



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR



2050 Hammonds Plains Road
Hammonds Plains, NS
B4B 1P3

March 2023, Volume 84 Number 3

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST REFLECTOR IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP

HARC Club Station phone number - 902-490-6421

Executive

President - John Bignell, VE1JMB	223-1945	johnmbignell@gmail.com
First V.P. - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE	292-9924	VE1PYE@bellaliant.net
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Treasurer - Alastair Cox, VE1PAB		coxaf@eastlink.ca
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Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

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Basic ham course- Vacant

2023 Flea Market Chair - Vacant

2023 Field Day Coordinator - Vacant

Safety Officer - Malcolm MacDonald, VA1MMD malcolmm1@gmail.com

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NSARA Director - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE 292-9924 VE1PYE@bellaliant.net

Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH

Non Club Contacts

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

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

RAC Assistant Director for HRM - John Bignell, VE1JMB johnmbignell@gmail.com

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

The March 2023 General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday March 15 at 1900 . The method (**hybrid – in person at the club and virtual**) the details 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.

Tech-Talk: - Work Your Station Remotely

Gerry Hull Gerry, VE1RM – see page 2 for more information.

Guests are welcome in person or need to send an e-mail to the club to be on the ZOOM invitee list.

NOTICE

This is your last Reflector if you have not renewed your HARC membership.

Deadline for submissions to the April Reflector is Saturday April 8, 2023.

Take-15 Net Controllers

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



March 12 Jeremy VE1LAI
 March 19 Ken VE1PDL
 March 26 Cam VE1BIT
 April 2 Earl VE1EPJ
 April 9 Ken VE1PDL
 April 16 Jeremy VE1LAI

ATTENTION

We are in need of net controllers. The more volunteers to do this simple task allows controllers to be doing the net less often. The net is excellent practice for running an emergency net and usually takes about 20 or 30 minutes. Contact Bill, VE1MR to join the list.

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

Due to the global pandemic some events have been cancelled. With the lifting of restrictions you will start to see events posted on this page and following pages.

Events for Your Calendar

March or April – HARC Ham breakfast. Date TBD.

April 22 – Parks on the Air activation at the 1936 Moose River Mine Disaster site

Late May – HARC Flea Market

June 3-4 – Museum Ships on the air

June 24-25 – The ARRL Field Day

July 19 – Pizza night at Station 50

July 29-30 – IOTA contest

August 16 – Pizza night at Stn. 50

October 20-23 – Jamboree on the Air with Scouts Canada

Greetings all amateurs,

The WestCumb ARC is pleased to announce that SMART 23 is a go for 2023.

It will be held on May 6th, 2023 at Dr Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill NS.

The registration form is now on the website and you will notice we have added a few questions to answer as you fill out the form. These questions will help us set up the events for the day. Remember to click on SEND FORM at the bottom.

We will fill in the classes when we finalize. Keep checking back.

Hope to see many of you this year at SMART.

Here is the link to the website.
<https://www.westcumb.ca/smart23>

Jim Langille VE1JBL

Check into the Maritime Noon Net, week days at 12 noon on the Windsor repeater,
VE1HCA 146.910 – MHz

Work Your Station Remotely Coming – March 15, 2023

Gerry Hull – Gerry (VE1RM / W1VE), born in Halifax and former HARC member lives in Hancock, NH. He is an active remote operator, working from K2LE (Vermont) and stations in VE1, VE9, VE3.

First licenced in the USA in 1979 and then again in Canada when he came home for college in 1979.

Worked at the ARRL from 1980-83 and a lab and QST Assistant Technical Editor with the opportunity to work side by side with the likes of Doug DeMaw.

Gerry is an active contester.

He'll talk to us about setting up a remote station which can be used across the Internet.

"Connect, Learn, and Celebrate: HARC's 90th Anniversary Conference and Gala Dinner."

Celebrate HARC's 90th anniversary with a special Gala Dinner and Conference that's perfect for amateur radio enthusiasts. This must-attend event in Halifax offers a chance to connect with other hams, learn about the latest trends in the hobby, and celebrate HARC's historic milestone.

The conference features a range of presentations and discussions on topics related to amateur radio, including emergency communications, contesting, and digital modes. Ask questions and interact with presenters for a valuable learning experience.

The Gala Dinner is the event's highlight, offering a chance to socialize and network with other hams while enjoying a delicious meal and live music. The evening also celebrates HARC's 90 years of contributions to the amateur radio community.

This August 2023 celebration takes place at a community venue in Halifax, so register soon, as space is limited. Early bird tickets are available!

The event includes a tradeshow area, hands-on ham radio activities, speakers, and outdoor events like Touch a Comms Truck. The optional Halifax Waterfront/Museum of the Atlantic tour provides an opportunity to experience Halifax's local culture and history while learning about the role of communication and radio technology in the region's maritime history.

The HARC 90th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Conference is an excellent opportunity to share your passion for the hobby and celebrate the achievements of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club. Don't miss out on this exciting event! Tickets are on sale now on the club website.

See Page 7 for more details.

Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humour suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.

The RAC website is at **www.rac.ca**

Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?

Yearly rates are: Full = \$30

Associate = \$20

Family (2 members) = \$50 + \$20 for each additional family member at the same address. Use the Membership form on page 10 or go to the HARC website or contact Membership Chair.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for March 2023**Spring is come...lets get ready!**

As we move into the upcoming year, I am excited to announce that we have many exciting things planned for our club. With various fun activities and events for amateur radio operators, we will have something for everyone. Here are some of the things our Executive committee is working on.

First, we have the Wednesday Night CW Club, which will take place at Station 50, and all are welcome. This evening activity is perfect for anyone looking to improve their skills and expand their knowledge of Morse code. On April 22nd, we will hold a Parks on the Air activation at the 1936 Moose River Mine Disaster site. Moving on to May, we have the Down East Flea Market. This event will allow members to find great deals on equipment, accessories and other items related to amateur radio. In June, we will participate in the ARRL Field Day, a 24-hour event to demonstrate our emergency communication capabilities and show our operating skills. In July, we will have an Island on the Air event to activate an island off Nova Scotia. This event will provide a unique opportunity to visit an isolated island off the coast of Nova Scotia. Finally, we will participate in the Jamboree on the Air with Scouts Canada in October. This is an excellent opportunity to get young people involved in amateur radio and introduce them to the joys of our hobby.

I want to remind everyone that our club events are made possible through our volunteers' hard work and dedication. We welcome and encourage all members to get involved in the planning and execution of these exciting events. Working together as a group can achieve great things in amateur radio and create memorable experiences for everyone involved. So let's roll up our sleeves, have some fun, and make the most of our time together as a club.

Thank you for being a part of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. As you can see, we have a busy and exciting year ahead!

Respectfully submitted: John Bignell, VE1JMB – PRESIDENT- HARC

CW Practise Sessions @ Station 50

Ladies and gentlemen, I intend to start Morse code practise sessions at the station 50, two Wednesday evenings a month.

I can offer two levels -

Level 1 - for those who are still just getting to know the letters and numbers. We will build our letters together and then using those letters to make words with a goal of understanding single simple words. My intention here is to groom volunteers for the Radio Room at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic where proficiency levels are more modest but the feel good feelings far exceed most expectations.

Level 2 - The second level would be me sending three to five sentences from a QST magazine then reviewing as a group, much the same way that our man Dick, VE1AI did two years ago when I was an absolute rookie full of questions. The outcome of this group will be more towards building proficiency levels leading to structured QSOs. It's members will form the new CW club within HARC. At this moment it's just a concept however my vision is to build a team of CW operators who can represent the club at events like field day. This group would use the club repeaters to exchange rare dx information over VHF then formulate a hunting party. Of course I would expect this group to also participate at the museum once or twice a month depending upon demand/supply of keen operators.

Prerequisites - own a pencil, a notebook and a good attitude. While stating the obvious, you also have to have a desire to learn code and be willing to work on it between classes. I think we may have many new operators and several experienced operators who would enjoy the challenge and the satisfaction that comes from striving towards a personal goal. I hope to get a summary of this approach added to the monthly reflector leading to a show of hands at the next club meeting to ensure there is sufficient interest. From there, I will request building access for the first available Wednesday.

You can wait for the next meeting to express your interest, or send me a PM or email at gngyoung@gmail.com.

Cheers – Gord, VE1GVY

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
General Meeting Minutes
15 February 2023**

1. Welcome to the HARC monthly meeting for February 15, 2023: The meeting, both in person at the Club and via Zoom, was called to order by President John, VE1JMB at approximately 1910 with 12 attendees in person and 17 attendees on Zoom.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda:

A request was made to accept the February agenda.

Motion by: Ritchie, VE1RL

Second by: Ray, VA1RAY

All voted in favour

3. Approval of the Minutes:

A request was made to accept the Minutes for the January 18, 2023 General Meeting minutes.

Motion by: Roger VA1RST

Second by: Doug VE1ZG

All voted in favour

4. Report of any Silent Keys:

The following amateurs in the Maritimes have passed since the last club meeting of January 18, 2023

Normand St-Pere, VE9BTC

February 23rd – Beresford NB

James K. Holmes, VE1OO

February 13th – Ashdale NS

Paul J. Mullin, VE1VEC

January 28th – Antigonish NS

Chester van der Kooi, VE1COY

January 28th – Up. Nine Mile River

Frederick "Karl" Findley, VE1KAR

January 23rd – Mount Uniacke NS

5. Correspondence: Nothing to report.

6. President's Report:

John, VE1JMB – Welcome to this months general meeting, quite a few things going on these days. A group will be coming in March to activate Sable Island, looking to have an event before or after they go out. Couple of updates for the 90th, had a great meeting with RAC. Winter Field day also went very well.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Alastair, VE1PAB – He gave a detailed report of the monthly income and expenses as well as reporting the opening balance and closing balance.

Motion to accept report

Motion by: David VE1AJP

Second by: Jason VE1PYE

8. Station Managers Report:

Don, VE1DTR – Good News!!! The door bell is working again. The RigPi has been giving us some issues, as of today everything is working. We'll send out details soon on how you can apply for a use ID to get in and use the station remotely. You need to be a paid member with Advanced license to use the station.

9. Education Report:

Jason, VE1PYE – Only one or two inquiries, referred to RAC for online course. Current course is under way.

10. QSL Bureau Report:

Roger, VA1RST – Waiting for next big batch of cards to arrive. In the meantime, Don has the new label printer set up and ready to go.

11. HATS/SAR report:

HATS – Gary, VA1GGM was absent, no report.

SAR – Report David, VE1AJP

A couple of things, one of our searches recently in the Kinsac area. I was not there but received a phone call that the radio system was not working. While trying to troubleshoot over the phone, it was discovered that the power cord for the repeater was not plugged in. Then recently during one of the really cold nights an autistic gal from the Parkland area went missing. She was found at the Halifax Commons walking down the sidewalk by police. She was dressed for the cold and was quite happy where she was. Some of the crew have also been busy out doing wellness checks at the local shelters.

Old Business:

Cowie Hill – Jason, VE1PYE, Have removed the link radio for MHR as it was causing interference with the Gore backbone. Have a spare rig, just have to go and put it in and check if there is anything else going on to cause the problem.

Bill, VE1MR, nothing else to report until city budget is finalized and weather improves.

Builder Session – Ritchie, VE1RL

We continue on a weekly basis on Sunday mornings. As we continue to work on our QRP Labs QRP kits, all are in different stages of completion. I'm at a point where I am testing mine, it actually puts out about 4 or 5 watts of power which is a good sign. Others are just nearing completion and getting ready for calibration and setup. Others still have lots more soldering to go. Overall its going very well and people are having fun. If anyone has ideas on what projects to do next, send them in to the events email.

New Business:

John VE1JMB – Bay Treasure Chest Submitted two applications for this year. Need two volunteers to help count coins. We get \$500 dollars each time we participate.

Proposed Club Radio Manual Manual for anyone who has not ever used the radio room. How to use radios etc. A draft is there now to have a look at.

We are looking for ideas for upcoming activities to participate in. Museum Ships on the air June 3-4 Field Day, should start planning soon, need someone to take the initiative to organize.

Islands On the Air later in July, either by doing an IOTA OR POTA activation.

Fox hunt, good outdoor event. Could

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use the builder sessions to build the Fox as well as other equipment as a club activity.

Roundtable:

Gord Young, VE1GVY – I am willing to volunteer to help Roger with next batch of QSL cards and to learn the QSL Bureau.

Coffee Night, we have a weekly coffee night at MicMac Mall every Tuesday evening.

I'm thinking of holding some CW practice sessions at the Station. Perhaps for an hour, send sentences and help people decode them and learn CW. It would create a good opportunity for more volunteers to help out at the MMA for cruise ships.

David George, VE1AJP – The IRLP node at Dalhousie was down before Christmas. Rob Ewert and I were able to replace it last week. Used to be run on a large blade server that was very awkward to get into the tight space it was in. It is now running on a simple Raspberry Pi and all is reported to be working well.

Asking the people online tonight for feedback on the OWL 3 camera being used at the station. All people online seemed to be impressed with it. John, VE1JMB, going forward if we are going to continue with the hybrid meetings, we should look at investing in one of these.

Mike Costello, VE1ANU – Fred Archibald, VE1FA is organizing a trip to one of the islands off Shag Harbour. Looking to do it in July for the IOTA contest which is the last full weekend in July

Roger Stein, VA1RST – Bovet Island DX expedition just wrapped up. A number of local hams made contact. There was a lot of intentional interference which was overwhelming and very discouraging. There were a lot of hams not operating their radios properly or not in accordance to how they should have.

Meeting adjourned at 1955

Motion by: Don VE1DTR

Original scheduled presentation on Remote Station Operation was postponed due to a personal medical matter. Instead an in depth presentation on the progress of the 90th Anniversary conference was given by Ritchie following a quick break.

Respectfully submitted by
Ray Armstrong, VA1RAY, HARC Secretary

If you can't think of a word say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

The agenda below is generic and may not reflect what will be under Old Business and New Business

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club General Meeting
Agenda – March 15, 2023**

Welcome : John Bignell, VE1JMB

Acceptance of the March 2023 General Meeting Agenda:

Motion by:

Second by:

Carried: yea nay

Acceptance of the February 2023 General Meeting Minutes:

Motion by:

Second by:

Carried: yea nay

Silent Keys:

President report: John Bignell VE1JMB

Treasurer report: - Alastair Cox, VE1PAB

Motion to accept by: Alastair Cox, VE1PAB

Second by:

Carried: yea nay

Committee Reports

Station Manager report: - Don, VE1DTR

Education report: - Jason, VE1PYE

QSL BURO REPORT: - Roger, VA1RST

SAR/EMO report: - David George, VE1AJP

HATS report: - Gary Murphy, VA1GGM

Old Business

1) STATION 50

a) Cowie Hill update- Bill/Don

b) Satellite tower

2) Club Events

a) August 90th planning update - Ritchie

b) Builder Session - Ritchie

New Business:

1) Bay Treasure Chest Application - John VE1JMB

2) Discussion of Proposed Club Radio Room manual - Fraser/Craig

3) Suggestions for Upcoming Club Activities

a) Museum Ships on the Air - June 3-4

b) Field Day June 24 -25

c) July Island on the Air Event (Oak Island, McNab's Island, Shut-in Island Etc.)

ROUND TABLE:

Adjournment @

Entertainment: presented by Richie, VE1RL

Respectfully submitted: John Bignell, VE1JMB President-HARC

HARC 90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Hope you have marked August 18-20, 2023 on your calendar as the planning for HARC's 90th Anniversary Celebration and Conference is well under way. It will be held at the Salvation Army Chapel, 50 Gesner Road, Halifax. We are happy to share with you, what you can look forward to over the 3-day event:

- The ability to network with Amateurs from the Maritimes and beyond
- Expert presentations and talks on a range of topics
- Hands on workshops and demonstrations
- A live event station with contests and awards
- 'Touch a Truck or Show and Shine' of various communication vehicles
- A Saturday night Gala dinner with guest speakers and awards
- The Radio Amateurs of Canada's President Fireside Talk and Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon
- A tour of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic & museum ships Sunday AM
- And a Sunday morning church service honouring First Responders

Truly an event-packed three days! Join us to celebrate HARC's 90 years of ham radio and its contribution to the hobby. Reasonably priced tickets will be available. There will be a pass granting access to the full 3-day celebration including the Gala dinner. For those who cannot attend all of the event, there will be a Speaker Series only pass for the talks on Saturday and Sunday, a Gala dinner only pass and a museum only pass. We expect tickets to go on sale in March with discounts for early bird purchases.

Activities which will be free of charge include: the Tradeshow area used for demonstrations and breaks, the Event Radio Station, the Touch a Truck/Show & Shine and the church service honouring First Responders.

Over the two conference days, we are planning for 10 to 12 presentations. While topics and presentations are still being planned, they will be selected from three general areas:

1. History
 - a. 90 years of Amateur Radio
 - b. RAC Fireside Presidents Talk
 - c. Emergency Communications
 - d. The Future of Amateur Radio in the Maritimes
2. Operating
 - a. Working DX
 - b. Contesting
 - c. IOTA, POTA, SOTA and LOTA
 - d. Satellite Operations
3. Technical
 - a. Digital Radio
 - b. Remote and/or Portable Operations Setups
 - c. VHF DX, Meteor Scatter
 - d. Radio Propagation

Save these dates;

- Friday, August 18, 2023 – Evening social/networking coffee and registration
- Saturday, August 19, 2023 – Networking, demonstrations, talks, RAC AGM, Show and Shine, Live Event Radio Station and the Gala dinner (location to be determined) in the evening
- Sunday, August 20, 2023 – First Responders church service, museum/waterfront tour and more talks in the afternoon

Looking forward to having you join us for this very special event. So, watch for the announcement of ticket sales, speaker list and the final list of presentations.

My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make the food right in front of you. So I took her to Subway and that's how the fight started.

If 2020 was a math word-problem: If you're going down a river at 2 MPH and your canoe loses a wheel, how much pancake mix would you need to re-shingle your roof?

Join the Halifax Amateur Radio Club: Explore the Exciting World of Ham Radio

Ham radio is an exciting hobby that offers endless possibilities for exploration and discovery. Whether you're an experienced ham or just starting out, the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) offers something for everyone. By becoming a member, you will be supporting the many club events, technical projects, and community support activities that the club is involved in.

As a member of HARC, you will have access to a supportive community of hams who are passionate about this fascinating hobby. Our members have a wealth of knowledge and are always willing to share their experiences and insights. This makes HARC the perfect place for anyone who wants to learn more about ham radio and expand their skills.

In addition to providing a supportive community, HARC is also committed to promoting the use of ham radio as a valuable communication tool. Whether you're interested in emergency communication, contesting, or simply making new friends around the world, HARC is dedicated to helping you get the most out of your ham radio experience.

Joining HARC is easy, and you can choose from a variety of membership options to suit your needs. You can download a membership application from the HARC website, fill it out and mail it in with a cheque. Alternatively, you can use Interac e-Transfer or attend a monthly club meeting when in-person meetings resume.

So, what are you waiting for? If you're interested in ham radio or simply looking for a supportive and fun community, join HARC today. We encourage anyone of any age or background who has an interest in amateur radio to consider becoming a member. Whether you're a seasoned ham or just starting out, HARC is the perfect place to explore this exciting hobby and meet new people who share your passion.

HARC 2023 Membership Fee Structure

Full Member (licensed amateurs only)*	\$30.00 - All Full Members automatically an NSARA member
Associate Member (no voting privileges)	\$20.00
Family Membership*	\$50.00 (2 family members)
Each additional family member (Full Member)*	\$20.00 - All Full Members automatically an NSARA member

NOTE: All members receive a copy of the Club newsletter - Reflector - by email each month. Those wishing to receive a "hard copy" of the newsletter by mail will be required to pay an additional \$10.00.

Membership Registration Process

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

(1) By Mail: Download and save our 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, print a copy and mail it along with the appropriate cheque payment to our postal address:

Halifax Amateur Radio Club
2050 Hammonds Plains Road,
Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia
Canada
B4B 1P3
Attn: Membership Chair

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

Download and save our Fillable PDF Membership Form to your computer. Then open it in your .pdf reader - typically Adobe Reader; fill it in and save it to your computer. Then, e-mail it to membership@halifax-arc.org, clearly indicating on the form that you are paying by Interac e-Transfer.

Then, go to your online banking site and send an Interac e-Transfer to treasurer@halifax-arc.org

The funds will automatically be deposited into the HARC account, the treasurer will confirm the e-Transfer with the sender, and he will notify the Membership Chair.

The Membership Chair will then issue a current year e-Membership Card by email confirming that your current year membership has been paid.

(3) Alternatively: When in-person meetings resume, you may attend a monthly club meeting and the Membership Chair will be happy to renew your membership.

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