



# The **NEWSCASTER**

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

April 2001

Free to Members

vol: 2001-04

## Sable Island DX-pedition

By Cal VE4XQ

**Date:** April 9th, 2001  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

### Other Important Dates:

Articles: May 2nd - Article Deadline May Newscaster

WARC: Apr 22 - Flea Market Heritage Victoria C.C.,  
May 14, Jun 11- Meetings TBA  
June 22 & 23 - Field Day

WSC: Apr. 12 - Breakfast Canad Inn Garden City  
Apr. 18 - Board Meeting  
Dec. 12th - Christmas Party

ARES: Apr. 17 - Meeting - Repeater Linking

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

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

The monthly Board meeting was held on Wednesday, March 21. In the absence of our President, George, VE4GOM, the meeting was chaired by Gil, VE4AG, our V.P.

Willard, VE4WJE, reporting for Education, gave notice that the Club would again have both Basic and CW classes starting up in the Fall (September). After some discussion, it was decided that both courses would be held in the evening, since the turnout is much better. Anyone wishing to apply now is asked to phone Willard at 783-0410.

Gil, VE4AG, gave a report about the Simulated Emergency Tests being conducted by Wayne Warren, VE4WR, on behalf of MEMO. VE4WSC will be active on all four SET dates, the evenings (8 p.m.) of March 25, April 8, April 22 and May 6. In the event of a flood requiring radio amateur involvement, VE4WSC will be the HF control, on frequencies of 7055 kHz and 3740 kHz. Presently, 16 club members have signed up to help. Alf, VE4ALF and Paul, VE4OPC, are in charge of personnel management.

Our Christmas Party plans are starting to shape up. The signed Rental Agreement has been received from the Assiniboia Christian Centre, 3390 Portage at Rouge Rd., site of this year's Party, and the date is Wednesday, December 12, 2001. Gil has arranged to have a piano available, and along with the "Intermods", we will have many others with musical instruments to brighten up the event. A request has been made for a drummer! Let Ed, VE4YU know. A sing-along is also planned.

The "Blips 'n' Blurbs" will be ready for distribution at the Club (for members only) at the end of March. George, VE4GNG, is looking for articles for the next one.

George, VE4GNG, was given a big hand for his very successful 'Great Canadian Chili Cook-off' held in March. He is trying to arrange another social event for the Club for late April. Listen to the 2m Morning Net for announcement. George also announced that our next monthly Breakfast

would be held on Thursday, April 12, at the Canad Inns Garden City, McPhillips at Jefferson. Time is 9 a.m.

Ruth, VE4XYL, made two announcements – one about the WARC Flea Market being held on Sunday, April 22 at the Heritage Victoria C.C., on Sturgeon Rd. north of Ness Ave., convened this year by Doug Henry, VE4TG and his XYL. Admission is \$2.00;

The other about Field Day, being held at Bird’s Hill Park on June 23.

The M.R.S. Annual Meeting will be held at the WSCRC Clubrooms on April 26, 2001.

Lila, VE4LIL, Health & Welfare, gave her report. We have lost 2 members: VE4WIT, Larry Whittaker, who died February 5, and VE4AON, Nathan Dobbs, who died on February 25. Of special note is the death of Bernard Rosner, VE4EX, on Monday, March 5 at age 80, who was among the first members in the formation of the Club, and whose name appears on a plaque hanging at the Club.

Norm, VE4EH, proposed a new member who met all requirements, and Cal Schade, VE4CAL, of Selkirk, was voted in. Lila, VE4LIL is Cal’s aunt!

Board Members take note: Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18, beginning 10 a.m., at the Club.

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

Meeting was called to order by Past President Norm Coull VE4EH at 1935 hours. Individual introductions followed. 54 members and 3 guests attended.

**Minutes**

Moved by Glen VE4GWN and seconded by Louis VE4PLJ that the minutes of the February meeting be accepted as printed in the Newscaster. Carried.

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>

**Treasurer’s Report Sue VE4SYM**

February 28, 2001	
Revenue:	\$52.00
Expenses:	0.00
Profit/(loss)	\$ 52.00
Opening Bank Balance	\$4,382.76
Add: Total deposits	52.00
Less: Total cheques	<u>0.00</u>
Reconciled Bank Balance	\$4,434.76
Float balance on hand (Petty Cash)	<u>18.08</u>
Total cash on hand	<u>\$4,452.84</u>

**Programs:**

1. David VE4DAR, announced there were eleven entries for Home Brew. There will be four cash draws for participants.
2. Presentation for April will be by Cal VE4XQ, his Dxpedition to Sable Island in 1979.
3. Program for May 14 meeting: David requested the members’ opinions about the following idea for the May meeting. He proposes a Field Day primer and preparation meeting; different groups sharing ideas re the following: - antennas, transceivers, power supplies, logging, food, HF contesting, etc. It does not necessarily have to be Field Day related. There could be other groups, but it could also be a start to get ready for Field Day. Members would choose to participate in 2 groups or more according to their interest. David asked for members who would be interested in leading these groups.
4. Members seemed interesting. Bob VE4RCJ and Rick VE4OV volunteered to help.

**Membership Mariska VE4MMG**

Altogether 180 paid members, we are down 20 members from last year. Mariska proposed getting new hams involved in WARC by sending them a welcoming letter and a copy of the Newscaster, encouraging them to become members.

Wayne VE4WR suggested that an honorary first year membership for new hams would be worthwhile exploring.

**RAC Rick VE4OV**

The deadline for written or email submissions to IC re 12 wpm down to 5 wpm proposal is past. The decision to modify the law is entirely within IC’s hands. We don’t expect a ruling from IC until May or June 2001, although this is an agenda item at CARAB 16 to be held in Cornwall, ON at the NavCanada Facilities on April 26, 2001. Rick VE4OV will attend as a CARAB voting delegate.

**ARES Jeff VE4MBQ**

Jeff thanked WARC for printing the volunteer form in the March Newscaster.

Volunteer operators are required for possible flood operations. Form should be submitted as soon as possible.

WPARES monthly meeting now being held at West Kildonan Library, 365 Jefferson. Next meeting March 20.

CANWARN Spotter Training on Saturday April 7, Morris, MB. 0900 hours basic training; 1330 hours advanced training.

### ***Wayne VE4WR: re possible flood operations.***

Expecting regionalized flooding in isolated communities. Planning for HF stations. Flooding expected in southeast MB and west because of Assiniboine/Souris Rivers. Need HF operators. Will be SETs – (simulated emergency tests). Stations may be equipped with all units and need to be tested.

Times, dates and frequencies for HF SETs.

Sunday evenings, 8PM local time.

March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6.

Start on frequency 7.055, then 3.740.

### ***DX Sleuths: Adam VE4SN***

Signals are good. Pratis (I probably spelt that wrong!) Island on air until March 15 – CW. Call is BV9P. It is an island in the China Sea, normally not inhabited.

### ***Newscaster: Derek VE4HAY***

Derek requested articles for the Newscaster. He recommends receiving the Newscaster electronically, and asked for comments from members. Bob VE4RCJ commented on background colour.

### ***Flea Market: Norm VE4EH***

Norm opened our eyes to the seriousness of not having a volunteer to coordinate the Flea Market. It may be cancelled due to lack of interest. At the end of the meeting, Doug VE4TG volunteered to coordinate. Thank-you Doug!

Ruth VE4XYL explained that tables are already being sold and to contact her.

### ***MRS: Dick VE4HK***

Dick announced up and coming MRS general meeting, and that they are looking for volunteers to serve on the executive.

Raffle prize went to DAVE VE4DAW, and attendance prize went to Bert VE4AND.

### ***Home Brew draws of \$25 each went to:***

Phil VE4KOR, Bob VE4RCJ, Glen VE4GWN, and Andrew Dryden. (see article on Home Brew Night)

## **News From The Net**

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### ***Cell Phones blamed for intermod in US***

Public safety officials across the USA are starting to document an alarming trend, dead zones created when police and fire radios are overwhelmed by signals from cell sites that serve wireless phone customers. It's been reported that in Arizona several times now radios didn't work properly for three-quarters of a mile around one particular cell tower. Officials monitoring the problem on a national level do not yet have a clear sense of the scope of the radio interference. The conditions creating the problem can change depending on the location and frequency of a cell site and whether a fire truck or police car uses its radio as it drives nearby. Portable radios inside one fire station actually work better with its garage door closed because it helped block the Telephone signals. (Thanks to QNEWS)

### ***China team to compete in first USA ARDF Championships***

The Chinese Radio Sports Association has announced that it plans to send a team to the first USA ARDF Championships to be held in New Mexico, July 31 through August 4. The USA ARDF Championships invite all ARDF enthusiasts, at any skill level, from any country.

For more information on Amateur Radio Direction Finding, visit <http://www.rac.ca/ardf.htm>

### ***WWV and WWVH Users to be Surveyed***

Radio Society of Great Britain

Do you use Standard Time and Frequency Station WWV in Fort Collins, Colorado? The American [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) is planning to survey users of WWV and of WWVH in Hawaii later this year.

The two stations have been broadcasting occasional announcements about the forthcoming poll in order to start building a mailing list of survey recipients. The announcements state that the National Institute of Standards and Technology "is seeking information on how listeners use the services offered on the WWV broadcast", although the survey will not begin for at least several weeks. WWV Station Manager John Lowe said the last user survey was done in 1985. "We just don't know who our user base is any more," he said.

The data collected could ultimately be used to determine whether WWV and WWVH remain on the air, especially given the popularity of the Institute's other outlets, including a web-based time server that gets in excess of three million hits a day. "If we get only two people who say they're using WWV, then we've got a problem," Mr Lowe said, although he added that he didn't think that WWV and WWV would be shut down.

## Results of the RAC HF Band Planning Questionnaire (From Bob Nash, VE3KZ)

### *Extracted from the rac.ca website*

Thanks to all who participated in the Bandplan Questionnaire last year. There were 390 identified respondents distributed geographically as follows:

Maritimes/Nfld/Lab - 39  
Quebec - 46  
Ontario - 162  
Man/Sask/Alta - 69  
British Columbia - 73  
VE0 - 1

223 were RAC members - 57 %  
167 were non members - 43 %

### **License Class:**

77% Advanced  
23% Basic

### **Code Qualification:**

12 WPM - 76%  
5 WPM - 16%  
No-code - 8%

### **Operating Modes:**

SSB - 89%  
FM - 74%  
CW - 63%  
Digital - 37%  
AM - 13%  
SSTV - 11%

### **Favorite Mode:**

SSB - 53%  
CW - 26%  
FM - 15%  
Digital - 5%  
AM - 1%  
ATV - 1%  
SSTV - 1%

Note that rounding gives a 102% total.

### **Favorite Band:**

20m - 27%  
2m - 14%  
80m - 12%  
10m - 12%  
40m - 12%  
15m - 7%

6m - 5%  
17m - 5%  
160m - 2%  
30m - 2%  
12m - 1%  
220MHz - 1%  
70cm - 1%  
Higher - 1%

Note again that rounding gives a 102% total.

### **Operating Bands:**

Band	Number of hits per Band			% with any activity on the band
	<1hr	1 to 5hr	>5hr	
2m	79	114	136	84%
80m	94	157	74	83%
40m	92	141	49	72%
20m	66	84	114	68%
15m	69	82	53	52%
10m	77	52	75	52%
17m	69	62	22	39%
70cm	51	49	36	35%
30m	74	44	13	34%
12m	70	47	10	33%
160m	69	42	12	31%
6m	47	23	24	24%
Other	17	13	10	10%

### **Summary:**

Although 2 metres may be the most used band in Canada according to this survey, 20 metres is the favorite band, with all the other non-WARC bands also in the top six in both categories.

Note the differences between the actual bands operated on and the favorite bands. 20m, 6m, 160m and 10m are more loved than used while the reverse is true for the others. Certainly the fascinating propagation vagaries of 6m, 160m, and 10m account for much of this difference. For the modes, the order is the same for both actual operating and favorites.

Voice modes are the most used, but CW ranks second in popularity, despite lower usage. It is noteworthy that over

one-third of the respondents use digital modes on a regular basis.

Remarks presented in the Issues and Changes sections found CW the favorite subject with remarks for and against fairly evenly divided. This prompted a separate questionnaire. The problem band was definitely 40 metres. It will take international changes to really solve the many problems there but the committee will try to bring all the factors into the Band Plan revisions. Digital mode allocations were the next highest reported concern, and revisions will try to take into account the growth of these modes since the last plan in 1995.

From the standpoint of the HF Band Planning Committee, the results indicate the extreme importance of the 80 and 20 metre bands. This is not earth-shaking news, but it is nice to have some figures to back up the supposition. The use of various modes is also important to the committee. Mode allocation within the bands is the most important role of a Band Plan. Setting up useful guidelines for operating within a band is necessary in the absence of legislated sub-bands. It is up to the amateurs of Canada to regulate our own use of modes within each band while leaving some flexibility for the unusual situations that will arise from time to time.

Using the information you have provided, and that of the other agencies worldwide, the HF Band Planning Committee hopes to provide revisions to the 1995 plan on a continuing basis over the next year. Keep track of the proposed revisions at <http://www.rac.ca/bandplan.htm>. These proposals will be on view prior to RAC Executive approval. Please provide any more ideas you may have to improve this guide for the use by both beginners and others of the HF bands in Canada.

Send your information to [ve3kz@rac.ca](mailto:ve3kz@rac.ca).

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

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It is with much regret that I announce that Derek Hay VE4HAY has stepped down as Assistant Emergency Coordinator due to work reasons. Derek has been a most active WPGARES member with extensive participation in numerous public service events, 1997 Flood Operations, Y2K Winnipeg Police Operation, CANWARN Net Control to name a few. Wayne Schellekens VE4WTS has been appointed as AEC, Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ continues as AEC and President.

The Provincial ARES Executive continues planning for possible spring flood operations. Province of Manitoba

Water Resources Branch web-site is a good place to get flood forecasts:

[www.gov.mb.ca/natres/watres/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/natres/watres/index.html)

The response from WARC members as volunteers for Flood Operations has been under-whelming if not downright dismal - less than 6 volunteer forms received so far since they were printed in the March Newscaster. Please let me know if you have misplaced your Newscaster and need another form.

Fifteen or so WPGARES members are training as operators for VE4EMO for emergency operations. Currently plan to get VE4EMO on the air for the upcoming HF test nets. Marc Bruyere, MEMO Emergency Telecommunications Officer has been most generous in providing advice and off-hours assistance to the team. On 22 March we made a number of station improvements, still have some cabling work to do.

Exercise #19 on 27 Feb. was a familiarization session at VE4EOC the City of Winnipeg Emergency Operations Centre. Participants found the after-hours entrance, learned what agencies attend EOC during an emergency, and looked over the communications equipment. Emergency Program Coordinator Randy Hull was a most helpful host. The 26 members that participated were: VE4s AND, MAB, CLK, TRO, EH, MBQ, DWG, EIH, RCJ, KAZ, WF, HK, MMG, CRS, SE, GWN, DL, TJR, DAR, AJR, WTS, ESX, RST, ACX, VID, KU.

Exercise #20 was held 13 March at Manitoba Health EOC (MHEOC) VE4MBH. Participants learned the role of Manitoba Health Disaster Services, found out where MHEOC is located, and looked over the communications equipment. Disaster Management Specialist John Lavery gave an excellent overview of his branch's role in health emergencies. The 14 members that participated were: VE4s AND, EH, MBQ, HAZ, WF, HK, MMG, SE, GWN, DL, TJR, AJR, WTS, ESX.

Three of our members VE4s GWN, TJR, and WTS attended the Manitoba Emergency Management (MEM) Course run by MEMO 19-22 Feb. Our March meeting was focused on flood planning and a hands-on session with our new 2m Beam Kit. The jury is still out as to whether ESX and HK or GWN and TJR made better demonstrators.

Our next monthly meeting is TUE 17 April 1900h at West Kildonan Library 365 Jefferson Ave near Salter. Wayne Schellekens VE4WTS will be giving a presentation on Repeater Linking. Orders for WPGARES club jackets will be taken at this meeting, the cost will be \$35 to \$40 - please bring a cheque payable to "Winnipeg ARES" if you intend to place an order.

## Program

### By David VE4DAR

#### *DXpedition to Sable Island*

What's a DXpedition? Well, come to the WARC meeting on April 9 and find out. Cal VE4XQ will describe the challenges and joys of his adventure to Sable Island in 1979. See the pictures; listen to the story and hear part of an historic QSO. If you're looking for excitement of a new and different kind, this night is for you. Get some pointers for planning your own DXpedition at our meeting on Monday, April 9 at Sturgeon Creek Collegiate beginning at 1930 hours.

#### *Something For Everyone*

How do you successfully program for the extensive interests of an eclectic membership such as WARC's? I could fib and say, "It's a snap!" or "No problem." Perhaps then someone might replace me at the end of June. Do you remember my request for two helpers when I began last September? At that time I was hoping to work with a relatively new ham and a YL. When no one came forward, Poof! went my first ideas about a division of labour, broader input, and a chance to do some leadership development yielding program co chairs for next year.

From the steady participation and favourable comments heard here and there, I'm going to assume that you are enjoying WARC's programs. So what's my approach? I alternate between "If it works, don't fix it!" and "Why Not?"

Initially, I consulted heavily with Tom (SE) to find out what had gone before and what the membership expected. We repeated the Christmas Party and Home Brew Night with success. Also, I tried out some ideas of my own, but not without consultation. Phone calls to some Ham Senators, coffee yippety-yap, and idea sharpening by the WARC Executive resulted in An Evening to Remember and other programs. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the 5 R's (Ralph, Rick, Rob, Ruth and Ruthie), and Adam and Ed for their patient listening and guidance. As well I want to thank all the unnamed for their advice and work.

With Field Day happening at Birds Hill Park on June 22 & 23, I want to try "Something for Everyone" at the May 14 meeting. Here's the deal: like a workshop, you will have an opportunity to participate in two 30-minute groups based on topics related to Field Day (and a few others).

I need some leaders, members who will get the discussion going in each group. Here's a list of topics and the leaders who have already volunteered:

Food and beverages: Bob VE4RCJ  
Operating procedures:

Logging:  
CLARA & YL's: Gladys VE4GE  
Introduction to HF:  
Antennas:  
Contesting:  
Power supplies:  
Field Day Planning:  
Transceivers:

I see this event as being an opportunity for hams to share their knowledge and experience. It should be especially helpful for those more recently licensed. If you want to help out or have any suggestions for this "Why not?" idea, please contact me: [VE4DAR@RAC.CA](mailto:VE4DAR@RAC.CA) or by phone (see the front page of the Newscaster).

#### *Home Brew Night*

Fifty-six amateur radio operators and one grandson braved the snow to participate in WARC's Home Brew Night on March 12. They weren't disappointed by the eleven projects on display. We thank these builders for their creativity and skills: Glen VE4GWN, Bob VE4RCJ, Ralph VE4RY, David VE4DAR, Dick VE4RHG, Dave VE4KU, Dick VE4HK, Gladys VE4GE, Jim VE4GZ, Phil VE4KOR, and Andrew Dryden (Rick VE4OV's grandson). Norm VE4EH'S efficient direction of the business portion of our meeting left ample opportunity to ask questions about the projects and to socialize. Winners of the \$25.00 prizes in the draw for persons displaying projects were VE4GWN, VE4RCJ, VE4KOR and Andrew.



*Remember When?*

**COLLINS**

**KWM2**

*Wow! 175 watts PEP!!! It was 1959, and it sold for about \$1,100.*

## Contest Calendar

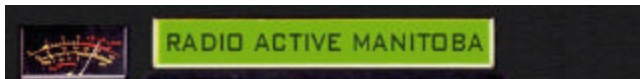
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### April

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

### May

01	1300-1900	CW AGCW-DL QRP Party
06-07	0000-2400	CW Ten-Ten International 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	1200-1200	RTTY A.Volta RTTY DX Contest
13-14	2100-2100	CW/SSB/SSTV CQ-M Internat'l 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



[WWW.VE4.NET](http://WWW.VE4.NET)

Promoting the Spirit of Radio

Bob Hrabi

VE4ZAP

## Letter of Thanks

By Glen, VE4GWN

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Dear Fellow Amateurs:

First I must say that I'm sorry that this letter is so late in coming.

I'm writing this letter to thank all of the VE4WSC, with special mention to VE4SZ Sandy Sandwith and all of the instructors for running the Basic Radio Course this past fall. My wife Rosi VE4YYL, and my son Eric VE4EWN were both among those who successfully attended this course.

Next I would like to add special mention to VE4GR Bruce Massey and VE4AO Tony Kozak and all others who helped with the C.W. Course this past winter. My son Eric, myself and others successfully completed this course.

Last I would like to thank all the examiners who gave the tests. Because I don't remember all the names or call signs, and do not wish to accidentally offend anybody, I will not list them. Without your time, the work of all the instructors and students would not have had such success.

Thank You all again, and Please keep up the great support to the Amateur Community. (My daughter is looking forward to attending the next course)

## The \$10 Icom CI-V Computer Interface

By Howard Groveman (KD6UU)

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published on [www.eHam.net](http://www.eHam.net)

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### Theory of Operation

The ICOM CT-17 RS232 computer level converter is both costly and requires external power. By using a cheap, readily available ultra low power TTL to RS232 converter IC, the Linear LTC1383, one can make a self-contained unit, which derives its power from the serial port itself. Although the IBM PC serial port was designed without a DC power pin, early mouse designers figured out a way to squeeze some low-current DC power from RTS or DTR lines (or from BOTH in the case of the design shown above). The LTC1383 draws only about 220uA at 5 volts - no more than most mouse circuitry. The above circuit should work with just about any serial port, including some otherwise finicky PC laptop ports. The LTC 1383 IC does all the work and requires only 4 capacitors to charge the internal pump circuits. Although one can use tiny 0.1uf non-polarized caps for the 4 charge caps, I chose some 0.47uf miniature polarized radial electrolytics to be extra sure of speedy response times in the heat of DX J. All parts are available at the time of this writing online from RadioShack.com, but might be hard to find at the

Parts List

QTY	Description	RS part #	Cost/Piece	Total cost
1	Linear LTC1383 5v RS232 to TTL converter IC	900-6407	\$5.63	\$5.63
1	Ferrite Bead Pack of 25	900-5005	\$0.25	\$0.25
2	22 uf 16 volt electrolytic caps	900-7665	\$0.15	\$0.30
4	0.47 uf electrolytic capacitors	900-7674	\$0.14	\$0.56
2	1N5818 diodes	900-3178	\$0.49	\$0.98
2	1uH RF chokes	900-4954	\$0.49	\$0.98
1	100pf capacitor	900-2201	\$0.16	\$0.16
1	78L05 5 volt regulator	900-4491	\$0.36	\$0.36
1	DB9 Female Connector	See text	\$0.00	\$0.00
1	1/8" miniature phone plug	910-0755	\$0.89	\$0.89
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$10.11</b>

Note: On the miniature electrolytics, the negative lead is the shorter lead and is marked with "0" in a white band.

DB9 Serial Port Connections

The DB9 serial port pin 2 is the RxD and is applied to the LTC1383 pin 14

The DB9 serial port pin 3 is the TxD and is applied to the LTC1383 pin 13

The DB9 serial port pin 5 is

retail stores. I have no affiliation to Radio Shack, but enjoy their excellent website and variety of fairly cheap parts.

I chose to use some pre-punched general purpose DIP circuit board, a 16-pin DIP socket, 4 standoffs, 2 grommets and a tiny aluminum case to wire the circuit - which would add about \$6 to the cost. Anal-retentive hams can etch and drill their own circuit boards! I'm sure some industrious hams will figure out a way to package the whole circuit inside a DB9 shell!

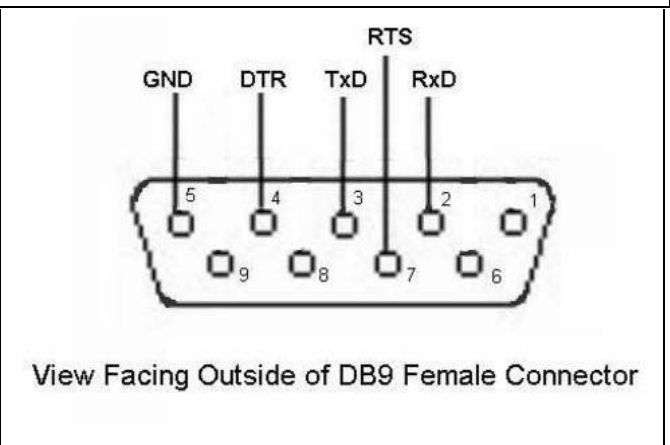
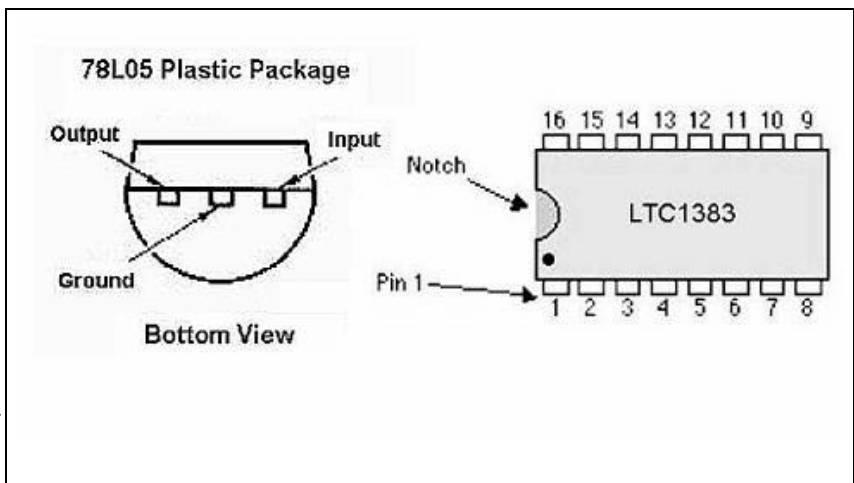
Instead of purchasing a DB9 female connector, I pilfered the connector and cable from an old Microsoft™ serial mouse. I not only got a "free" DB9 connector, but I found that the 4 conductor shielded cable used by the mouse already had my 5 connections made to the right pins! I even used a couple of feet of the same cable (after cutting off the 3 unused leads) as a single conductor shielded cable to run from the aluminum box to the 1/8 inch miniature phone plug for my IC-746.

**IMPORTANT:** If you want to use a DB25 serial connector instead, remember that the ground pin is 7, DTR is pin 20, RTS is pin 4, TxD is pin 2 and RxD is pin 3! This would certainly give you more room in the casing to house the circuitry if you decide to go that route. I understand that the same type of circuit can be used for a Kenwood interface if you use separate leads to IC pins 11 and 12 (not tested).

a common ground in the circuit

The DB9 serial port's DTR (pin 4) and RTS (pin 7) supply voltage to the input lead 1 of the 78L05 5 volt regulator. You should be able to measure +5 volts output between lead 3 (output) and lead 2 (ground) of the regulator. Voltage is applied to pin 16 of the LTC1383.

Optional parts all from Radio Shack retail store: 16 pin DIP socket, aluminum case, metal standoffs, IC PC Board material (276-159B), grommets - all about \$6 additional.

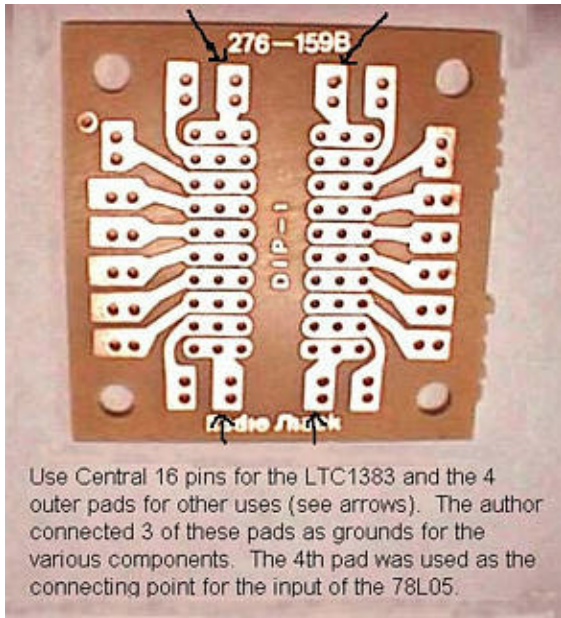


Questions, comments, photos of your creations, etc. are welcome to [groveman@home.com](mailto:groveman@home.com). Although I built a working unit from these instructions, I make no claims or warranties about the suitability or correctness of these circuits.

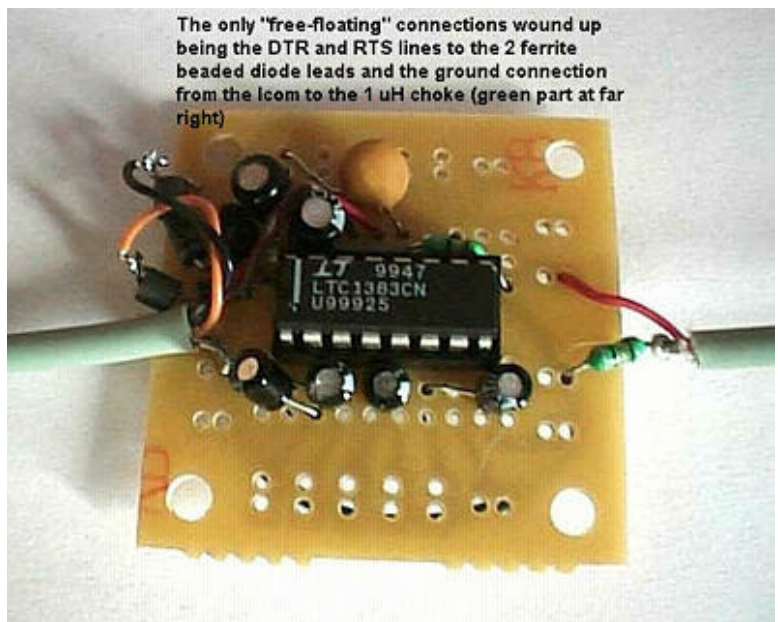
I am not an engineer and I don't play one on TV.  
Copyright, 2000, Howard Groveman KD6UU

Utilizing No External Power and all parts from RadioShack.com



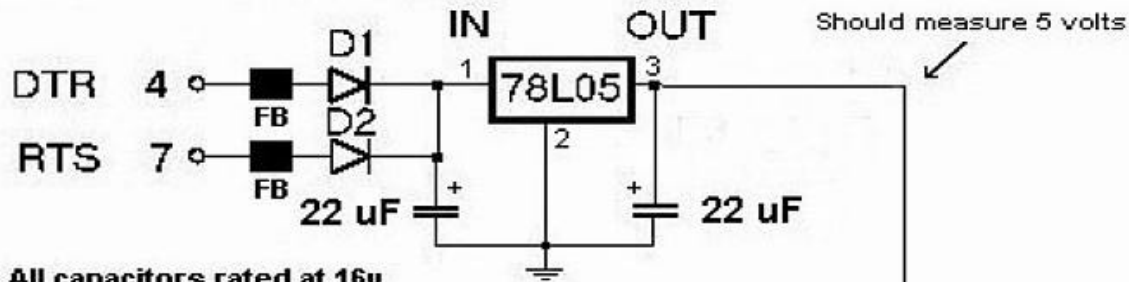


Use Central 16 pins for the LTC1383 and the 4 outer pads for other uses (see arrows). The author connected 3 of these pads as grounds for the various components. The 4th pad was used as the connecting point for the input of the 78L05.

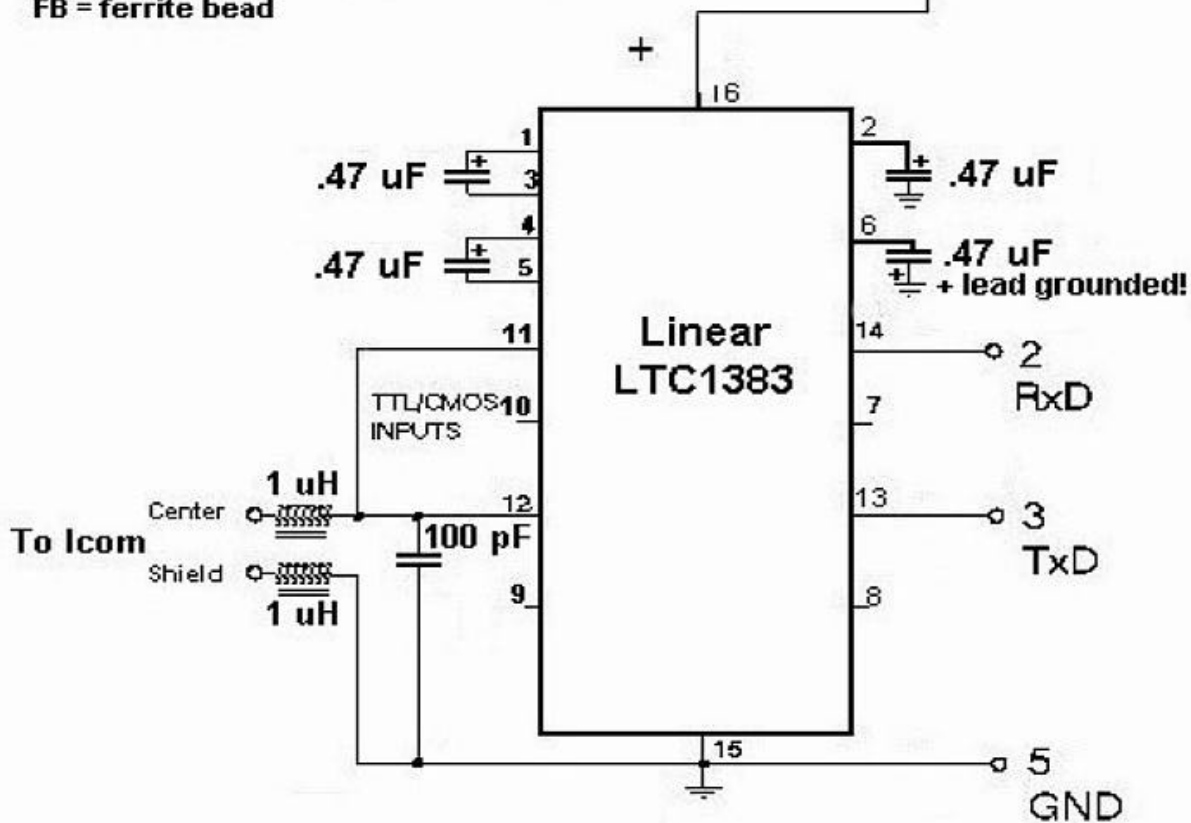


The only "free-floating" connections wound up being the DTR and RTS lines to the 2 ferrite beaded diode leads and the ground connection from the Icom to the 1 uH choke (green part at far right)

### D1 and D2 1N5818 Diodes



All capacitors rated at 16v  
 FB = ferrite bead



**Manitoba Marathon 2001**  
**by Ralph, VE4RY**

<<< *Fathers' Day, Sunday, June 17th* >>>

The Manitoba Marathon is once again asking for our traditional support. Our repeater systems uniquely enable simultaneous communications to all points on the course, and our closed net operation permits efficient dispatching during the marathon. The Marathon people are quite impressed with our use of APRS for tracking the lead vehicles.

Temporarily setting up at portable locations is lots of fun, and Marathon Day becomes a sort of "Field Day" on two meters. As an amateur radio operator/volunteer, your job is basically to provide a message service for the medical people and relay information to official course personnel. All you need is a two meter rig, a spare battery and antenna.

The members of the Manitoba Marathon Tech Team have delegated some responsibilities: Gord, VE4GF is manager in charge of the supply, medical and therapy vehicles. Also, we now have enlisted Pat, VE4PLG to assist us with the recruiting of volunteers.

We hope to see you at the Flea Market to sign you up; or one of us may be phoning you. We'll be asking you for a couple of hours of your time on Fathers' Day to help out with this great event.

Please call us to volunteer or if you have any questions:  
Pat, VE4PLG at 334-3018  
Kay, VE4YF 669-5077 (9AM - 9PM only, please)  
Ralph, VE4RY at 663-8894

**Editors Ramblings**  
**By Derek VE4HAY**

Another month, another issue. I finally got the Icom computer interface in here. I have been sitting on that one for a while now. Next month I will have an article on the packet system in Manitoba.

Did you know that IRLP is now in Manitoba. That's right, the gateway is on the VE4UMR repeater. And with a couple of tone, you can talk all over the world, using the internet and VO/IP (voice over IP). Why not give it a try. It is the 21st. Century version of IPRN.

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