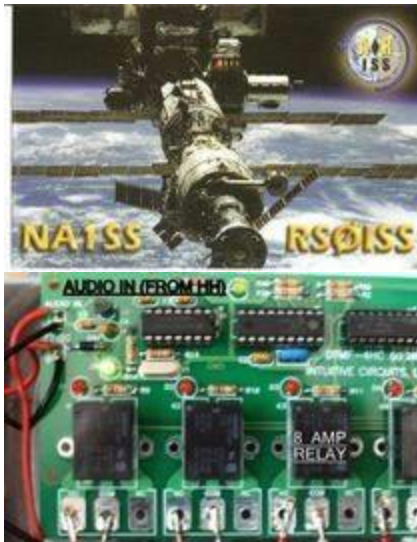


Symposium for Maritime Amateur Radio Techs

“To provide insight into the technical and procedural aspects of amateur radio operation.”





From Jim VE1JBL May 1st, 2017

2017 Symposium for Maritime Amateur Radio Technicians

Well after rain threaten to put a damper on things the sun came out early Saturday morning on Apr.29th, for the 2017 Symposium of Maritime Amateur Radio Technicians (S.M.A.R.T.) hosted by the [WestCumb ARC](#) in Amherst NS. This year's event was held at the [Dr.Carson and Marion Murray Community Centre](#) in Springhill Nova Scotia.

Amateurs started to arrive at 7am and began setting up their displays in the large foyer. Treva Hebb & Jo-Ann Reynolds looked after the Registration table and prepared name tags. There were tables set up for tickets to buy prizes including digital radios and 50/50 tickets thanks to Dana Rushton VE1VOX, Don Roland VE1AOE and Jim Hannon VE1AFH. Thanks to [Belair Technologic](#), [N3FJP-Scot Davis](#), [Durham Radio](#), [Radioworld](#) and [RAC](#) for the prizes.

Dave Goodwin VE9CB Atlantic Director for the Radio Amateurs of Canada and Len Morgan VE9MY Manager of the RAC National Incoming QSL Bureau manned the RAC table. Dave also gave a presentation later in the day on behalf of RAC.

John Scott VE1JS had a table and was available to check DXCC, WAS, VUCC and WAC cards, if required. He also did identity checks for those wishing to join LoTW.

[Ron MacKay VE1AIC](#) from PEI was there again this year displaying and operating many digital modes. His hotspots were running Fusion on UHF, DMR on VHF, and

D-Star on another UHF channel all at the same time. Brad Ross VE1ZX also had a table set up to demonstrate his Fusion repeater VE1BFB.

Bernie Cormier VE9BGC had a table showing off the upper part of his vertical with radials. It is design for the 20m/15m band. All together it is 32 feet tall.

Coffee from Tim Horton's, tea, muffins, cinnamon rolls and cookies greeted the amateurs when the doors opened at 8am. There were 90 amateurs who registered online before the event and 85 attended. We also had two walk-ins for a total of 87 hams.

Classes began at 9am in two separate rooms and ran smoothly throughout the day thanks to Yvon Hachey VE1VON who kept the presenters to their allotted time and prepared the rooms for each class. Classes were shut down during lunch hour between 12 noon and 1pm for the very popular WestCumb ARC Barbecue. Kevin Burke VE1KEV President of the WARC, Mike Masters VE1XDT Vice-President and Robert Mannette worked the barbecues and did a great job throughout the hour. Treva Hebb and Jo-Ann Reynolds changed hats and gave out the burgers, hot dogs and soft drinks to the nearly 100 amateurs, volunteers and maintenance workers who helped out during the day.

During the break many amateurs took the opportunity to explore the latest [Nova Scotia Public Safety & Field Communications](#) vehicle which was brought up to the event thanks to Al Cyples VE1CYP.

Also at this time the new "Out of Trunk" flea market was active with many amateurs making deals buying & selling.

Before heading back in for afternoon classes all amateurs surrounded the PSFC vehicle and a group picture was taken. Also Mike Johnson VE1MWJ Cumberland REMO Manager showed off the county's drone and took pictures of the group from overhead.

At 1pm classes began again and continued till after 5pm when the final classes from [CANWARN](#) and Radio Amateurs of Canada were presented. Thanks to Bob Robichaud VE1MBR from the Atlantic Storm and Prediction Centre in Dartmouth for presenting the CANWARN course. Other presenters included Jean-Paul Leblanc VE9BK, Bernie Cormier VE9BGC, Steve Frost VE9SF, Brent Taylor VY2HF, Sean Bridge VE1XOP, Al Penney VO1NO, Jerry Arsenault VE9CD, Jim Fisher VE1JF, Tom Sisk, Mike Masters VE1XDT, Bill Karle VE1YY and Dave Goodwin VE9CD.

I would like to thank the organizing committee for another great event including Mike Johnson VE1MWJ, Kevin Burke VE1KEV, Bernie Cormier VE1BGC, Yvon Hachey VE1VON, George Dewar VY2GF.

We would also like to thank the County of Cumberland, Heather Laurie Event Coordinator at the Community Centre, Joel Stone, Donald Bird, John Parsons and other staff for all their help throughout the day and made us feel at home. Last but not least a big Thank You to Treva Hebb and Jo-Ann Reynolds for looking after the Registration table and also helping to feed the hungry hams at lunch time. Greatly appreciated.



Some comments from those attending

Great day, very well organized and certainly due to the hard work of the organizers. Would like to throw out another suggestion, that of making the vent a two-day event. I found I was having to decide between presentations, A or B and wanting to attend both. Having the presentations on the Web site will help in that matter. With an extended event, it would allow for possibly more presentations. For some time there

has been some discussion on a combined area fleamarket. The SMART, could be the basis of such an event. I know it is easy to make suggestions without any thought of the logistics of such, but I am willing to help if it is felt this suggestion is viable.

Len Morgan VE9MY - Baxters Corner NB

Well Done to the organizing committee for a excellent symposium. Location is excellent. As a presenter, it would of been nice to have a pointer. In the large room, the projector could be put further away from the screen in order to get a larger image.

J.P. LeBlanc VE9BK - Lutes Mountain NB

I really enjoyed the day at SMART. Great range of topics which were all interesting, and made it somewhat difficult to decide which one to attend. All facilitators were very well informed of their topic. Everything was well timed, just like a "well oiled machine". The organizers have to be complimented on their planning. The venue for the event was excellent. Bottom line for me, is to keep up the great work if a 3rd annual is being proposed. 73..Sterling

Sterling Carpenter VE9SK - New Maryland NB

What a fantastic day of interesting presentations with fellow hams! A big thank you to the organizing committee. The day was busy but not rushed. I have a page and a half of notes to check out online. Just one suggestion - some seating outside in the food area would have been helpful for the older amateurs. Most of us can stand, eat and chat though. Will look forward to next year's event. This venue is perfect for it. ~73 to all.

Jim Cleveland VE1CHI - Crowes Mills NS

A truly great event! Excellent facilities with lots of room and parking, great presentations and wonderful people. The sharing of information and interests is what

makes amateur radio such a great hobby and the willingness of the radio community to generously volunteer their time for the enjoyment and education of all of us. Thank you!

Dana Rushton VE1VOX - Truro Heights NS

Thanks to you and the whole committee for putting on such a well-organized event
Yvon and Jim.

Brent Taylor VY2HF / W1PJ - Stratford PEI

This report was written by Jim Langille – VE1JBL

Looks like next year may be bigger and better.

Mike Johnson
REMC Cumberland