



The *NEWSCASTER*

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

October 2000

Free to Members

vol: 2000-10

An Evening to Remember:

Honoring Manitoba's Amateur Radio Pioneers

Date: October 16th, 2000
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: Oct 4 - Article Deadline October Newscaster

WARC: Nov 13, Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14,
Jun 11- Meeting schedule

WSC: Sep 6-7 - Mall Display St. Vital Centre
Sep. 11 - Classes Start
Sep. 14 - Annual Picnic
Oct 12 - Breakfast - Garden City Inn

ARES: Sep 17 Communications for Terry Fox Run 5 sites
Sep 19 Monthly meeting
Sep 23 Head of the Red Regatta
Sep 24 Parkinson Super Walk
Sep 24 Prairie Fire Regatta
Oct 17 Monthly meeting -Lightning & RF Grounding

WARC: Executive for 2000 - 2001

Past President	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
President	Darcy Wilson	VE4DDW	783-0421
Vice-Pres./ PR	Tom Mills	VE4SE	837-6915
Secretary	Ruthie Maman	VE4CRS	489-4106
Treasurer	Sue Collings	VE4SYM	694-1525
Membership	Mariska Maguire	VE4MMG	256-3143
Program	David Rosner	VE4DAR	489-4106
Goodwill	Vacant		

News from the Winnipeg Seniors' Radio Club by Gil Frederick, VE4AG

Fall Greetings to all, from the members of VE4WSC.

Our first Board meeting of the new season took place on September 20th, and of the business conducted, we wish to report the following:

The meeting opened with a reading from a 1988 Free Press Weekly article, by our President Ed, VE4YU, that was written by two members, Garth Evans, VE4ANT, and Charlie Harvey, VE4FG. It concerned the story of the Seniors' Radio Club and its move from the Nurses' Residence on Morley St. to the new location at the current Fire Hall location. Ed read it for historical value.

We have renewed our membership, as an affiliated club in RAC, for another year. It was noted that VE4WSC has been appointed as an Official Bulletin Station, and RAC bulletins (when available) will be read on the morning Seniors' Net each Thursday by the duty officer (usually Colin, VE4JCH)

Our evening Ham classes are in full swing. There are 13 students (one who is already licensed and doing a refresher). Ed noted that we have Paul Palace, of CKVN-fame, as a new recruit to Ham Radio. In regards the proposed CW class, Bruce Massey, VE4GR, will hold a CW course if he gets at least 7 students. If you are interested, phone the club at 233-3122.

It was also noted that Wayne Warren, VE4WR, is conducting a Basic class for the EMO, with 9 being enrolled.

Our Health and Welfare lady, Lila, VE4LIL, mentioned that we had 2 Silent Keys in August:

Irv Williams, VE4WV (Aug. 24), and Jim Forrester, VE4JGF (Aug. 25). She also informed the Board of the death of Eleanor, the xyl of Glen Bjorndahl, VE4TJ.

Membership in the Club has increased by one, with the approval of the application of John D. Drysdale, VE4RNJ, who resides on Fairmont Road, Winnipeg.

Ed, VE4YU, gave his report on the successful PR activity at the St. Vital Centre. 2 modes were demonstrated, and thanks go to those helping in this event: VE4's MKM, WF, SRM, ALF, GNG, AJR, YU, SN, JCM, RCJ, OPC, PLJ (thanks, Louis, for your addition of the packet demo), YG, and EH.

The August breakfast was attended by 35. Our genial conductor, George, VE4GNG, mentioned that this equaled a previous high, but wished we could have had just one more! The picnic at St. Vital Park was attended by 75. As usual, the food was well-prepared and delicious, and the weather cooperated to make this fun for everyone.

For those seniors (65+) who wish to have the free flu shots this year at a location close to the clubrooms, there will be a clinic set up at 845 Dakota St., and dates and hours are: 23 Oct. from 9-12; 30 Oct. from 9-12, and 2 Nov. from 2-6.

It had been suggested that the Seniors' Club be the Canadian host for the International Peace Garden Hamfest in 2001. A discussion was held, and the decision was 'no'.

Norm, VE4EH, is making up a Memorial Book for Silent Keys of VE4WSC, from Day One. Please check the list at the Club, and if you can add a name of a departed member, please do so.

A notice has been placed on our bulletin board that the Sherlock street maps for Winnipeg will be available at the WARC Flea Market.

The Spice Award was given to George, VE4GNG; while Willard Elliott, VE4WJE (in absencia) got the Broken Clock Award, because a lot of time was taken to discuss the Ham Radio classes.

Adam was presented with a special award: a trophy made up of golf balls in the shape of a dog. Can anyone guess why?

Our next breakfast meeting will be held at the Garden City Inn, McPhillips at Jefferson, on Thursday, October 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m. George would like to beat the record (35), and since we haven't had a breakfast for two months - it's time everyone came out. Let's give George that one more he wants!

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18th, at 10:00 a.m.

**Minutes for W.A.R.C. June 12, 2000
Submitted by Ruthie, VE4CRS**

PRESIDENT WELCOME Darcy VE4DDW

Darcy opened meeting at 19:30 hours. He thanked everyone for attending and welcomed all for the new year. Introductions of all attending followed. Members attended : 62.

New executive members for the year 2000/2001 were introduced: - VE4CRS Ruthie - secretary, and VE4DAR David - Program Chair.

MINUTES of June 12, 2000 meeting

Moved by Rick VE4OV, seconded by Michael VE4MJM that minutes of June 12, 2000 meeting be accepted as printed in the newscaster. Carried.

Bob VE4ZAP asked who to contact for Newscaster advertising. Derek VE4HAY to be contacted directly.

TREASURER'S REPORT Susan VE4SYM

Report for July 2000 (no meeting).
Expenses - \$756.28.
Revenue - \$266.00.
Book balance as of June 30, 2000 - \$3,717.63.

Report for August 2000 - year end (no meeting)
Expenses - \$86.95
Revenue - \$ 255.00
Book balance as of July 31, 2000 - \$3,935.68

PROGRAM David VE4DAR

David acknowledged the good work of Tom VE4SE previous program chair.

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 :
Newscaster Editor
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
C/O VE4WSC
598 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5
http://www.ve4net/warc

Programming needs to consider spectrum of ages and experience, variety of interests and breadth of our hobby.

David aims to encourage new hams and new members; to maintain involvement of members - not just a few doing the work of many. He asked for 2 persons to work with him. He wants to draw on the membership for ideas.

Tonight's program is about RAC's Section Manager by Derek VE4HAY.

October 16, 2000 - Honouring Manitoba's Amateur Radio Pioneers.

November 13, 2000 - Safety First - Amateur Radio and Fire Prevention

December 11, 2000 - Holiday Celebration.

MEMBERSHIP Mariska VE4MMG.

Memberships due by the end of September, 2000.

Membership prize. Eligible will be those who pay their memberships by the date of the Flea Market, October 22, 2000.

Persons renewing were asked to use membership form in the newscaster.

Indicate on form whether members want the newscaster by regular mail or email but not both.

Discussion followed re newscaster being on the web or email. Will be published on web page and will remain there for 2 months for further reference.

RAC REPORT Rick VE4OV

Rick VE4OV reported his re-election for a third term as the RAC Midwest Regional Director, for the next 2 years and 4 months. He ran unopposed. He has been a RAC Director for the last 4 and half years.

Rick VE4OV has been appointed to the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board - CARAB.

He reviewed the make-up and goals of the Board. Next Board meeting in Ottawa on Oct. 2, 2000. He mentioned traveling at his own expense and staying with relatives to keep costs to RAC at NIL.

He reported on the issue of reducing the 12 WPM Morse Code Requirement to 5 WPM for full HF access. Still in process. Discussion followed.

Rick announced Dave Snyder VE4XN has been inducted into Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. Rick reviewed Dave's accomplishments.

WARES Jeff VE4MBQ

Comprehensive report was in September Newscaster.

Briefing for Terry Fox Run will be here right after this meeting.

Jeff needs 2 volunteers for the Red Regatta, Sat. September 23, and Prairie Fire Regatta, Sun. September 24.

DX SLEUTHS Adam VE4SN

Adam VE4SN reported the tragic passing of his East Timor contact, one of the three who were massacred there. East Timor is still on the air.

He recommended trying the 12 and 17 m. bands.

The 23rd cycle peaked in July; some say it will peak next July. There are good openings on HF bands.

FIELD DAY Ed VE4YU

Ed VE4YU reported that Field Day was fantastic. Write-ups appear in the September, 2000 newscaster.

NEW BUSINESS

Darcy informed members that the fall Flea Market will be held at Victoria Heritage Community Club on October 22, 2000. He asked for volunteers for chairing the event, and for helping on the various sub-committees. One person cannot be responsible for the whole event. He gave a brief description of sub-committees. He stressed that without volunteers, there could be no Flea Market.

Roy VE4EN mentioned that the MRS manuals were being distributed among the MRS members.

Bob VE4ZAP inquired about VE4APA.

Larry VE4CPU brought members attention to the article about radio protocol, page 6 of the September, 2000 Newscaster. He is of the opinion that it was untactful, and requested the editor to research articles before printing.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Rick VE4OV told the members that G5RV Louis Varney and W1ICP, Lew McCoy are Silent Keys. He briefly reviewed their history.

PRESENTATION by Derek VE4HAY

Derek is the new Manitoba Section Manager for RAC. His presentation was about the position and his duties.

Meeting adjourned at 21:45 hours.

An Evening to Remember: Honoring Manitoba's Amateur Radio Pioneers

And what an evening it's going to be! WARC has invited the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club as special guests. Other clubs have been notified. The whole idea is to get a sense of what it was like in earlier days.

The program gets started with brief histories of WARC and the Winnipeg Seniors Club. You'll hear about WARC's Pioneer Award. Silent Keys will be remembered. The Grand Finale will be a panel of "Old Timers" sharing their experiences.

Expect this to be one of the best "Eye Balls" in a long time. We hear that folks who don't usually get to these affairs are planning to attend. Make sure you don't miss it!

See you Monday, October 16 at Sturgeon Creek Collegiate at 730 pm

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

September was a very busy month for WPGARES. Our AGM was held 19SEP with approval of the 1999-00 Financial Statement, approval of the 2000-01 Budget, Emergency Coordinator's Annual Activity Summary (it's on our web-site) and election of the 2000-01 Executive. As promised, the URL for the cross-Canada bike ride next summer is: www.cyclingforchildren.com

The 2000-01 WPGARES Executive is:

President	Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ
Vice President	Tom Mills VE4SE
Treasurer	Jim Ross VE4AJR
Secretary	Dick Maguire VE4HK
Fundraising	
Co-Chairs	Mariska Maguire VE4MMG Dick Maguire VE4HK

Sixteen ARES members covered 34 on-call shifts for CANWARN Station VE4WWO. The "season" ran 15MAY-10SEP. There were five formal CANWARN nets and a couple of informal ones. Thanks to VE4s: ACX, AJR, EH, ESX, GWN, HAY, HAZ, HGD, HK, KAZ, KU, MBQ, MMG, RCJ, WF, WTS.

WPGARES volunteers provided amateur communications for three public service events:

Terry Fox Run SUN 17SEP had 20 operators at five locations. Thanks to VE4s: AJR, AND, CLK, CRS, DAR, DL, GWB, GWN, HK, KAZ, KU, MBQ, MJM, MMG, RST, SN, SYM, TRO, WF, YU. Special thanks to Ben VE4BBB from Prairie Mobile Communications for allowing us to utilize VE4CNR.

Head of the Red Regatta SAT 23SEP had 10 operators, both on shore and marine mobile. Thanks to VE4s: ACX, GWB, HAY, HK, KAZ, KU, MJM, MMG, RCJ, VID, WF. Special thanks to Yori VE4ACX for use of VE4TWO portable repeater and to Garth VE4GWB for supplying a motorboat.

Parkinson Superwalk SUN 24SEP had 5 operators, somewhat less than planned but things went well, and the organizers were happy. Thanks to VE4s: AJR, AND, GWN, HK, MMG

Prairie Fire Regatta SUN 24SEP had 14 operators, on shore and marine mobile. Thanks to VE4s: ACX, BUG, DAN, DDW, GWB, GRM, HAY, JHJ, KAZ, MAQ, MAT, MJM, RCJ, WF. Special thanks to Yori VE4ACX for use of VE4TWO portable repeater and to Richard VE4KAZ for bringing his Zodiac. The Prairie Fire Regatta was Public Service Event number 51 for WPGARES.

I would like to thank Jim VE4AJR, Derek VE4HAY, Dick VE4HK, and Richard VE4KAZ for each looking after some

aspect of WPGARES operations while I was in Edmonton at a Nuclear Medicine meeting.

WPGARES is now registered with Radio Amateurs of Canada as an Affiliated Club. Those members who ordered WPGARES golf-shirts should monitor the MRS net for pickup information. The shirts are \$30 each, payment via cheque made payable to "Winnipeg ARES" is the preferred method of payment. Our Fundraising Committee has Sherlock's 6th Edition street guides available for purchase for \$11/book (regular retail is \$12.95 plus tax) - they will be available at the OCT WPGARES meeting, OCT WARC Flea Market, and possibly OCT WARC meeting.

The next WPGARES monthly meeting is TUE 17OCT 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin St. Guest speaker Rick Lord VE4OV will be giving us a presentation on "Lightning and RF Safety around the shack"

Membership Report **By Mariska, VE4MMG**

WARC Membership renewals become due at the end of Sept 2000 for the up coming year. Please consider renewing. See application form in the Newscaster. Membership dues are \$15.00 per person for the 2000-2001 year.

I will be taking membership renewals before the WARC meeting or at the Flea Market that will be held on October 22. Or the renewals can be sent to:

WARC Attention: Membership c/o VE4WSC 598 St. Mary's Rd Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5

You will have the choice of receiving your Newscaster either by e-mail or by regular mail but please indicate which version you want. We will require your e-mail address to send it by e-mail.

Please renew today and continue to enjoy the company of your fellow Hams.

WARC meetings are held on the second Monday of each month September to June. When the Monday falls on a statutory holiday, the meeting is held on the third Monday of the month. Meetings are at Sturgeon Creek Collegiate, starting at 1930 hrs.

Radio History **By Vern, VE4VQ**

After Samuel F. B. Morse had invented the telegraph, he put on a public demonstration of it.

The message he sent is to be found in Numbers 23, 23.

RAC Bulletinswww.rac.ca/~racnews/othernotices/racbullemail.htm**RAC Bulletin 00-076E**

Call for Nominations

The Secretary of Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to announce the results of the Call for Nominations for the positions of Director for the Atlantic, Ontario North, Midwest and Pacific regions.

The following Directors have been re-elected unopposed in their respective regions:

William J. Gillis, VE1WG, Atlantic Region
Rick M. Lord, VE4OV, Midwest Region
Dennis Livesey, VE7DK, Pacific Region

The three candidates will assume their next two-year term of office beginning January 1, 2001.

As no nominations were received for the region of Ontario North, a second call for nominations will appear in the November/December issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine.

Dawn MacKay, VE1MAK
Secretary, Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

Space Bulletin 009 ARLS009

From ARRL Headquarters
ARLS009 AO-27 is back on the air!

The AO-27 satellite has returned to analog Amateur Radio service. AO-27 ground controller Chuck Wyrick, KM4NZ, reports the satellite showed up on its first North American daylight pass on September 9.

Wyrick advises operators to wait until they hear the satellite in analog mode--ie, no data being sent--before transmitting on the 145.850 MHz uplink frequency. AO-27's downlink is 436.797 MHz.

Wyrick says the AO-27 analog FM repeater will be turned off for a few days at a time over the next few months so ground controllers can gather whole orbital data to verify the health of the satellite.

AO-27's computer crashed July 31, and it took more than one attempt to reload the software and get the satellite up and running again.

"A lot of work has saved AO-27 for many more enjoyable amateur QSOs," Wyrick said in a posting to the AMSAT bulletin board.

Contest Calendar**October**

01	0700-1900	SSB RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest
03	0700-1000	CW German Telegraphy Contest
07	0000-2400	PSK31 The PSK31 Rumble
07-08	1000-1000	SSB Oceania DX Contest
07-08	1200-1200	CW/SSB F9AA Cup Contest
07	1500-1859	SSB EU SPRINT Autumn
07-08	Periods	HELL International HELL-Contest
07-08	1600-2200	CW/SSB California QSO Party
07-08	2000-0200	SSB IBERO American Contest
08	0700-1900	CW RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest
11-13	1400-0200	CW YLRL Anniversary Party
14-15	1000-1000	CW Oceania DX Contest
14-15	2 periods	CW/SSB Pennsylvania QSO Party
14	1500-1859	CW EU SPRINT Autumn
14	1700-2100	CW FISTS Fall Sprint
15	0000-0200	CW Asia-Pacific Sprint
21-22	0000-2400	RTTY JARTS World Wide RTTY
21-22	0000-2400	All Rhode Island QSO Party
21-22	1200-2400	CW QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party
21-22	1500-1500	CW/SSB Worked all Germany
22-23	1800-0200	CW/SSB Illinois QSO Party
25-27	1400-0200	SSB YLRL Anniversary Party
28-29	0000-2400	SSB CQ W W DX Contest

November

01-07	0000-2400	CW HA QRP Contest
05	2 periods	CW HSC Contest
04-05	1200-1200	All Ukrainian DX Contest
04-06	2100-0300	CW ARRL Sweepstakes
04-06	2100-0300	CW Collegiate Championship
04-05	2 periods	CW/SSB IPA Radio Club Contest
10-12	2300-2300	SSB Japan International DX Contest
11-12	0000-2400	RTTY Worked All Europe DX
11	0000-2400	CW/SSB ALARA-Contest
11-12	1200-1200	CW OK/OM DX Contest
18-19	1200-1200	CW LZ DX Contest
18-19	1400-0800	CW IARU 160m Contest
18-20	2100-0300	SSB ARRL Sweepstakes
18-20	2100-0300	SSB Collegiate Championship
18-19	2100-0100	CW RSGB 1.8MHz Contest
25-26	0000-2400	CW CQ W W DX Contest

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Tower Costs
By Bob, VE4RCJ

As some of you may know I have been in the process of putting up a tower with a Cushcraft A4S beam. The beam is now up and working well. The following is a summary of the costs involved.

I obtained the antenna, tower and rotator from an estate sale in Saskatoon while living there. A real bargain at

\$600.00

The Antenna needed new trap end covers

\$24.00

The tower needed new legs as the previous ones were in the old concrete base.

\$85.60

In order to build a structure over 35 feet in height in residential areas in Winnipeg a zoning variance is required. While it can be argued that only IC has the right to control the building of towers a careful reading of IC's documents would lead you to the conclusion that they would provide little support and besides the city has lawyers on retainer. I had previously canvassed my neighbors so there was no opposition. The only cost was the City fee for a zoning variance

\$163.22

After obtaining a variance a building permit is required. No argument here as the city is morally and legally required to ensure the safety of any structure being erected within its boundary.

\$ 61.02

I originally applied for a tower 56 ft high and compromised with the city planner at 48 feet. This required different plates to be purchased for the rotator and the rotator bearing but the tower went from a medium duty to a heavy duty tower and could carry a higher wind load antenna.

\$70.00

The city required building plans for the base to be certified by an engineer certified and practicing in Manitoba. The charge for a set of blueprints (not including a supervisory fee) was

\$428.00

If you know a friendly engineer you can save a lot of money. If you are installing a Delhi DMXHD-48 you may be able to use my plans as they specify that they are for that tower. If you are installing a different tower you are out of luck You will also require the loads on the tower legs at failure for the engineer. These should be available from the tower manufacturer.

The base required 12 ft deep holes 12 inches in diameter. This required a commercial piling drill mounted on the back of a truck. Got within 1 foot of the house. Holes drilled in 15 minutes. A bargain at

\$133.75

Steel for the base

\$173.21

The piles for the legs were poured first and then the slab which tied them together. Since both loads of concrete were less than the minimum load a surcharge was paid on both loads. Concrete costs

\$239.04

\$206.37

Note that in Winnipeg the ground is quite fluid. A hole drilled today may fill in before tomorrow. Plan on pouring the concrete as soon as possible after drilling the holes. Remember to specify to the concrete company that the concrete is for piles. An additive is added to prevent damage from alkali.

A local friend to the amateur community installed the tower. It took about 5 hours as the antenna had to be assembled while held vertically half way up the tower in order to clear power, cable and telephone lines.

Again a bargain at

\$200.00

From a legal point of view a tower is an "attractive nuisance" much like a swimming pool. You have a legal duty to prevent climbers particularly the young. If you don't have a locked fence around your lot both ARRL and RAC recommend a climbing shield over the bottom 8 feet of tower. A suitable plan can be found in the The ARRL Antenna Book. Made of 18 Gauge galvanized steel it cost

\$140.00

Assorted cable, wires, grounding rods connectors lightning surge protectors etc

\$300.00

Total cost

\$2823.61

I opted to install a 40 Metre kit on the beam. This added a third pair of traps to the driven element so that it acts as a rotating dipole.

270.00

Total cost including 40 metre kit

\$3093.61

Was it worth it? Absolutely. Signals that I can't even hear on the vertical are S3 on the beam. Even more to the point when operating barefoot I get returns in the middle of pileups that I never would have received on the vertical.

On 40 metres the beam works very well. It is much quieter than the vertical or the wire antenna that I have installed. It is not very directional as it is only 50 feet in the air and is therefore less than one half wavelength above the ground. However when pointed East-West the Mexican radio stations are much less of a bother.

A Tempest About Antennas **Submitted by Vern VE4VQ**

The June 2000 issue of Sciences et Avenir has a 3-page article in which the effects of the e-m radiation from the repeaters used by cell-phones is discussed. One of the two inserts follows: (translation from French)

Are the French more resistant than their neighbours?

SFR (Cégétel) recommends installing a security barrier around the perimeter of any relay station on a roof. At the rear of the relay the barrier should be 0.5 metres from the antenna while at the front it should be 2.5 metres since it is there that the radiation is greatest. This latter figure is increased to 20 metres by our Swiss neighbours, to 30 metres in Belgium, and to a little less than one hundred metres in Italy and in Scotland.

Are we (i.e. the French) less sensitive to micro-waves than our European friends? In fact, we do not even apply the same recommendations. French operators have satisfied themselves with those advanced on July 12, 1999, by the Council of the European Union which recommends a limiting value for the electrical field of 41 volts per metre (V/m). Beyond 2.5 m, you must not stay longer than 6 minutes.

Gianni Tamino (rapporteur before the European Parliament) has formulated other recommendations for the Director-General for Health to follow. These recommend a value for the electrical field of 1 V/m. The Swiss and the Belgians take this value into consideration while the Italians and the Scots go even further in their concern.

Basing their decisions on these recommendations, a dozen judicial actions connected to the presence of repeaters on rooves are under way in France today. The courts have already ruled on two of them as presenting a risk but both rulings have been appealed.

While waiting, the owners of apartments must understand that they are free to refuse repeaters on their buildings. For those who already have one or more, they are expected to respect the law; panels must mark out precisely the security perimeter of 2.5 metres. But pay attention, Syndics. Since there is no obligation on you to inform the residents in your building, all antennas mounted on the roof of your building are your responsibility. In case of an accident, you may well find yourselves faced with an "inexcusable mistake".

Radio News from the net

Phase 3D set to launch October 31st

AMSAT-DL Executive Vice President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS made the following announcement today:

"Arianespace and AMSAT-DL are pleased to announce that the official date of launch for Ariane Flight 507, on which P3D will fly, has been brought forward to October 31, 2000," said DB2OS, adding, "this is the start of the launch window and is the first date at which the launch could take place." For more information, set your browser to <http://www.amsat.org> or monitor AMSAT bulletins on packet.

World AR Day 2001 focus on disaster communication

The International Amateur Radio Union has chosen the theme for next year's World Amateur Radio Day, marked for April 18, 2001. The topic will be "Providing Disaster Communications: Amateur Radio in the 21st Century". It is hoped that this will help dispel the notion that technological changes have bypassed and diminished the future role of the Amateur Service.

ARISS "Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station".

Last week, the Space Shuttle Atlantis carried the key that will open the door to human space flight on the International Space Station. Its seven member crew prepared the ISS for its first residents. They have outfitted the Zvezda, the Service Module that will provide living quarters for the first teams of astronauts and cosmonauts.

Atlantis carried more than 5 thousand pounds of hardware and one of the major items, the first ISS amateur radio station. The STS-106 crew did not fire it up. Instead it will be stored in the Zarya, called the F G B module, awaiting arrival of the Expedition One crew.

The STS-106 Crew attached power, data and communication cables to the Service Module -- and the Zarya Control Module prior to entering the ISS Tuesday.

The United States has provided hand held equipment for 2 meters and 70 centimeters. The Russians have provided ports so that antennas can be mounted outside the Service Module. An Italian team designed and built the antennas and a German team built sophisticated repeater stations that will allow crews to make daily reports on their activities, while also improving the quality of contacts with the men and women aboard the station. U S and Russian teams have trained the astronauts and cosmonauts in operating the equipment.

ARISS "Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station" has a bright future. More than a million and a half licensed hams worldwide will share in the fun of living and working in space.

For more information about Canadian involvement, visit the ARISS page on this web site:

[Http://www.rac.ca/ariss.htm](http://www.rac.ca/ariss.htm)

AMATEURS LOSING INTEREST IN SATELITES?

AMSAT UK's Satellite Colloquium at the University of Surrey spoke of the fact most AMSAT groups are reporting reduction in membership figures and lower attendance at meetings and conferences. The only exception is AMSAT DL whose membership has remained constant.

UN SPACE WEEK IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON AMATEUR RADIO

The UN General Assembly in resolution 54/68 recently decided to celebrate a UN Space Week from 4 to 10 October each year at the international level to recognize the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of humanity. This week presents an ideal opportunity to focus on Amateur Radio and its contribution to satellite technology.

First ever LF/HF cross-band transatlantic QSO

On the weekend of September 9/10, 2000, Morse signals transmitted by Dave Bowman, G0MRF located in a suburb of London England, were easily copied in Sydney Nova Scotia Canada, by John Currie VE1ZJ.

On the same evening, transmissions by Jack Leahy VE1ZZ on the Canadian side were heard by G0MRF in England.

Reception of signals were confirmed on 20 metres.

On the Canadian side, this is a continuation of the experimental use of 136 kHz band reported by Larry Kayser VA3LK earlier this year. Canada does not have an Amateur band at 136 kHz, but RAC has had a proposal to Industry Canada since early 1999 for a secondary allocation from 135.7 to 137.8 kHz.

G0MRF reports:

The location for G0MRF was a West London tower block in Feltham, just South of Heathrow airport. The 15th story, top floor flat, is the home of Sean Griffin 2E1AXK. We were joined by Tony Fell G7DGW. The dipole was 're-worked' to give a standard sloping antenna with two wires each 250 feet long. The angle between the two was about 60-80 degrees. The ends of the wires were about 30 feet above ground and tied off with 50 lb. breaking strain fishing line. The earth was connected to the plumbing system of the building. The antenna was of coarse fed from the top, at about 160 feet AGL.

Loading was a combination of fixed inductor in series with a variable coil. Matching was achieved by earthing the base of the fixed coil and tapping a few turns up. Once this was wired up I used an amplified DDS source to drive a modified version of the reflectometer bridge published in Rad-Com 9/2000. With this little circuit (3 x 50R resistors and a transformer) the antenna loading and matching was completed in less than 3 minutes.

The transmitter was a converted Decca unit with a DC input of 58 Volts at 5 Amps. Antenna current peaked at 7.2

Amps. Drive was a 'SM6LKM' DDS with 0.25Hz steps at 136k.

John, Larry, and Jack on the other side of the Atlantic were all aware of the schedule and frequency for the tests. After about an hour John called to confirm he could see the signals and would I QSY up 1Hz to clear a Loran line. No problem.

The crossband QSO was then completed without problem with 'O' signals on both 135.711 and 14.043 MHz.

Interestingly I then reduced power to just 400W DC input, or about 320W TX output and John reported an M signal. Even allowing for the large antenna I believe this shows that Many UK / EU stations will be able to make the transatlantic path this winter.

In another telephone conversation, John reported that Jack VE1ZZ was transmitting on 136.5kHz using a long horizontal antenna ('OLB style) Unfortunately, Jack does not have a computer for QRS. Using Spectran with about 40Hz across the screen we looked very closely for Jacks 10 second dashes. After about a minute we spotted several dashes, broken by static, about 8Hz above 136.500. In a phone call to Jack I asked are you transmitting now 8Hz off frequency? No said Jack, my counter says its only 7 Hz.....I'll settle for that.

In one evening:

136kHz signals from the UK heard in Canada and CT

A QSO crossband to 20m G/VE

136kHz signals transmitted from Canada heard in the UK

VE1ZJ reports:

Dave had surprisingly strong signal into FN95 Cape Breton Island , Nova Scotia Canada. His freq was 135.711 kHz.

1 - Weak dashes were first observed at just after 2205Z

2 - 2218 my sunset 128.9 was S-3, 138.9 was S-2 noise was extremely low

3 - 2233 128.9 S-4.5 138.9 S-1 lot of dashes it looked like G0MRF was coming across the pond

4 - 2240 S-5 128.9 S-3

5 - 2245 solid copy on G0MRF

6 - Crossband qso 135.71 kHz to 14043 completed 10 Sept 0008Z G0MRF 135 VE1ZJ 14 MHz

7 - Daves signals were O copy I could see every dot and dash at 0000 z on the 10th.

8 - At that time 128.9 S-6 138.9 S-6 S-7 represents field strength of 100 micro volts per mtr I would estimate Daves sigs at a little less than S-0 at least 36 db below DCF39.

After 0100 sigs dropped off to m copy and by 0250 they were t and fading. I did not see them on spectrogram agn

9 - I believe the sig to noise ratio dropped because qrn went up and I think we hsd qrn from the Marathon stn The qrn had a spectral line at 135.782 kHz.

10 - The interfering stn began to fade and by 0245 had M copy agn 128.9 was S -8.5 138.9 S5.5

11 - noise however was now about 4 S-units higher than at sunset Did not see David after 0250 on 135.71

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Useful Links

From last months presentation, the members asked that this information be posted for all members.

- <http://www.rac.ca/racfield.htm>
- <http://www.escape.ca/~wpgares/>
- http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/severe_weather/
- <http://www.iaru.org/>
- [Http://www.arl.org](http://www.arl.org)
- <http://www.intellicast.com/LocalWeather/World/UnitedState/s/NorthernPlains/NorthDakota/Minot/RadarSummary/>

Editors Ramblings By Derek, VE4HAY

Another issue put to bed, with thanks from a couple of members who submitted articles. Please remember the Flea market which is coming up. Look to the right form the info.

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so now as this is the last month that I will have the application in the newsletter.

Halloween is fast approaching, and so is the snow. I guess I had better bury those radials soon.

Flea Market

**Sunday October 22
 Heritage Victoria Community Club**

**9:00am coffee & get-together
 Market doors open at 10:00am**

Tables \$ 5.00 WARC Members
 \$10.00 Non- Members/Commercial
 paid for in advance and there are no verbal bookings.

Send cheque for bookings to:

WARC
 c/o WSC
 598 St. Mary's Ave
 Wpg Mb. R2M 3L5
 or see Tom, VE4SE ve4se@rac.ca

Anyone wishing to volunteer please contact:
 Susan VE4SYM at 694 1525