

# The Tantramar

June, 2006

## Westcumb Amateur Radio Club Newsletter



### Next Meeting

**Wed., June 7, 2006**

**E. D. Fullerton Bldg.**

**7:00 pm**

## Club Executive

**President - Jim Milner, VE1VIA**

**Past President - Rick Sullivan, VE9RWS**

**V. President - Lloyd Smith, VA1MAB**

**Secretary - Ron Bickle, VE1BIC**

**Treasurer - Jim Hannon, VE1AFH**

**Publisher - Peter Hebb, VE1CCL**

**W.A.R.C. Homepage - <http://www.westcumb.com>**

## **W.A.R.C. REGULAR MEETING – May 03 , 2006**

The Meeting was brought to order at 7:02 p.m. with President Jim (VE1 VIA) in the chair. Twenty-four members were present.

### **Minutes From the Last Meeting:**

The minutes from the April meeting were approved as published.  
Moved/seconded by Ron (VE1 BIC)/Jim (VE1 AFH).

### **Business Arising From the Minutes:**

Nothing to report.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Jim (VE1 AFH) reported a balance of \$1,228.23, which includes \$30.00 in the Bursary Fund. Deposits included dues, 50-50 proceeds, and \$500 for the sale of the steel CNR building. Three \$100.00 bursaries for the June graduations have been withdrawn from the Club funds, with \$49.00 to be contributed by the NSARA. It was moved/seconded by Jim (VE1 AFH)/Bruce (VE1 ABC) that the Treasurer's Report be approved.

### **Correspondence:**

The Club received the usual newsletters from other clubs.

An e-mail was received from Don Courcy (VE1 CY) regarding the dropping of the terms "ham" and "amateur" when dealing with mayors, council members and regional officials for the provision of emergency communications services. Don says that since the Amateur Radio Service was "delicensed" in 2000, we cannot be identified as "Federally Licensed Radio Operators" as suggested by Dave (VA7VVV/VE7 DOW) in the Canadian Amateur. However, we can use the term "FCRO" for Federally Certified Radio Operators"

### **Field Day:**

Peter (VE1 CCL) has contacted Roymac Homes about obtaining a trailer for the weekend of June 24-25, 2006. It is not confirmed for sure, but they will supply the Club with a trailer if one is available. He has also contacted Tony Mattatall of the Cumberland Car Club to confirm that the dates for their Show And Shine are the same weekend. Field Day will be in the same location as last year, at the Robb's Centennial Park. Setup will be after 6 on Friday June 24.

Rick (VE9 RWS) said we would be using the same HF antenna and radio as last year.

Jim (AFH) says if a trailer is not available, there is a tent available from the Municipality. He said we will need to limit the hours running on the generator this year, due to some noise complaints last year. He suggested running off batteries during the day, and recharging them with solar panels or the generator, which would be used in the night time hours only.

Jim (VE1 CHI) will be using his laptop for the logging program. He also suggested using a desk mike with the Club's Yaesu HF radio. Members will be looking at borrowing one for Field Day.

### **Education:**

Cody (VE1 TUX) will have a video presentation following the meeting on the Club's E-mail List Serve.

### **Publicity:**

Ron (VE1 BIC) had sent a notice about the monthly meeting. A more extensive article about Field Day will be submitted in June.

Brad (ZX) suggested including information about the new "Foundation License" being offered in the U.K., which will make the HF bands much more accessible to newcomers as well as to Class B VHF-only "no code" licensees. It does not require a specific Morse code examination. Instead, applicants must pass a short test and complete what's called a "Morse assessment."

Frank (VE1 FSM) said he could provide a means of distributing Club information when his new computer business

sends out fliers.

### **Public Service:**

Peter (VE1 CCL) and Jim (VE1 JBL) are still taking part in the Red Cross Net on Thursdays. (12:30 pm on the SKV repeater –145.230).

Jim said they were having problem accessing certain repeaters, but quite a few people were checking in.

Peter noted that an HF Net (at 7.030 kHz) followed the Red Cross Net. So far, only a few people are checking in.

Jim (VE1 VIA) said there had been a very good turnout for the Municipal Day at the County Building in April.

Peter (VE1 CCL) said the young people had been interested in the Morse Code demonstration, as they had been studying accounts of the S.O.S. transmissions from the “Titanic” disaster. A contact had also been made via satellite phone to Jerry Forbes of Environment Canada stationed at Sable Island.

### **E.M.O:**

Lloyd (VA1 MAB) reported that a work party had cleaned up the Radio Room for the Open House on April 27.

Rick (VE9 RWS) Jim (VE1 AFH) and Jim (VE1 CHI) had also helped.

Jim (VE1 AFH) and Jim (VE1 JBL) met on April 05 with the Moncton Radio Group, to draft up another Amateur Radio “tabletop” exercise involving Amateur Radio Operators in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI. It will be held on Thursday May 25 at 7:00 pm, and will take about two hours. Seventeen agencies will be represented, with Jim (VE1 AFH) acting as Net Control, Jean-Charles (VE9 RED) as overseer, and Don (VE1 CY) as monitor. At this time, they are planning to use the Charlottetown repeater (VE1 CRA-146.670).

Brad (VE1 ZX) said to ensure the Moncton area is covered, they may have to link SPR to BHS, and then link BHS to CRA.

Jim (VE1 JBL) said they need about five operators from this area, and would like to have some that did not participate in the last exercise. The scenario will be an accident on the Confederation Bridge.

Ron (VE1 BIC) said the one thing missing from the previous EMO exercise had been when some participants had forgotten to say “exercise, exercise, exercise” when finishing their transmission.

Peter (VE1 CCL) added that sometimes participants had talked too fast.

Jim (VE1 JBL) noted that it was important to get both the date and time correct.

Bruce (VE1 ABC) said it appeared to him that some people who have agreed to participate “were not getting out” but Jim (VE1 JBL) replied that the Net Controller always gave a roll call before beginning the exercise, with participants giving their assigned “location” rather than their call sign.

Brad (VE1 ZX) said due to the transmission delay between repeaters, it was important to key up and wait 3 seconds before beginning your message.

Jim (VE1 JBL) said while all the messages are “made up” it is still important for each participant to send and receive two messages in order to learn how the message forms work. Messages will be sent 3 minutes apart, but it was necessary to slow down.

Jim (VE1 AFH) said the EMO has added some new station call signs for locations in the County, including VA1 JFC for the Joggins Fossil Cliffs-World Heritage Site, and

VA1 AMH for the Amherst RCMP Detachment.

He added that there seemed to be no protocol for radio communications, so they have met with officials in Truro to draft up a Provincial Protocol Manual.

Jim says they have applied for JEPP (Joint Emergency Preparedness Program) funding (50-50 Municipal-Federal) in order to purchase two new VHF radios with power supplies, and a “Rig blaster” which will give an ideal interface between a radio and a computer, for working with SSTV, Packet, APRS etc.

An attempt will also be made to help CKDH get the standby generator at their transmitter site operating again. The problem is in the bank of batteries needed to crank the diesel-powered unit.

### **N.S.A.R.A:**

Jim (VE1 AFH) said nothing much is going on, but there would be a meeting at the Halifax Fleamarket on May 13.

### **Net:**

Rick (VE9 RWS) said the Monday Night Net was going well, although there are still problems sorting out all the

repeater links.

### **Repeaters:**

Brad (VE1 ZX) said the Club Repeater (VE1 WRC) would soon be ready to go back into service at the Salem site. They were still awaiting permission to relocate the repeater unit in the equipment rack, since the new one would require more space. He said the other repeaters, VE1 SPR, VE1 BHS and VE1 PAR were all working fine. Work was continuing on the regional packet system. Lorne (VE1 BKK) was working on the NET-1 gateway in Parrsboro. Brad said he and Rick (VE9 RWS) had attended a meeting of the IRG ( International Repeater Group) in Doaktown NB the previous Sunday. He said the IRG has the same problems as everyone else – a lack of members. Currently there are only 48. The result could be the loss of access to certain repeaters. He encouraged anyone who is not a member to join at only \$15.00 per year. It was moved/seconded by Jim (VE1 AFH)/Willard (VE1 WJH) that the WARC purchase a membership in the IRG for the next 12 months.

After some discussion, it was also decided that the WARC renew its membership in the RAC for one year, including TCA magazine. It was moved/seconded by Jim (VE1 CHI)/Rod (VE1 ROD) that the Club purchase the membership.

### **Newsletter**

Peter (VE1 CCL) said everything was going smoothly.

### **Web page**

Jim (VE1 VIA) congratulated Jim (VE1 VIA) for all his work in keeping the Club Webpage at [www.westcumb.com](http://www.westcumb.com) updated. Jim reminded members of the List Serve method of sending e-mail messages to the group.

Bill (VE9 UH) thanked Jim for the access given to the Old Timers Club.

### **Social:**

The next Brunch will be in Parrsboro on May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Harbourview Restaurant.

The 50-50 (\$22.50) was won by Bill (VE1 CFK).

### **Sick & Visiting:**

Duane (VE9 DRS) is now out of the Sackville hospital. Johnny (VE1 JJC) was unable to attend the meeting due to an ongoing health problem. And Rod (VE1 ROD) had been fighting a bad cold for over two weeks this spring, but was now out & about.

### **Lunch for the June 2006 meeting:**

Sweets - Jim (VE1 VIA) –Carrot Cake

Sandwiches - Bob (VE1 EDP)

### **Unfinished Business:**

Jim (VE1 CHI) said he was still waiting for a response from RAC regarding his letter about irregularities with the RAC Question Bank. He has been in e-mail contact with some of the Examiners, but will only wait two more weeks before dropping the issue.

### **New Business:**

Frank (VE1 FSM) reminded members of the annual Cedar Crest Music Festival for the I.W.K. running from June 30-July 02 in Salem. All Amateur Radio Operators are invited to help with parking and communications. A camping spot will be provided free of charge. Also, the Rotary Club of Port Elgin is looking for similar help for their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Music Festival July 28-30. Contact Frank if you can help.

Peter (VE1 CCL) has made some changes to the Club's QSL card, which is used for contacts made during Field Day and other special occasions. He showed a prototype of the new design. It was pointed out that the address should be changed to the E.D. Fullerton Municipal Building.

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, June 07, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Municipal Building.

**Adjournment: at 8:15 p.m.**

Following the meeting Cody (VE1 TUX) gave a demonstration of the E-mail List Serve.

**Ron Bickle (VE1 BIC) Secretary.**

## Notes

Ron's Accident - As many of you know, earlier this month, Ron Bickle, VE1BIC had an unfortunate accident when he fell out of a tree, he and his father-in-law were cutting down. He broke one heel, and fractured the other, and also had some other physical problems, that only time will heal. He was taken to the Moncton City Hospital where he stayed over a week, before being transferred to the Amherst Hospital. He was in room 106, but on the 25<sup>th</sup> he was released and is now home. GET WELL SOON RON.

Brunch - Our May brunch was held at the Harbour View Restaurant in Parrsboro on the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were 17 people in attendance. Abbie, VE1BFB was presented her certificate for membership to the Old Timers Club by Jim VE1CHI since Bill Anderson, VE9UH could not make it to the brunch. This is our last brunch until September, as we do not have any in June or during the summer months.

Field Day - Things are looking good for Field Day. This year we will hold it at the ball park, along with the car show, as we did last year. It was decided that we try to use battery power during the day, to reduce the noise of the generator. I think the only real problem, is manpower. We can always use more people to assist in communications, especially during the night time. Set up will be at 10:00 am on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Roymac will once again be providing a trailer for our use. Hope to see a good crowd to help out.

## Birthdays

Aug. 7 - Irene Wheaton, VE1CF  
15 - Paul Follini, VE1SS  
Aug. 24 - Jerry Hannah, VE1KW  
26 - Wanda Bickle

28 - Faye Haley

Sept. 1 - Duane Sears, VE9DRS  
7 - Bill Durant, VE9JMP  
8 - Cliff Rose, VE1CBR  
11 - Joanne Reynolds  
14 - Gerry Gallant  
14 - Peter Hebb, VE1CCL  
17 - Maida Follini  
21 - Joanne Rose  
24 - Coral Harris, VE1CLH  
24 - Cody Harris, VE1TUX  
27 - Muriel Hughes  
27 - Ed Hart, VE9ES  
28 - Jack McGee, VE1CZD

## Anniversaries

Aug. 3 - Bill, VE1CFK & Irene, VE1CK  
Wheaton - 1943  
Aug. 13 - Terry, VE9TER & Peggy Craig -  
1985  
Sept.6 - David, VE9DWJ & Jane Jones -1964  
Sept.6 - Gerry, VE1KW & Kay, VE1YH -  
Hannah - 1958  
Sept.6 - Jim, VE1AFH & Carol, VE1RCH  
Hannon - 1974  
Sept. 14 - Bill, VE9JMP & Paulette Durant -  
1963  
Sept. 19 - Lou, VE1JLG & Irna Garrett -  
1967  
Sept . 21 - Lloyd, VA1MAB & Marge Smith -  
1957  
Sept. 21 - Bill, VE9UH & Ruth Anderson -  
1951

## Swap Shop

Wanted -  
2 tubes - CJ56C  
Max Witherall, VE1XAM  
Phone - 902-634-3773

Wanted -  
Atlas 210-X  
Lewis Thorpe, VE1CA  
Phone - 902-681-9934

Wanted -  
Viking Ranger or any working tube transmitter or  
Johnson line.  
Lewis Thorpe, VE1TLT  
944 Thompson Rd., RR#1  
Waterville, N.S.  
B0P 1V0  
Phone - 902-538-5690

Wanted -  
MC-60 desk mike  
Kenwood PS-35 or 50 A power supply  
SP-40 speaker  
Tom LeBlanc, VE9TLB  
Phone - 506-758-9024

For Sale -  
2 super yagi's antennas  
30 ft. light duty tower  
Jerry MacMillan, VE9BK  
187 Tamarack Terrace  
Moncton, N.B.  
E1A 5R1

For Sale -  
MFJ - 35 A power supply - \$275  
Mike Embree, VE1MY  
174 Southampton Rd.  
Amherst, N.S.  
B4H 3Y4  
Phone - 902-667-7973  
[ve1my@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:ve1my@ns.sympatico.ca)

For Sale -  
Yaesu FT-1 100W HF transceiver. All mode,  
all options, including built-in power supply.  
High stability oscillators, exterior cards, operator  
& service manuals and hand  
mike. Original box. Mint - \$800.

(\$900 with HD-1 mike)

Yaesu MD-1 desk mike -\$150

Yaesu FT-757 GX 100 W HF transceiver.  
Operator & service manuals, hand mike.  
Mobile bracket (unused - new in box). Very  
good condition - \$550

Cushcraft ASL-2010 13.5 - 32 Mhz log periodic  
antenna, used 6 months, stored 4  
years. Like new - \$800

Telex CM-1320 boom headset with Heil mike  
and PTT switch wired for Yaesu 8 pin - \$100

Timewave DSP 59+ digital signal filter - \$200

Max 100 100 Mhz portable frequency counter -  
\$50

Sony ICF-2010 portable AM/FM/Aircraft  
SW/SSB/AM receiver. Improved AM & SSB  
filters. Operator & service manuals - \$350  
(\$450 with AN-1 active antenna)

Sony AN-1 broadcast/SW active antenna.  
Original box. Mint - \$125

Grundig Yacht Boy YB-400 AM/FM/SSB  
portable receiver. Excellent - \$150

Heathkit HD-1410 electronic keyer - \$150

Shipping from Halifax is extra. Everything is  
negotiable.

Neil Hughes, VE1YZ  
Phone - 902-826-7605  
[ve1yz@eastlink.ca](mailto:ve1yz@eastlink.ca)

## Upcoming Events

June 7 - W.A.R.C. meeting - E. D. Fullerton

Bldg. - 7:00 pm

June 24 - 25 - Field Day - Robb's Ball Field located on LePlanche St., Amherst. Set up at 10:00 am, begin to operate - 3pm Saturday to 3 pm Sunday. Trailer will arrive sometime after 6 pm on Friday evening.

June 30 - July 2 - Bluegrass festival at the home of John Gilroy in Stanley. Volunteers required to help with parking etc. Please contact Frank Marks, VE1FSM for more details. Phone - 902-667-4811 or e-mail [ve1fsm@eastlink.ca](mailto:ve1fsm@eastlink.ca)

## **Kitchen Korner**

### **Oat & Raisin Cookies**

1 cup flour (white or whole wheat)  
1 tsp baking soda  
½ tsp salt  
2 cups rolled oats  
¼ cup wheat germ  
¾ cup margarine  
1 ½ cups lightly packed brown sugar  
2 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla  
¾ cup coconut  
½ cup chopped nuts (optional)  
¾ cup raisins

Combine flour, baking soda, salt, rolled oats & wheat germ, stir well to blend.

Cream together the margarine, brown sugar, eggs & vanilla. Add to oat mixture; mix well. Stir in coconut, raisins & nuts. Drop the dough by the teaspoon onto lightly greased baking sheets.

Flatten slightly with floured fork. Bake at 350 deg. F for 12 - 15 minutes or until golden.

## **How many of these did you know about?**

A sealed envelope - Put in the freezer for a few hours, then slide a knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed. (hmmmmmm..)

Use Empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.

For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dishwashing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze. (wish I had known this for the last 40 years!)

To remove old wax from a glass candleholder, put it in the freezer for a few hours. Then take the candleholder out and turn it upside down. The wax will fall out.

Crayon marks on walls? This worked wonderfully! A damp rag, dipped in baking soda. Comes off with little effort (elbow grease that is!).

Permanent marker on appliances/counter tops (like store receipt BLUE!), rubbing alcohol on paper towel.

Whenever I purchase a box of S.O.S Pads, I immediately take a pair of scissors and cut each pad into halves. After years of having to throw away rusted and unused and smelly pads, I finally decided that this would be much more economical. Now a box of S.O.S pads last me indefinitely! In fact, I have noticed that the scissors get sharpened this way!

Blood stains on clothes? Not to worry! Just pour a little hydrogen peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood. Works every time! Now, where to put the body? LOL

Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal for inside windows. This

way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows on a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.

Spray a bit of perfume on the light bulb in any room to create a lovely light scent in each room when the light is turned on.

Place fabric softener sheets in dresser drawers and your clothes will smell freshly washed for weeks to come. You can also do this with towels and linen.

Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.

To clean artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the flowers. Shake vigorously as the salt will absorb all the dust and dirt and leave your artificial flowers looking like new! Works like a charm!

To easily remove burnt on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover bottom of pan, and bring to a boil on stove top.

Spray your TUPPERWARE with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.

Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.

When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the corn's natural sweetness.

Cure for headaches: Take a lime, cut it in half, and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.

Don't throw out all that leftover wine: Freeze

into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces. Left over wine? What's that? :)

To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area and you will experience instant relief.

Ants, ants, ants everywhere ... Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So, get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march. See for yourself.

Use air-freshener to clean mirrors. It does a good job and better still, leaves a lovely smell to the shine.

When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, and then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.

Now look what you can do with Alka Seltzer.....

Clean a toilet.

Drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush and flush. The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous china.

Clean a vase.

To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets.

Polish jewelry.

Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes.

Clean a thermos bottle.

Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary).

Unclog a drain.

Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup

of Heinz White Vinegar. Wait a few minutes, and then run the hot water.

Do your friends a favor. Pass this timely (and some not-so-timely) information on to a friend! I just did.

Makes you wonder about ingesting Alka Seltzer, doesn't it?

This article came from Willard Hudson,  
VE1WJH

## Funny Stuff

A man walks into a restaurant with a full-grown ostrich behind him. The waitress asks for their orders. The man says, "A hamburger, fries and a coke," and turns to the ostrich, "What's yours?"

"I'll have the same," says the ostrich.

A short time later the waitress returns with the order. "That will be \$9.40 please," she says and the man reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change for payment.

The next day, the man and the ostrich come again and the man says, "A hamburger, fries, and a coke."

The ostrich says, "I'll have the same."

Again the man reaches into his pocket and pays with exact change.

This becomes routine until the two enter again later in the week.

"The usual?" asks the waitress.

No, this is Friday night, so I will have a steak, baked potato, and salad," says the man.

Same," says the ostrich.

Shortly the waitress brings the order and says, "That will be \$32.62."

Once again the man pulls the exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table.

The waitress can't hold back her curiosity any longer. "Excuse me, sir. How do you manage to always come up with the exact change out of your pocket every time?" "Well," says the man, "several years ago I was cleaning the attic and found an old lamp. When I rubbed it a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there."

"That's brilliant!" says the waitress. "Most people would wish for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!"

"That's right. Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact money is always there," says the man.

The waitress asks, "But what's with the ostrich?"

The man sighs and answers, "My second wish was for a tall chick with a big ass and long legs who agrees with everything I say.