



The **NEWSCASTER**

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.virtualmultimedia.com/warc/>

March 2001

Free to Members

vol: 2001-03

Home Brew Night

Come & See The Latest
Winter Projects

Date: March 12th, 2001
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: Mar 28 - Article Deadline April Newscaster

WARC: Apr 9 - Meeting TBA
Apr 22 - Flea Market
May 14, Jun 11- Meetings TBA
June 22 & 23 - Field Day

WSC: Mar. 14 - Chili Cook-off
Dec. 12th - Christmas Party
Mar. 21 - Board Meeting

ARES: Mar 13 - familiarization @ MHEOC
Mar 20 - Meeting 2m Beam Antenna Kit

Other: April 26th - MRS Annual Meeting
Thursday 9:00pm - MRS Net 147.390 MHz +
Sunday 1:00pm - MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

WARC: Executive for 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	589-6718
Treasurer	Sue Collings	VE4SYM	694-1525
Membership	Mariska Maguire	VE4MMG	256-3143
Program	David Rosner	VE4DAR	489-4106
Goodwill	Vern Dutton	VE4VQ	256-5346

RADIOGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT: by Darcy, VE4DDW

I'm sorry that I was not able to be in attendance at the last general meeting of the club. My new job has required me to travel a fair amount for a few months. I'm still trying to get used to the job, and the people involved. I certainly have a better appreciation for people with limited computer skills. I can only now understand some of the problems that my staff face. Everyday procedures that some of us think are trivial, become major stumbling blocks to new users. Of course the most important thing I have to learn is how to maintain the balance of time between work and play. How to make time for work with my hobbies in the way? I guess it's just a matter of priorities eh?

One thing that has gotten my attention lately is the attendance at the monthly general meeting of WARC. We have a very stable membership this year, but yet the level of attendees continues to drop at our meetings. I still feel very strongly that our club is offering a level of service that is hard to compete with. Our membership chair is doing a phenomenal job of finding interesting, and informative presenters for each evening. We continue to share vital information to the membership, while offering an extended break for coffee, doughnuts and conversation. During the time I've been the President, I've been told repeatedly that coffee break is the most important part of the meeting. I agree, and we've continuously tried to shorten the "business" portion of our meeting, to keep only relevant information. We will continue to adapt our meeting format to keep the majority of our members happy. This can only be done if you voice your opinion! Please keep us informed of your suggestions or comments. (d.wilson@cadets.net)

Now for the lighter side.....

After intensive investigation on both the Russian and US parts, spokespersons from both space agencies have determined the cause for the accident which has placed the station and its resident personnel in jeopardy. In terse statements at a recent press conference, Russian and US space agency spokespersons said Thursday, "We have

concluded joint investigations concerning this potentially tragic accident and each nations team, separately, has arrived at identical conclusions for this incident. The accident was caused by one thing and one thing only... **OBJECTS IN MIR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY MAY APPEAR."**

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

An exciting happening at the Club in February was the 'Girl Guides On The Air' Event (G.O.T.A.). On Saturday, Feb. 17, VE4GGC was put into operation, and from 10 a.m. until about 2:30 p.m., Guides were given the opportunity to talk to other Guides in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Alberta. Derek, VE4HAY, was there with his daughter, operating the 2m station for local contacts. We thank Jean Copland, 6B Guides, and Cindy Zikman, 232 Winnipeg Guides, for making the effort and taking the time to organize the visit of their troops to our Club. Next year, the U.K. will have their GOTA activities on the same weekend as the rest of the world, so we should have some excellent DX contacts.

George, VE4GNG, put on the Bingo social at the Club, and while disappointed with the lower than expected turnout of Bingo players, those that attended had a happy time. And, from what we hear, they enjoyed the 'hard-times' lunch.

The next social event at the Club will be the 'Great Canadian Chili Cook-Off', on Wednesday, March 14. Some members will be selected to be 'tasters', all members will be 'eaters' after the competition has been judged. Chow-down time is 12 noon, so please try and come much earlier, say 11 a.m.. George is looking for a good turnout – that will mean more social events planned and executed in the coming months.

The next monthly breakfast will be Thursday, March 8, at the Garden City Inn. Time is 9 a.m. Look for members in the

room to the left as you enter the main eating area. Someone will be lucky – either a free breakfast or a 'special prize package' made up by George.

The location for the Christmas party will be the Assiniboia Christian Centre, 3390 Portage Ave. at Rouge Rd. (across from Crestview Shopping Centre). This site offers excellent parking, wheelchair ramp, elevator, a wheelchair-accessible rest room, 2 other rest rooms, a large and bright gym with ample room for movement between tables, P.A. system, and a commercial kitchen facility. The caterer has also been engaged. In order to obtain these premises, the date for the Christmas Party had to be moved to WEDNESDAY, December 12th; and we can start to come in anytime after 11 a.m. The best news is that the rental fee is considerably lower than that for the Legion.

With both Ed, VE4YU (Past President) and George, VE4GOM (President) on holidays down South, if you need to contact the next-in-charge for any urgent matter pertaining to the Club, it's Gil, VE4AG (V.P.) at 888-2473. Gil is also available at the Club on Tuesdays.

The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 21. Members who have petitions, or motions they wish to be brought to the Board's attention, please give the document(s) to our Secretary, George, VE4GNG, or to Gil, VE4AG (Chairman), in advance of this meeting, for inclusion on the agenda. If anyone wishes to apply for membership (55 or older, retired, and licensed), please apply before this meeting; applications are available at the Club (see duty officer, or phone 233-3122).

**Minutes for W.A.R.C. February 12, 2001
Submitted by Ruthie, VE4CRS**

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Tom VE4SE at 1930 hours. Individual introductions followed. 37 members and 2 guests attended.

Minutes

Correction to January WARC monthly meeting minutes, Treasurer's report: - WARC Club insurance cost was \$400.- not \$500.- dollars. Moved by Derek VE4HAY, seconded by VE4UK that the minutes of the January 2001 meeting be approved with the above correction, correction being published in February Newscaster. Carried.

Correspondence

Tom VE4SE 1. A letter was received from Parks Reservation Service advising us of available sites for early booking. Tom VE4SE informed members that the same site



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>

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.virtualmultimedia.com/warc>

that we had last year at Birds Hill Park for Field Day has already been reserved for us for the June 2001 Field Day.

2. A letter was received from Manitoba Digital Emergency Communications Group Inc. (MDECG) requesting funding in the amount of \$100.- to help continue operating and providing services to the Amateur Radio community, etc.

Tom VE4SE informed members that the executive turned down the request.

Much discussion followed. The main points were: -

1. No WARC members belong to MDECG;
2. Supporting with donation, not ongoing, positive for the club;
3. Discussion re history of MDECG and services they provide;
4. Derek VE4HAY suggested WARC take over Winnipeg node, at least keep packet alive in Winnipeg, it being a valuable service, not shut the avenue; enable WARC members to use packet;
5. Discussion re the value of packet and possibility of taking over node; to our advantage to promote it;
6. Tom VE4SE pointed out that there was no support coming from people who used it. Tom also mentioned the need for people to look after it if WARC takes over and asked if there was interest within the club;
7. Suggestions to help MDECG with their membership by publishing membership form for them in Newscaster and having a table for membership at April Flea Market;
8. Suggestion was made that the executive reconsiders and reports back at next WARC meeting.

Treasurer's Report

January 2001 Sue VE4SYM	
Balance Forward	\$4,669.49
Revenue	
Membership \$15.00	
Meeting draw \$57.00	
Xmas float return \$43.55	
Total monthly revenue	\$ 115.55
Expenses	
Photo copies \$ 40.78	
Petty Cash float set up \$150.00	
Stamps \$211.50	
Total monthly expenses	\$ (402.28)
Net Income (loss) for the month	<u>\$ (286.73)</u>
Book balance as of January 30, 2001	\$4,382.76
Petty cash balance as of January 30, 2001	<u>150.00</u>
Total	<u>4,432.76</u>
Bank balance as of December 31, 2000	\$4,382.76

RAC Report Rick VE4OV

On March 6, 2001, our chances to vote at Industry Canada expire. If we feel strongly about the proposed change from 12 wpm down to 5 wpm for full HF privileges, then we should let IC know soon. Log onto the RAC site, follow the links and vote!

Rick Lord VE4OV has been appointed to the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board, to continue his term until April 2003. CARAB is a joint board between RAC and IC to make sure that Radio Amateurs are heard at the national level. Senior members of RAC and IC are on CARAB, and meetings are held twice a year in the Ottawa area.

Flea Market April 22, 2001

A coordinator is needed for Flea Market. Please contact executive. Your volunteer spirit is most welcomed!

Field Day June 23/24, 2001

A coordinator is needed for Field Day. Please contact executive. We need your support, so come out and volunteer!

International Ham Fest

Tom VE4SE informed members that since clubs are folding, we would need to take on organizing our part of the Ham Fest more often.

ARES

Dog Sled Races

Tom reported that 26 members participated each day in the event. Communications went very well.

Programs

Vern VE4VQ reminded members that Homebrew night is next meeting, March 12, 2001.

Good and Welfare

Derek VE4HAY reported Girl Guides are on the air and to try to make contact.

Dick VE4HK reminded members to pay their dues to the Manitoba Repeater Society.

Business meeting adjourned at 2015 hours.

The Loonie draw was won by Phil VE4KOR. Member attendance draw was won by Tim VE4TJR, after Rick VE4OV re-donated it.

Presentation

Fire Prevention by Mike Ruta, fire prevention officer.

A most enlightening presentation kept the members rapt attention. It included a 17-minute video of how a fire becomes involved from beginning to end, and the dangers that lurk in the burning house. After explaining the video, Mike also suggested several devices for fire alarms and answered many questions from members. This was an excellent lesson for all.

RAC Bulletins

RAC Bulletin 01-011E

Transatlantic QSO on LF completed

On February 19th Laurence Mayhead, G3AQC and Larry Kayser, VA3LK completed a transatlantic QSO between the UK and Eastern Ontario on 136 kHz. The QSO began February 5th and was completed on February 19th with the reception of VA3LK's report by G3AQC. The QSO was made using a visual adaptation of Morse, and using the visual signal receiving program ARGO. The dits were 90 seconds long, the dashes 180 seconds long. Both stations used homebrew transmitters and a mix of commercial and homebrew receiving equipment. At these frequencies a wavelength is about 2200 metres long. The effective radiated power at G3AQC was in the order of 350 milliwatts. To learn more about Amateur Radio on LF, got to the RAC website at <http://www.rac.ca/infodx.htm>

RAC Bulletin 01-104E

Special Event Call Sign VC4X has been authorized to be used by Mr. Derrick Belbas (VE4VV) from March 2 to April 1, 2001 for the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the construction of Winnipeg's first City Hall in Manitoba.

Program

By David VE4DAR

Home Brew Night, March 12

Although previously held in April, Home Brew Night this year will be on Monday, March 12. This is the night radio amateurs and wanabees get the opportunity to show their stuff. By "stuff" we mean recently built projects. Everyone who enters a project will get a chance to win one of the four cash prizes in the draw. In other words, Home Brew Night is not a contest with judges. It's about assembling an electronic device; displaying it; and explaining the device to the admiring observers. I certainly hope no one confuses this with a Liars' Contest and tries to slip in a "ringer". We'll be watching carefully on March 12 at the Sturgeon Creek Collegiate at 1930 hours.

From Nielsen Media Research staff newsletter:

I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as it could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first -- it wet the bed. --- Author Unknown

Contest Calendar

March 2001

02-04	1600-2359	CW CZEBRIS
03-04	0000-2400	SSB ARRL DX
03-04	2200-0159	RTTY Open Ukraine Championship
10-11	0000-2400	CW/SSB World Wide Locator
10-11	1200-1200	CW Commonwealth Contest
10-12	1400-0600	SSB QCWA QSO Party
10-11	Periods	SSB DIG QSO Party
11	0700-1100	SSB UBA Spring Contest
11	2 periods	SSB/CW The NSARA Contest
11	0000-2400	RTTY North America 'Sprint'
11-12	1800-0100	CW/SSB Wisconsin QSO
17-18	0000-2400	SSB YL-ISSB QSO Party
17-18	0001-2400	CW/SSB Bermuda WorldWide Contest
17-19	2 periods	CW/SSB Virginia QSO Party
17-19	0200-0200	RTTY BARTG Spring RTTY Contest
17-18	1200-1200	CW/SSB Russian DX Contest
17-18	1200-1200	SSTV DARC HF SSTV Contest
17-18	0000-2400	CW/SSB Alaska QSO Party
17	4 hours	CW/SSB Somerset Homebrew Contest
24-25	0000-2400	SSB CQ WW WPX Contest

April

05-07	1400-0200	CW DX YL to NA YL Contest
07-08	1300-1300	CW/SSB Italian YLRC Elettra Marconi
07-08	1500-1500	CW/SSB SP DX Contest
07-08	1600-1600	RTTY EA RTTY Contest
08	0700-1100	CW UBA Spring Contest
13-15	2300-2300	CW Japan Int'l DX Contest
13-14	2200-0200	CW Good Friday CW Sprint
14-15	1800-1800	CW/SSB King of Spain Contest
14-15	Periods	CW DIG QSO Party
14-15	1800-1800	CW/SSB Holyland DX Contest
14	0000-2400	CW/SSB Australian Post Code Contest
16	1500-2000	CW Low Power Spring Sprint
19-21	1400-0200	SSB DX YL to NA YL Contest
21	0500-0859	CW/SSB ES Open Championship
21-23	2 periods	CW/SSB Michigan QSO Party
21-22	1200-1200	CW/SSB YU DX Contest
21-22	Periods	AMTOR SARTG WW Amtor Contest
21	1500-1859	SSB EU SPRINT Spring
21	1600-2400	CQ QRP to the Field
28-29	1200-1200	RTTY SP DX RTTY Contest
28-29	1300-1300	SSB/CW Helvetia Contest
28-29	2 periods	SSB/CW Florida QSO Party
28-29	1700-1659	CW/SSB Nebraska QSO Party
28-29	1800-1800	SSB/CW Ontario QSO Party

Winnipeg ARES Report by Jeff, VE4MBQ - Winnipeg EC

The Provincial ARES Executive is into planning for possible spring flood operations in Red River valley, Souris River basin and Upper Assiniboine Basin. Province of Manitoba Water Resources Branch web-site is a good place to get flood forecasts:

www.gov.mb.ca/natres/watres/index.html

Please consider registering NOW as a volunteer for possible flood operations, our biggest problem in 1997 was volunteer recruitment (people waited until flood operation started to volunteer). Please complete the form found elsewhere in this issue and mail it in or bring it to the March WARC meeting. Deadline for submission is 19MARCH01.

Ten WPGARES operators participated in Exercise #18 SUN 28JAN to examine repeater operation in Birds Hill Park. A brief search for a missing participant curtailed the testing (we never got to looking at simplex coverage) and made for an interesting afternoon. Traffic Vests and whistles are now recommended equipment for ALL outdoor exercises and events. Thanks to VE4s: HAZ, GWN, MBQ, TJR, ACX, TRO, EWN, YYL, KAZ, EIH

Special thanks to: Eastman Amateur Radio League for use of VE4SLK, Pinawa Repeater Society for use of VE4INT, Yori Tsuji for use of VE4TWO.

Twenty-nine amateurs braved -34 C and volunteered for WPGARES Public Service Event #52, Festival du Voyager Sled Dog Races in Birds Hill Park 10,11FEB01. The weather was just tolerable if you were properly dressed and kept your HT inside your jacket. Most if not all of our volunteers said they had lots of fun! It was nice to have involvement of members from South-Central and Beausejour ARES. Our volunteers provided over 300 volunteer hours! Thanks to VE4s: ACX, AJR, AND, DWG, EH, EIH, EWN, GWN, HK, KAZ, KU, MAB, MAQ, MBQ, MGR, MMG, ODB, OHB, RCJ, SE, STS, TJR, TRO, VID, WF, WTS, XM, XYL, YYL

Special thanks to: WSCRC for use of a briefing room, Rolf Bandlow VE4VZ for photography, Pinawa Repeater Society for use of VE4INT, Yori Tsuji for use of VE4TWO and 2 HTs, Jim Ross for use of 2 HTs, Brad Honke for use of his snowmobile

A familiarization session for WPGARES members only at Manitoba Health EOC (MHEOC) is scheduled for TUE 13MARCH: 1900h surnames A-L, 2000h surnames M-Z.

Rick Lord VE4OV gave us a most interesting presentation at our February meeting on NVIS. Our next monthly meeting is TUE 20MARCH 1900h at West Kildonan

Library 365 Jefferson , near Salter (note the change in location). In lieu of a guest speaker MBQ will be reviewing our new 2m Beam Antenna Kit. Our monthly meetings will now be held at West Kildonan Library until further notice - it would be prudent to monitor the 2 MRS Nets leading up to the monthly meeting for any last minute changes.

And the radio-amateurs? Submitted by Vern VE4VQ

From Science & Vie, Aug. 2000, page 6

“As a faithful reader of your magazine, I will not hide from you my disappointment when I read the article entitled, ‘The war of the waves’ devoted to the distribution of Hertzian waves on page 1 of your issue No. 993. Let me assure you, I do not question this distribution but I find that, in your list of users, you omitted the radio-amateurs. Ham radio-operators have existed since the development of the TSF, that is, since the last century. They were the pioneers with equipment of their own design and making. They distinguished themselves by their use of the short-waves in which the authorities and businesses of the time were uninterested. Things have certainly changed but the activities of the radio-amateurs still exist and it is disappointing to see them forgotten in an inventory of the distribution of the spectrum, especially as the knowledge that radio-amateurs are expected to display in order to obtain their operator’s licence is far beyond the reach of most of us. Nor should you forget the humanitarian expeditions that are often assisted by radio-amateurs and that the search for the ‘black boxes’ of downed aircraft is demanded of them by France’s Civil-Protection Law. And there is no charge by the Hams.” Michel Vieux(internet)

Selkirk Weather

Live local Weather: www.bmsl.ca/wx.html

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News From The Net

Board foresees dropping of Morse requirement at WRC 2003

(ARRL) ARRL Board of Directors has approved a resolution that "recognizes and accepts" the Morse requirement likely will be dropped from Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference. The Board's Morse Code resolution declared that deletion of the Article S25 international requirement at WRC-03 "should not automatically or immediately mean a similar removal of the Morse code from Part 97 of the FCC rules." Morse code, the Board affirmed, "should be retained as a testing element in the US."

Super RTTY

(SARL) One of the latest developments in Amateur Radio is "super" RTTY, more technically described as MFSK, Multi-tone Frequency Shift Keyed mode.

The mode consists of 16 tones, sent one at a time at 15,25 baud and spaced 15,625 Hertz apart. Each tone represents four binary data bits. The transmission is only 316 Hertz wide and can easily be accommodated on a HF transceiver with a CW filter.

Industry Canada issues 5 wpm Morse Code Gazette Notice

(RAC) Industry Canada has finally issued the long awaited Gazette Notice indicating their intent to amend Radio Information Circular RIC-2, to:

"Grant Full Operating Privileges in all Amateur Radio Frequency Bands Below 30 MHz to Amateur Radio Operators Holding a 5 word per minute (w.p.m.) Morse Code Qualification".

The purpose of the Gazette Notice is to give all Canadians an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. Comments should be sent to Industry Canada within 60 days.

The full notice can be found on the Industry Canada Web site at:

[Http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf05327e.html](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf05327e.html)



[WWW.VE4.NET](http://www.ve4.net)

Promoting the Spirit of Radio

Bob Hrabí

VE4ZAP

April 18, 2001 - World Amateur Radio Day

The IARU Administrative Council has selected "Providing Disaster Communications: Amateur Radio in the 21st Century" as the theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2001. The occasion will be marked April 18.

UK says free licenses for the over-75s

(RSGB) A recent press release from the Radiocommunications Agency says that with effect from the 1st of April 2001, Amateur and Citizen's Band Radio Licenses will be issued free to those aged 75 years and over. New licence applications received on or after the 1st of April will be issued free of charge to any person aged 75 or over at the time of issue. Existing licence-holders whose licence renewal is due on or after the 1st of April, and who are 75 years of age or over at that time, will have their licence renewed at no charge. Licenses will still need to be renewed each year, but no licence fee will be required.

'Radio Rage' hazardous to ham radio

(ARRL) Petty squabbles between hams could be a greater threat to amateur radio than rule breaking. That's the message from the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth. Hollingsworth said that as these arguments are not illegal, the FCC could do nothing about them. However, it reflects poorly on the amateur service.

More important, he said, rude or intemperate on-air behavior might provide just the sort of ammunition that an entity seeking additional spectrum will use against Amateur Radio.

Hollingsworth said that it was pressure from the ARRL and US amateurs that prompted the resumption of amateur enforcement in 1998. This resumption, which has earned Hollingsworth much respect amongst amateurs, has led to a reduction in the number of complaints received. However, he warned against amateur complacency.

Ontario QSO Party Information

Due to an unfortunate scheduling conflict with the Durham Region Hamfest, the 5th Annual Ontario QSO Party which would have normally been held on April 28-29th has been shifted to April 21-22, 2001 from 18:00 UTC Saturday to 18:00 UTC Sunday.

Also, from here on in the Ontario QSO Party will shift from the last weekend of April to the 3rd full weekend of April.

For further updates on the Ontario QSO Party you can join the OQP reflector by sending a "blank" e-mail to: oqp-subscribe@egroups.com.

RF safety information on this web site

Discussions of possible health hazards related to RF energy from amateur transmitters and antennas are underway

in a number of countries these days. The Australian government has recently published new guidelines for VK's who must, by Australian regulation, assess their own stations. The ARRL has long been active in providing information to US Amateurs to help them judge the impact of FCC rules on RF safety.

In Canada, the government has issued Safety code 6, which sets out our standards for RF safety.

Following discussions with Industry Canada at the recent CARAB meeting, RAC has developed a page of links on this web site, designed to help Canadian Amateurs find information which can help them assess their transmitting stations to see if RF levels are likely to be judged hazardous.

The new page can be found at

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

Toronto-born 'father of wireless communication,' Al Gross, dead at 82

PHOENIX (AP) - Al Gross, the Toronto-born inventor of the walkie-talkie and a father of wireless communication, once said he believed he was born 35 years too soon.

He died Dec. 21 in Sun City, Ariz., at age 82. When Gross, who was born in Toronto and grew up in Cleveland, demonstrated his prototype pager at a medical conference in 1956, it flopped. Doctors told him they didn't want to be bothered during their golf games. Decades later, it delighted him to see such wide use of cellular phones and pagers, a technological offshoot from his first devices.

He earned a degree in electrical engineering at Cleveland's Case School of Applied Science, now Case Western Reserve University.

Seeing the potential for walkie-talkies, the military recruited Gross into the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor of the CIA.

There, he developed a ground-to-air, battery-operated radio that could transmit up to 50 kilometers. The device is credited with saving lives during the Second World War.

After the war, he formed the Citizens Radio Corp. in Cleveland to produce two-way radios for the public. His success gave Gross the freedom and money to continue inventing.

In 1949 he devised the first wireless pager. That was followed in 1951 by his wireless telephone. In 1959 he began to work in the aerospace industry, contributing critical work for digital timing devices in Titan, Atlas and Minuteman missiles.

His contribution to pop culture came in the late 1940s, when Dick Tracy cartoonist Chester Gould visited the Gross workshop. Gould saw two items that sparked a brainstorm: a watch with a built-in beeper and a wireless microphone.

"Can I use this?" he asked the inventor, who agreed.

In 1948, the comic-strip detective made his debut as a crime fighter aided by a two-way wrist radio.

Gross's ideas, for which he held many patents, were so far advanced most expired before the world was ready for his inventions and he didn't make much money.

"I was born 35 years too soon," he once told the Arizona Republic newspaper.

"If I still had the patents on my inventions, Bill Gates would have to stand aside for me."

2001 (5th Annual) Ontario QSO Party
April 21-22nd 1800 UTC -24 hours

The Ontario QSO Party has grown from literally nothing to Canada's third largest amateur radio contest. Its a chance for you to "chase" Ontario hams... and its a fun and very friendly amateur radio contest! If you need any further info, please feel free to drop me a note. Bob, VE3SRE, Contest Manager, Ontario QSO Party, ve3sre@rac.ca

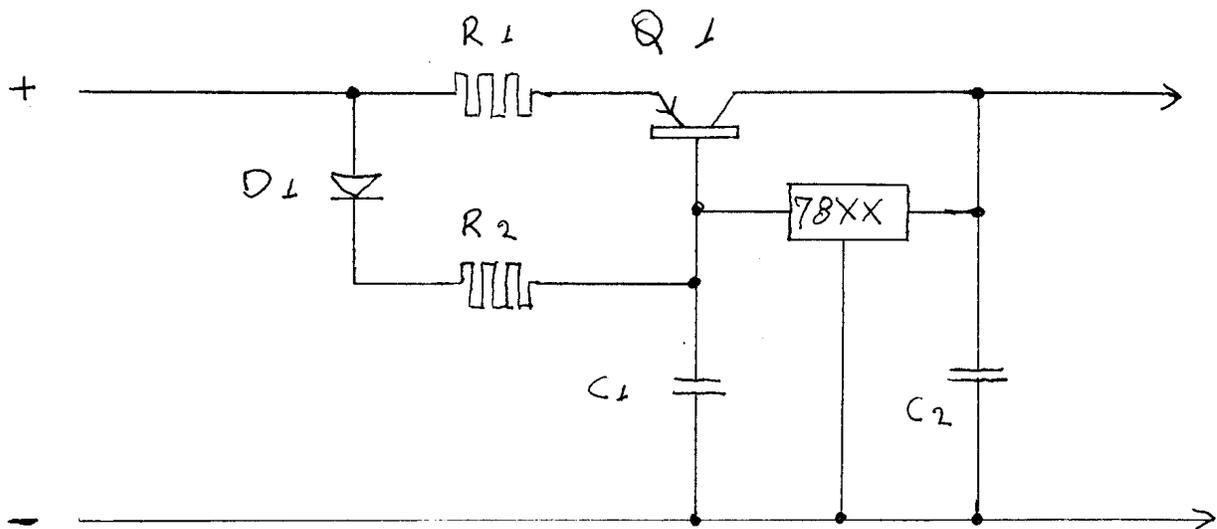
Keep your eye on the sky **By Derek, VE4HAY**

EME folks - Full month on February 7th. This will be when the Moon as close to the earth as it will get in 2001 a mere 357,000 Km's. Sorry about the short notice, but I bet VE4MA was ready.

Meteor Scatter folks - April 21st will be the peak of the Lyrid shower with about 1 shooting star every minute. August 11 & 12 the annuals Perseids meteor shower with up to 100 shooting stars an hour. And the granddaddy of them all the Leonids will beak on November 17th with rates as high as 10,000 an hour. Now that should be able to produce some distinctive sounds on your QSO's. And finally the Geminid shower on Dec. 13th.

Eclipses - While not visible a total eclipse of the sun will happen on June 21 over Africa, and we will be in night mode at that time. So you can look for some possible grey area Dx that night. Also look at December 14th for another solar eclipse over South America which will produce about 20% coverage for us. So once again you should be able to work so grey area DX. And finally on the 30th just before the RAC winter contest will be a lunar eclipse which will make the ionosphere almost free of solar radiation and the lunar surface should be better for bouncing signals off as well for these EME folks.

All in all, 2001 will be another good year for working the skies. Good luck.

Circuit by John VE4YD

This is a circuit I have been using to increase current from a regulating chip like the 78xx series.

The only drawback is the dropout voltage now is 3.5 volts rather than 2 volts.

R1 and R2 set the inverse ratio of current through the pass transistor and the regulator chip. I. E. with

R1 = .25 ohm and R2 = 1 ohm the circuit will handle 5 Amps, 4 A through the transistor and 1A through the regulator chip. When both transistor and regulator are mounted on the same heat sink the whole assembly is protected by the regulator's over-temperature protection.

R1 .25 Ohm, 8 watts, for other currents change this resistor.

R2 1 Ohm, 3 watts.

D1 1N4000 or equivalent is only there to insure the load is split according to the resistor value.

Q1 Transistor 2N2955 or equivalent.

C1 .1 micro-farad, ceramic.

C2 .1 micro-farad, ceramic, if circuit is to be used with a pulsatile load then C2 should have a 10 to 100 micro-farad electrolytic capacitor in parallel.

The Sun's Pulse By Vern, VE4VQ

The following article is my abbreviated translation of a short item in Science & Vie, June 2000, page 23.

The illustration accompanying the article shows the tachocline which, according to the author, is a thin layer inside the sun. Here goes!

The Sun has a heart ... that beats. This has just been discovered by a team led by Rachel Howe at the National Solar Observatory at Tucson, Arizona. Using the satellite SOHO, what they found is that the speed of rotation of the tachocline slows down every sixteen months.

The astronomers are now hypothesizing that this phenomenon may be responsible for the rising and following of the magnetic field generated by the sun during the eleven-year cycle so well known by Ham radio operators.

In spite of the difference in the periodicity of the two phenomena, the scientists are beginning to suspect that

further study of this newly found "solar dynamo" will lead to a better understanding of the solar system.

Editors Ramblings By Derek VE4HAY

Looking to help promote Amateur Radio, then check out this site <http://www.rac.ca/animate.htm> in the left corner is an animated graphic, which you can download and attach to all your e-mails or your own web site. Give it a try, and promote our hobby to the world.

Another web link to check out, if you are interested in what happening with the river levels this spring try this one. While it may be American, it is still interesting to see what coming .

<Http://www.riverwatchonline.org/>

Well now I only have a few more weeks to go at my current job, before I venture on to a whole new career. So



Two of the CW instructors at VE4WSC
Bruce, VE4GR & Tony, VE4AO

The Manitoba Repeater Society will be holding their Annual General Meeting next month. Look for their newsletter to be coming out soon.

Congratulations to those who now have their HF endorsements, courtesy of the classes from the Winnipeg Seniors Radio Club.

And to finish this off, a reminder that the Sprint WARC FleaMarket will be happening April 22, 2001. Looking for a table, contact the executive who will be pleased to direct you to the co-ordinator. Or how about volunteering to help out.

what's the point I am trying to make. It's very simple. While I may have lots of time in the evenings to do the newsletter, I will have very few evenings on which to put everything together. So once again I am asking for someone or some one's to fill my in-basket with articles, so that I can have the something to pick an choose from. Any article at all as long as it has something to do with this hobby of ours.

What else is happening - I hear that Prairie-Comm is doing some cleaning of their back room. Look in next months newsletter for more information on what they find.



VE4EWN accepts his Worked All Winnipeg award from VE4HK



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Manitoba Amateur Radio Emergency Service 2001 Flood Volunteer Registration

The following form is being used to gather information to create a database of volunteers and equipment available for possible flood duty. Being a licensed amateur radio operator is mandatory. Return completed form before **19 MARCH** to:
Manitoba ARES, c/o WSCRC 598 StMarys Rd WPG, MB R2M 3L5

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Pager # _____ Call Sign _____

Date of Birth DD/MM/YY _____

Amateur Qualification: BASIC or ADVANCED, HF endorsement: 5 WPM or 12WPM

E-mail Address _____

Employer's name _____

Desired Duty Area eg Wpg, Rural _____

ARES Member? Yes No What Unit _____

Own a VHF Handheld Radio and spare battery packs?	Yes	No
Own a VHF Mobile Radio?	Yes	No
Power Supply for VHF Mobile Radio?	Yes	No
Portable VHF Antenna System (e.g. J-pole & 100 ft coax)?	Yes	No
Portable HF Base or Mobile Radio?	Yes	No
Power Supply for HF Mobile Radio?	Yes	No
Portable HF Antenna System?	Yes	No
Portable Generator?	Yes	No
Valid Driver's Licence?	Yes	No
Access to a Vehicle?	Yes No	If yes, what type
		Automobile Truck 4X4 Truck

Any physical or health restrictions that could impact on your health or well-being during assignment?

Please explain briefly: _____

What is your availability? DAYS EVENINGS NIGHTS ANYTIME

