start listening approximately 10 minutes before this time.

The duration of the contact is approximately 9 minutes and 30 seconds. The contact will be a telebridge between NA1SS and AB1OC which is located in New Hampshire:

Ground Station Coordinates:

AB1OC New Hampshire Latitude 42.712N; Longitude 71.590W; Elevation 110m

ARISS team member Fred Kemmerer, using his call sign AB1OC in New Hampshire, will serve as the relay Amateur Radio station.

The contact should be audible over the USA and Canada (Eastern regions) and adjacent areas. Interested parties are invited to listen in on the 145.80 MHz downlink. The contact is expected to be conducted in English.

Steve McFarlane, VE3TBD, ARISS Central and Northern Canada representative, is the Mentor for the event and Brian Jackson, VE6JBJ, ARISS Western Canada Mentor, is the Moderator.

ARISS is an international program aimed at inspiring students worldwide to pursue interests and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through Amateur Radio communications opportunities with the ISS crew.

For more information on ARISS please visit:

RAC ARISS webpage: <https://www.rac.ca/ariss/>

Main ARISS website:

<http://www.ariss.org>

Multipoint Telebridge Contact via Amateur Radio

As mentioned above, members will ask their questions to Astronaut Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, via an adapted telebridge link which will use a multi-point system in which they are connected to the conference call centre from their own homes.

The concept requires three things:

the ARISS telebridge radio ground station – a satellite Amateur Radio station with special equipment that an ARISS team member uses for teleconferencing

the astronaut on the International Space Station using the ARISS Amateur Radio station

students at their homes here on Earth

The telebridge radio operator links to the astronaut at the ARISS radio mic, and each youth then connects from home via their telephones. Their families can listen along with school faculty and the public from home.

ARISS invites the public to view the livestream of the upcoming ARISS contact at: <https://youtu.be/Ery1JYmk72o>

What are World Radio Communication Conferences?

The International Telecommunications Union describes World Radiocommunication Conferences as follows: “World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) are held every three to four years.

It is the job of WRC to review and, if necessary, revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite & non-geostationary-satellite orbits.

Revisions are made on the basis of an agenda determined by the ITU Council, which takes into account recommendations made by previous World Radiocommunication Conferences.

The general scope of the agenda of World Radiocommunication Conferences is established four to six years in advance, with the final agenda set by the ITU Council two years before the conference, with the concurrence of a majority of Member States.”

Silent Key

Jack O'Dell, VE9JK, died Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at Tucker Hall Shannex. Born Dec. 30, 1941 in Moncton, NB he had served in the Royal Canadian Navy, was employed as a cabinet refinisher for Prestige Homes MMH, Home Depot in Moncton, and a tour bus driver. He enjoyed operating his ham radio VE9JK and photography.

<https://paradisierow.brenansfh.com/tribute/details/24784/Jack-O-Dell/obituary.html#tribute-start>



2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people

RECENT REPEATER WORK

In mid December 2020 we were informed that the VE1VO (Liverpool) UHF hub repeater was not passing audio. Since the weather was decent we (Tom, VE1TA and Bill, VE1MR) made a trip to the Liverpool site. We suspected a problem with the transmit crystal module that has cropped up in other similar modules where a pot was dirty and we hoped that this was the case here. Just in case there was more to the problem we had programmed and interfaced a newer Motorola MTR 2000 repeater that could replace the older Motorola Mitrek UHF base modified as a repeater.

We got to the site and opened the old UHF hub repeater and tried cleaning the pot but it made no difference so we removed the old UHF hub repeater and installed the MTR 2000 in it's place. Because the newer repeater was computer programmable we could tailor the receive and transmit audio so that we did not have to make any adjustments to the controller audio levels. This considerably sped up the work so our time on site was fairly short. Also the space required for the newer unit was much less and left room for a future planned installation of a stand alone UHF repeater. Also present and helping were Shane, VE1SMC and a couple of Queens County ARC members



On February 6, 2021 we made another trip to the Liverpool Provincial radio site at Great Hill to install a stand alone UHF repeater. We were joined at the site by Shane VE1SMC and Howard, VE1FV and a couple of Queens County ARC members. We consolidated some of the already installed equipment to make sure we would have

enough room in the rack for the installation of the new repeater. This repeater had previously been installed at the Queens County Municipal airport as VE1BBY/UHF but had been removed from that site many years before. The installation we were doing was going to be quite a different configuration than the original. The trays the equipment was on was not suitable for our installation and we would not require some of the original equipment.

We had to reconfigure the multi couplers for installation in the site multi coupler racks (previous configuration was rack mounted).

We had brought several shelves since we did not know what space the equipment would require and how we were going to mount it in the rack. We ended up using 2 of the shelves we brought, one to mount the controller and power supplies and one to mount the

2 Maxon mobile radios used as the repeater. It took quite a while to disassemble the original equipment and reassemble it in the new configuration with lots of left over parts. We had to make new power wire and interface cables and mount the equipment on the new shelves. All this took quite a while even with several people helping. We assembled and ran the cables from the receiver and transmitter to the multi couplers and from the multi couplers to the antenna feed line. We re-routed the antenna feed line so it ended closer to the multi couplers. Finally we powered up the repeater and tested it, at first there was no or extremely low transmit audio and realized the transmitter volume control needed to be set to get the correct transmit audio. With the repeater working correctly we packed up and headed home, 2 hours past the estimated finish time. It was a long day with a lot of driving but were pleased that everything seemed to be working properly. This stand alone UHF repeater is meant to be a local repeater for the Liverpool area and is on 444.300 +.