



# The **NEWSCASTER**

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

November 2001

Free to Members vol: 2001-11

## The History Behind The VE4VJ Repeater

By Ron, VE4PL

**Date:** November 12th, 2001  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Sturge on Creek Regional Secondary School

### Other Important Dates:

Articles: Nov 28 - Article Deadline December Newscaster

WARC: Dec 10 - Monthly Meeting

WSC: Dec. 12th - Christmas Party  
Dec 19th - Annual Meeting

ARES: Nov. 20 - 735 Communications Regiment

Other: Daily 01:00 UTC MB Evening Phone net 3760 KHz  
Daily 01:30 UTC Prairie traffic Net (CW) 3660 KHz  
Daily 02:30 UTC Aurora #2 net 7055 KHz  
Weekdays 9:00am Seniors morning net 147.390 MHz  
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	Glen Napady	VE4GWN	831-8082
Goodwill	Vacant		

## News from VE4WSC Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club

First, we start with a sad report: one of our founding and esteemed members, Bert Anderson, VE4AP, has become a Silent Key. Bert was a Ham of the highest caliber, and will be remembered for the many aspects of the hobby that he was involved in – name any mode and he had intimate knowledge and use of it. In acknowledgment of his many contributions to Ham Radio throughout his life, and his generous help as an “Elmer” to those new to the hobby, Bert was honoured with the C.R.R.L. ‘Ham of the Year’ Award, and the first Pioneer Award, presented to him by the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Although he was not active for the past few years, he did manage to get out to a few ham social events. He will be missed. We send our condolences to Frances and Family.

The SPARKS Newsletter will be published shortly, and all members will be mailed a copy. It will feature notices of both the Christmas Party and the Annual General Meeting, as well as an ‘In Memoriam’ page for Bert, VE4AP.

The Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 12, at the Assiniboia Christian Centre, Portage Ave. at Rouge Rd. Tickets are \$15.00 each, and are available at the Club. If you cannot get to the Club, please call 233-3122 to make arrangements to get the tickets to you. And, please, get your tickets as soon as you can – we want to make sure we have a good turnout, and early ticket sales mean so much to the convenors. Many members are hard at work to have a program that will excite everyone, and there will be great door prizes as well. And the meal will be more than just the usual turkey dinner. So plan on coming – and do buy your tickets NOW.

The Annual General Meeting – the most important Club meeting of each year- will be held on Wednesday, December 19, beginning at 10 o’clock in the morning. This meeting is for ALL club members, a chance to use your voice, make motions, and vote. We will be electing the new Board (19 to be elected), Executive and Auditors for the year 2002.

Committee year-end reports will be presented, and you can ask questions; and if you wish to be active in the Club during the next year, you are encouraged to let your name stand for nomination to the Board (see or call Ed, VE4YU), or to volunteer for work with one of the Committees that will be re-constituted for 2002. There is a place for you in your club, and you will be most welcome. If you haven't managed a visit to the Clubrooms yet this year, please do come and see all the changes that have been made with the extension of our facilities (new rooms, new station setups, operating enhancements with computers, etc.). Come back once more, and we know you'll continue to make regular visits. And the coffee is still the best, and still only 25c per cup!

The Monthly Breakfast will be held on Thursday, November 8th, at 9:00 a.m., at the Canada Inns Garden City, McPhillips at Jefferson. Maybe you'll be lucky and win the draw for a free breakfast (or a special prize concocted by our super social director, George, VE4GNG).

The next regular Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 21st, and we hope to see all Board members out to this meeting. Because it is the last before the Annual meeting, and the Christmas Party, there will be important matters to discuss and act on.

And George, VE4GNG, the editor of the Blips 'n' Blurbs, continues to ask and look for contributions to this fine little in-house newsletter; so, if you have a submission that you feel will be acceptable, please put it in the B&B box near the sign-in book at the Club, or e-mail it to VE4WSC: [ve4wsc@mb.sympatico.ca](mailto:ve4wsc@mb.sympatico.ca)

For those asking about the new edition of the Blue Book ... by the time you read this, we should have the copies available for sale at the Club. A further printing was necessary to fill our order – this was the reason for the delay. Price is \$10.00 per copy.



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

Comments or if you just want to reach us :

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**Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**  
**C/O VE4WSC**  
**598 St. Mary's Road**  
**Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5**  
<http://www.virtualmultimedia.com/warc>

And, to end this column, just a reminder that the Club needs your donation to help in meeting its goals – please be generous.

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

Recording Secretary Mr. Darcy Wilson VE4DDW  
The President (Mr. Darcy Wilson VE4DDW) opened the meeting at 1930 hrs. The President welcomed the 39 members present, and proceeded with introductions.

### *Errors of the previous minutes*

The President explained to the members that Mr. Vern Dutton VE4VQ has not resigned from the Board of Directors, but rather his term has expired. The President also reminded the membership that Mr. Dutton has volunteered to continue providing his services to the club.

### *Motion for acceptance of previous minutes*

VE4PLJ moved that the minutes of the September meeting be approved as amended. - VE4RA Seconded  
Motion CARRIED

### *Correspondence*

The Vice President read a letter from Mr. Dave Snyder RE the formation of a permanent planning committee for the International Ham Fest (IHF). There was brief discussion about this item.

### *Old Business*

The President circulated a sign-up sheet for those interested in WARC jacket purchase.

### *Treasures Report*

In the absence of the Treasurer, the President presented the year-end report via overhead projector. The net profit for FY 2000/2001 was \$74.92 There was some discussion over the cost of insurance for the club. The President agreed to look shop around for prices.

ACTION: President

VE4OV moved that the year-end report be adopted as being an accurate reflection for 2000/2001 - VE4JNF Seconded

Motion CARRIED

### *Audit Report*

Mr. Ed Henderson VE4YU presented the yearly Audit Report of the operations of the club. The report is included below:

October 15, 2001  
Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Inc.  
c/o 598 St. Mary's Road

Winnipeg, MB R2M 9L5

To All Members of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club:

As auditor of the financial records of WARC, I present the following report.

The information provided to me by WARC treasurer, Susan Collings, VE4SYM, seems to be complete and correct and represents the true financial position of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club as of July 31, 2000. All records appear to be in order and have been well maintained. WARC is fortunate to have a professional like Susan as treasurer.

Summary of financial records as audited on October 15, 2001:

Starting balance at August 1, 2000	.....	3885.68
(This included an outstanding check for \$25.00)		
Receipts from August 1, 2000 to July 31, 2001	.....	4714.79
Disbursements from August 1, 2000 to July 31, 2001	.....	4789.87
Balance as per WARC ledger of July 31, 2001	.....	3810.60
Balance as per bank statement of July 31, 2001	.....	3810.60

There is a petty cash float of \$150.00 outstanding making WARC's real assets. \$ 3960.60

The cash position of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Inc., as of July 31, 2001, is as stated.

Audited and respectfully submitted by:

//Original Signed By//

Ed Henderson, VE4YU

Mr. Henderson also spoke about his concern of the expenditure of funds WRT prizes. He believes that the club should reduce or stop buying prizes for the general meeting. Discussion followed. The President explained that these prizes draws are meant to be self-sustaining, but with an unexpected drop in attendance this did not happen. The prizes are purchased in advance, while on sale to ensure the best price. The President also motioned that the membership renewal prize awarded in previous years has discontinued.

Mr. Michaels VE4SYG requested a report on the cost of prizes over the previous few years.

ACTION: Treasurer

### **WARC Budget 2001/2002**

The President introduced the proposed operating budget for 2001/2002. He explained the line items, and clarified some questions from the membership. Board of Directors agreed to keep looking for ways to save money on operating costs, ie. Printing, stamps, etc.

VE4HQ moved that the budget be adopted - VE4JNF  
Seconded

Motion CARRIED

### **Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)**

Mr Lord VE4OV presented a report on behalf of RAC.

1. A new RAC Director for Ontario South has been appointed – Mr. Bob Cooke VE3BDB.

2. The next CARAB Meeting is in Ottawa on 13 Nov 2001. Mr. Lord will attend and discuss various issues with Industry Canada.

3. RAC President Ken Oelke VE6AFO has returned from the 14th IARU Region 2 Triennial Conference in Guatemala.

4. Industry Canada has modified their database of callsign privileges to show only “Morse” where their previous info showed the actual speed attained. IC is rethinking its approach after numerous complaints.

### **DX Sleuths**

Mr. Romanchuck VE4SN briefed members on the status of DX. Solar flare activity remains high.

### **Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)**

Mr. Mills VE4SE briefed the members on the recent exercise “Head of the Red Regatta”. He also reminded members of the upcoming meeting Tues 17 Oct 01.

### **Prize Draw**

VE4QZ was the lucky winner of a 30 piece tool kit. Mr Pura graciously donated the item, and asked for another draw. The second lucky person was VE4GZ

VE4YG was the winner of the second prize, a multimeter kit.

Meeting adjourned at 2030hrs with coffee, followed by a presentation by Mr. Michaels VE4SYG.

### **From the Planning Chair: Glen, VE4GWN**

I wish to thank Dan, VE4SYG for his presentation for October. I'm sorry I couldn't be there, and judging by what I've been told, it sounds like it was a good one. Thanks again, Dan.

After some confusion, and misunderstandings, on my part, I can safely say that for the month of November we will have Ron Place, VE4PL giving us a short history lesson about VE4VJ (SK) and why we have a repeater named after him. Ron will also be bringing a 10 min. video that should also be interesting.

December will be our annual Christmas Party. I'm not going to say what is planned because, then I won't have anything to write next month.

I have had some great suggestions and volunteers for speakers, and I think that soon I'll be working on next years program. Please keep the suggestions coming by: e-mail ve4gwn@rac.ca ; by phone 831 8082 (evenings); or on the VE4WPG repeater, most evenings.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

## Winnipeg ARES Report

### by Jeff, VE4MBQ - Winnipeg EC

Fifteen WPGARES members provided amateur communications SAT 06OCT for the Head of the Red Regatta at Winnipeg Rowing Club. The event had been scheduled for a balmy September morning but was pushed back by WRC Executive in an effort to recruit more rowers. Thanks to VE4s: HK, DDW, MJM, MMG, KAZ, ACX, GWB, WTS, VID, CDP, HAZ, DWG, WF, SE, AJR.

A big thank-you to Dick VE4HK and Mariska VE4MMG for organizing the WPGARES booth at the WARC Flea Market 21OCT. A comprehensive report filed by Dick and Mariska appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lately I've been reporting more than doing - the Regatta was the weekend before we moved and the Flea Market was the weekend after, I had no idea that our 2.2 Km move would be so time consuming. Our new basement still looks like a warehouse full of boxes and so far I only have temporary antennas up for 2m and 6m.

WPGARES in conjunction with MEMO will be participating in The Festival of Lights on Saturday 17NOV. Members interested in volunteering to decorate the EMCC or be in the parade should get in touch ASAP with Richard VE4KAZ. e-mail is rkazuk@escape.ca

Our next meeting is TUE 20NOV 1900h at West Kildonan Library 365 Jefferson Avenue. A representative from 735 Communications Regiment is scheduled to give a presentation on the types of communications that they provide and the methodology (modes and equipment) they use.

### Web Site

Does anyone know what happened to the VE4.net web pages. Has anyone heard Bob, VE4ZAP on the air? Does anyone know where he is? The pages were a very good indicator of what was happening in amateur radio in Manitoba. And if they are gone so is the appearance of amateur radio in Manitoba as far as the rest of the world is concerned (except for those who are actually on the air and making contacts for us).

I know I would like to see the pages back on line again. All we need is a sponsor for the site, and someone to manage the changes as they happen. I did it for a number of years before Bob took over. But what we really need is the source pages that Bob had.

Can any one help out here?

## Contest Calendar

### November

IPA Contest	CW	0600Z Nov 3 1400Z Nov 3
Ukrainian DX Contest		1200Z Nov 3
ARRL Sweepstakes CW		2100Z Nov 3
ARCI Running the QRP		2100Z Nov 3
IPA Contest,	SSB	0600Z Nov 4 1400Z Nov 4
High Speed Club CW		0900Z Nov 4 1500Z Nov 4
Japan Int. DX	Phone	2300Z Nov 9 2300Z Nov 11
Anatolian ATA	PSK31	0000Z Nov 10
WAE DX Contest,	RTTY	0000Z Nov 10
ARRL International EME		0000Z Nov 10
OK/OM DX	CW	1200Z Nov 10
CQ Western Electric		1600Z Nov 10
LZ DX Contest,	CW	1200Z Nov 17
IARU Region 1 160m		1400Z Nov 17
Carnavales de Tenerife		1600Z Nov 17
LI/NJ-QRP Doghouse		1700Z Nov 17
ARRL Sweepstakes SSB		2100Z Nov 17
RSGB 1.8 MHz	CW	2100Z Nov 17
CQ Worldwide DX	CW	0000Z Nov 24

### December

TARA RTTY Sprint		1800Z Dec 1
Tennessee QSO Party		1800Z Dec 2
QRP ARCI Holiday Sprint		2000Z Dec 2
ARRL 160-Meter Contest		2200Z Dec 7
ARRL 10-Meter Contest		0000Z Dec 15
OK DX RTTY Contest	28MHz.	0000Z Dec 15
SWL Contest		0000Z Dec 15
Croatian CW Contest		1400Z Dec 15
AGB Party Contest		2100Z Dec 21
DARC Christmas Contest		0830Z Dec 26
RAC Winter Contest		0000Z Dec 29
Stew Perry Topband		1500Z Dec 29

## Parkside Appliance & Electronics



Sales & Service of  
Computers & Software  
Home repairs offered

John, VE4JNF

386 Belvidere Street

885-9278

[www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf](http://www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf)

[ve4jnf@escape.ca](mailto:ve4jnf@escape.ca)

## News from the Net

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### **ITU ADOPTS RECOMMENDATION ON AMATEUR QUALIFICATIONS**

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has adopted new Recommendation ITU-R M.1544, Minimum qualifications of radio amateurs. In consideration that certain minimum operational and technical qualifications are necessary for the proper operation of an amateur or amateur-satellite station, the document recommends that at minimum, any person seeking an amateur license should demonstrate theoretical knowledge of specific topics in the areas of radio regulations, methods of radiocommunication, radio system theory, radio emission safety, electromagnetic compatibility, and avoidance and resolution of radio frequency interference.

The international Radio Regulations have long required that administrations take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station," observed International Amateur Radio Union Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. "In anticipation of changes that are likely to be made in the amateur and amateur-satellite service regulations at the next World Radiocommunication Conference, the new Recommendation provides additional definition to these qualifications without reducing the prerogative of an administration to set its own standards." IARU REGION II NEWS September 2001 - # 2001/06  
[http://www.iaru-R2.org/news0109\\_e.htm](http://www.iaru-R2.org/news0109_e.htm)

### **CQ ASKS CONTESTERS TO E-MAIL ALL LOGS**

CQ magazine is asking all participants in CQ-sponsored Amateur Radio contests to submit their logs electronically. "In light of recent events regarding hazardous items sent through the mail, logs received through the mail at the CQ offices will be held unopened until all potential health risks have been evaluated," a CQ Communications news release said. CQ said it cannot guarantee that logs submitted via the US Postal Service will be opened. All logs for the CQ World Wide DX Contest, the CQ WPX Contest, the CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest, the CQ World Wide VHF Contest and the CQ/RTTY Journal RTTY contests should be submitted via e-mail according to the instructions in the rules for each contest. CQ Communications President Dick Ross, K2MGA, said CQ regrets the inconvenience to contesters lacking Internet or e-mail access or those who log by hand, but he said CQ did not want to risk the chance that staff members or contest committee volunteers might be exposed to dangerous packages sent through the mail. CQ suggested that contesters not now using computer logging programs start doing so. CQ also suggested that hand loggers transcribe their logs into an ASCII (.txt) file using a word processor, separating each contact element with a tab, separating each contact with a carriage return, and e-mailing

the resulting file to the address listed in the contest rules. "Be sure to include the required information about your station in a covering e-mail message," the CQ notice advised.  
-CQ Communications news release

### **IARU Region 2 Conference in Guatemala Concludes**

The International Amateur Radio Union, Region 2, held its 14th General Assembly in Guatemala City, October 1-5. Twenty-one IARU member-societies from throughout the Americas were represented in person or by proxy.

The conference:

- ☉ Endorsed the objective of a worldwide allocation of at least 300 kHz for the amateur service at 7 MHz, while maintaining a 300-kHz allocation for Region 2 amateurs as "an essential and non-negotiable requirement." The conference emphasized that other objectives being sought by international broadcasters "should not be permitted to detract from reaching" these goals.
- ☉ Asked the IARU Administrative Council to study other ways to reduce interference from the users of CB radio equipment, particularly in the 10 and 12 meter bands.
- ☉ Urged Region 2 member-societies to support a coordinated approach to secondary allocations to the amateur service in the low-frequency bands 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz.
- ☉ Requested the Region 2 Executive Committee to study the possibility of an amateur allocation near 5 MHz, similar to the domestic allocation recently requested by the ARRL in the United States.
- ☉ Supported the revision of Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations, as proposed by the IARU Administrative Council, including the incorporation by reference of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544. This would permit the Recommendation concerning operator qualifications in the Amateur Service to be updated in the appropriate ITU-R Study Group rather than being drafted in a World Radiocommunication Conference. A proposal to amend Article S19 to permit greater flexibility in the formation of Amateur Radio call signs also was endorsed.
- ☉ Encouraged member-societies to urge individual radio amateurs to intensify their efforts to bring more persons to join Amateur Radio, with special attention to young people. A number of activities that have proven to be successful were offered for consideration.

### **UK to introduce Foundation Licence in 2002**

A weekend foundation licence, more privileges for Novice licensees and five words per minute Morse for full privileges.

These are the main changes to amateur radio licensing in the United Kingdom. Also provided for are more liberal supervised operating rules for amateurs in training courses.

The changes were jointly announced last Friday by the UK Radiocommunications Authority and Radio Society of Great Britain. The aim is to make amateur radio more attractive as a technical hobby.

Effective immediately, UK Class A/B licensees (which have 5 words per minute Morse) will become Class A licensees and receive full Class A privileges.

From October 1, Novice licensees who have passed an HF Morse test will receive access to all amateur frequencies with a 50 watt output power limit. Novice licensees with no Morse will have access to all amateur bands above 50 MHz. These licence grades will in future be called 'Intermediate' grade.

The Foundation licence will commence at the beginning of 2002.

This licence will provide access to most of the amateur bands, and restrict licensees to a maximum power of 10 watts RF output. Foundation licence holders will be prohibited from constructing their own transmitting equipment. Instead they will be required to use commercially-manufactured items, or properly-designed commercial kits.

Study for the Foundation licence may be undertaken over a weekend, and is based on the tradition that amateur radio is a hobby learnt mainly through self-training. Pilot courses will run from October 1 to evaluate syllabus and training material. The RA expects the full scheme to be operational from January 2002.

Until now, Britain has prohibited unlicensed people talking via amateur radio, even when a licensed operator is present. These restrictions have been loosened somewhat. Now unlicensed trainees on a registered training course may be supervised by full licence-holders to operate a station and contact other UK licensed amateurs.

So the UK changes are, in summary,

- 5 words per minute Morse for full privileges,
- more privileges for Novices,
- an easy-entry Foundation licence and
- allowance of supervised operating.

If Morse testing is abolished after the 2003 conference, the UK will be left with three licence grades - Foundation, Intermediate and Full.

With the UK being the first major country to introduce a Foundation style of amateur licence, there is little doubt that amateurs in other countries that may be weighing up the pros and cons of such change will be watching development in Britain closely.

### ***Morse Code to be featured on upcoming X-Files episode:***

Rob Ginkowski, WA6CW, of Hollywood, California, served as a technical adviser to The X-Files star Robert Patrick for an upcoming episode. Patrick's character, John Doggett, was in a hospital bed, paralyzed, and was required to send a Morse code message by tapping his index finger. WA6CW (who also works as an actor) taught Patrick how to tap out the message at about 5 WPM. "He was a fast learner," Ginkowski commented. No word on what the message was, but it might be, "The truth is out there." The episode, entitled "4-D," is scheduled to air Sunday, December 9, on the Fox TV Network. - From ARRL online newsletter.

### ***FCC PUTS KENWOOD "SKY COMMAND" PETITION ON PUBLIC NOTICE***

The FCC has put on public notice a rulemaking petition from Kenwood Communications Corporation requesting that the FCC relax restrictions on Amateur Radio auxiliary station operation. The FCC assigned the rulemaking number RM-10313 to the petition and invited public comment. The petition marks Kenwood's latest attempt to legalize its "Sky Command" remote station control system. Kenwood seeks a change in Part 97 rules that would expand permission to operate an auxiliary station on all 2-meter frequencies above 144.5 MHz, except on 145.8 to 146.0 MHz. While not mentioning Sky Command by name, Kenwood said the proposed rule change "would allow the development and use by amateurs of new technology devices and increase the utility of the limited amateur allocations." Current FCC rules limit auxiliary operation to certain frequencies above 222.15 MHz. In July 2000, the FCC declared that use of the Sky Command did not comply with Amateur Service rules --specifically Section 97.201(b) --and declined to grant a waiver make it legal. The ARRL commented in opposition to Kenwood's earlier efforts to have the system declared to be in compliance, and it refused to permit Sky Command advertisements in QST

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/07/28/3/> Sky Command lets a user control a fixed HF station via a pair of dual-band transceivers. It operates in full duplex, using frequencies on 70-cm and 2 meters. In its latest Petition for Rule Making filed May 1, Kenwood asserted that auxiliary operation is "poorly defined" in the FCC rules and "significantly overregulated." Kenwood argued that present limitations on auxiliary operation no longer are appropriate in today's amateur environment and should be withdrawn. Amateurs may view and comment on the Kenwood proposal via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS),

[Http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html](http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html)

- ARRL online newsletter

Registration opens for Level II Emergency Communications on-line course: Registration for the ARRL Level II --Intermediate Amateur Radio Emergency

Communications Course (EC-002) opens Monday, October 29, at 4 PM Eastern Time. On-line classes will begin the following week. For those with previous experience and for anyone who took the Level I course (EC-001), this course will enhance your skill and knowledge by providing a more in-depth look at emergency communications. To enroll, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Course Registration Page <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce>> after 4 PM Monday. Welcome letters go out later in the week after each student has been assigned a mentor. Access codes will be sent the following week. To learn more, visit the Certification and Continuing Education Program Home Page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> or contact Certification and Continuing Education Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, [cce@arrl.org](mailto:cce@arrl.org) - ARRL online newsletter

## **HINTS & KINKS**

### **By Ralph, VE4RY**

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#### ***Subject: SSB Transmission***

This may be helpful to operators who are new to SSB operation, particularly on the HF bands. After setting the mic gain so your ALC reading is within the normal range, you may be concerned that you are showing much less than full power on the RF output meter when you talk. This is normal.

Typically, on a 100-watt transmitter, you will only see about 35 watts out on voice transmissions, because the wave form of a human voice is not a sine wave, yet the RF power detectors require a sine wave for an accurate reading. A quick source of an approximation of a sine wave is to simply whistle into the microphone. This should indicate close to full power output. [It is interesting to note the variation in power generated when you sound different vowels.] If you are showing close to full power when talking on SSB, you are likely splattering and may also be causing RFI. Use a dummy load for these tests, of course. Enjoy!

## **Silent Key**

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R.J. (BERT) ANDERSON VE4AP Passed away peacefully at Deer Lodge Hospital on October 26, 2001 at the age of 93. Amateur Radio (hamming) was an all consuming passion and joy to Bert. He was licensed as VE4AP in 1932. He saw and did all from spark gap to space and Internet technology with enthusiasm. He was honoured with a life membership in the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, Manitoba Ham of the Year, and Canadian Amateur of the year in 1981. Bert was also a life member of the Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum at Austin. He was proud that son Robert (VE4AU), daughter Gale (VE4GAL) and son-in-law Moe (VE4MOE) followed him in the hobby.

## **More on Internet Security**

### **Extracted form Ham Radio Online**

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Since installing ZoneAlarm, I have been amazed to see the number of probes/port scans attempted on to my PC over my dial up Internet connection. Once, I received an incoming port scan probe within 10 seconds of connecting to the Internet, and then 6 more probes in the next 2 minutes.

My recommendation: Never access the Internet without the use of firewall software. Certainly this applies to cable modem and DSL connections, but also to dial up Internet access too. If you have a cable modem or DSL connection and are not using firewall software, then I can guarantee your personal computer is under attack whenever it is turned on. What hackers might do with information about your system, or access to your files, is up to them. I can think of many nasty things they might choose to do, but which I will not detail here.

To see how vulnerable your system is (and this is not even a complete test by any means), visit the [ShieldsUp test web page](#) of [Gibson Research Corporation](#). Then choose "Test my shields" and "Probe my ports" (near the bottom of the page). The GRC web server will then do a modest probe of your system and display examples of your Internet vulnerabilities. These tests are hardly exhaustive but merely illustrative of security holes in your personal computer.

Windows XP, I am told, now includes half of a firewall interface. Their interface will block unauthorized access to your PC from the Internet. What's missing is the other half - blocking unauthorized access from your PC to the Internet. You may thinking, why would I block unauthorized access from my own PC? The reason is because of "spyware" and viruses that may install on your system and then unknowingly to you, feed data across the Internet to some hacker. Some viruses have worked in this manner to collect account numbers and passwords and other information.

If you use Windows 9x, you can download a free version of a two-way firewall from [ZoneAlarm](#).

For the Macintosh, the new OS X operating system includes better security features. This [article](#) contains information on an OS X shareware firewall. Norton sells [firewall software for the Mac](#). [NetBarrier](#) is another fine product for Mac OS 9.x (OS X version coming).

### **Lest we forget**

Radio did play a big part in all wars since being invented. Remember why it's here, and why we have access to it.

## Radials - How Many? How Long?

[Merv Stump \(W2OE\)](#)

(extracted from <http://www.oham.net/> )

I have been chasing DX on the low bands for more than 15 years using vertical antennas for most of that time. I graduated from 1 vertical to 2 verticals to 4 verticals and always with the same question: How many radials do I need and how long should they be? The quick answer is certainly the more the better and the longer the better. However, there does appear to be a point of diminishing returns and there appears to be an optimal way to use a fixed amount of wire.

The following is based on hundreds of hours of laying down radials, conventional wisdom and only antidotal evidence but I am convinced it is sound.

The distance between your radials at their outer most tips should be 0.05 wavelengths or less. Let's take a look at what this would mean on 80 meters. A full wavelength at 3.8 MHz is  $984/3.8$  or 258.9 feet. Lets round that up to 260 feet.  $260 * .05 = 13$  feet. Assuming that our radials are a quarter wavelength long then each radial is 65 feet long and the circumference of the circle covered by our radials is  $2 * \pi * 65$  or  $2 * 3.1416 * 65$  or 408 feet. In order for the outer most tips of our radials to be 13 feet apart we need  $408/13$  or 31 radials. Adding more quarter wavelength radials will result in only marginal improvement. However, if you can make your radials a half wavelength long then you can continue to see significant improvement as you add radials up to about 62. The circumference of this circle is 816 feet and  $816/13$  is 62. Conversely if your radials are only 1/8 wavelength you will see little improvement beyond 15 or 16 radials. Does this mean the shorter the radials the fewer you need? Of course not, but it does mean the shorter the radials the fewer you can use efficiently. The longer the radials the more you can use efficiently and the more the better.

Point 1 assumes that our primary constraint is the length of the radial. With the cost of wire the constraint may well be the total amount of wire you have. Question now becomes for a fixed amount of wire what is the trade off between radial length and radial number for the most efficiency. With a little algebraic manipulation of the above concept we can derive the following formula:

$$RL = \text{SQRT} (TL / (40 * \pi * WL)) * WL$$

Where RL = the radial length in feet; TL = the total amount of wire we have in feet; and WL = a wavelength in feet at the frequency we are interested in.

Lets take the above 80 meter example and assume we have 1000 feet of wire to work with - TL = 1000.  
 $1000 / (40 * 3.1416 * 260) = 0.0306$ .

The square root of 0.0306 is 0.1749.  
 $0.1749 * 260 = 45.48$ .

So our radial length (RL) should be 45 feet and dividing 1000 by 45 gives us 22 radials. The most efficient use of 1000 feet of wire, at 3.8 MHz, is to divide it into 22 radials each 45 feet long. Let's verify that this gives us radials whose outer most tips are .05 wavelengths apart. We have already determined that a wavelength at 3.8 MHz is 260 feet and that  $.05 * 260$  is 13. If our radials are 45 feet long the circumference of the circle covered by the radials is  $2 * \pi * 45$  or 282 feet. Dividing 282 by 22 we get 12.8 feet between the tips of our radials or essentially the 13 feet we were looking for.

Our quick answer still stands - the more the better and the longer the better. In addition the longer the radials the more radials you can use efficiently. However, for a given radial length there is a point beyond which you are pretty much wasting your time; and for a given amount of wire there is an optimal way to use it.

## HINTS & KINKS

By Ralph, VE4RY

### *Non-resonant Parasitic Antenna Reflectors*

Often we are in a portable situation where our signal could use a little boost.

My job used to take me to steel buildings in the country, with microwave towers beside them, and [on my lunch hour, of course!] I was often was able to make some great DX contacts: Bahrain from Petersfield on 10 meters, Stonewall to Rennie on 2 meters simplex] by judiciously parking my vehicle so the mobile antenna was close to the steel building.

The ideal distance would be 1/4 wavelength, but it was not all that critical. You may recall astronaut Owen Garriot, W5LFL using a two meter loop in the window of the space shuttle a while back, with a sort of deep dish baking pan behind it acting as an isolator and reflector.

Anyway, next time you're out and about and having a problem getting into a distant repeater, it may be worth a try to position your mobile or handie-talkie antenna next to a large metal object to see if this helps you get out. Something for nothing... a ham's delight!

### **Are you a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)?**

Why not. You enjoy the hobby, right, then why not help support it at the national level. You are probably members of other associations, (professional engineers etc...) Why not do the same for a hobby you enjoy.



## Politically Incorrect DX By AC6V

QRZ from DX21DX  
- Big Pileu p -

The YL station go ahead

*DX21DX This is WØW*

WØW -- Nice signal -- What's UR name and QTH

*I'm in San Diego and the name is Desiree*

Well Desiree -- I'll be returning to San Diego -- You a single lady?

*Nope - been married for 27 years*

UR 59 Desiree QRZ from DX21DX

## Common Phrases Used in DX QSOs and Their Actual Meanings

Transmitted Phrase	Actual Meaning
1) "pse QSL via buro"-----	"Don't expect to get a card if you don't send return postage."
2) "Send QSL with green stamp."-----	"Send me your card and a \$1, and I'll return one via the bureau."
3) "It's nice to work you again."---	"How many QSOs on the same band and mode do you need?"
4) "Your signals are the strongest—	"The conditions are so lousy, I can on the band today" hardly copy, but I need your QSL card."
5) "I know we've worked before,-----	"With this huge antenna I'm running, but I wanted to tell you what a I can cover up everyone else on good signal you had." the band"
6) "Sorry OM, QRM covered your-----	"You used such technical jargon on last transmission." that last transmission, I can't make an intelligent comment."
7) "Many stations are calling-----	"Let me tell you my life story while you, so I won't hold it." the guys waiting go nuts."

**Got an article for the Newscaster**

Please forward to [ve4hay@rac.ca](mailto:ve4hay@rac.ca)

## VHF, UHF and Repeater Definitions Extracted from the RAC web Site

- am (amplitude modulation) - a radio transmission mode in which the strength of the speech signal controls the strength of the transmitter signal. This normally results in two sidebands containing the modulation energy.
- AMSAT - Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation - an amateur radio organization promoting and developing amateur radio satellite service. Over two dozen satellites are now in operation, many as a result of AMSAT effort.
- APRS (Amateur Packet Reporting System) - a system which supports plotting of station positions on screen maps
- ASL (above sea level) - a method of measuring antenna height
- access code - one or more numbers and/or symbols that are keyed in with a telephone key pad to activate a repeater function e.g autopatch, link etc
- antenna separation - the physical spacing between transmit and receive antennas, when separate antennas are used
- autopatch - a device that interfaces a repeater to the telephone system to permit repeater users to make telephone calls. Often called a "patch" band (amateur radio frequency band) - the range of contiguous frequencies over which amateurs may communicate
- band-opening - a condition that results in greater-than-normal communication range on the VHF and UHF bands
- band-plan - a voluntary system of frequency allocations in each amateur radio band
- break - the word used to interrupt a conversation on a repeater, often to indicate that there is an emergency
- CAS (carrier activated switch) - see COR
- COR (carrier-operated relay) - a device that causes the repeater to transmit in response to a received signal
- CTCSS (Continuous Tone-Coded Squelch System) - This is a sub-audible tone transmitted by your radio in addition to your voice signal. When it is equipped with a CTCSS decoder, a repeater will not function unless it hears the CTCSS tone and the "carrier" signal from your transmitter. Different CTCSS tones are in use for different repeaters or areas. These may be applied to input or output frequencies, or both. CTCSS tones are used to minimize the effects of co-channel interference due to band-openings causing reception of distant signals
- carrier - your unmodulated (no speech) transmitter signal
- cavity resonator - a sharply tuned circuit using the physical dimensional
- resonance of one or more tuned cavities
- channel - the pair of frequencies (input and output) used by a repeater

- 📖 channel spacing - the frequency spacing between adjacent frequency allocations - may be 50, 30, 25, 15 or 12.5kHz, depending upon the convention in use in the area of the repeater
- 📖 clear - indicates the end of a contact
- 📖 closed repeater - a repeater whose access is limited to a select group (see also open repeater)
- 📖 co-channel interference - the interference resulting when a repeater receives signals from a distant repeater on the same frequency pair
  
- 📖 controller - the control system within a repeater which may include turning the repeater on-off, timing transmissions, sending the identification signal, controlling the autopatch and CTCSS encoder/decoder
- 📖 control operator - the amateur radio operator who is designated to control the repeater
- 📖 courtesy tone - an audible indication that the repeater user may go ahead and transmit
- 📖 coverage - the geographic area within which the repeater provides communications
- 📖 cross-band - the process of transmitting on one band and receiving on another
- 📖 desense (desensitization) - the reduction of receiver sensitivity due to overload from a nearby transmitter
- 📖 digimodes (digital modes) - the various digital transmission modes, including packet, RTTY (radio teletype), etc
- 📖 digipeater (digital repeater) - a packet radio repeater
- 📖 dropping out - the situation, while using a repeater, when your signal does not have enough strength to keep the repeater triggered.

## Editors Ramblings

### By Derek VE4HAY

#### Did you know

- ☞ Ted, VE4VID (who lost most of his equipment to a lightning strike this past summer) is now back on the air with a brand new Icom 746 radio (also my personal favourite) has started up a Six Meter Weekly Net on Wednesdays Night 17:00 hrs local time on freq 50.140 MHz. (check the frequency as I got this second hand)
  
- ☞ Mike, VE4TCH owner of Comtelco Electronics is about to open up his new web page to the world. The page will list specials rigs etc... Watch next month for the address.
  
- ☞ Fall Flea Market is over and done with and once again a big success. Come out to the monthly meeting for a run down and the event.
  
- ☞ My kids had their school pictures taken but we have not received them back from Jostens yet. And that I found just enough articles and fillers to make it to the end of this newsletter. So you did not have to be bored with shots of my kids. What am I getting at - I need articles and I need them now!!! How desperate am I, well, did you read that joke on the previous page. Yes I am that desperate.
  
- ☞ I figured out how to put hyper-links into this newsletter for those who get in by e-mail - Just click and go

## Kenwood "Fall Sale"

### HF Rigs

TS-2000S..... HF+6M+2M+70CM .....	\$3399
TS-870S....HF DELUXE .....	\$2899
TS-570S/G.....HF+6M .....	\$1799
TS-570D/G.....HF W/TUNER. ....	\$1599
TS-50.....COMPACT HF .....	\$969

### Mobiles:

TM-D700A....DUAL BAND W/TNC .....	\$949
TM-V7A...DUALTX,RX .....	\$669
TM-261A....BACK LIT MIC, 2M .....	\$299

### Hand-helds:

TH-G71A.... DUAL BAND, 5W .....	\$339
TH-D7A....2M/70CM W/TNC .....	\$539
TH-22AT...2M HANDY .....	\$239
All Kenwood Accessories 25% Off Regular List Price.	

*All prices listed are cash, money order, cheque discounted. Visa/MC purchases add 3% to the total. No Exceptions.*

We will match or beat any price on all Kenwood Amateur Radio Transceivers from any Authorized Canadian Kenwood Dealer!

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