



Newscaster

The Official Publication of the
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club

April 2000

Radio Amateurs of Canada

Rick, VE4OV Regional Director

Come out and see what RAC is all about and what they can offer you as an Amateur Radio Operator

Date: May 8th, 2000
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: May 31 - Article Deadline June Newscaster

WARC: June 12th - last meeting of the year.
Aug. 31 - Memberships Expire - time to renew

WSC: Sept. 14 - Annual Picnic

ARES: May 9th - CANWARN Net Controllers meeting
May 16th - City of Winnipeg Emergency Coordinator
Sept 24 - Parkinson Superwalk

Other: June 18 - Manitoba Marathon
June 24,25 - Field Day
July 7, 8, & 9 - International HamFest
July 20,22 - Central States VHF Conference
Aug. - MARM HamFest

WARC: Executive for 2000			
Past President	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
President	Darcy Wilson	VE4DDW	783-0421
Vice-Pres./ PR	Tom Mills	VE4SE	837-6915
Secretary	Ruth Mills	VE4XYL	837-6915
Treasurer	Sue Collings	VE4SYM	694-1525
Membership	Mariska Maguire	VE4MMG	256-3143
Program	Tom Mills	VE4SE	837-6915
Goodwill	Vern Dutton	VE4VQ	256-5346

RADIOGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT: by Darcy, VE4DDW

Spring time is HERE!!

It's been a busy month for WARC, with the club jacket order, Homebrew night, and of course the first flea market of the century. I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy some of the wonderful spring weather we've had. It always amazes me that no matter what type of weather we have, it will be damaging to someone. But maybe one thing we can all agree on is this: A dry spring = FEWER MOSQUITOS! I can't think of anyone that wouldn't want that!

There is some business I'd like to take care of before I find myself running out of room. The April meeting of the club saw our annual Homebrew night. But this time it brought with it something that made me think about the hobby just a little bit more. Those that were at the meeting might remember that we had a few special visitors to the club. Vern Dutton (VE4VQ) was kind enough to bring with him some lively and energetic young boys and girls from a local school. As well, Rick Lord (VE4OV), brought out his grandson. At first glance it may seem this was just a visit from the "kids". But I don't think that's the case. Seeing these young kids with enough interest and determination to not only create these projects, but to share their ideas and experiments with us, gives me a well deserved feeling of respect for them. I can only think that by participating in our homebrew night, maybe these kids will remember our friendly group in the years to come and make the decision to join us again.... this time as licensed amateurs. Everybody seems to be asking themselves "How do we stimulate interest in the hobby?". What transpired last month is one way we can help to create a new youthful, group of amateurs with an abundance of ideas and dreams. Thank you Vern, for making us remember why we're here doing the things we do.

Before I say good-bye this month, I have to say thank you to all of those early-risers that came out to help with the Flea Market. Michael (VE4MJM), and Ruth (VE4XYL), did a superb job in organizing one of the most successful flea markets in years. But, the real thanks go to everyone that

helped support the club by, purchasing a table, or just coming to take part in a friendly get-together.

MINUTES for W.A.R.C. April 10th, 2000
Submitted by Ruth, VE4XYL

President Darcy Wilson VE4DDW welcomed every one, and commented on an excellent attendance of 80. We began with the introduction of guest followed by the general members.

MINUTES

Moved by Michael VE4MJM seconded by Glen VE4GWN that the March minutes be accepted as printed. Carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

Susan VE4SYM reported the bank balance as of March 31/00 was \$4906.13. Our expenses were \$383.99. Revenue was \$1028. The \$891.00 with drawl for the club jackets will make a significant change in the April bank balance.

MAY PROGRAM

Rick Lord VE4OV will be talking on RAC.

RAC REPORT

Industry Canada Amateur Centre
 Voice 1-888-780-3333 (toll-free)
 Fax: 1-613-991-5575
 Email: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca
 Web: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>

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For more information or to place an ad please contact Tom, VE4SE or e-mail ve4se@rac.ca

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 Comments or if you just want to reach us :

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Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
C/O VE4WSC
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5
<http://www.freenet.mb.ca/amradio>

April 15 –23 on the air activities are world wide on the HF bands celebrating the 75th anniversary of the IARL. Look for AY1ARU, the special call sign of LU4AA, the radio club of Argentina, also at

The RAC annual general mid west board of directors meeting will be held in Cornwall Ont. From April 27-30/00 which Rick VE4OV will be attending. A wide range of issues will be discussed including the RAC annual budget.

IC has legalized the Family Radio Service (FRS) in Canada similar to the U.S. There will be 14 channels in the 462mhz to 467mhz band. Out put is limited to 0.5 watts erp. No license is required, these units are available to anyone. No repeaters are allowed. The FRS is similar to CB (GRS) except in the UHF band.

RAC HF band planning committee member, Dr.Rob Kaufmann VE4GV, has asked for input from 160 mtr. users and testers regarding band planning. Please contact Rob at his home number 488 0077 or on e-mail at

Your comments on 160 mtr. operation are gratefully received and appreciated.

ARES

Jeff VE4MBQ read to all a very nice letter received from the 17th wing of DND complementing Chris Setla VE4SET, Vern Dutton VE4VQ, and Rolf Bandlow VE4VZ for their very professional method of handling of Amateur radio set up and communication during the Op. Abacus, DNDs contingency plan for making it through Y2K.

The Y2K volunteers also each received a thank you letter from A/Commissioner T.W Egglestone, Commanding Officer D Division R.C.M.P.

Canwarn

Jeff expressed thanks to Richard VE4KAZ, Dave VE4KU, Luc VE4LUC and Tom VE4SE for spending the morning of Sat. April 8th installing a Barker & Williamson wire antenna of the roof of PSPC.

Next ARES general meeting will be Tuesday April 9th. Yori VE4ACX, Ed VE4YU and Roy VE4EN will be giving a presentation on their Y2K experiences in the remote Northern communities.

MARATHON

Ralph VE4RY announced the annual Marathon will be held on Sunday June 18/00. Ralph is looking for volunteers to help out.

FLEA MARKET

Michael VE4MJM reports the flea market assigned areas are ready to go except for Kerri VE4EEE who is looking after the admission door and needs a few more volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS

Darcy VE4DDW announced that field day will be held June 24-25/00. Possible site was Duff Roblin Park. A vote was taken and results showed 20 hands for a new location and 19 hands for Falcon Lake. As nothing was to decisive Derek will check on the Falcon Lake availability. We need some one to chair this event other wise we will not have a field day. David VE4DAR volunteered to help out Derek if he took it on.

The meeting adjourned at 20:10 for coffee and goodies and browsing of the 6 displays of home brew projects. There were four drawn winners for prizes of \$25.00 each. The winners were Andrew Dryden, a new member and Grandson of Rick VE4OV, Fred Venema VE4FV, Glen Napady VE4GWN and a very interesting group of young people from Marion School under the direction of Andrew Bell and "Grandpa" Dutton VE4VQ. Also thanks to Bob VE4RCJ and Louis VE4PLJ for their participation with an equally interesting display of projects.

Sincere thanks to such a wonderful attendance which made the Home Brew night an enjoyable event.

Winnipeg ARES Report **by Jeff, VE4MBQ - Winnipeg EC**

VE4WWO at the Prairie Storm Prediction Centre got a new HF antenna (Barker&Williamson Centre-fed wire) on Saturday 08APR. Thanks to the installation crew of VE4s: KAZ, KU, LUC, and SE. Four WPGARES members staffed VE4WWO WED 26APR (KAZ, MBQ) and THURS 27APR (AJR, SE) during tours of PSPC as part of the Northern Plains Convective Conference. This writer was given the opportunity to deliver a presentation about "Development of CANWARN in Southern Manitoba" at the conference.

Richard VE4KAZ and Ian VE4CLK have done a terrific job with the new Winnipeg ARES web-site. It can be found at: www.escape.ca/~wpgares/

Our Silent Auction at the WARC Flea Market 16APRIL did very well. Thanks to all of the "buyers", donors and prize winners. Special thanks to Dick VE4HK and Mariska VE4MMG for organizing and running the table, and to Richard VE4KAZ, Jeff VE4MBQ, and Sue VE4SYM for staffing the table. The prize lots were:

Lot #1 - Donated by The Pal Group, VE4HAY, Anonymous
Won by Rob Boux VE4RRB

Lot #2 - Donated by Glen Napady VE4GWN
Won by Norm Roll VE4EO

Lot#3 - Donated by Mariska Maguire VE4MMG and Dick Maguire VE4HK
Won by Brittney Hay

Lot #4 - Donated by Standard Electric, Johnston Industrial Plastic, Barbara Maguire, Anonymous
Won by Chris Setla VE4SET

Lot#5 - Donated by Johnston Industrial Plastic, Canada Safeway
Won by Gord Snarr VE4GLS

Lot#6 - Donated by Standard Electric, Robert Stegmaier VE4RST
Won by Jan Schippers VE4JS

Lot#7 - Donated by Johnston Industrial Plastic, Rick Lord VE4OV, Pat Giesbrecht VE4PLG
Won by Jim Ross VE4AJR

Lot #8 - Donated by Yori Tsuji VE4ACX, Ron Martin VE4MGR, Sue Collings VE4SYM and Fred Collings VE4TRO
Won by Rob Boux VE4RRB

Our April meeting featured a fascinating look at Y2K Experiences in Remote Communities. Yori VE4ACX, Roy VE4EN, and Ed VE4YU gave us a presentation covering the "Pre-Y2K" antenna installation trips with RCMP Air Services as well as Y2K operations. Their story would make a great feature in TCA. Industry Canada has replaced RIC-25 with RIC-2 "Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service". It is available for download through the Industry Canada "Strategis" site, hard copies were distributed to those members without Internet access.

Scheduling members as CANWARN Net Controllers is our main public service challenge currently, we are booked though SUN 24SEP00 for the Parkinson Superwalk. CANWARN Net Controllers meeting TUE 09MAY 1900h at PSPC.

Sixteen WPGARES members registered for CPR training SUN 30APR at Fire Station #1. Thanks to the instructors Darcy VE4DDW and Ian VE4CLK, and thanks to WFD Deputy Chief John Morrow for arranging training space for us. The CPR students that registered were

VE4s: AJR, AND, DL, ESX, GWB, GWN, HAZ, HK, KAZ, KU, MMG, SE, TRO, VID, WF, XYL

The next WPGARES monthly meeting is Tuesday 16MAY00 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin St. City of Winnipeg Emergency Coordinator Randy Hull will be speaking about the City of Winnipeg Emergency Program.

Membership Report by Mariska, VE4MMG

It may be early but what a better way to get a head start in 2000 and renew your WARC Membership or become a new member of WARC. There is only two more meeting before WARC adjourns for the summer and WARC memberships are due at the end of September for the new fiscal year 2000-2001. Please consider renewing early.

Membership dues are \$15.00 per person for the 2000-2001 year.

You will have the opportunity to renew your membership by filling out the Membership Renewal form in the NEWSCASTER or at the September WARC meeting.

Something new for next year. You will have the choice of receiving your Newscaster by e-mail or continue to receive it via snail mail. Please indicate your preference on your application form so that we may update our records, but we will require your e-mail to send it by electronic mail.

Renew now and continue to enjoy the company of your fellow Hams. See membership form on back page.

RAC Bulletins

<http://www.rac.ca/~racnews/othernotices/racbulletin.htm>

RAC Bulletin 00-030E

Industry Canada issues new Information Circulars

Industry Canada has recently posted one new, and three revised Information circulars on their Strategis web site.

RIC 3 updates Operating Information to reflect the changes to be introduced with the new authorization process on April 1

RIC-9 spells out in detail the policies governing amateur radio call signs and special callsigns and prefixes.

and RIC-7 and RIC-8 are updated versions of the new examination question banks.

Copies of the new documents in pdf format can be downloaded from the IC strategis web site at the following URL: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf01709e.html>

RAC Bulletin 00-031E

IC seeks comments on 2285-2483.5 MHz

Industry Canada seeks comments on policies for the band 2285-2483.5 MHz

Industry Canada has recently released a proposed policy governing spectrum utilization in a band which

overlaps the amateur 2300-2450 MHz band. If approved, the policy will make provision for ore users of this part of the spectrum. At the present time, Canadian amateurs have only a secondary allocation between 2300 and 2450 MHz, and may not cause interference to primary users.

The proposed policy does not mention our current request for a primary allocation around 2400 MHz, nor does it propose any changes which would take into account our concerns.

The Industry Canada document is available in pdf format from the IC Strategis web site at:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf02105e.html?he=y>

Amateurs have an opportunity to comment now, with a deadline of June 23. RAC will be discussing the implications of the proposal with Industry Canada, and submitting a response outlining our use of the band and expressing our concerns, together with our recommendations.

RAC Bulletin 00-033E

Callsigns Available List Now Online

Effective 1 April, 2000 Radio Amateurs of Canada in cooperation with Industry Canada and Information Gateway Services (IGS) have instituted a new service for Canadian radio amateurs with the inauguration of a Canadian Amateur Radio Call Signs Available List, in both official languages, on the RAC web site, <http://www.rac.ca/acl/>

The Call Signs Available List shows all the call signs available for each prefix authorized for regular call sign issue. The list is updated automatically each business day. When a call sign is issued, simultaneously it is deleted from the Call Signs Available List and transferred to the Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Data Base.

The Canadian Amateur Radio Call Signs Available List and the Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Data Base are official Industry Canada data bases. RAC cannot make changes to either data base; RAC only displays the information on the RAC web site.

Comments on the Call Signs Available List should be directed to the webmaster, Doug Frame, VE3JDF, at: ve3jdf@rac.ca.

Queries on a particular call sign should be directed to the Industry Canada Amateur Radio Service Centre at:

Phone: 1-888-780-3333 (toll free)

Fax: (613) 991-5575

E-mail: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca

Mail:
Industry Canada

Amateur Radio Service Centre
 P.O. Box 9654 Postal Station "T"
 Ottawa, ON K1G 6K9

RAC bulletin 00-036E

New Manitoba Section Manager

Derek Hay, VE4HAY was recently elected Section Manager for a two year term that will begin on July 1, 2000 in the Manitoba Section. Derek ran unopposed, eliminating the need for a balloted election.

Derek has agreed to complete the term for Pat Giesbrecht, VE4PLG who has stepped down for personal reasons.

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 19, No. 10, March 10, 2000

FIELD DAY 2000 PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY

The official Field Day 2000 information packet now is available online in PDF format at the ARRL Contest Branch Web site,
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/fdpack.pdf>.
 You can download this packet, which include the official rules and forms for FD 2000. To order the packet, send an

SASE with three units of first-class postage affixed to Field Day Package, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

A new bonus point category has been added for Field Day 2000. Groups can earn 100 bonus points by setting up a demonstration of a "nontraditional" amateur mode, including APRS, ATV or SSTV. The bonus does not include modes for which regular QSO credit already may be earned (such as AM or FM on phone or packet, PACTOR, AMTOR or PSK-31 on digital). QSOs made via the demo station do not count toward the Field Day score, and the transmitter does not count toward the transmitter total. There are no rule changes regarding the special Novice/Tech Plus station.

The Field Day participation pins also are back this year. To earn a pin, all you need to do is participate in Field Day--no minimum number of contacts to achieve or ARRL sections to work. The pin is for anyone active in helping to make Field Day happen--from the set-up crew and on-the-air operators to the covered-dish organizers and generator crew.

Field Day 2000 pins are available now for \$5 each. Send orders with payment to Field Day Pin Order, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Early orders are recommended,

HomeBrew Night - 2000

Left to right - Darcy, VE4DDW - WARC President and the winners Glen Napady VE4GWN, Andrew Dryden, a new member and Grandson of Rick VE4OV, Fred Venema VE4FV, and a very interesting group of young people from Marion School under the direction "Grandpa" Dutton VE4VQ, Fred Venema VE4FV



since the 1999 pins sold out rapidly. Clubs and groups are encouraged to purchase their pins together.

Radio news

RAC HF Band planning committee wants your input !

The RAC HF band planning committee, chaired by Bob Nash VE3KZ, is undertaking a major review of the HF bands in Canada, and needs information about your wants and needs. Based on your input, Bob's committee will prepare draft new band plans which will then be published for further comment, discussion and revision if necessary.

Think about what you want and then please to fill in the forms and send them to the committee

<http://www.rac.ca/surv0414.htm>

ISRAEL TO REDUCE MORSE REQUIREMENTS ?

The Israel Amateur Radio Club (IARC) says the Ministry of Communications in that nation wants to reduce and possibly even eliminate the Morse requirement.

The Ministry is reported to be cooperating with the IARC in this matter, but the national society says that it needs more instructors to work better with the nations youth. They say that they have barely been able to scrape up seventeen instructors to run the clubs.

The Israel Amateur Radio Club says that there are budgets and moneys available for whoever is ready to instruct. They pay 2000 shekels a month. That's just a bit under \$500, for three evenings weekly. The IARC says that there are many young people wanting to learn amateur radio. They say that they have received requests from numerous schools looking for ham radio instruction services, But says the IARC, they simply do not have the necessary numbers of instructors to fill everyone's needs. (Hagal / IARC)

HAM RADIO STATISTICS IN THE USA: TECHS CONTINUE TO GROW

And as the US begins a restructured Amateur Radio service, here are some statistics provided courtesy the W5YI report

First the good news. The number of code free Technician class hams being license holders continues to grow. Based on a comparison census from April of 1998, the number of No Code Tech's has increased by another 21,000. That's over 10%.

Now the bad news. All other license classes -- except the Extra -- are on a rather rapid decline with many hams just not bothering to renew their licenses. The biggest loss is in the Novice class where there are 11,000 fewer license holders than just two years ago.

As of April 2000, there are 34,323 hams in the FCC database whose licenses have expired within the past two years. Their grace period has just about run out and there is no sign of interest in any of them renewing. In the simplest terms, when these licenses get written out of the FCC

records, 5% of the currently licensed hams in the US will be gone. (W5YI Report)

VK hams lose 70cm for Olympics

The 70cm amateur band is now being used by the non-amateur Sydney Olympic Games Radio Service until 31 December, 2000. The Australian Communications Authority today announced that effective immediately, it has authorized the non-amateur use of the 440-450MHz band, in addition to the 421-432MHz band announced in April, 1999.

The decision not only affects VK radio amateurs in a zone 150kms around the Sydney Olympic Stadium, including an immediate ban on amateur television, but also those visiting the area during the Paralympic and Olympic Games.

Fuller details are reported by the WIA Victoria News Online at <http://www.tbsa.com.au/~wiavic>

Australia to go 5 WPM in time for the Olympics

Just on 12 months ago the Wireless Institute of Australia at their Federal Convention voted AGAINST lobbying for a reduction in the CW requirements for Amateur Radio operators in VK.

Then VK6 came forward with a proposal for the WIA to reconsider and adopt a stand to promote a lower code for full HF access. Later, many Divisions ran 'surveys' of Amateurs in their State. Finally a new proposal followed by a vote, taken by all divisions, the WIA state divisions agreed unanimously to propose that full HF privileges be granted to those who pass 5 wpm test plus the theory and regulations tests.

The Wireless Institute of Australia last week received an "in principle" acceptance by the ACA to its submission for the code requirement to be reduced. Yes the Australian Communications Authority HAS accepted the proposal from the Wireless Institute of Australia that effectively reduces to 5 wpm the Morse Code test speed required for full access to the HF Amateur bands. Its now hoped that this will be in effect by the start of the year 2000 Sydney Olympic games.

But there is one caveat. The Australian Communications Authority says that the proposed changes reflect the fact that Australia has established a number of bilateral reciprocal licensing arrangements that are based, in part, on qualifications that include a 10 words per minute Morse code component. (Thanks to Q-News)

A new D-X country to work - East Timor.

The International Telecommunications Union has communicated to the United Nations the assignment of the prefix block 4WA-4WZ for use by radio stations within the areas administered by UNTAET, the United Nations' Temporary Administration of East Timor. This prefix assignment is for the use of UNTAET as long as it exists, and will be released to the ITU at the end of its existence.

All other private and amateur radio stations in East Timor will use the prefix 4W6. Individuals who expect to be there less than one year would use 4W6/ home call, while those who will be there in excess of one year obtain 4W6 call signs. Permanent residents of East Timor who were previously licensed may also obtain permanent call signs.

OLD SATELLITE RETOOLED FOR NEW USE

UO-14 is proving that you can teach an old bird new tricks. The venerable British satellite recently was switched to FM repeater mode, and reports already are coming in from hams who've worked it using pretty modest equipment.

The satellite's controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN/ZL2TPO, says UO-14 was launched in January 1990 and spent its first 18 months in orbit operating as an amateur store-and-forward satellite, prior to the launch of UO-22. It was then switched for use by Volunteers In Technical Assistance, who used it for messaging into Africa.

"Since the computer which is used for store-and-forward communications is no longer able to perform that task, UO-14 is no longer usable in this mode," Jackson says. "It is, however, possible to use the satellite as a single-channel FM voice repeater, and I have just configured the satellite to do this."

The satellite works as an "FM bent pipe repeater satellite" in full duplex. Operators with full-duplex transceivers will be able to hear their downlink signal as they transmit. Half-duplex operation also will work satisfactorily.

The uplink is 145.975 MHz, and the downlink is 435.070 MHz. Jackson says he plans to leave the satellite in FM mode for the next few weeks. "If it is useful, then I will probably leave it running," he said. "If it isn't used, it will be switched to transmitting telemetry."

Houston AMSAT Coordinator Bruce Paige, KK5DO, says no more than 5 W is required to make a contact with UO-14, and some have made it with as little as 1.5 W. "It should be a very suitable bird for those with an H-T and a rubber duck," he said.

"Cool satellite!" was the reaction of W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, who worked 11 stations during a "very short" near-horizon pass this week. "Some of the stations sounded like they were next door!" (IARU region 2 News)

DX ALERT - TX0DX IS ON THE AIR!

TX0DX hit the airwaves from the Chesterfield Islands at exactly 0000Z, 23 March 2000, signaling the start of what is expected to be the newest DXCC entity. Regular bulletins will be posted to the TX0DX web site <http://www.n4gn.com/tx0dx/> throughout the operation. (N4GN)

Frequency, a review by Dave, W6AQ

www.frequencymovie.com

"Frequency" is an imaginative fantasy based on the complex relationship between fathers and sons. From a ham radio standpoint, given the movie's conceit, it could hardly have been better. The conceit is, of course, communicating through time, in this case the son in 1999 and the ham father, W2QYV I think, in 1969. It's hard to believe that this movie was not written by a ham, or perhaps the son of a ham. Here is a picture which in an oblique way will convey the lure of ham radio to the uninitiated. Long suffering spouses of hams should leave the theatre nodding and smiling. Any ham club which can get it together to give demonstrations of ham radio in action in front of theaters playing "Frequency" should get a lot of interaction from the crowds leaving the movie. Since a number of equipment manufacturers are offering prizes for the best ham demo, and since it's a very entertaining film, any club with the ability should make arrangements ASAP for a "movie field day." There is a terrific PR opportunity here. The director and writer take care at the beginning of the ham radio sequences to go pretty much by the book, but as the movie progresses they move slightly farther from real ham operating procedures as the movie itself moves farther from day to day reality. There's a wonderful scene where little kids "want to talk on the radio." Starring Dennis Quaid in perhaps his most moving performance ever as the firefighter ham from the 60's and relative newcomer Jim Caviezel as his son who's not a ham but knows how to push the mic button, "Frequency" moves at just the right pace for the audience to follow the complex happenings on screen. There's a serial killer sub plot which will undoubtedly annoy some real critics, but from my perspective it worked just great, heightening the tension and picking up the pace as it shifted ever back and forth between the 90's and the 60's. There's no doubt that the ending is a bit saccharine, but it is a fantasy after all, and ends as all but the most cynical want fantasies to end. Baseball fans will enjoy this picture almost as much as hams because an important plot turn involves "predicting" the outcome of the Mets-Orioles World Series of '69. The acting is uniformly good, with Shawn Doyle really creepy as a demented killer and Andre Braugher very believable as a cop in both the 60's and the 90's. (Like all of us, 30 years has made him a little porky.) As my friend Alan Kaul, W6RCL, said as we left the preview, "It's a really good example of the law of unintended consequences." And if you don't know what that means now, you will when you see the movie. And I urge you to

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(Monday Thru Friday)
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ve4wsc@pangea.ca
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see it the first weekend it's released. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. I'm going again. CU at the movies.

A number of clubs are planning amateur radio demos at theaters where the movie will be playing. What about your club. The League in cooperation with a number of manufacturers are offering prizes for the best exhibit. See for more details.

Profile of Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club VE4WSC Inc.

By Ed VE4YU

We are a vibrant club with 175 licensed Radio Amateurs, all Seniors, on our membership. We have club premises on the second floor of the old St. Mary's Road Fire Station and our radio station(s) are manned from 9AM to 3PM each day Monday to Friday. We serve as headquarters for Amateur Radio in Winnipeg, our facilities and personnel have been used for emergency communications for the 1997 flood as well as other emergency situations. We have official agreements with Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Armed Forces to provide communications if and when required. We participate in weekly nets and exercises with these organizations on HF radio. We present courses in Amateur Radio and Computers for interested senior citizens. We supply communications for Public Service events such as Boy Scouts of Canada, Girl Guides of Canada, Manitoba Marathon, Boni-St. Vital, St. Vital BIZ, Seniors events etc. We were recently very involved with Municipal, Provincial and Federal authorities acting as standby operators in sites locally and all across Manitoba in preparation for any possible problems arising over the year end transition (Y2K).

We have recently completed a very impressive Satellite Radio setup with the help of a Winnipeg Foundation grant.

Our facilities are open for visitors daily, Monday through Friday, from 9AM to 3PM. We welcome anyone interested in becoming a member of our club. Entrance requirements are: Senior age 55+, retired and a licensed radio amateur. For those only needing the license, we provide a Basic course in Amateur Radio which is held on our premises.

We can be reached :

At the club: 358 St. Mary's Rd. Winnipeg MB R2M 3L5
Phone: 204-233-3122

WSCRC President: Ed Henderson Phone:
204-694-0667 E-Mail: ve4yu@rac.ca

Public Relations: Gil Frederick Phone: 204-888-2473
E-Mail : ve4ag@rac.ca

Contest Calendar

May

01	1300-1900	CW AGCW-DL QRP Party
06-07	0000-2400	CW/SSB MARAC County Hunters
06-07	0000-2400	CW Ten-Ten Int'national Spring QSO
06-07	0000-2400	SSTV Danish SSTV Contest
06-07	2 periods	CW/SSB Connecticut QSO Party
06-07	2 periods	CW/SSB Massachusetts QSO Party
06-07	1400-2300	CW/SSB Indiana QSO Party
06-07	2000-2000	CW/SSB ARI Int'l DX Contest
13-14	0000-2400	CW/SSB Oregon QSO Party
13-14	0000-0600	CW/SSB Nevada QSO Party
13-14	1200-1200	RTTY A.Volta RTTY DX Contest
13-14	2100-2100	CW/SSB/ SSTV CQ-M Int' nat DX
14	1700-2100	CW FISTS CW Spring Sprint
20	1500-1859	CW EU SPRINT Spring
20-21	2100-0200	CW/SSB Baltic Contest
27-28	0000-2400	CW CQ W W WPX Contest

June

03-04	0000-1600	CW W W South America Contest
03-04	1500-1500	CW IARU Region 1 Fieldday
10	0000-2400	SSB Portugal Day Contest
10-11	0000-2400	RTTY ANARTS WW RTTY Contest
10-11	1200-1200	SSB TOEC WW Grid Contest
11	1100-1300	SSB Asia-Pacific Sprint
11	1800-2400	CW/SSB West Virginia QSO Party
17-18	0000-2400	CW All Asian DX Contest
18	1800-2400	SSB Kid's Day Operating Event
24-25	1200-1200	CW SP QRP Contest
24-25	1400-1400	CW Marconi Memorial Contest
24-25	1800-2100	CW/SSB ARRL Field Day

Hints & Kinks

de Ralph, VE4RY

As we become middle-aged hams, [if I remember right, hihi] one of the first things to go is our eyesight. I guess it comes from squinting at those dials, but it seems that far-sightedness is part of the deal. Repairing and building things gets mighty hard on the eyes.

While those large magnifying glasses on a spring-loaded, swinging cantilever contraptions [with a built-in lamp] look very impressive in the shop, you can set yourself up for close work on small projects for a mere fraction of the cost.

First, for less than ten bucks buy a small gooseneck lamp at a department store. Then, slip over to the surplus store, where for less than five bucks you can purchase a pair of non-prescription 3 or 4 diopter magnifying eyeglasses. Total cost: \$15 - tops!

I find this portable setup actually better than that big thing on my workbench, and it is far less cumbersome and has the bonus of giving some eye protection.

Chasing Submarines by Satellite by Vern VE4VQ

You might think that the GPS (Global Positioning System) is all that would be needed in order to keep track of a submarine (always assumed to belong to the enemy). Wrong! Radio waves, like sheep, do not like to get wet. The result is that an acoustic system has to be used to detect submarines.

A French firm, ACSA (Architecture and Conception of Advanced Systems), has developed a small buoy that will pick up acoustic waves from a submarine and relay this information (by radio) to the Control Ship supervising the search. The position of the buoy is established by GPS. Three buoys are necessary to pin-point the position of the sub but four are usually used.


It was interesting, at least to this Ham, that ACSA tested their system with Canadian equipment. "The studies, carried out in the harbour at Brest with a submersible pulled by a boat, showed that the error of measurement was less than 3 metres." The "boat" turned out to be one of the machines developed by Canada's Department of Oceans and Fisheries. No, this Ham had never heard of this sea-going device until, by looking very carefully at the picture, he happened to notice CANADA on the side of it and a friend supplied the details.

The buoys appear to be about four feet high. During the tests a small boat, with a crane, was used to place the buoys. The portable computer used on the "mother ship" is in a case about the size of a suitcase. The article says that any portable computer may be used.

As usual, Science et Vie does a top-notch job with its illustrations so why not stop in at la Bibliothèque, on Provencher, and take a look. It's in the Jan. 2000 issue.

PORTABLE HF OPERATING IN MEXICO by Ed VE4YU/VE4ZOO

Once again I was fortunate to be able to operate Amateur Radio in Mexico for February/March, 2000. Unlike previous operations, I had the official permission to operate document in hand before leaving home. The name of the Federal Agency has changed name to Comision Federal de Telecomunicaciones, Area General de Ingenieria y Tecnologia, Coordinacion de Asesores, Area de Peritos, Aficionados y Operadores. It makes Industry Canada sound easy doesn't it! Radio Amateurs are called Radioaficionados. It has a nice ring to it. Permission is given to operate for the requested period but does not allow participation in DX contests, DX peditions or operation from Mexican islands. And they mean it too, as my citation in 1998 proves! My whole station was carried with me as airline carry-on and I had left some coax and wire at a friend's home in San Miguel last year. Set-up of antennas and feeding coax to my apartment were a snap but getting the dipole antennas very high up was difficult. I settled for two 8 foot poles as supports. Easy roof access makes a big difference. In spite of line voltages between 88-140 VAC and the low antennas, I



WARC - Field Day June 24-25 Birds Hill Park

Details to follow at the monthly meeting

Listen to the MRS 2 mtr net and next months newsletter for more information

If you want to help out with the organization, please contact Ed, VE4YU

was able to keep a daily sked with Adam, VE4SN almost every day. It was great having these contacts with home so consistently and also contacts with quite a few other VE4s (many with VE4AG & VE4WU). Over 400 contacts were made on 5 bands using 15M & 20M dipoles and 100W (TS50S). The Mexican authorities make Amateur Radio operation a pleasure if you follow the rules. There never has been any problem transporting my radio equipment back and forth. It made me feel like a teenager again as I played with my antennas in the sun and I look forward enthusiastically to next year's operation in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Adios!

Editors Ramblings **By Derek, VE4HAY**

The fun is just beginning!. This is looking like it will be a great summer for Amateur Radio. There are a number of things happening. Starting with the movie Frequency (see review), which will be released by the time you read this. Then on June 18 - Manitoba Marathon, June 24,25 - Field Day at Birds Hill Park, July 7, 8, & 9 - International HamFest, July 20,22 - Central States VHF Conference and in August

the annual MARM HamFest. As well as many other events both on and off the air.

As some people already know and other may have read in the RAC bulletins, your editor has once again volunteered his time and is the new Section Manager for Manitoba. I am still learning what needs to be done to fulfill this function. But, I will get it all eventually. In the meantime I am looking for news from any clubs, events, newly licensed Amateur Radio Operators, or any Silent Keys etc... in Manitoba. Basically all news that is Amateur related, not just from Winnipeg. Also if anyone has a information on addresses on any of the clubs in Manitoba, please forward this information to me.

So how have the bands been lately? Have you made any rare DX, or do you have any other news you would like to share with the rest of the club? You see my article cupboard is running bare. Even old Mother Hubbard had more in her cupboard than I have. With my Section Manager duties, and MRS work, I don't have much time to search for articles to be put in the Newscaster, so it will be up to you to provide the content. I am just the editor, not the writer. So tell us about your Radio activities, how about a product review, how about a few simple operating tips. Large or

WARC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Callsign _____ New _____ Renewal _____
 Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____
 Phone Number _____ E-mail _____
 Class of Member: Regular _____ Associate _____ Club _____
 Licence Class (please circle) Advanced or Basic HF Endorsement + 5 or + 12
 Payment of \$15.00 by Cheque Cash Money Order For the Fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2001.
 Do you wish to receive your Newscaster by e-mail? YES NO (If YES, please provide e-mail above)

1. Come to any WARC meeting, held on the second Monday of each month September to June except where the Monday falls on a Statutory holiday then the meeting is held on the third Monday of the month. Meetings are at the Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School at 1930 hrs.
2. Send a cheque for \$15.00 for your annual dues to
 WARC Membership
 c/o VE4WSC
 598 St. Mary's Road
 Winnipeg, MB. R2M 3L5
3. Please remember to include your callsign (if applicable) and your complete mailing address, as membership entitles you to 10 monthly issues of The Newscaster, the clubs newsletter which will help keep you up-to-date on all the happenings.

small articles, it does not matter. In fact small articles are easier to fit in the Newscaster.

OK, so I still have some space left. Does everyone remember about the fact that the Newscaster is now available in electronic form. All you have to do is to send me your e-mail address and I will send to you a link each month for the current version of the newscaster. Your browser does the rest. You will get the Newscaster before any of the snail-mail members, as well as you will get it in full living colour. Just look back at the pictures in this issue and think how much better the colour would be. Did you know that the headings of the articles are also in colour. Not unless you got this electronically you didn't. Send your e-mail address to ve4hay@rac.ca and I will add you to the list. 73