

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency Service
in conjunction with
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club



MANITOBA MARATHON
19 JUNE 2016
AMATEUR RADIO REPORT
PSE-151

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ
JUN 2016

This report covers the ARES Amateur Radio component of 2016 Manitoba Marathon. Amateur Radio volunteers were asked for feedback and it has been integrated into the report. The format of this report is based on previous Manitoba Marathon ARES reports.

This report has four main sections:

- Planning/Preparation
- Operation
- Recovery
- Mitigation.

2016 PLANNING/PREPARATION

Winnipeg Amateur Radio Emergency Service (WPGARES) and Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club (WARC) have formally collaborated on a joint Marathon operation since approximately 2001. As previously reported, WARC is the umbrella or general interest Amateur Radio club in Winnipeg that previously organized Marathon communications 1980-2001. WPGARES is concerned with provision of emergency Amateur communications for the civil authorities in time of disaster or communications emergency.

The Marathon Radio Group (MRG) is currently chaired by WPGARES Emergency Coordinator Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ. Technical advisors were:

Don Gerrard VE4DWG
Norman Coull VE4EH
Derek Hay VE4HAY
Mark Blumm VE4MAB
Mark Havens VE4MWH
Ellis Seddon VE4AJO
Dave Stimpson VE4DJS.

Recruiting for the 2016 Amateur Radio component began in earnest in DEC 2015, with notices in the monthly WARC publication "*The Newscaster*", verbal reports at WPGARES and WARC meetings, e-mails to last year's volunteers as well as general e-mails to Winnipeg ARES members. Volunteers had the option of web registration through Winnipeg ARES & WARC websites as well as the option to submit a *Word-*based registration form.

Since the VE4WRS repeater was not available this year (currently out of service) coverage area for two other Amateur Radio repeaters was assessed 01MAY by about ten Winnipeg ARES members along the new Marathon course.

The detailed agenda for the Amateur Radio briefing was reviewed by MRG members before being finalized in past years – generally the previous year's agenda is updated and revised if necessary. No specific MRG planning meetings were held prior to the 2016 Manitoba Marathon. Business was conducted via e-mail, at ARES & WARC meetings and during many informal Saturday morning coffee breaks.

Volunteer clothing and supply pick-up approximately five days before the Amateur briefing went well (no missing components in 2016). Volunteer t-shirts in *Rubbermaid*-type bins very helpful. Approximately four (4) hours was spent checking and collating materials for the Amateur Radio briefing meeting.

Attendees at the Amateur Radio briefing receive significant documentation related to the coming communications task:

Three Booklets

1. 2016 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Guide
2. 2016 Manitoba Marathon Course Station Maps
3. 2016 Manitoba Marathon Participant Guide

At least three loose pages

1. 2016 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Briefing Agenda
2. 2016 Manitoba Marathon Amateur Radio Volunteer Roster
3. Marathon Alert Form.

Pre-printed forms are distributed for use at Net Control Stations*:

1. ARES Activity Logsheet
2. Care-Centre Report (transmitted every 15 mins to Chief Dispatcher at Comm Centre for situational awareness)
3. Course Conditions Reports (transmitted every 20 minutes by Doctor's Shadow regarding race "color" and whether or not course showers are to be run)
4. Modified "EMS Request via Amateur Radio Form".

*These forms were published as an Appendix to the 2014 Report.

At least three portable radios & accessories loaned out at Amateur briefing – only one loan was expected.

Amateurs were assigned to positions in the same manner as previous years. Three Amateurs with no other assignment were assigned as a reserve operator for one of three course sectors (other reserve operators were placed into assignments before Race Day due to various volunteer drop-outs). The race course is best sectorized geographically into three areas:

- East of the Red River
- North of the Assiniboine River
- South of the Assiniboine River.

A Hospitality Test Net was arranged for 2030h THURS 16 JUN to allow newer Amateurs and Amateurs whose assigned locations had changed to visit or reconnoiter their location and ensure that their personal radios were properly programmed. Fifteen (15) operators participated in the Test Net.

The majority of Amateurs who were unable to attend the Amateur Briefing made advance arrangements which greatly decreased the work for Coordinators – there was only one “no-show” with no communications so that individual was struck from the volunteer roster.

Comm Centre set up FRI 17 JUN took about ninety minutes and involved three Amateurs. Issues with the Winnipeg ARES-owned UHF mobile kit were identified and the transceiver & antenna were replaced by one of the Net Controller’s personal equipment. Two other Amateurs were involved with set-up of *FleetNet* radio gear.

Once again, Amateur Radio traffic vests jointly owned by WPGARES and WARC were loaned to non-ARES Amateur Radio participants so that they would be easily identified by various Marathon stakeholders.

All Amateur Radio operators operating on the Medical Net were invited to the Medical Team briefing SAT 18 JUN – the majority attended. Six dual-band portable radios were cached at Care Centre (since Care Centre portion of Medical Net is UHF).

Planned again that if EMRs available, staff each of two Medical Supply vans with one EMR each to allow that vehicle to transport injured or ill ambulatory runners to Care Centre.

2016 OPERATION

The 2016 operation ran from approximately 0530-1330h. Ultimately, **eighty-one** (81) Amateur volunteers (final roster at end of this section) were assigned to each Hospitality Station, Relay Exchange Zone, five Course Vehicles (Lead Full, Lead Half, Course Closing, 2 Sweep Vans), Start Line, Medical Vehicles (1 Medical Transport, 2 Therapy, 2 Medical Supply and “Courier Motorcycle “Bike 10), Hospitality Net Control, Medical Net Control and Care Centre. Three (3) non-Amateur volunteers supported our operation. Of the 81 volunteers involved, **nine** (9) were new or “newer” Amateurs that were partnered with Amateurs with previous Manitoba Marathon experience.

Ultimately all Amateur Radio volunteers who had Race Day assignments showed up as expected (although four were late).

The operation was carried out on two closed, directed Amateur Radio nets using tactical call-signs; Hospitality Net and Medical Net. These nets have been described in more detail in previous Marathon reports. ARES operators also served as Net Control operators for the Marathon *FleetNet* radio on-course Medical Net (mainly for Bike Medics).

The UHF repeater built by Yori Tsuji VE4ACX continues to work great on Race Day as did the tie-in to the VHF Medical Net.



Yori VE4ACX with VE4TWO (UHF)
Weatherproof Cover open
Photo Credit VE4MBQ

The new Doctor's Shadow operator displayed a summary of WBGT /Course Conditions in Major Care area of Care Centre – this initiative should continue.

WBGT data		Risk	Showers	Announce
10 – 17.9	GREEN	Low	No	
18 – 21.9	YELLOW	Moderate	Optional	Inc. Risk
22- 25.9	RED	High	Operate	Inc. Risk
26-27.9	BLACK	Extreme	Operate	Inc. Risk
28>	BLACK	Close Race	Operate	

Time	WBGT Data	Colour G,Y,R,B	Tendency up/dw	Comments
06:00	17.2	G		
06:15	17.2	G		
06:30	17.4	G		
06:45	17.3	G	Up	
07:00	18.9	Y		
07:15	19.5	Y		
07:30	18.4	Y		
07:45	18.4	Y		
08:00	19.1	Y		
08:15	19.5	Y		
08:30	20	Y	Up	
08:45	24	R		Showers on
09:00	23.7	R		
09:15	24.2	R		
09:30	24	R	Ambulance	Bib#6xxxh/srtk
09:45	23.6	R		
10:00	24/23.2	R		
10:15	22.5	R		
10:30	24/25.2	R	Ambulance	Bib#7xxx ³⁷ ""
10:45	22.5	R		
11:00	25	R	Ambulance	Bib#5xxx "" ""
11:15	24.4/24.7	R		
11:30	25.3	R		
11:45	26/25.7/25.7	R	Ambulance	Bib#6xxx "" ""
12:00	24.7/26.4/25.4	R	Up	Inc. sampling
12:15	27.5/28/25.3/28.4	BLACK		"" ""
12:30	25.3/28	BLACK		"" ""
12:45	28.4	BLACK		
13:00	28.2	BLACK		

Manitoba Marathon WBGT Data Record for 19th, June, 2016

Hospitality Station operators had the ability to use VHF **or** UHF to communicate with Hospitality Net Control.

Each Therapy Van had four spare portable radios for back-up use by Hospitality Net Amateurs – none were deployed.

The actual Amateur operation unfolded essentially as expected, however there were some occurrences that should, if at all possible, be eliminated next year.

Four Amateurs arrived late at their assigned Hospitality Stations – will emphasize expected arrival time **again** at next year's Amateur briefing.

Apparent confusion in Comm Centre with units on separate nets with similar call-signs – for 2017 consider adding “100” to call-signs on Amateur nets (e.g. Therapy 5 becomes Therapy 105, Bike 10 becomes Bike 110, etc).

It was unknown to Amateurs planning, in the Comm Centre and out on the course that elite participants were identified by name and not Bib Number – caused some issues when one or more elite runners were injured and/or dropped out.

We got through the day with one Medical Transport unit but only just. Three or four units would be ideal.

Only one Medical Supply van with EMR on board and that EMR came up thru non-traditional contacts.

Approximately three hours after start the Medical Net was moved to the alternate repeater due to noise on the primary repeater. All stations moved to the alternate frequency.

Sweep Van drivers were queried by some exited runners when dropping off at Relay Exchange Zones as to whether or not a bus would be picking them up.

An ARES member assigned Comm Centre to be a dispatcher for a *FleetNet* talk-group (on-course) found his personal Sherlock Street Guide¹ to be invaluable.

Informal comments from Marathon vehicle drivers suggested that course narrowing was problematic, particularly on Pembina Highway.

¹ Sherlock Publishing Winnipeg City Atlas <http://sherlockmaps.com/Winnipeg/default.html>

Amateur Radio Roster

2016 Manitoba Marathon

19 JUN 2016

Net	Assignment	Secondary Assignme	Call Sign	First Name	Last Name
Hospitality	Mile 2		VE4PH	Pete	Haertel
Hospitality	Mile 2		VE4PEH	Patricia	Haertel
Hospitality	Mile 4		VE4BOY	Juanito	Alambra
Hospitality	Mile 4		VE4DAE	Ernelyn	Hingada
Hospitality	Mile 6		VA4CAT	Catherine	Suarez
Hospitality	Mile 6		VA4DON	Don	Suarez
Hospitality	Mile 8		VE4JBL	JoJo	Lagman
Hospitality	Mile 8		VE4JLO	Lorenza	Lagman
Hospitality	Mile 10		VE4TSY	Paul	Copio
Hospitality	Mile 10		VE4PDD	Ding	Dela Cruz
Hospitality	Mile 12		VE4SBS	Sunday	Satiada
Hospitality	Mile 12		VE4LYN	Lynda	Satiada
Hospitality	Mile 14		VE4SE	Tom	Mills
Hospitality	Mile 14		VE4XYL	Ruth	Mills
Hospitality	Mile 14		VE4WDZ	Wyatt	Zacharias
Hospitality	Mile 16		VE4GLS	Gord	Snarr
Hospitality	Mile 16		VE4MHZ	Paula	Ehn
Hospitality	Mile 18		VE4JDH	Hamish	Donaldson
Hospitality	Mile 18		VE4LOL	Paul	White
Hospitality	Mile 19		VE4VZ	Rolf	Bandlow
Hospitality	Mile 19		VE4ESA	Ernest	Anamahu
Hospitality	Mile 20		VE4JAL	Sofranio	Alejo
Hospitality	Mile 20		VE4MMD	Milan	Duque
Hospitality	Mile 21		VE4QB	Phil	Barton
Hospitality	Mile 21		VE4RIC	Rick	Shumila
Hospitality	Mile 21		n/a	Max	Perchaluk
Hospitality	Mile 22		VE4MMG	Mariska	Maguire
Hospitality	Mile 22		VE4DRO	Darryl	Orr
Hospitality	Mile 24		VE4HK	Dick	Maguire
Hospitality	Mile 24		VE4JFB	Jonathon	Baril
Hospitality	Mile 25		VE4NQ	Brian	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Mile 25		n/a	Betty	Pettapiece
Hospitality	Mile 25		VE4GAG	Doug	Petersen
Hospitality	Half Marathon		VE4DJS	Dave	Stimpson
Hospitality	Half Marathon		VE4WX	John	Erwin
Hospitality	Relay 1		VE4GWB	Garth	Blumm
Hospitality	Relay 1		VE4JAH	John	Howells
Hospitality	Relay 2		VE4LIT	Lito	Guevara
Hospitality	Relay 2		VE4ANF	Bing	Fernandez
Hospitality	Relay 3		VE4DBV	Drago	Lambeta
Hospitality	Relay 3		VE4SIG	Jim	Sutton

Amateur Radio Operator	2016 Manitoba Marathon			19 JUL 2016
Hospitality	Lead Vehicle Full		VE4GIS	Kurt Sargent
Hospitality	Lead Vehicle Half		VE4GZ	Jim Griffiths
Hospitality	Closing Vehicle Driver		n/a	Gail Lameroux
Hospitality	Closing Vehicle Driver/Operator		VE4UK	Denis Bosc
Hospitality	Sweep 5 Radio Operator		VE4STS	Bob Myatt
Hospitality	Sweep 5 DRIVER		VE4MWH	Mark Havens
Hospitality	Sweep 7 Radio Op		VE4RDO	Andy Fenstad
Hospitality	Sweep 7 Driver		VA4RWT	Garry Goodman
Hospitality	Start Line	Recovery-1	VE4RAI	Rob Iwacha
Medical	Medical NCS		VE4EH	Norman Coull
Medical	Medical NCS		VE4TTH	Peter Toth
Medical	Recovery -1	Start-Line MED	VE4RAI	Rob Iwacha
Medical	Recovery-2		VE4FHS	Frank Serafin
Medical	Don's Shadow		VE4GWN	Glen Napady
Medical	Intake/Triage Area		VE4ACX	Yori Tsuji
Medical	Intake/Triage Area-2		VE4YYL	Rosi Napady
Medical	Dawna Marie's Shadow		VE4CDM	Craig Martin
Medical	Dr Morham's Shadow		VE4ESX	Richard Sheridan
Medical	Med 1 - driver		VE4JNF	John Foster
Medical	Med 1 - radio		VE4NCH	Pat Verbaaschott
Medical	Therapy 5 - driver		VE4MBQ	Jeff Dovyak
Medical	Therapy 5 - radio		VE4KAZ	Richard Kazuk
Medical	Therapy 6 - driver		VE4MAB	Mark Blumm
Medical	Therapy 6 - radio		VE4EAR	Ed Richardson
Medical	Supply 7 - driver		VE4QV	John Pura
Medical	Supply 7 - radio		VE4JFK	Jeffrey Kazuk
Medical	Supply 8 - medic		VA4PNO	Jack Peters
Medical	Supply 8 - radio		VE4SYM	Susan Collings
Medical	Supply 8 - Driver		VE4TRO	Fred Collings
Medical	VE4WVO		VE4LDI	Diane Perry
Medical	Ski Patrol Dispatcher		VE4DWG	Don Gerrard
Medical	Ski Patrol Dispatcher		VE4MMW	Nicki Albus
Spare3	East of the Red		VE4JS	Jan Schippers
Spare2	North of the Assiniboine		VE4AFL	Ken Laidlaw
Spare1	South of the Assiniboine		VE4VB	Walter Bezpalko

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING
MANITOBA MARATHON AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS
(loaned equipment or facilities, recruited volunteers)

Winnipeg ARES
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
Manitoba Repeater Society
Pathfinders Amateur Radio Club
South-Central ARES
University of Manitoba Amateur Radio Society.

Winnipeg ARES-owned equipment was used for the temporary Amateur Radio base radio stations at the Comm Centre in addition to one Net Control Operator's personal transceiver. Three ARES-owned Hand-held radios (HTs) and accessories were loaned out to newer on-course Amateurs. As previously mentioned six dual-band portable radios were cached at Care Centre.

2016 RECOVERY

Recovery activities for the Marathon Radio Group mainly involves return of borrowed equipment and documenting any "Lessons Learned". The majority of borrowed equipment was returned by 28 JUN but as of 29 JUN a loaner ARES-WARC vest and loaner portable radio with accessories were still outstanding (locations known).

Thanks to Rhonda Dovyak for laundering the "loaner" ARES-WARC vests.

A summary report will be submitted for publication in the SEP 2016 WARC newsletter.

Suggestions for next year's pre-race Tech Team meeting (documentation & key telephone numbers) were submitted by e-mail in advance of this report as was the list of supporting organizations.

2016 MITIGATION

(i.e. LESSONS LEARNED/CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS)

ARES volunteers were asked to notify VE4MBQ by e-mail by 21 JUN, a debrief session was also held 28 JUN (which was attended by Marathon Operations Manager):

Marathon leadership should identify a provider for several Medical Transport vehicles this fall or early winter.

Clarification must be provided by Marathon organizers with regard to how elite runners are to be identified on the air.

To try to avoid operators showing up late emphasize even more during next year's briefing something like "Arrive on station No Later Than

- 0615h Stations east of the Red River
- 0630h all other stations."

Investigate VHF site noise at VE4ARC location.

Mechanical problem with one VEMA-supplied vehicle day before Race Day (which was resolved) in 2015 – consider obtaining a spare vehicle to be staged at Comm Centre or Equipment Depot (VEMA was unable to supply such for 2016).

Marathon organizers developed a Code of Conduct form for all volunteers to sign in mid APR – mid May – challenge was that bulk of Amateur Radio recruiting had finished by then so all 2016 Amateur volunteers were sent the form to review, sign and bring to Amateur Radio briefing. Additional blank Code of Conduct forms were available at the briefing for those who forgot their signed form – no materials were issued without the signed form being on file. For 2017 we should try to incorporate the Code of Conduct form into our on-line volunteer registration (we **do not** use the Manitoba Marathon on-line system).

Winnipeg ARES-owned UHF Mobile Kit transceiver and antenna checked after Race Day in a sub-optimal location – everything worked properly.

Continue posting Course Conditions record in Major Care room of Care Centre.

Consider adding "100" to mobile units on Amateur controlled nets to eliminate potential confusion in Comm Centre with multiple units with similar call signs (e.g. Therapy 5 becomes Therapy 105, Bike 10 becomes Bike 110, etc).

Can Marathon organizers provide SWEEP Van drivers with first and last bus times for each Relay Exchange Zone?

Consideration should be given to providing each dispatch team and all call-takers at Comm Centre with a current Sherlock Street Guide (ARES dispatch teams were provided with 2016 Manitoba Marathon Map book).

Consideration should be given to restoring additional lanes to Marathon course that were deleted for 2016, particularly along Pembina Highway.

Attendance of Marathon Operations Manager at ARES de-brief meeting 28 JUN was much appreciated and serves to demonstrate the Marathon's interest in our volunteer's experiences & opinions.