



REFLECTOR

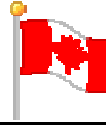
PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

September 2008 Volume 69 Number 8

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Hope you enjoyed our 75th Anniversary Celebration !!



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
2nd V.P. - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Helen MacRae, VE1HMR	422-7119	ve1hmr@rac.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

Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
75th Anniversary Chair - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
2008 Flea market Chair - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Field Day coordinator - John Bartlett, VE1OZ	832-2119	johnbartlett@eastlink.ca
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@eastlink.ca
NSARA Director - VACANT		
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH		

Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Len Morgan, VE9MY	(506) 847-5656	lmorgan@nbnet.nb.ca
RAC Section Manager - Jim Langille, VE1JBL	(902) 667-1485	ve1jbl@ns.sympatico.ca
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD,	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center.**

The evening's program: Scott Wood, VE1QD, will present Ann Santos' talk on the recent Clipperton Island DX-pedition in which she took part.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The club has been asked if we would host the RAC Annual General Meeting in 2010. The following motion will be presented at the HARC September general meeting: "That HARC host the RAC AGM in 2010".

Notice of Motion

The executive is recommending that the Down East Flea market be returned to its usual time and place. The executive will present the following motion: "That the Down East Flea Market be held at the Halifax Forum Annex on May xx, 2009"

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:
EMO Net: at 7:30 PM on 147.270 +
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM on
147.270 + (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

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.

Sept. 14	Charles	VE1MCR
Sept. 21	Doug	VE1LDL
Sept. 28	Pierre	VE1PTR
Oct. 5	Win	VE1WIN
Oct. 12	Chris	VA1CDB
Oct. 19	Charles	VE1MCR



Puzzler - Do you know?

If someone told you they operated WSPR and WSJT, what would they be doing?



Answer is on page 8

From Murphy's Lesser Known Laws

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

Events for Your Calendar

Entertainment for the September meeting will be a presentation by Scott Wood, VE1QD of the Power Point presentation of Anne Santos, WA1S on the TX5C 2008 Clipperton Island DXpedition.

October 18, 2008 (Saturday)
Greenwood A.R.C. Fleamarket from 10 AM til 1:00PM

See the GARC Home Page
<http://greenwoodarc.or>

October 18 –Jamboree on the Air – Doug, VE1LDL and Sam, VE1YVN , are planning to bring ham radio to the scouts at Camp Harris and would be pleased to have other hams come help. Contact Doug or Sam.

Christmas Dinner – The club Christmas Dinner will be held on December 17th, 2008. We plan to have it at the Steak and Stein, Young Street, Halifax. More details will be available next month.

Morse Code Training

Free club-sponsored individual CW training. Contact Gary, VE1RGB via ve1rgb@rac.ca for details

Does anyone have or know of a **pre 1959 Nova Scotia motor vehicle call letter license plate**? A photo of one for this history project would be welcome. Spud, VE1BC

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club and the Nova Scotia amateur radio operators were first issued call letter license plates for their motor vehicles in 1959. Prior to that Canadian Assemblies Limited, Amherst, Nova Scotia, the company that produced the Nova Scotia licence plates, would make one for any amateur operator on receipt of one of their QSL cards. They did this free of charge and amateurs were informed of this in the Maritime News for May, 1956

*After 60, if you
don't wake up aching in every joint,
you are probably dead!!*

Basic Amateur Radio License Course

Classes for the 2008 instructed licensing course will start 7:30 pm Thursday evening September 18th in the classroom of the club station. The first class will include: registration, general scope of amateur radio, the licensing procedure, approaches to studying for the exam, tour of the club station facilities. The first full Saturday class on September the 20th will include additional registrations and be presented by Tom VE1GTC. The topic is fundamental concepts, definitions and introduction of Ohm's Law and Power. There will be one full Saturday class per month.

All members of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club who know of prospective students and potential hams are asked to refer them to the dates, times and place of the course. More complete information is under the *ham class* link on the HARC web site.

Any licensed amateur who would like to be a mentor or elmer are asked to give their name and how they can be contacted to Barry Diggins VE1TRI. This would be to assist any student in the class.

To date there have been over ten people who have expressed interest in taking the course. Four of whom are future "YL" operators.

Amateur Radio is *alive and well* !

Club Access

Those wishing access to the club facilities please contact Brian, VE1AZV. He will check you out on the gear, assign a computer password and put your name on a list at the front desk. When the building is normally open you will be able to go to the front desk and ask to be let into the club facilities. This is a temporary measure until we get the door access pad installed. Hopefully these may be installed in the near future.

Greenwood A.R.C. Fleamarket
(with BBQ, door prizes & raffle)

Date: 18 OCT 2008 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

(Open 08:00AM To Sellers)

Place: Greenwood Community Centre, Church Street, Greenwood, N. S.

Cost: Admission \$3.00.

Tables Free To Sellers

To Book Tables or Info Contact:

Burt, VE1AMA,

Email ve1ama@rac.ca

home phone: 902-847-7073

Eric, VE1CFY

Email: ve1cfy@rac.ca

home phone: 902-765-4468

GPS Coordinates: N44° 58.512'

W064° 55.612'

Talk In: VE1WN 147.240+

GARC Home Page

<http://greenwoodarc.o>

Maritime Contest Club Changes Hands

Founded in 2005 by John, VE1JS, and brought to life in the superstation of Jim, VE1JF, the Maritime Contest Club has changed management. Its first President, Jim, has passed the torch on to Scott, VE1OP, and John, formerly Secretary/Treasurer, has moved to the Vice President's position and has handed the administrative side off to Gary, VE1RGB.

With a current membership of 20 Hams from all points in the Maritimes, MCC is dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of Radiosport. Contact ve1rgb@rac.ca or ve1op@rac.ca for more information, or to join our Reflector.

73, Gary, VE1RGB,
MCC Sect'y/Treasurer

Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25 Associate = \$15

Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate the 75th Anniversary Committee. They did a fantastic job of organizing the hamfest. All events were excellent and well organized. I enjoyed the weekend and was able to attend most of the events, meeting people and renewing old acquaintances. Unfortunately I was fairly busy with hosting duties so did not get as much chance to chat with people as I would have liked. The food was great and in most cases the selection was good. Anyone who did not get to this occasion missed a great celebration. We had quite a few well known Amateur Radio operators in attendance so you also missed a chance to speak with or hear presentations by these well known Amateurs.

The Thursday evening reception was well attended exceeding our expectations. The Maritime DX Forum on Friday was excellent with the exception of one presenter held up due to air transport delays (the presentation was delayed until late Saturday morning). This event was very well attended. Also on Friday was the inauguration of the Far Side of Amateur Radio an alternative program of presentations on innovative new technologies, alternate operating modes, and an overview of several topics that would be of interest to Amateurs. For the initial event of this kind it was well attended and several suggestions for future topics were made. If we are to consider doing this event in the future we will need to have some one working on organizing it soon - any one interested???

The banquet Friday evening was an excellent event with many presentations, awards, and the keynote speaker was David Sumner, K1ZZ the CEO of the ARRL.

The flea market Saturday was fairly well attended though not as well as past years. Lots of good stuff on the tables at good prices and the concurrent presentations were well received.

The Saturday evening social was also well attended and gave a chance to chat a bit as well as enjoy the pizza and Bluegrass music.

The farewell brunch on Sunday morning was excellent and allowed more time for socializing. Attendance of this event also exceeded our expectations. When this ended the celebration was over and people began to return home. If you missed this weekend you may have to wait 25 years until the club holds a 100th Anniversary celebration.

The new callbook was released at the flea market and is now available. Branded items of golf shirts, ball caps and lanyards are also available. These will be on sale at the meetings and flea markets.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

For those who have difficulty converting units:

- ◇ 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 FigNewton
- ◇ 1000 milliliters of wet socks = 1 literhosen
- ◇ 1 million-million microphones = 1 megaphone
- ◇ Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
- ◇ 4 nickels = 2 paradigms
- ◇ 100 Senators = Not 1 decision

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities. **Please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Brian Allen, VE1AZV
E-mail:
basailor@eastlink.ca

There is a lot of **business** to conduct at the September meeting. Some of the required business is **electing a nominating chairman** and **electing an auditor**. It is also time to start thinking about **what you can do** for the club. We will need **people** to run for **executive positions** at the November Annual General meeting. Consider what might appeal to you and **be ready** when the nominating committee asks. There will be a lot of **committees** to chair or serve on. Some of the committees that need chairmen soon are **Flea Market** and **Field Day**. As I mentioned in the President's message we will need some one to take on organizing the Far Side of Amateur Radio program if it is decided to run it again.

Thank you - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

The Brit Fader Scholarship fund was established to honour the memory of LeBreton J. W. (Brit) Fader, VE1FQ, and his 50 years of contribution to and involvement with amateur radio. The first Brit Fader Scholarship was awarded this year and was announced at the HARC 75th Anniversary celebration in August. The winner, Joe Koechl, VA3KOE, was not able to attend but we hope to publish his photo in the October Reflector

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

of any address changes.

Also please send your change of address to The Britt Fader Memorial QSL Bureau
P.O. Box 8895
Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5

Is your address correct in Industry Canada's database? It is important that you inform Industry Canada of any change to your address.

75th Operating Awards

The 75th operating awards for using the special prefixes during the celebrations must be applied for before the end of September.

For the **HF Special Prefix Contest** Entries must be received no later than 30 days after the end of the HARC anniversary (**therefore by 24 September 2008**).

Method of submitting:

E-Mail. You may submit your operating log results summary via e-mail (e.g., pdf format) to ve1rgb@rac.ca or to VE1RGB in person.

For the **75 DURING THE 75th Competition** keep a log of Call Sign//Date//Band//DXCC Country to accompany your submission to ve1rgb@rac.ca **before the end of September 2008**. In the event of a tie, Zones will start to be important.

Details and rules of these competitions are on the HARC 75 web site:

www.harc75.org

under

“Working VX1 & VG1 Awards”

and follow the link to the Adobe Acrobat file.

There is also a link to the Adobe Acrobat file on the opening page of the Halifax club web site

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 5

The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation (TAPR) has announced that the 2008 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference will take place September 26-28 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. The conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques. Forums will feature the latest developments in Amateur Radio digital communications, as well as demonstrations of emerging digital technology. For more information see the ARRL/TAPR DCC Web site <<http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>>.

Date: August 21, 2008

Subject: [RAC-Bulletin] Bulletin #2008-16E - RAC announces a newly revised HF Band Plan.

The HF band plan presently in use in Canada has been adopted in 1996. Since, many changes have happened in the Amateur world and other band plans have been revised and modified. Let us only mention the changes announced by the FCC in 2007 affecting the US band plan and the revised one adopted by the IARU Region 2 countries at the Brasilia conference in September 2007.

Just under two years ago, Radio Amateurs of Canada had asked Bob Nash, VE3KZ, a former First Vice President of RAC, to re-activate the HFBPC (HF Band Planning Committee) with a goal to review and modernize the Canadian HF Band Plan. Bob's committee has since worked very hard in studying and consulting all across Canada to eventually come up with a band plan proposed to the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada. The RAC Board has adopted this plan at its July 2008 meeting and the new band plan is now on the RAC Web page at:

http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfband_e.php

RAC wants to thank the HFBPC members for their hard work and wishes the Canadian Amateur community much pleasure in using the new band plans.

Please spread the news.

73, Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA
Vice President International Affairs,
Radio Amateurs of Canada.
ve2ka@rac.ca

Send comments to: rachq@rac.ca

The Maritime Net Control Manager is Peter (VE1PJS)

How a Fuel Cell works

from an article by Graeme Fletcher, Canwest News Service

Unlike a battery which must be recharged when electricity is drawn from it, a fuel cell will provide power for as long as it's supplied with appropriate fuel; hydrogen, to be combined with oxygen.

In the case of a proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell – the most popular type – the chemical reaction is a relatively simple one. The fuel cell consists of an anode, a cathode, a catalyst (usually platinum) and a special polymer membrane that doubles as the electrolyte.

First connect your DC device to the fuel cell's cathode and anode. Hydrogen gas is fed into the anode side of the cell where it reacts with the catalyst. This separates the hydrogen into electrons and protons (hydrogen ions). The electrons are too large to pass through the permeable membrane and so they are forced to flow through an external electrical circuit to the cathode which is connected to the motor. The smaller hydrogen ions pass through the membrane where, with the help of the catalyst, they combine with oxygen and returning electrons on the cathode side of the fuel cell to produce water.

Of course the low voltage DC current produced by a single fuel cell isn't enough to power a car. To generate the amount of power require by vehicle many of these single cells are bundled together to make a fuel cell “stack”. The stack's low voltage DC is converted into high voltage AC needed by the electric motor.

While the cost of building a fuel cell stack has decreased 10-fold in the past few years the price is still too high for universal acceptance; however, the list of automakers currently testing fuel cells is extensive

Visit the NSARA web site at...
<http://users.eastlink.ca/~bdeathe/NSARA/>

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

Here's a web page set up by the guys on the DX expedition to Alert
 Passed along by Terry, VE1TRB

Sept. 1 – From the web page
<http://users.xplornet.com/~scrouse/ve8rcs.html>

CFS ALERT

50th Anniversary Celebrations
 Ham Radio Operation 27 Aug – 10 Sep 2008

During the spring of 2008, it was decided that a select group of “Alert Veterans” would travel back to Alert during the 50th Anniversary celebrations to reactivate the amateur radio station, VE8RCS. For 4 of the past 5 decades, amateur radio was the only communications available for station personnel to talk with loved ones in the south. Military members were stationed to Alert for 6 months at a time and were unable to bring family members. Their only contact was via “phone patching” done on amateur radio and Canada Post. Well, we all know how reliable Canada post is, so people relied on the radio to be able to speak to loved ones.

In the 1980's phone service was brought into Alert and amateur radio began to decline. By the late 80's amateur radio became more of a hobby for personnel serving at Alert. In the 1990's fewer people were posted to Alert and over time the amateur radio station was used less and less until it was shutdown in the mid to late 1990's. VE8RCS (Royal Canadian Signals) was deactivated and amateur radio became a hobby of the past.

On 26 Aug, 3 “ham” radio operators departed the southern climates to rebuild and active VE8RCS for the 50th anniversary of the station;
 Robert – VE3GLO
 Les – VE3KFS
 Scott – VA3XA
 A 4th member, Ken – VE3SRS, is scheduled to join the team on 4 Sept. All are veterans of Alert and operating VE8RCS.

Gents;

This is part of an email I got through the CFARS message system recently, I have removed the CFARS content for obvious reasons. I thought you may be interested in this bit of info. If I missed someone in this email that you think may be interested, please feel free to pass this along:

[1] In recognition of the 50th anniversary since the commissioning of Canadian Forces Station ALERT a number of projects have been planned, one of which involve four Hams. On or about the 26th August will be boarding Service Flight 85 for a memorable trip back to Alert with another ham following around September 3. [Current scheduling have them returning home around 10 September.]

[2] This excursion will not be ‘plug n’ play’ in that all of the radio equipment had to be sourced, packed and flown into location. Other major items of course are the antennae systems to include masts, HF beams and associated equipment, which have to be flown in and re-resurrected in the frozen northern climate.

[3] Owing to the obvious uncertainty of weather and propagation we are unable to suggest a firm ‘turn-on’ date\time but have formulated a ‘starter sked’ that may be modified when the fellows get a feeling of the conditions.


20 meters c/s VE8RCS
 14.165 Mhz USB all other times.
 [refer to Para 9]

[8] QSL [VE8RCS] cards will be available for contacts on the Amateur bands only. (1) Send a SASE to VE3SRS (address in QRZ.COM or RAC.CA sites). (2) The RAC QSL Bureau for VE8-VY0 c/o Rolf Ziemann VE8RZ – PO Box 596 – Fort Smith, NT – X0E 0P0. (3) Electronic-QSL'ing will be available via the EQSL system.


[9] Regarding Ham Band operation, we are currently looking at operating exclusively on 20 meters but this may be subject to change when the fellows get on location. Also, given there are four different operators, their preferences may differ from the suggested 14.165 slot and you could find them at the low end pounding CW or at the top of the band on USB. Stations are advised to monitor DX Clusters for the current VE8RCS status.

[10] Having been blessed as one of the ‘frozen chosen’ back in 1968 and enduring one 183 ‘night’ tour, with a number of return flights in following years in support of their Box-top re-supply, I found the information contained in one web page extremely informative. It restored a number of memory cells from back in those years and I would invite all to peruse <http://jproc.ca/rfp/alert.html> and enjoy.

Terry R. Bigelow, VE1TRB,
 CD CPO2 Ret'd

 **Answer to Puzzler on page 1**

WSPR (pronounced "whisper") stands for "Weak Signal Propagation Reporter." This program implements transmitting and receiving for a digital soundcard mode called "MEPT_JT", an acronym for "Manned Experimental Propagation Tests, by K1JT".

Words with two Meanings
COMMUNICATION
 (ko-myoo-ni-kay-shon) n . 
 Female... The open sharing of thoughts and feelings with one's partner.
 Male... Leaving a note before taking off on a fishing trip with the boys.

Check into the Maritime Noon Net, week days at 12 noon on the Gore repeater, 146.640 – MHz

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting June 18 2008

Welcome: President Bill Elliott, VE1MR, opened the meeting at 19:35

Silent keys: Bill advised members that Eileen Vienott, VE1IEV, passed away.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion: THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Moved by Doug, VE1LDL. Seconded by David, VE1NN. Motion carried.

Guests/visitors: -. VE1MR invited guests to introduce themselves. VE3SBC, Steve Cochran, of Ottawa has been in the province for a week looking for real estate. Joe Earles, V01BQ, from St. John's, NL, is with the naval reserve at Shearwater. Joe remembered visiting HARC for pizza night last summer.

Minutes:

Motion: THAT the minutes of the May regular meeting be approved as printed in the June Reflector. Moved by Tom, VE1GTC. Seconded by Don, VE1BN. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Treasurer:

Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO reported expenses of \$1,560.54, income of \$2,674.99 and a balance of \$15,589.70. See attached report for details.

Motion: THAT the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved by Howard, VE1DHD, Seconded by Scott, VE1QD. Motion carried.

Secretary: Helen, VE1HMR, stated information will be addressed in upcoming items.

President: No report.

Past President: Bob, VE1PQ noted that when browsing our HARC web site the last update on The Reflector page was Jan. 2007 and that contact e-mail addresses for the Chairs of three committees are not posted: EMO, The Reflector and NSARA.

1st Vice-President: No report.

2nd Vice-President:

Tom, VE1BMJ, reported that he visited George, VE1BLF, who resides in Northwood Manor. George did express an interest in getting on air from his room. Tom's offer to bring him to a meeting was refused due to health concerns. Tom will follow up and encourages anyone visiting Northwood to visit George, who resides on the 3rd floor. Tonight's door prize is one coffee mug with a \$10 certificate and a second mug, with no certificate

Station Manager: Brian, VE1AZV, advised that Jeremy, VE1JHF has ordered a 24 volt power supply for club facilities upstairs, which will allow him to complete the security installation. Brian stated that Jeremy has not provided a target date for completion.

Director at large: Doug, VE1LDL, reported that he has purchased signs for the First Aid station and the hard hats required for safety.

Committee reports:

Membership: Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported that the membership totals 140 total, with 4 Life, 118 Regular and 8 Associate members.

Callbook: Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported that the callbook will total 240 pages. Bill, VE1MR, completed the database last week; the pages have been inserted and proof read and will be reread this week again before going to the printer next week. HARC is guaranteed 1200 copies for the end of July. Howard had a draft in hand with mocked up tab pages inserted for members to see. Callbooks will sell for \$15.00 each. The 75 (old 2004?) books on hand may now be recycled. Scott, VE1QD commented that advertisers' - 47 in total - revenue will cover much of the print costs.

Basic Course - Barry, VE1TRI, advised that the basic amateur radio course will begin Thursday, September 18th, at 19:00. Information was posted on line last month,

thanks to Rob, VE1KS.

EMO - David, VE1AJP, reported that 82 HRGSAR members were on hand at fire scene helping with evacuation; including the 40 horses safely removed from the area on Friday night. From Friday through to stand down on Sunday, members were providing service being tasked to evacuate various neighbourhoods. A strike forces was set up in and was ready to go in the event of wind changes. A number of issues came to the fore including operating procedures. One excellent point is that amateur radio operators have an overall "the big picture focus" versus specific professions that are, logically, focused on their specific area of expertise. There will be discussions. Observations have been forwarded to EMO for greater improvements.

SAR members were manning the road block at Preston with the RCMP. There were many tense moments for children and loved ones needing care when the problem was that the fire was literally on the road. We helped get them all into shelters. David painted a verbal picture of vehicles up and blazing, water bombers flying overhead to drop their loads and helicopters also in the skies above while folks were sitting all about. The food preparation was incredible but when cleaning up we didn't know the wash water holding tank was not installed yet and water was draining from the bus, running down to people seated on the ground with backpacks, etc. While assigned a mutual aid channel, one with water bombers, we got a muffled message of a man being in a car experiencing a medical emergency who was driving through the fire. Meanwhile, a helicopter is landing and taking off again, over and over. Mutual aid was not working quite the way it ought - the helicopter stopped, the car came through the fire and we found the emergency was a mother having a baby. Not one person could communicate with professional equipment -

(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

only the amateurs were able to get the word out!

Field Day – John, VE1OZ, deferred his report as Field Day will be the evening's program topic.

CRC – Herb, VE1HTD, advised that the HARC-CRC Committee is about to issue a letter to CRC stating that, without a MOU with HARC, that club equipment will be withdrawn from facilities.

Branded Product – Helen, VE1HMR, deferred reporting on branded product to New Business.

First Aid Certification – Terry, VE1TRB, reported that a call for hands indicated 14 members had first aid training; 4 are currently certified.

Old business:

Club Access – See Station Manager's report, page one.

Generic HARC75 QSL Cards: Howard, VE1DHD, distributed samples of 2 QSL cards for members to choose one for use during the HARC75 contest. An Avery sticker can be applied with operator data. Howard has negotiated a cost with Halcraft (\$98.00 plus tax) that will see a 2-3 week turnaround time. It will cost \$25 to have a personal card set up.

Notice of Motion In May, Howard, VE1DHD, proposed that members consider changing the time of the flea market for the years 2009 through 2011. He reviewed the rationale as clarified in a QST article that noted a downward trend in attendance at hamfests throughout the USA. A suggestion that combining events could present a more attractive and cost-effective decision for amateurs deciding how to use their time and resources was seen to have merit. Howard noted that HARC hosts a very good flea market but numbers are doing down and the DX Forum has indicated growth for each of its four years. Howard suggested HARC consider taking the flea market from its traditional time slot in May and move it to August, at which time the DX Forum would be pulled to a Friday and the flea market given

the Saturday. Possibly, NSARA would hold their meeting at that time. Furthermore, that this collaboration be given a 3 year trial.

Motion: THAT HARC undertake to move the Downeast Flea Market to August for the next 3 years - 2009, 2010 and 2011. Moved by Howard, VE1DHD. Seconded by Scott, VE1QD.

Discussion centered on suitability of making this decision before gaining the experience of hosting our anniversary event and assessing its outcome. The premise that HARC could utilize available tabbed space in the callbook to publicize the DX form, and the Downeast Flea Market that would be in place for 3 years (until the next publication), was examined for merit. The consensus was that the club must first evaluate HARC75 outcomes to better determine in what direction to encourage club development.

Votes were counted by hands raised: Aye – 14, Nay – 16.

Motion defeated.

New Business: -

1) **Sambro Lighthouse** – Howard, VE1DHD, stated that in follow up to the discussion from last month about setting up a contest site at the Sambro lighthouse, one of the longest continuously operating lighthouses in north America, HARC could advertise our upcoming anniversary events. A note will be placed in the Reflector for anyone interested step forward. Criteria permit the operating site to be within sight of the lighthouse so it could be on or near Crystal Crescent Beach. VE1DDX, Douglas Denny stated that he will coordinate this project. Members interested in operating should speak to Doug.

2) **Club Flag** – Murray, VE1MMD, inquired about progress on a club flag. Helen, VE1HMR, read quotes received. Murray reviewed the idea that originally a flag could be done as part of the club celebration and then, realized this may be a suitable project to which the \$250.00 donated by the late Syd Hatcher's fam-

ily could be applied. The flag, while promoting HARC during anniversary events, would continue in use for many years to come. A plaque would be made and placed in the club near the flag acknowledging the family's donation.

Motion: THAT the club buy the flag and utilize the funds donated by the Hatchers. Moved by Dick, VE1AI. Seconded by Don Hatcher, VE1BPN, who remarked that he felt such a use would, indeed, be most welcomed by the family.

Discussion as to the number of times the flag might be seen outside club facilities highlighted events including Field day, visits to Museum of the Atlantic ships, Canada Summer Games 2011 and local community celebrations. Murray reinforced members' awareness that HRM representatives have impressed upon our liaison committee that it is very important to get our name out and to be seen in the community. He recommended an amount of up to \$300.00 be allocated.

Amendment: THAT the amount allocated for club flag creation/purchase be up to \$400.00, including taxes. Moved by David Nimmo, VE1NN. Seconded by Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD. Approved.

Motion carried. Murray, VE1MMD, says he will ensure the flag is introduced during the banquet.

3) **Plaque Presentation:** Win, VE1WIN, has not heard anything more about names for two plaques he will have made up for presentation, one to recognize club presidents, another for club executives' service.. Murray advised that there is a list of club presidents for him. Win will continue with this project.

4) **Reports or announcements of general interest.** – Tom, VE1GTC, was approached to coordinate a command central for HARC75th, to be operating from Thursday to Friday. An email to Tom will follow.

5) Bruce, VE1MLW, won the 50/50 draw of \$25.00.

(Continued on page 10)

From the Mail Bag

My name is Marsha Lake

My father was MOE Lake /Keith Lake VE1PX. He was a ham op for as long as I can remember. He passed away about 15 years ago now, quite suddenly . On CBC this morning I heard about the Ham Fest and thought about all the Fests I attended with him and how much fun it was.

I would like to send my best wishes for a successful and FUN weekend at the Mount.

If Moe was still here , he would be right in the middle of it all I am sure.

I work in complex emergencies and post conflict environments with organizations such as the UN, Red Cross and others that respond to community disasters wherever those disasters occur. I learned from my father that communications during those events are a primary /central resource and really allow us to address the needs of the most vulnerable as quickly as possible.

Ham operators have always been leaders in this essential area.

Thank you for all that you do! And for allowing me to reminisce a bit about VE1PX.

Cheers

Marsha Lake

Rob Ewert, VE1KS, found this site interesting and writes..

“Tune and listen to a receiver located in the Netherlands.”

<http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>

On this page you can listen to and control a short-wave receiver located at the amateur radio club ETGD at the University of Twente. In contrast to other web-controlled receivers, this receiver can be tuned by multiple users simultaneously, thanks to the use of Software-Defined Radio.

Don't judge people by their relatives.

Hello everyone,

Here is some information from W8JI on non-symmetrical radials and the impact on radiation pattern. BTW, Tom Rauch W8JI is recognized as one of the foremost experts on low band antennas in the world, not just as an Amateur, but as a professional engineer as well. He states:

"I just modeled a 1/4 wl vertical (using Eznec +V4.0) with half the radials removed. I changed the model from having 360 degree radial coverage to only 180 degrees, which is surely a worse case.

Even in this worse case, with 10mS/m soil skew was only about .7dB With 30mS/m earth, skew was only .4dB

From practical experience, I had the pleasure of working at a ground system at WAAM in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Someone had actually cut and plowed up all radials in a direction where FS (Field Strength) was too high.

When I added the radials back in and readjusted phase to licensed values, a proof showed the pattern got slightly stronger with no discernable pattern shift. The end result of removing the radials was only that FS dropped a small amount in all directions, and the array became unstable.

When I corrected a phase metering error, the pattern went back in spec.

We had a similar problem at a station near Perrysburg Ohio that was licensed to cover Bowling Green Ohio. Once again, the only real thing we found was the whole pattern dropped very slightly.

My conclusion was if it makes any difference at all the difference is so small that you can ignore it.

73 Tom"

So, even with an arc of 180 degrees removed, the maximum difference (in poor soil) was 0.7 dB. In better soil (ie: what we can probably expect in the damp, salt-laden soil on Bon Portage) the max difference was 0.4 dB. And remember, this is with 180 degrees of radials removed! This is why I am very confident that a few tangled and messed-up radials will have absolutely no detrimental impact whatsoever on the 40M verticals.

73 AI, VO1NO

The 2008 MS Bike Tour \$478k raised this year. Next year: July 25-26

I don't think we need to push for any more ham volunteers. If I run short by 1 or 2 I can likely get someone from the local area. We had an excellent group this year and everyone sounds as if they are willing to participate again next year if possible.

Rick, VE1RGG

-Original Message From: "Monica Jordan" To: "Rick Gardiner"
Subject: RE: RONA MS Bike Tour Raises \$478k!

Hi Rick,

Thank you so much for volunteering at last weekend's very successful Bike Tour. With your help, the event raised more than \$478,000! This is a record breaking amount for the Bike Tour in Nova Scotia.

Thanks for your feedback - and for all your help over the weekend! See you on July 25-26, 2009!

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?
sm=7hYCKWzjbpuWyPid158_2bw_3d_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=7hYCKWzjbpuWyPid158_2bw_3d_3d)

Yours truly, Monica Jordan, Director, Volunteer Programs MS Society -
Atlantic Division

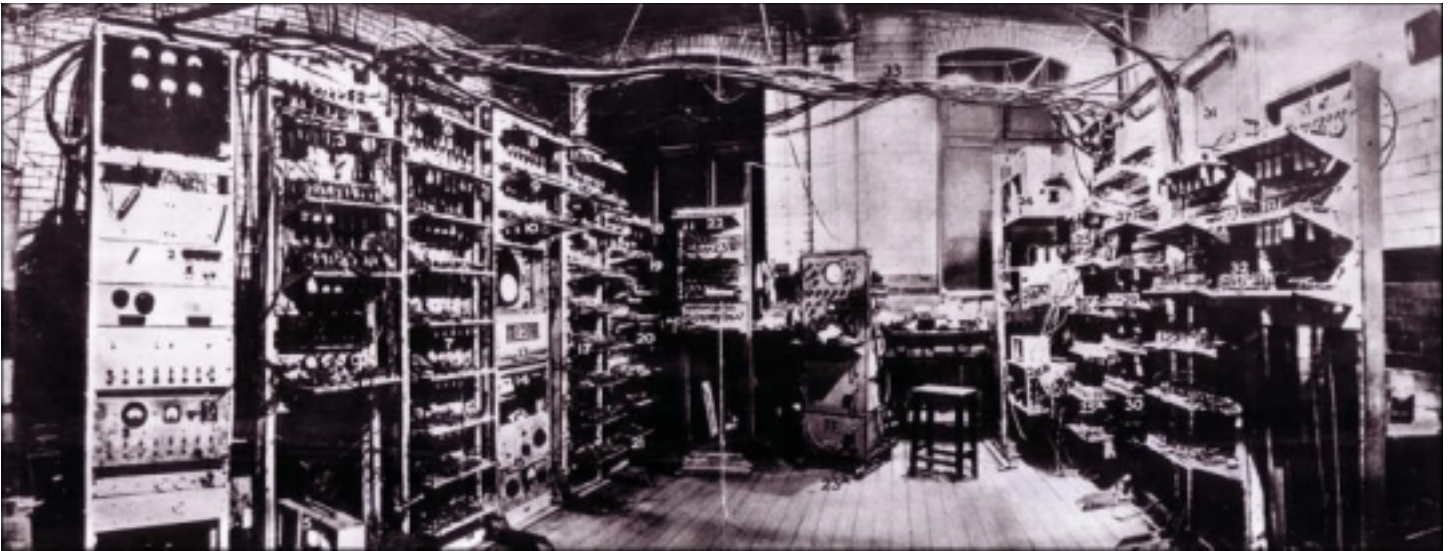


Photo of great grandfather of modern computers found

By Roger Highfield, Science Editor, Manchester, England

This is the first known photograph of the great grandfather of modern digital computers - a room sized, one ton jumble of wiring, valves and racks that was 640 million times less powerful than its descendant, the pocket-sized iPod.

The panoramic black and white image, which has been unearthed in the archives at The University of Manchester, shows a development version of 'The Baby', also known as The Small-Scale Experimental Machine.

The Baby was the first machine that had all the components now classically regarded as characteristic of the basic computer. Most importantly it was the first computer that could store not only data but any user program in electronic memory and process it at electronic speed.

Baby made its first successful run of a program on June 21st 1948.

Built and designed by Tom Kilburn and Freddie Williams at The University of Manchester, it was the first electronic digital computer capable of storing a program.

There are no actual photographs of the original Baby from June 1948. The panoramic image actually shows

an intermediate stage, beginning to resemble the later University Mark 1 computer.

The panoramic view of the machine was first published in The Illustrated London News in June 1949 and is actually a composite view made up of about 24 separate photographs taken by one of the project team, Alec Robinson. An entry in his notebook showed that they were taken on 15 December 1948.

Instead of a screen, the output was read directly off a Cathode Ray Tube (CRT).

In modern terms the prototype Baby had a RAM (random access memory) of just 32 locations or 'words'. Each word in the RAM consisted of 32 bits (binary digits) and so The Baby had a grand total of 1024 bits of memory - and a computing speed of 1.2 milliseconds per instruction. That is less power than a modern calculator.

Manchester, Cambridge and institutions in the United States all battled to build the first stored program computer but Manchester won the race - a feat that placed the city at the forefront of a global technological revolution.

On 20 June 2008, The University and the City of Manchester celebrated the 60th anniversary with Digital 60 Day.

From the ARRL Newsletter Vol.27 #22
After more than 12 years, **Morse code** will soon be **returning to Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) nets**. In the mid-1990s, the Department of Defense (DoD) did away with CW operation as automatic systems such as the Internet, SATCOM, cell phones & e-mail became available and payroll cost of manual operators escalated. During a DoD interoperability test in March, a Transportation Security Administration station used it to communicate with Fort Huachuca. In announcing the return of CW to MARS nets, Navy-Marine Corps MARS Chief Bo Lindfors cited an emergency where CW was sorely missed: "I remember the [1998] Northeast Ice Storm and the unnecessarily lengthy effort by all of southern New England to receive one voice EEI [Essential Elements of Information Report] from a northern New England member whose antenna was covered in ice and lying on the ground. It took more than an hour when CW could have handled it in a few minutes. I am afraid that we will soon lose Morse code skills if we don't do something." Army MARS Chief Carter said the imminent return of CW will not replace modes such as WinLink, Pactor 3 and MT63. "Our CW nets will focus on maintenance of skills and will be limited by available frequencies and trained members. But nets will be available for training."

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 11

"THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

The author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Jeff Otto, WA1QYW, of Framingham, Massachusetts, asks: I have a new SSB transceiver, and I noticed something peculiar. When I tune to an empty frequency, say on 20 meters, with absolutely no signals and only noise, and I switch the mode between USB and LSB, the received "tone" of the background noise changes. On one position, it sounds like it consists of more high frequency components, and on the other position it sounds like more low frequency components. I would have thought that white noise would sound the same, regardless of which sideband is being received. In normal SSB operation, this effect is not really noticed. I'm wondering if there is some sort of a misalignment in the radio.

The Doctor Answers -- Jeff, I agree with your diagnosis. Switching between USB and LSB switches the "BFO" or injected carrier frequency from one side of the SSB filter bandwidth to the other. There are a few exceptions, notably the early RL Drake tube transceivers that kept the same BFO frequency but switched the filters. Switching the BFO frequency is generally cheaper than having 2 filters.

There are two possibilities: One, that the shape of the filter passband is not flat. If it's higher on one side than the other, that will translate to stronger high frequency response on one sideband and stronger low on the other.

The other, and I would say more likely, possibility is that the BFO oscillators are not spaced the same distance from the edge of filter bandwidth. In one case you might have (with a 2.1 kHz filter, for example) with 200 Hz offset, an audio response from 200 to 2300 Hz, while the other sideband, if spaced 400 Hz, will have a response from 400 Hz to 2500 Hz. The usual design response is from 300 Hz to 300 + the filter bandwidth.

You can test this by using a good low-level audio generator in the microphone input (set to the same level as the mic audio), and checking the response at the audio monitor jack if your radio has one. You could also check with another receiver but, unless it is very wideband, you would really be measuring the combination of offsets and filters in both radios.

If your transceiver has a PASSBAND TUNING or IF SHIFT control, you can move it to make the receive audio sound the same on either sideband, but that won't help on the transmit side. If it's not very different, and if you get good audio reports on both sidebands, you could just pretend you hadn't noticed!

Minutes (Continued from page 7)

6) Gary, VE1RGB, won the first door prize mug and voucher and Jim, VE1CU, the second mug (no voucher).

There will be no general meetings until September but Pizza Nights will be hosted at the club on the 3rd Wednesdays of July and August. There being no further business, VE1MMD motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 2100 hours

John Bartlett, VE1OZ, will lead the evening's program: Preparation for Field Day.

Respectfully submitted, Helen MacRae, VE1HMR, Secretary

From the ARRL Newsletter, Vol. 27, No. 23

Firedrake Jammer on the Loose Again in Asia: Amateur Radio operators throughout the United States have reported hearing an intruder signal -- dubbed Firedrake -- on 20 meters. ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, said he has received reports from Intruder Watch monitors in Texas, Montana, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Colorado, Washington, Nevada and Pennsylvania hearing the jammer on 14.010 and 14.070 MHz. Hams in IARU Region 1 have heard the jammer on 14.000, 14.005, 14.010, 14.030, 14.050, 14.050 and 14.090; Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, Assistant Monitoring Coordinator for Region 1 (IARUMS) <<http://www.iarums-r1.org/>> said he has had reports of hearing the jammer on three frequencies at the same time. Skolaut said he heard it on 14.070 at 1500 EDT on June 6 from ARRL HQ, but has not confirmed Firedrake on any other frequencies. "We have reported the jammer to the FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) facility in Columbia, Maryland. They have also heard the jammer and have sent a harmful interference report to the Chinese government," Skolaut said. The FCC has no authority to make intruder stations outside the US stop transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies; such situations typically are dealt with through diplomatic channels. "All three IARU regions are coordinating efforts to collect observations and forward them to the proper authorities to follow up on this," Skolaut said. "As you probably remember, this jamming occurred almost two years ago <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/08/17/2/>> and was primarily heard on 14.260 and 18.160 MHz." According to Bihlmayer, the jammer (whom Region 1 monitors have dubbed Firedrake) plays oriental-type music (click here to hear what Firedrake sounds like -- <<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/firedrake.mp3>>) and originates from the Chinese government in an attempt to block out the Sound of Hope short wave broadcasts <<http://sohnews.com/shortwave-broadcasts/>>. The Sound of Hope refers to itself as "a Chinese language media network providing an alternative to China's state controlled media with news and cultural programming. Radio Free China (RFC) is Sound of Hope's project to reach listeners in Mainland China with programming beyond the control of China's omnipresent blockade of free information." Information on the Intruder Watch program can be found in the June 2007 issue of QST.