



The NEWSCASTER

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

December 2001

Free to Members vol: 2001-12

Annual Christmas Party

Come out and meet your fellow Hams
and enjoy the season.

Date: December 10th, 2001
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles Nov 28 - Article Deadline December Newscaster

WARC - Jan. 14 - Making a Home Page, Feb. 11 - Motivational Speaker, Mar. 11 - VE4SVV, Apr. 8 - HomeBrew Night, May 13 - Viruses, June 10 - QRP

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

ARES: Dec-18 Jan-22 Feb-19 Mar-19 Apr-16 May-21 Jun-26

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

By the time you read this, the SPARKS Newsletter will have been published and a copy mailed to all members. It features notices of both the Christmas Party and the Annual General Meeting, an 'In Memoriam' page for Bert, VE4AP, and a nostalgic article by Paul, VE4PXP. The Phoning Committee has been active passing along this event information as well.

There was excitement at the Club on Sunday, November 18, when we hosted visitors, as part of the St. Vital Biz Community Christmas Party for the children (and parents) of the area. Our members acted as Santa's helpers, some out on the street, and others on the 2-metre rigs in the clubrooms, giving the kids a chance to tell what they wanted for Christmas.

This year, we had 608 visitors (311 children and 297 adults) come through our premises, to see the equipment, talk on the radio, or have a cookie and/or candy cane. Those helping at the Club were (according to the sign-in book) – Alf, VE4ALF; Harsha, VE4SAI; Adam, VE4SN; Gil, VE4AG; Lila, VE4LIL; Colin, VE4JCM; George, VE4GOM; Bob, VE4RJH, with his XYL Iris; Rolf, VE4VZ; Bob, VE4RCJ; Paul, VE4OPC; Bert, VE4AND, and Albert, VE4AX. Thanks all, for making this a success.

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 from any Duty Officer or Executive member. 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 – the caterer is noted for the quality of his meals. The premises are wheelchair friendly (outdoor ramp, elevator and washroom). 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. Also, there are a few necessary changes in our Club Rule Book that must be voted on. (see this issue of Sparks). 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.). And the Club now sports a Yamaha dual-keyboard organ – just the thing to liven the place up a bit! Any member is welcome to use it – anyone for a sing-song? So, come back once more, have chats with other members who regularly show up, and have a cup of the best coffee in Winnipeg, and still only 25c per cup!

The Monthly Breakfast will not be held in December – the Christmas Party is in lieu of – but there will be a breakfast in January on the 9th – location to be determined.

George, VE4GNG, has reported that the Monthly breakfasts continue to be well-supported, with average attendance over the year of 33.

The December issue of Blips 'n' Blurbs (Vol. 5 No. 12) is available to members, with pick up at the Club. This issue has a 'warm and fuzzy' theme. George would like contributions for the January issue, so find something (or write something) of interest, and give it to George, put it in the B 'n' B box near the sign-in book at the Club, or e-mail it to VE4WSC at ve4wsc@mb.sympatico.ca

BLUE BOOKS are going fast – maybe a dozen left Get yours now while they remain in stock. Ask any Duty Officer or member of the Executive. Price is still \$10.00.

Now to the subject of Club name badges: The Company which has been producing our badges is moving to Calgary on December 15, which means that if we continue to use them as the supplier after that date, there will be a postage cost added (partly offset by the absence of a Provincial sales tax). If any member, old or new, would like to order a regular pin badge at the current price of \$5.50 (taxes included), would you please get your order to Gil, VE4AG, by Sunday, December 9.

With the change-over from Pangea to Sympatico servers, the Club's homepage on the Web is not fully constituted or up-to-date. Until this is done, for the latest updates, please go to <http://www.autobahn.mb.ca/~gilfre> and click on the VE4WSC section.

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

And, on behalf of WSCRC, we close with the warm wish for Peace, Security, Happiness and Health for you all – And may this Holiday Season be your best yet.

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

Seasons Greetings one and all.

All members of WARC are invited to our annual Christmas party. If you don't celebrate Christmas, you will still be welcomed.

Our speaker for December will be none other then the well known Professor Fletus Flotz, the inventor of the Flotz Computer. Professor Flotz told me that his will be a short presentation, so the Executive and I took the liberty to book that world (?) famous group The Internods. I believe that this will be the Internods first performance of the year. I feel lucky to have managed to again booked them! Of course the usual pleasures will also be provided. I'm not sure if we will have the coffee mug, and hat decorating as of yet, so be ready, and listen to the MRS net for more information

My plans for the rest of the year are almost completed. This is not % 100 confirmed, but it will be something like this:

- ☛ January, Mark VE4MAB should be giving a presentation about How to Make a Home Page. You don't have to be into computers to enjoy, and take in the information that Mark has to offer;

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

Comments or if you just want to reach us :

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C/O VE4WSC
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- ☛ February looks like this, " I'm no Different" Motivational Keynote Speaker Louis Gaudry (VE4PLJ). This promises to be inspiring for one and all;
- ☛ March, we will be joined by members of VE4SVV. These ladies and gentlemen will give us a presentation about their summer in PEI providing communications for the 10th Canadian Jamboree;
- ☛ April, HOMEBREW, do I have to say more??;
- ☛ May and June should have (I'm not sure of the order) John, VE4JNF giving a presentation on computer viruses, and what to do about them, or Ron VE4KR talking about QRP and homebrew transceivers.
- ☛ June will also be elections, and remember I'm the only one who's term is NOT up.

I hope to see one and all at the meetings, and remember these NOT guaranteed. I can still use suggestions for next year ve4gwn@rac.ca 831 8082, or on the VE4WPG repeater.

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

WPGARES usually assists other organizations with their public events by way of providing amateur communications. On SAT 17NOV we were participants instead of communicators. Twelve WPGARES members and associates accompanied VE4EMC (MEMO Mobile Command) that was an entry in the Festival of Lights Parade in downtown Winnipeg. It took approximately 200 man-hours to decorate the 60 foot long EMCC.

Thanks to the decorating group: VE4s: AJR, DDW, GWN, JNF, KAZ, KU, MBQ, PLJ, SE, WF, YYL, Luke Dovyak.

Thanks to the parade participants: VE4s: AND, DDW, GWN, HK, KAZ, TRO, WF, YYL, EWN, Danielle Kazuk, Nancy Napady.

Special thanks to MEMO staff, particularly Paul Anderson, Don Brennan, and Gordon Longbottom for their cooperation. Lights and decorations were provided by members but the contributions from VE4s KAZ, PLJ, TAJ and Parkside Appliances were crucial to our success (thanks John!). This operation was superbly managed by Richard Kazuk VE4KAZ

Our November general meeting featured Tedd Vidler VE4VID who spoke about his residential en LIGHTNING experience this past summer. Tedd was scheduled for DEC but offered to bail us out when our scheduled speaker backed out with three days notice. The WPGARES Annual Summary Of Activities was distributed at the meeting. It covers the 6 Alerts, Exercises and Tests; 12 Educational Meetings; 12 Public Service Events of the past year.

We will be going back to Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street near Burrows beginning in December. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 18DEC01, 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library. There will be a presentation by the EC Jeff Dovyak on Call-out Procedures and a discussion/demo of ARES Boxes and ARES Binders.

Contest Calendar

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

January

AGB NYSB Contest	0000Z	Jan 1
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z	Jan 1
AGCW QRP Winter Contest	1500Z	Jan 5
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z	Jan 5
Japan Int. DX Contest,	160-40m 2200Z	Jan 11
Midwinter Contest,	CW 1400Z	Jan 12
North American QSO Party,	CW 1800Z	Jan 12
NRAU-Baltic Contest,	CW 0530Z	Jan 13
NRAU-Baltic Contest,	SSB 0800Z	Jan 13
Midwinter Contest,	Phone 0800Z	Jan 13
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z	Jan 13
LZ Open Contest,	CW 1200Z	Jan 19
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z	Jan 19
North American QSO Party,	SSB 1800Z	Jan 19
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z	Jan 19
CQ 160-Meter Contest,	CW 2200Z	Jan 25
REF Contest,	CW 0600Z	Jan 26
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z	Jan 26
UBA DX Contest,	SSB 1300Z	Jan 26
Kansas QSO Party	1800Z	Jan 26



Festival of Lights

By Richard, VE4KAZ



Winnipeg ARES/MEMO Joint Effort for Festival of Lights Parade

On November 17, 2001 fourteen Winnipeg ARES members (and their families) participated in the Festival of Lights Parade. Thanks to AJR, DDW, GWN, JNF, KAZ, KU, MBQ, PLJ, SE, WF, YYL, and Luke Dovyak for the days and evenings spent decorating. It took an estimated 200 man hours to decorate the 60 foot EMCC trailer. Thanks also to AND, DDW, GWN, HK, KAZ, TRO, WF, YYL, Danielle Kazuk, Nancy Napady and EWN for walking beside the float during the parade. We couldn't have asked for better weather! Special thanks to AJR for riding in the float and handling all of the Christmas music.

Special thanks to Paul Anderson of MEMO for giving the go ahead on using the EMCC trailer and arranging for MEMO to pay the \$200 registration fee, to Don Brennan of MEMO for arranging for the use of the EMCC trailer and to Gord Longbottom of MEMO for driving the trailer in the parade.

Christmas lights and decorations for the trailer were provided by members of Winnipeg ARES. Thanks to PLJ, Parkside Appliance (JNF), TAJ and KAZ for their contributions. As you can appreciate, it takes a lot of lights to decorate a 60-foot trailer.

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



**Sales & Service of
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John, VE4JNF

386 Belvidere Street
www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf

885-9278
ve4jnf@escape.ca

News from the Net

North Korea (P5) is on the air:

North Korea, the DXCC entity that tops everyone's most-wanted list, was activated this month by Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, of the Republic of Georgia. The operation has not yet been approved for DXCC credit, however. On the basis of oral permission from North Korean authorities, Giorgadze has been operating as P5/4L4FN since early this month. Bruce Paige, KK5DO, reports that 4L4FN now is awaiting written permission from the North Korean government—something that's required for ARRL DXCC credit. As a result, it's possible the recent contacts will not count for DXCC. Paige is posting P5/4L4FN operating news on his Web site <http://www.amsatnet.com/p5.html> and to other DX news sites. *ARRL letter*

Operations accepted for DXCC credit:

Several DX operations have now received approval for DXCC credit. They are: ZK1NJC, North Cook Island; T5X, Somalia; OJ0VR, Market Reef; and HK5QGX/0M, Malpelo Island. Those who previously submitted these entities and were denied credit may contact DXCC "dxcc@arll.org"; and have their records updated without having to resubmit cards. For more information, contact ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, dxcc@arll.org - *ARRL letter*

Pitcairn Island Admitted to IARU

Voting has been completed on a proposal to admit the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association (PIARA) as a member of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). PIARA has been notified of its admission effective 15 November 2001.

PIARA is an independent non-profit organization to promote and develop amateur radio friendship, technical knowledge, and communication technology, providing public service and furthering the public interest, plus fostering international goodwill. It has 10 members, representing the entire population of resident amateur operators. PIARA reports that there are 23 amateurs licensed to operate including several temporary residents and visitors, plus one club station.

Amateur Radio has special significance on Pitcairn Island, as it continues to provide the main communications link to the outside world. Pitcairn Islands (including Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie, and Oeno Islands) is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom.

The application for IARU membership by PIARA is supported by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). Due to transport difficulties from and to Pitcairn, PIARA has requested that the RSGB continue to represent PIARA at IARU Region 3 Conferences.

The official address of PIARA is: P.O. Box 88, Adamstown, Pitcairn Island, South Pacific Ocean via New Zealand. The IARU, founded in 1925, is a worldwide federation of national amateur

radio societies with members in 151 countries and separate territories. - RAC

VK 80m SSB Band to be Expanded

The Australian 80-metre SSB 'DX Window', at present limited to a 4-kHz segment around 3798kHz, is due to be expanded - but not until 2004. In Australia, the band 3700 - 3800kHz is presently allocated to the commercial land mobile service, effectively limiting amateur SSB operation to a single frequency. Following an approach by the Wireless Institute of Australia, the Australian Communications Authority has agreed to proceed with a change in the allocation of the band 3776 - 3800kHz. The ACA's intention is to reallocate this band to the amateur service on a primary basis from the 1st of January 2004. Commercial incumbents will be moved to existing land mobile spectrum adjacent to the new amateur band by the end of December 2003. (RSGB News)

A Shock in time saves nine

A safety conscious amateur we know was telling his XYL that if one ever saw someone in obvious distress while working on electrical equipment, that the best way to assist them was to grab a broom or a board and knock them loose from the source of the current.

One day she came into the radio shack and saw him standing next to a cabinet with his back to her, he was shaking violently, and she noticed a cord running from him to some equipment. Remembering his good advice, she immediately rushed to the back shed where she found a length of 2X4 timber.

Grabbing it up she rushed back and swung with all her might, knocking our hero across the shack and free from the equipment, unfortunately breaking his arm and two ribs in the process.

Quick thinking, and a quick response to danger, only problem was that up to that point he had been happily listening on headphones, and jiggling around to his favourite song on his walkman. Never mind, the thought was there wasn't it ? (Lee VK3GK)

80 metre spark transmission on Marconi anniversary

"Atlantic-leap 2001 "

David Wilson VE3BBN in St David's Ontario near Niagara Falls, is seeking approval from Industry Canada for a special event transmission using a home made spark transmitter. The event will take place on December 12th 2001, at 9 pm local eastern time, (0200 UTC), to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marconi's historic transatlantic transmission of the letter "S" from Poldhu Cornwall to St John's Newfoundland in 1901.

The frequency will be 3.550 MHz , the output power approximately 20 watts, and the signal bandwidth 20 kHz.

Radio amateurs in all countries are encouraged to listen and to provide signal reports.

To listen to the spark transmission your receiver should be set to the AM mode to get the most signal possible. David plans to transmit 60 times on the minute the following message "MARCONI S ", then rest for about 45 seconds and repeat the sequence.

QSL messages should be sent to VE3BBN@rac.ca and reports should include "name, QTH, signal report and distance as the crow flies from Niagara Falls Ontario

HAMLINK PROGRESSING

By Herb, VE5HE

Extracted from Saskatoon Amateur Radio club Newline Nov/2001

HAMLINK is a system that enables you to use your telephone to link up to, and operate a HF transceiver at a remote location. The Ed.)

On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 28th! AI! (VE5MDC) called me to do some experimenting. He finally was able to get the ICs he needed and had the HAMLINK operational. By way of 2M! AI instructed me in the operation of the device and I dialed in. After a few rings! I was met with four beeps and then that familiar band noise on 20M. He then instructed me in how to go up or down the band or goto a particular frequency as well as how to transmit and receive and shut down the system. The audio quality was good! and I worked a K9 in the contest. The experience made me realize how much this service! when fully operational, will return the joy of HF operation to hams forced to move to apartments and condos where they can't erect antennas.

There are still a few hurdles to cross before we have the system working from our club facilities but hopefully that will be in the near future! Thanks to AI! VE5MDC for the time and effort he has put into this project and also to the CNIB Amateur Radio Program for the loan of the HAMLINK.

Submitted by Bob, VE4MAQ

"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

(Albert Einstein, when asked to describe radio)

RAC Bulletins

www.rac.ca/~racnews/othernotices/racbullemail.htm

RAC Bulletin 01-081E

CARAB 17 Meeting in Ottawa

The semi-annual fall meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB) took place in Ottawa on November 13, 2001. It was attended by representatives from RAC and Industry Canada.

The following were some of the highlights of the meeting:

☞ An Industry Canada document pertaining to the examination of disabled candidates will be ready for incorporation into an RIC by January 31, 2002. This document, based on a proposal from RAC, will provide guidance to medical doctors when asked to justify an exemption for disabled candidates for the Amateur Radio examination process.

☞ A list of Accredited Examiners has been provided by Industry Canada and is now available on the RAC web site. The list is sorted by both city and name.

☞ RAC again raised concern over the continuing errors and printing problems associated with Industry Canada's amateur radio examination generator software. Industry Canada is looking into the problems and hopes to rectify the situation shortly.

☞ RAC and Industry Canada entered into discussions regarding the development and maintenance of the Amateur Question Banks (RIC 7 and RIC 8) and the examination generator software. It is hoped that RAC may be able to play a viable role in both programs.

☞ Industry Canada provided a follow up report on the proposed 'Prudent Avoidance Policy' in the City of Toronto. Health Canada's Safety Code 6 provides guidelines for Radiofrequency Fields Safety. There is a need to establish protocols to provide a model for municipalities to utilize.

Industry Canada representatives reiterated that IC is prepared to discuss and take action on documented cases of flagrant disregard for regulations. The amateur community must demonstrate to the local Industry Canada offices that such action is necessary, however. For further information visit: <http://www.rac.ca/faqgovt4.htm>

☞ Industry Canada presented a status report on new reciprocal operating agreements. A Canadian proposal is being considered by the Thai government. Hong Kong has also entered into discussions and is awaiting a response from Canada. Several other countries have shown little interest in setting up reciprocal operating agreements with Canada at this time. Unless policies change, nothing further can be done.

☞ Discussion took place concerning the CARAB terms of reference and participation. Industry Canada emphasized the importance of having a strong national representative voice for all amateur radio operators in Canada. Industry Canada indicated that it would be open to modification of the terms of reference of

CARAB if the current provisions were inadequate for RAC's needs.

Complete details of the meeting will be provided at a later date in the CARAB 17 Minutes and posted on the Industry Canada website at

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf01778e.html>

RAC Bulletin 01-83E

RAC Executive for 2002-2003

On Sunday, November 25, 2001, the RAC Nomination Committee met by teleconference under the direction of Chair Robert Kirkpatrick VE9VAR, to elect the Executive officers for the 2002-

2003 term. The results of the elections follow:

President:	William Gillis	VE1WG
1st Vice President:	Joe MacPherson	VE1CH
V/P Regulatory Affairs:	James Dean	VE3IQ
V/P Gov't /International Affairs:	Kenneth Pulfer	VE3PU
Vice President Industrial Liaison:	Don Rowed	VE3KII
Vice President Field Services:	Pierre Mainville	VA3PM
Treasurer:	Bill Rothwell	VE3FGW
Secretary:	Dawn MacKay	VE1MAK

The RAC Board of Directors extends sincere thanks to the outgoing Executive members for their dedication to and participation in the organization during their time in office. The newly-elected Executive will assume their positions on January 1, 2002.

Dawn S. MacKay VE1MAK
Corporate Secretary
Radio Amateurs of Canada

HINTS & KINKS

By Ralph, VE4RY

Running Small Cables & Wires Around the House

As hams, we are often required to run small wires and cables along baseboards and around window frames, etc. This could be for a speaker, or maybe an antenna or counterpoise. You can buy nail-type clips for this purpose, but these put holes in things. I found a cheaper, less obtrusive way.

Use a hot-melt glue gun to attach the wire. Just hold the wire taut and apply tiny dabs of glue as you go along, about every foot or so. This type of installation is actually less visible than if you use those little clips, since in this case only the wire itself can be seen.

When it comes time to remove the wire, just lift it off the surface and the glue usually comes with it without leaving a trace.

Installation of New VE4WPG Repeater By Dick, VE4HK

This fall, Murray Ronald VE4RE, owner of Prairie Mobile, offered Manitoba Repeater Society a fantastic price on 2 barely used MSR2000 VHF base repeaters. MRS has been looking for some time to upgrade the General Electric VHF mobile radios in use at WPG and other sites. The MSR2000 is a full fledged 24/7 repeater. After a short debate, we purchased both units.

One was dedicated to VE4WPG; the other will be installed at VE4MAN. Once Walter VE4VB installed the crystals and tuned up the radios, Yori VE4ACX took over for final preparations.

Finally, the big day arrived. Saturday, November 24, at 9:30 I picked up Yori VE4ACX at his home, loaded up my truck with the MSR2000, and various tools and test equipment. Off we went to the Richardson Building, at the most famous intersection in Winnipeg, Portage & Main. We met up with Derek VE4HAY on site. Unload the truck, check in with Security, and up the elevators to the 34th floor.

Soon we were joined by Gord VE4GLS and Paula VE4MHZ. First step was to remove all the repeaters, linking radios, power supplies, duplexers etc from our cabinet. We made sure it was piled carefully, for easy identification when the time came to reinstall everything. Next step was to move all duplexers, cavities etc from the floor to the top shelf. The linking radios were reinstalled on the second shelf, with the Palomar controller on the third shelf. Next we put several spare shelves on the floor, then installed the MSR2000 on those shelves. The MSR2000 is much bigger than the GE Exec II that it replaced. The MSR2000 is about 30" high x 30" wide x 12" deep, while the Exec II is about 14"x10x3"

Next step was for Yori VE4ACX to use his spectrum analyzer to do a final check on all radios and the controller. Unbelievably, everything checked out perfectly, the first time. We packed up everything, took a few pictures for posterity, and left. The entire changeover took only 3 hours.

The new repeater seems to be more sensitive to stations on the outskirts of Winnipeg. The audio also seems to be improved. Stations I talk to every day sound crisper and more natural. The installation appears to be a complete success.

The next step at WPG will be to replace the masts supporting the antennas with a tower section. That should greatly improve the signal. We are still negotiating with the Richardson Building people and are working closely to answer all their concerns on a safe and proper installation.

RADIOGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT: by Darcy, VE4DDW

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

This has been the strangest fall and early winter that I can remember. Unfortunately for me, I enjoy the snow! I suppose that as long as there is snow for Christmas it's all right. I've been involved with two Christmas parades this year, and I think the temperature was above freezing both days!

This is a busy time of year for everybody, especially for the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club. The Christmas party takes a bit of effort, but it is well worth it. You can all look forward to some of the things you've come to expect from the WARC Xmas party. We will have the hat and mug display, as well as a visit from the Winnipeg famous "Intermods". Ruth Mills has kindly offered to treat us with her usual delicacies. This is one you don't want to miss.

We will continue with another WARC Jacket order in the near future. We are just waiting to get confirmation from the tailor, for the Jan meeting night. I will post the prices in next months Newscaster. (He has also agreed to make hats available, as requested) For those of you interested in a name tag, we're still trying to find a good supplier for decent quality tags.

As I have mentioned a number of times over the last few months, we have been looking for someone to fit some BIG boots. VE4RY and VE4YF have stepped down as co-chairs of the Manitoba Marathon committee. They have done a tremendous job for quite some time now, and have asked that someone else take over where they left off. Last month I said to you all that if nobody came forward, we would politely turn back the request for Radio Amateurs. It seems that that is what it took. Jeff, VE4MBQ has agreed to chair the committee, and I'm sure that the marathon is in good hands. If you are interested in helping Jeff, or volunteering in the marathon, I'm sure he would be glad to hear from you.

Also, don't forget that at the end of this year, Glen VE4GWN will be the one and only executive member! I'm sure he's not up to the challenge of managing the club all by himself for the next three years. Someone HAS TO GET INVOLVED! Many of you have been members of the club and the amateur community longer than I've even been alive. Why not get involved with the largest general interest HAM club in Manitoba? Show us what you can do!



Minutes for W.A.R.C. November 12, 2001

Submitted by Ruthie, VE4CRS

Meeting began at 1930 hours. The President, Darcy Wilson VE4DDW welcomed all present. Introductions followed. 43 members and 5 guests attended.

Minutes of WARC monthly October meeting were amended as follows: - VE4YG won the 30 piece tool kit, and VE4GZ won the multimeter kit.

Motion to accept minutes as amended (above) by Louis VE4PLJ, seconded by John VE4JNF. Motion carried.

Question from floor re financial situation, inquiring if WARC has liability policy. - WARC has two million dollar paid insurance policy, which includes liability policy. Darcy VE4DDW will shop around for something better.

Darcy VE4DDW presented two QSL cards received.

Treasurer's Report Sue VE4SYM

Income statement for October 31, 2001:

Total revenue \$ 2,003.75

Total expense \$ 872.35

Net income for the month \$ 1,131.39.

General bank account balance \$ 5,213.89

Events report for October Flea Market:

Total revenue \$ 813.74

Total expense \$ 228.14

Net income for October Flea Market \$ 585.60

Old Business Darcy VE4DDW

Darcy reminded members of need for new people for WARC executive. Members were asked to nominate members. Contact any present WARC executive member.

Programs Glen VE4GWN

Glen announced annual Xmas party will be held on December 10, 2001. Intermods and Dofft the clown will be participating. Glen also announced that planning for this coming year is completed and he is taking suggestions for next year.

Membership Mariska VE4MMG

Mariska thanked all members who renewed membership. Unfortunately, membership is down. Mariska circulated sign-up sheet for WARC jackets.

ARES Jeff VE4MBQ

Jeff's monthly report was printed in October Newscaster. He reminded members that ARES is decorating the MEMO trailer to participate in the Festival of Lights Parade. Richard VE4KAZ is in charge.

DX Sleuths Adam VE4SN

Lots of interesting info for DXers:

- New entity - Ducie Island ARRL listing. Call sign UP6 - will be operational November 16, 2001. The Island is 360 kilometers from Henderson Island, most eastern in Oceania (due south of Regina). Only one group allowed on the island at a time because of ecological concerns. On all bands, including 6m.

- Made contact with North Korea - Ed 4F4FN - on 10m.

- Xmas time: - Vietnam 3W; Moldives 8Q; Cape Verde Islands D4; Marquesas Islands HKO San Andres and Providencia. On 160m - 6m.

- Terrible solar flares wiped out lower frequencies.

Good Dxing everyone!

Marathon Darcy VE4DDW

WARC is looking for someone to organize and coordinate Marathon. If no one comes forward, will ask other club to organize, or will inform Manitoba Marathon that we can no longer be responsible. A week has been given. Tom VE4SE

Field Day

June 2001 Field Day results: - 715 contacts were made. 2,950 points received. Manitoba - only 4 VE's who had four transmitters. North New Jersey Cherry Hill with top points.

International Ham Fest

Cost in American funds - \$10.

Newscaster

Floyd VE4FDR, owner of printing outfit, printed 110 copies of Newscaster. For payment, he asked for a WARC membership. Granted!

New Business

Bob Poole VE4MAQ reported the Venturers are doing communications for First Aid Group, on frequency 146.580.

We are looking for nominations for members worthy of Oscar Award, contact Norm Coull VE4EH.

Meeting adjourned at 2000 hours.

Winner of attendance draw, family tool kit: - VE4WKB Bill Boorman.

Winner of Loonie draw, screwdriver set: - VE4AFL Ken Laidlaw

Presentation Ron VE4PL

"The History Behind the VE4VJ Repeater", named for Jimmy Watt, VE4VJ. A most enlightening presentation was enjoyed by all members. Ron also presented a video of Starbuck Repeater being put up on tower a few years ago and the dangers involved. Thank you Ron for a wonderful presentation.

Why I Shop Locally

By Tedd, VE4VID

A Lesson that I learned while living in London, ON remains with me, more so now than ever. I enjoyed flying Radio Controlled Model Aircraft, and watched many club members send away to mail order firms for ALL major purchases when they saved 10 % at most. The local hobby store only received business for small emergency purchases. Those small purchases were not enough to keep the doors open or should I say provide a good volume of business for the store owner. He provided me with the best of service at reasonable prices and I learned lots from an individual who took part in the hobby for many years.

So what has that to do with here in Winnipeg you ask? Plenty! How we shop is important for our finances and affects our hobby and other types of purchases as well. Okay, I admit I don't have a lot of patience and waiting for mail order, even overnight doesn't impress me. I want value for my dollar, and I place value on service. For those who use mail order service, and I do at times also, may I suggest that you consider it an alternate means of shopping. Shop locally, and give the smaller business a chance to earn your confidence. Consider what would happen if all of the smaller merchants in our community closed their doors.

Gone would be our favourite shops and services that respond to our needs quickly and aim to please. No more stopping on the way home to pick up that small item needed for a project near completion. Gone is the friendly smile and "thank you." There are no more instant specials or donations to W.A.R.C. or the other clubs for prizes. In our house when my birthday or Christmas rolls around, my wife knows that she can phone GetSet Computers and Simon will get that item that I would like for my computer. She can also call Comtelco Electronics and Mike will be sure to see that she will receive that item I would like for my radio hobby needs. I'm glad that we have local merchants that place importance in having my family's business.

I encourage each one who reads these ramblings to consider shopping with a local merchant when next you consider a purchase. Certainly consider the amateur radio community members who are in business and ready to serve you.



Power/SWR meter for the blind

Extracted from Saskatoon Amateur Radio club Newslite Nov/2001

This is a commercially built power/swr meter designed to cover the HF range. It gives the power and swr readings in cw for the blind. It has no visual display at all. The selling price is \$230 plus what the shipping would be. (in U.S. currency of course.)

RF Applications P-2000 CW Specifications

1. Frequency range - 1.8 to 30 Mhz
2. Remote coupler
3. Power measuring up to 2000 watts
4. SWR measuring
5. Power and SWR readings are given in CW that is adjustable from 5 to 45 words per minute.
6. Front panel volume control and CW speed control &
7. Audible tuning aid for antenna tuning
8. Audible power peaking mode for tube rigs or amplifiers
9. User settable SWR alarm to let you know if something is wrong or goes wrong while operating
10. Operates on 12 to 16 volts DC at about 300 milli-amps

Contact: Gary Jackson

Phone: (409) 962-0353, e-mail jackson@ih2000.net

Festival of Lights parade

By John, VE4JNF

This year AREAS in conjunction with E.M.O put a float in the festival of lights parade. Headed up by Richard, VE4ZUK, Tom, VE4SE, John, VE4JNF and a lot of great hams to help in the decorating of the float. The float consisted of the Emergency Mobile Command Center parked in the hanger at the west end of the airport where all the pain staking work was done. Decorating the float was done on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. On Saturday the semi was taken to the Forks at 12:00 o'clock in which time the float was put in order and final prep work was done to make the float look its best. I think there had to be several hundred or even thousand lights on the float. We even had Jim, VE4AJR play Christmas carols inside the float and take a lot of great pictures of the float during building and at every step of the way. Way to go Jim! While the Float went down Main Street to Portage Ave. a good number of hams walked beside the float with their vests on. We got great TV coverage and a good explanation of what AREAS is all about. Sunday Tom (VE4SE) and John (VE4JNF) removed all the work done in about two hours with the help of Johns kids Ashley and Jonathan. All in all, a great time was had by all and I hope next year we will have new and better ideas to make the float brighter and better.

Editors Ramblings
By Derek VE4HAY

Did you know

☞ The old VE4.net web site is trying to get back on the net. After last months newscaster I asked what happened to it and VA4LES told me he is he has been hosting the site on his servers. But with Networkx closing, some DNS problems occurred and he is trying to make the dns changes. Once this is done, the site will be back up

☞ That a group of HAM's meet every Sunday Night for coffee and general QSO at the Robins Donuts on St. Mary's Road. So if your Sunday evening has some free time why not show up.

With only one more payday until Christmas. I hope everyone has their want list prominently displayed on the fridge. (Something needs to be done with all those magnets.) At the top of the list is, of course, the IC756Pro, or some other HF rig. But don't forget about the accessories.

And with Christmas comes the end of the year. Yes, only a few weeks till the year is over. So what have we accomplished this year. Well, RAC was instrumental on working with Industry Canada on lowering the full HF requirements from 12 WPM to 5 WPM. While this did not affect some people, it certainly did help to get more amateurs interested in HF and on the air. Which is what the hobby needs. People on the air, making contacts, spreading the word and helping out in times of need.

As amateurs we also did a fair amount of public service events, which in turn helped to promote Amateur Radio and its ability to both the public and the various governments. One of these events was the Manitoba Marathon. Each year since the marathon started amateur radio has been providing the communication service for the runners. And for the last bunch of years Kay, VE4YF and Ralph, VE4RY have done a great job of organizing everything. They are so good that the communication portion almost runs itself. But with all things, then end is here and Both Ralph & Kay are asking to pass the torch onto someone else who will take over as the co-ordinators of the amateur radio portion of the marathon. But they need someone to take over for them.. So if you would like to see Amateur Radio continue providing communication please think about taking the chair position on this committee. Without your help, we will lose this very powerful medium to promote our hobby.

Ok , so the holiday season is here. And on behalf of myself and the entire executive of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club, I would like to wish everyone the very best during this time and hope everyone enjoys a safe and joyous holiday season and that the new year brings in those rare DX station to the VE4 area and everyone gets that one contact they have been jussing for.



Kenwood "Fall Sale"

HF Rigs

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- ★ TS-870S....HFDELUXE\$2899
- ★ TS-570S/G.....HF+6M\$1799
- ★ TS-570D/G.....HF W/TUNER.\$1599
- ★ TS-50.....COMPACT HF\$969

Mobiles:

- ★ TM-D700A....DUALBAND W/TNC\$949
- ★ TM-V7A...DUALTX,RX\$669
- ★ TM-261A....BACKLIT MIC, 2M\$299

Hand-helds:

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- ★ TH-22AT..2M HANDY\$239
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