



The NEWSCASTER

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

February 2002

Free to Members vol: 2002-02

Louis, VE4PLJ Motivational Presentation

Date: February 11th, 2002
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: Jan 30th - Article Deadline February Newscaster

WARC: - Mar. 11 - VE4SVV, Apr. 8 - HomeBrew Night, May 13 - Viruses, June 10 - QRP

WSC: Feb 16 & 17 - GOTA
 Feb 14 - Monthly Breakfast- Canad Inn -Garden City

ARES: Monthly Meetings Feb-19 Mar-19 Apr-16 May-21
 Jun-26; Exercises - Feb 9 & 10 - Dog Sled Races

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
 Wed. 9:00 pm Six Meter net 50.240 MHz.
 Thursday 9:00pm MRS Net 147.390 MHz +
 Sunday 1:00pm MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

WARC: Executive for 2002

Past President	Norm Coull	VE4EH	885-1692
President	Vacant		
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 Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club By Gil Frederick, VE4AG, President

The first big activity at VE4WSC in February will be G.O.T.A. (Guides on the Air). Outside Canada, GOTA is known as "Thinking Day on the Air" – TDOTA. GOTA and TDOTA are held every year on the weekend close to "Thinking Day" – the day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world remember the founders of Guiding and Scouting, as well as their sisters in WAGGGS –The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. GOTA/TDOTA is a fun way to reach out to some WAGGGS sisters during Guide-Scout Week!

And VE4WSC is glad to help in this endeavour by making our Club facilities available to the Guides (and Brownies, etc.) on Feb. 16 (Saturday) and Feb. 17 (Sunday), from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., or until we close down this operation. Clubrooms are at 598 St. Mary's Rd. at St. Anne's, in the old Fire hall, 2nd floor.

If you are a Guide leader, or know of any Guides that would have an interest in talking to other Guides in Canada, and the world, please contact the Club at 233-3122 during hours of 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily, Monday thru Friday – or get in touch with Gil at 888-2473.

Our Club is the custodian of the special call sign VE4GGC (Girl Guides Canada), and this is the call we will be using. Club members are invited to attend during these 2 days to help out.

Also during February, there is to be an in-house social activity that involves Eating! Yep, it's the Annual Chili Cook-Off & Chow-Down (as George, VE4GNG is wont to say).

Some members bring their best chili for the tasting contest – then all who are present get to finish off the contents of the chili pots. It's great eating folks! If you think you have a recipe that would be a winner, please enter the contest (sign-up sheet is available at the Club or phone

233-3122 and leave your name, or call Alf, VE4ALF, the coordinator). All members and friends are invited to attend. Date for this event is Wednesday, February 27th. Judging takes place before noon – eating starts right after.

Board members please note: our next Board meeting will be at the Club on Wednesday, February 20th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Club members are invited to attend.

The club needs Duty Officers – even just for ½ day per week. Leave your name by phoning the Club at 233-3122, or contact Paul, VE4OPC, the coordinator, for further information.

The date and place has already been set up the Christmas Party in December. It will again be at the Assiniboia Christian Centre (everyone thought this was an excellent facility for our Party), and the date is Wednesday, December 11th.

And, it's a new year – members are once again asked to make a donation to the Club – even a small amount to cover costs of newsletters, postage, etc. will be appreciated.

The latest edition of the “Sparks” has been prepared – copies are available at the Club for those not receiving one by mail. Others interested in our Club’s activities are invited to take a copy as well. And, of course, you will find the latest “Blips ‘n’ Blurbs” in the literature rack beside the sign-in desk. Members are invited to take a copy home; non-members, please read it but put it back in the rack. If you have anything for this in-house newsletter, please drop it into the slot, or see George, VE4GNG.

We are now soliciting your orders for Club badges (name tags). These now come from Calgary, so we want a bulk order to keep our costs low. Standard badge with pin clip is \$6.00; badge with magnetic clasp is \$9.00. We hope to send in an order in mid-February. Order forms are available in Room 2 at the Club. Pre-payment is required. See Gil, VE4AG if you want further information.

And, don't forget the Monthly Breakfast on February 14th (Valentine's Day!!). George, VE4GNG, our convener, will have a surprise for attendees. OMs - come out with your spouse, partner, or lady friend – make this the day we break the attendance record! It's at the usual place – Canad Inn – Garden City, McPhillips at Jefferson. Time: 9 a.m.

Minutes for W.A.R.C. January 14, 2002
Submitted by Ruthie, VE4CRS

Meeting called to order at 1930 hours by President Darcy VE4DDW. Tailor was present prior to meeting. There are 15 orders for club jackets. Introductions followed. Darcy welcomed 51 members present.

Motion to accept minutes of December meeting by VE4PLJ; seconded by VE4EWN. Carried.

Old Business

1. Manitoba Marathon: - Jeff VE4MBQ will be coordinating Manitoba Marathon. Jeff applied immediately after members were notified new coordinator would be needed.
2. Pat VE4PLG and Dan VE4SYG also expressed their interest in coordinating the Manitoba Marathon. Darcy thanked them for volunteering; their letter came after Jeff applied.
3. New insurance policy finally arrived. Delayed because company excluded “attacks of terrorism” from their policies. The policy provides Comprehensive General Liability for a limit of one million dollars along with Tenants Legal Liability for a limit of \$25,000 for the year beginning January 1, 2002.

Darcy VE4DDW notified members that he is no longer able to carry on the responsibility of President of the club, and that he is stepping down. Darcy explained that because of his responsibilities at work, he regrettably does not have the time to commit to the club. He expressed his thanks for members' support. This was Darcy's last official meeting.

Programs

Glen VE4GWN
 Presentation this evening: - Making a Home Page by Marc Bloom VE4MAB. Next month: - a presentation by

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 :

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[Http://www.virtualmultimedia.com/warc](http://www.virtualmultimedia.com/warc)
 Newsletters - past issues
<http://www.ve4.net/newsletters.html>

VE4PLJ Coming up: - Sun Valley Venturers Getting together as a club for contesting.

Treasurer's Report

Sue VE4SYM for December	
Total Revenue	\$ 150.00
Total Expense	\$ 408.94
Net Income (Loss)	\$(258.94)
Bank Balance as of December 31,2001	\$5,249.58

RAC Report

Rick Lord VE4OV

1. The first 24 GHz moon bounce QSO was achieved on August 18, 2001 by Barry Malowanchuk, P.Eng, VE4MA and Al Ward, P.E. W5LMA of Texas. The full info is in the January TCA regarding this historical event.
2. The RAC Executive changed on January 1, 2002. RAC has a new President, First Vice President and Vice President of Regulatory Affairs. Also a new Atlantic Region Director, John Bartlett VE1OZ, has been appointed. See January TCA for details.
3. A recent letter from RAC to all RAC Life Members has caused some confusion. Those RAC Life Members who do not wish to exercise either option 1 or 2 in the letter may opt to do nothing and continue on as life members as before.

DX Sleuths

Adam VE4SE

4W, East Timor, Thor, 4W6MM continues to be active almost every weekend on 40/20/15 meters.

8Q, Maldives Denise, F6HWU will be active between January 23 and February 7 on CW.

A5, Bhutan. Ray, G3NOM, was heard active as A52OM. QSL via G3NOM.

C5, The Gambia. Jan, PA9JJ going on little Dxpedition to the Gambia from April 15-29. He will be asking for the callsign C56JJ upon arrival in Banjul but not sure if he'll get it.

80/40 meters.

DU6, Philippines. Gerard, F2JD.

DU9, Philippines. 160m. Jon, N0NM from Davao City, Mindanao.

KH1, Baker and Howland Island (also T2). - Dxpedition end of April until May 10. Islands not populated.

PY0F, Fernando de Noronha. Bill, W5SJ to participate in CQWW DX 160m CW contest, January 23-29.

YA, Afghanistan. Issuing licenses again. Nick, G4KUX has been active as G4KUX/YA on 20m. Expected to be there for a while.

Good and Welfare

David VE4DAR

Expressed thanks to Darcy VE4DDW for a job well done. Moved for a vote of thanks. Members carried with applause. Darcy replied that he wished he had more time to be with the club and appreciated members' vote of confidence.

Flea Market

Tentative for April 21, 2002. Looking for coordinator. There are predetermined tasks.

Winners:

- Raffle, Jeff VE4MBQ
- Attendance, Dave VE4KU.

Thanks to Marc Bloom for his presentation on how to build a web page. Good job!!

From the Planning Chair: Glen, VE4GWN

After the January WARC meeting I'm trying to find time to try to make a web page, thanks to Mark, VE4MAB. I never knew that it's so easy.

February's meeting should be equally interesting, and informative. Louis, VE4PLJ will be giving us a motivational presentation called "I'm No Different". I've been looking forward to this since Louis offered to give this.

Winnipeg ARES Report by Jeff, VE4MBQ - Winnipeg EC

Our January meeting featured Wayne Warren VE4WR, who gave us a very interesting presentation on the Northern and Eastern Manitoba Emergency Radio Telecom Services (ERTS) Plan. Welcome to two new WPGARES members, Al Homenick VA4AA and Willard Elliott VE4WJE.

ARES volunteer briefing for Festival du Voyager Sled Dog Races is TUES 05FEB 1900h WSCRC 598 StMarys Rd.

Our February meeting will be TUE 19FEB 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Maiko Langelaar VE4KLM will be giving us a presentation on a national digital amateur emergency communication network. Maiko is Manitoba ARES Digital DEC.

Dayton Hamvention May 17 - 19, 2002

Dayton Hara Arena Complex
PO Box 964
Dayton, Ohio 45401
937-276-6930
www.hamvention.org

This is the world's largest amateur radio and electronic gathering! It includes 5 indoor buildings and an outdoor swap meet that will take at least a day maybe two to see everything.

News from the Net

LF Signal heard in VE1

New Zealand amateur LF signal heard in Nova Scotia! Another new low-frequency distance record is being claimed. New Zealand DX tests coordinator Bob Vernall, ZL2CA, reports that on December 15, John Currie, VE1ZJ, in Canada, managed to receive and positively identify 136-kHz signals from ZL6QH, in New Zealand. ZL6QH, the Quartz Hill club station, is run by the Wellington Amateur Radio Club. The path from ZL6QH near Wellington to VE1ZJ in Sydney, Nova Scotia, has been calculated at 15,645 km - around 9700 miles. VE1ZJ detected the ZL6QH transmission using a PC and ARGO DSP software. An Amateur Radio LF signal spanned the Pacific for the first time on June 30, 2001, when Steve McDonald, VE7SL, of British Columbia, Canada, detected a 184-kHz signal from ZL6QH. The feat was repeated in September. Vernall said the next test from ZL6QH in the 136-kHz band likely would occur in mid-January. The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to authorize Amateur Radio allocations at 136 kHz and in the 160-190 kHz band. The petition is pending.

VE3BBN Spark Gap heard

Spark gap signal heard for hundreds of miles: David Wilson, VE3BBN, reports his commemorative spark gap transmissions December 12 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marconi's 1901 transatlantic experiments were heard hundreds of miles away. Wilson, who lives near Niagara Falls, Ontario, built a low-power rotary spark transmitter and secured permission from Industry Canada (that country's FCC equivalent) to use it briefly on 80 meters. He transmitted "MARCONI S" twice a minute and said he got more than 450 reports but estimated that only about 60 of them were valid. "The best distance was Kansas City," he

said - Some 850 miles away. He noted that the majority of the reports were in the 200 to 400-mile range. Additional information, photos and audio of what his transmitter sounds like are available on the "Spark Gap Transmitter Signals for Marconi Centennial" Web site <<http://www.qsl.net/g4rfr/marconi.htm>>.

Industry Canada consulting on domestic 3 to 30 GHz spectrum allocations.

Industry Canada has finally released its long awaited consultation paper on spectrum allocations between 3 and 30 GHz.

The paper, announced in Gazette Notice, DGTP-001-02, invites public comments on spectrum policy proposals. The paper is entitled: Consultation on Revisions to Spectrum Utilization Policies in the 3-30 GHz Frequency Range A copy can be downloaded in pdf format from the Industry Canada web site at:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf05609e.html>

There are at least two areas of possible change which may affect the amateur services in Canada.

1. The first proposal involves the 5 GHz amateur band (5650-5925 MHz).

Amateur satellite operation is also allowed in this band, with an uplink between 5650 and 5670, and a downlink between 5830 and 5850.

This is a shared frequency band.

In Canada, the upper part of band, in the range 5850-5925 MHz is allocated on a primary basis to Fixed Services, Fixed-Satellite Service (Earth-to-space) links and on a secondary basis to Amateur and Radiolocation services.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) are intended to improve the safety and efficiency of transportation, including short range wireless links to transfer information between vehicles and roadside systems. Examples of such information transfer include: traffic light control, traffic monitoring, travelers' alerts, automatic toll collection, traffic congestion detection, emergency vehicle signal preemption of traffic lights and electronic inspection of moving trucks through data transmissions with roadside inspection facilities.

Industry Canada says "Recognizing the importance of safety and efficiency to Canada's transportation infrastructure, the Department is proposing to designate 75 MHz of spectrum for ITS in the band 5850-5925 MHz". Fortunately this band does not overlap our satellite downlink band.

2. The second proposal of interest is in the 24.00-24.25 GHz band

The section between 24 and 24.05 GHz is Amateur Primary, and is not affected by the proposal

The section between 24.05 and 24.25 is currently allocated to Radio Location Services on a primary basis and

to the Amateur service and Earth Exploration-Satellite service (active) on a secondary basis.

In the USA, the FCC has formally approved the use of Safety Warning Systems in the band 24.05-24.25 GHz on a secondary basis. These systems alert drivers as far as a mile away that they are approaching road hazards such as railroad crossings, stopped school buses, utility crews, road constructions and traffic accidents.

With a view toward designating the band 24.05-24.25 GHz to Safety Warning Systems on a secondary basis, Industry Canada has requested comments on " the level of interest in the provision of these systems in Canada, as well as any other potential uses that would increase the flexibility of this band".

The Radio Advisory Board of Canada will comment on the IC proposals, and as RAC is a member of the RABC we will have an opportunity to make our concerns known. Our volunteer Microwave Band Planning committee will be providing advice concerning the possible impact of the proposed changes.

However, as Amateurs are already sharing with other services in these valuable frequency bands, new allocations are almost inevitable.

It is worth noting that IC has avoided our satellite up and down links at 5 GHz, and they have left our primary allocation at 24.0 to 24.05 GHz, untouched.

FCC REALLOCATION RETAINS AMATEUR RADIO'S 219-220 MHZ SLOT

Amateur Radio's secondary allocation at 219-220 MHz remains intact in the wake of an FCC spectrum reallocation of the 216 to 220-MHz band, among others. The FCC declined, however, to go along with ARRL's request to expand amateur access to 216 to 220 MHz. On a brighter note, the Commission potentially relieved spectrum competition for Amateur Radio at 2.3 GHz by making space available elsewhere. The FCC acted December 21, 2001, in ET Docket 00-221 and in several other proceedings that it lumped into a single Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order released January 2, 2002. The FCC Order reallocated 27 MHz of spectrum in seven bands from government to

non-government use. Some of the spectrum will be put up for bid in public auctions. The Commission allocated the 216-220 MHz band to the fixed and mobile services (co-primary), although some government systems in the band will remain. "We are pleased that the FCC has found suitable spectrum for MicroTrax and AeroAstro other than at 2300-2305 MHz," ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, referring to two commercial competitors. "We hope this will clear the way for an upgrade to primary status at 2300-2305 MHz for the Amateur Service." MicroTrax has sought access to 2300 to 2305 MHz and other bands for a proposed Personal Location and Monitoring System to enable tracking of people and objects. AeroAstro has proposed sharing the band with amateurs on a co-primary basis for its Satellite Enabled Notification System global messaging system. Both indicated interest in the 1670-1675-MHz band; MicroTrax also has said that 2385-2390 MHz might be a good fit. The FCC also noted comments from ArrayCom that the 1670-1675-MHz band would be suitable for its i-BURST high-speed data system, now operating experimentally at 2.3 GHz. Sumner was less enthusiastic about the FCC's action at 216-220 MHz as it impacts the Amateur Service. "While the limited secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 219-220 MHz is being maintained, the more intensive use of 216-220 MHz by commercial services is likely to preclude amateur use of the band in many parts of the country," he commented. The amateur allocation at 219-220 MHz is secondary to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS). Within the 1 MHz of spectrum, Amateurs may install and operate point-to-point digital message-forwarding systems, but only under strict limitations that require coordination with and sometimes approval by AMTS licensees. The ARRL had hoped to expand opportunities for point-to-point digital messaging systems, but the FCC said amateurs already have access to other bands for that purpose and denied the request. The Order in ET Docket 00-221 is available on the FCC Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Orders/2001/fcc01382.pdf>. -ARRL

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



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John, VE4JNF

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www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf**

885-9278

ve4jnf@escape.ca



RAC INCOMING AND OUTGOING QSL BUREAUS

RAC operates the Central Incoming and Outgoing QSL Bureaus. If you do any amount of DXing, you know that you can easily spend hundreds of dollars a year in postage to handle your QSL cards. This service is operated by volunteers and is financed by RAC. To take advantage of the Outgoing QSL Bureau, you must be a member of RAC

Contest Calendar

February

Vermont QSO Party		0000Z	Feb 2
New Hampshire QSO Party		0000Z	Feb 2
Inter. Winter Contest,	SSB	0001Z	Feb 2
Minnesota QSO Party		1400Z	Feb 2
YL-OM Contest,	CW	1400Z	Feb 2
Winter QRP Field Day		1400Z	Feb 2
Delaware QSO Party		1700Z	Feb 2
		1300Z	Feb 3
Mexico RTTY International Contest		1800Z	Feb 2
North American Sprint,	Phone	0000Z	Feb 3
Six Club 2nd Winter Contest		2300Z	Feb 8
CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest		0000Z	Feb 9
Utah QSO Party		0000Z	Feb 9
Asia-Pacific Sprint,	CW	1100Z	Feb 9
Dutch PACC Contest		1200Z,	Feb 9
YL-OM Contest,	SSB	1400Z	Feb 9
FISTS Winter Sprint		1700Z	Feb 9
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest,	CW	2100Z	Feb 9
North American Sprint,	CW	0000Z	Feb 10
QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint		2000Z	Feb 10
ARRL School Club Roundup		1300Z	Feb 11
ARRL Inter. DX Contest,	CW	0000Z	Feb 16
CQ 160-Meter Contest,	SSB	2200Z	Feb 22
REF Contest,	SSB	0600Z	Feb 23
UBA DX Contest,	CW	1300Z	Feb 23
High Speed Club	CW	0900Z	Feb 24
		1500Z	Feb 24
North Carolina QSO Party		1700Z	Feb 24
CQC Winter QSO Party		2200Z	Feb 24

March

ARRL Inter. DX Contest	Phone	0000Z	Mar 2
World Wide Locator Contest		0000Z	Mar 9
SARL Field Day Contest		1000Z	Mar 9
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW	1000Z	Mar 9
North American Sprint	RTTY	0000Z	Mar 10
UBA Spring Contest	CW	0700Z	Mar 10
Wisconsin QSO Party		1800Z	Mar 10
Alaska QSO Party		0000Z	Mar 16
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest		0200Z	Mar 16
Russian DX Contest		1200Z	Mar 16
Virginia QSO Party		1800Z	Mar 16
Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint		0000Z	Mar 25
CQ WW WPX Contest	SSB	0000Z	Mar 30

HINTS & KINKS

By Ralph, VE4RY

Handy Test Gadget

One of the handiest, yet simplest test gadgets to keep in the toolbox is a 12-volt test lamp. You can buy these at auto supply stores, but most hams could likely find the needed parts in their junk box.

All you need to make one is a 12-volt light bulb such as a #53, an old pilot light socket to fit, a pair of stranded wires and a pair of test probes. For the probes you could simply wire onto 6-inch lengths of 10 or 12 gauge wire, stripped ¼ - inch at each end. After the test lamp is assembled and tested, be sure to insulate all exposed metal parts.

Of course, you can use this tester to confirm power supplies or DC adapters are working, that a 9V battery is good, or other related ham radio uses. But where this gadget really shines is when it's used for diagnosing automotive electrical problems.

Suppose you try to start your car and all you get is a 'click'. Touching the probes directly to the + and - battery posts while someone tries to start the car shows if the battery is weak. If the light remains bright, move the leads one at a time to the clamps and try to start the car again. This will show if there is an undesirable voltage drop at one or both of the clamp connections, which incidentally is a very common trouble.

If your battery seems to die after you've parked for a long time, you can also test for undue current drain when the key is off by disconnecting one of the clamps completely and placing the test lamp in series between this clamp its battery post. There should not be enough current draw to light the bulb. (Prove this by opening a door to switch on a dome light... then the test light will come on.) This tester's great for locating blown fuses, faulty wiring, dirty relay contacts, etc.

There are many advantages of this basic test lamp: It is not polarity sensitive, it's extremely lightweight and won't likely break if you drop it, it gives a better indication of intermittent faults than a meter... and it's cheap!

Build one of these, keep it handy... you'll be glad you did.

The Benefits of Joining

Joining RAC provides for more than just a great magazine, it also buys these benefits for all Canadian amateurs, not just RAC members. So are you paying your share?



RAC works on behalf of all amateurs with government and industry. RAC is Canada's member in the society of The International Amateur Radio Union. RAC is your single, national voice representing you to the federal government (Industry Canada) on important national issues such as tower legislation, RF interference and spectrum grabs by big business. It costs RAC thousands of dollars to maintain membership in Radio Advisory Board of Canada and to attend spectrum planning and interference meetings on your behalf.

Here is a listing of other things that RAC provides for all amateurs (members or not);

- ☛ E-Mail, Packet and On-Air Canadian News Bulletin Service
- ☛ Sponsor of The Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame
- ☛ Sponsor of six major Canadian amateur radio operating awards
- ☛ Sponsor of the RAC Canada Day Contest and RAC Winter Contest
- ☛ Sponsor of the Canada-wide Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- ☛ Sponsor of the Canada-wide National Traffic System
- ☛ Sponsor of The RAC Affiliated Club Program
- ☛ Sponsor of the free Provincial Incoming QSL Bureaus
- ☛ Source for the CEPT and IARP international operating permits
- ☛ Publisher of the long-needed RAC Operating Manual
- ☛ Publisher of The RAC Basic and Advanced Study Guides
- ☛ Publisher of The RAC Repeater Map Book and Directory
- ☛ Publisher of The RAC Tower Approval Documents
- ☛ Publisher of the RAC Video Cassettes for home or club
- ☛ World-Class Web Site – right here at <http://www.rac.ca/>

Amateurs must rally together, with RAC, to help defend our frequencies. In order for RAC to carry on meaningful dialogue with government and industry leaders, it must represent the views of the entire Canadian amateur community. If only 20 or 30 percent of Canadian Hams belong to RAC, then the government may not view this as a clear mandate. As a member, your participation in discussion forums to shape the future of amateur radio in

Canada is the best way to ensure that not only are your rights and investments protected, but that the amateur radio service can grow as well.

Don't let the tremendous volunteer effort on behalf of Canadian amateurs by the RAC volunteer Executive, Directors and officials be hampered by lack of support.

Support the organization that supports you... JOIN RAC TODAY! Remember that Radio Amateurs of Canada, is your national organization.



RAC Canada Day By Doug, VE4TG

The Eastman Amateur Radio Club (EARC) members actively participated in the July 1, 2001 RAC Canada Day contest from a site in Lockport adjacent to the Red River making over 250 contacts. Members participating were Phil VE4KOR, Albert VE4AJB, Sharon VE4TN and Doug VE4TG. Planning is now underway to have an upgraded operation for the 2002 event.



Phil VE4KOR making contact on CW during RAC 2001 Canada Day Contest.



EARC operating site at Lockport

Grid Squares, What are they?

By Derek, VE4HAY

The grid square system also known as the Maidenhead Locator System is a method of dividing the world into squares that measure 1° latitude by 2° longitude and measures approximately 70 X 100 miles. The system was conceived by the European VHF managers in the early 1980's. A grid square is indicated by two letters (the field) and two numbers (the square) as in EN19 the grid square that encompasses Winnipeg. Each sub-square can then be designated by the addition of two letters after the grid square for more precise locators, as in EN19LU. These more precise locators are used as part of the exchange in many UHF/SHF contests. They measure 2.5 minutes latitude by 5 minutes longitude, roughly corresponding to 2.5 × 3.5 miles for a latitude of approx. 50°.

So how do you determine your Grid Square? This all depends to some extent on whether you want to know your 4-digit grid square or your 6-digit grid square. Finding a 6-digit grid square requires considerably more precision in latitude and longitude. The 4-digit grid squares covers a pretty big area, while the 6-digit grid square is fairly small. The actual size of a grid square depends on the particular location, as the 1° of longitude represents different distances at different latitudes; longitude lines are closer together at the Earth's poles than at the equator. The first step, then, is finding your latitude and longitude as accurately and precisely as you can. The simplest way to determine a grid square is with a GPS that is capable of converting degree's to the Maidenhead system. Other than that the use of a grid square map is required. If you know your precise coordinates, you can also determine your grid square manually with the use of tables and charts or with the aid of a computer that will do the conversion for you.

So why use grid squares? Well for contests of course. Many VHF, UHF, SHF contests grid squares as part the exchange requirements. Grid squares are also used for determining many of the awards that are available.

Useful links

[Ftp://ftp.arrl.org/pub/contests/ln9404.pdf](ftp://ftp.arrl.org/pub/contests/ln9404.pdf)

[Http://www.amsat.org/amsat/toys/gridconv.html](http://www.amsat.org/amsat/toys/gridconv.html)

<http://pages.infinit.net/ve2pij/gridqra.html>

RADIOGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT:

by Darcy, VE4DDW

The President has resigned due to other commitments. Please contact, VE4SE, if you are interested in the job.

Editors Ramblings

By Derek VE4HAY

Did you know

For those who are not members of RAC and there for do not have access to the outgoing QSL bureau, check this site for addresses of all IARU QSL bureaus. So you can mail your card directly. [Http://www.iaru.org/iaruqsl.htm](http://www.iaru.org/iaruqsl.htm) Or just join RAC and have it done for you.

The Six meter net has changed Frequencies to 50.240 MHz. The net is held each Wednesday night at 9:00 PM local time.

Traveling to Switzerland

The amateur radio station 4U1ITU is maintained by the International Amateur Radio Club for the use and benefit of club members and the other licensed radio amateurs duly authorized to operate from the station, and is intended to serve as a model of amateur radio operation at its highest standard.

4U1ITU amateur radio station is located and operated in accordance with privileges extended by the Government of Switzerland and the International Telecommunication Union - ITU, the specialized United Nations organization for telecommunication, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Check this site of a visitors application:

<Http://life.itu.int/radioclub/forms/n4u1ap.htm>

Two weeks ago I had green grass in my yard. Now it is -37 with the wind-chill. Finally it's antenna season. So break out that HF beam, measure out that 40 meter Dipole and get the aerials in the air before it warms up again. Just remember a few important things. First, as much as you may want to, do not try to lick the tower. It will stick solid and you will be there to spring and will miss all that great DX. Secondly, if you drop a screw in the snow. Give up, it will not be found ever. The metal melts with the snow in the spring.

53rd Annual International DX Convention

Presented by SCDXC

April 26-28, 2002

Visalia, CA

Welcome to the Homepage for 2002 International DX Convention held each year in Visalia, California. 2002 will be the 53rd year for the convention, which is presented alternately by the Southern California DX Club and the Northern California DX Club.

<http://www.qsl.net/visalia2002/>

Last month I mentioned that we had a new place to print the newsletters. VE4FDR has stepped forward and offered to print our newsletter for us. So if you are in the need for printing of almost any kind please give Floyd, VE4FDR a call at 888-3227. See his card below.

That's it for this month, only 10 more lines to fill up. So once again I will have to ask for articles of interest. You can even get them from the net if you can't write them yourselves. Just get permission for the author first. I will take almost anything that is radio related. I currently have one from Vern that I will insert shortly and one from World Radio. But I would like to get anything from a local source. You can send them to me at ve4hay@rac.ca.

So once again, 73 and I hope to hear you on the bands at least once in a while.

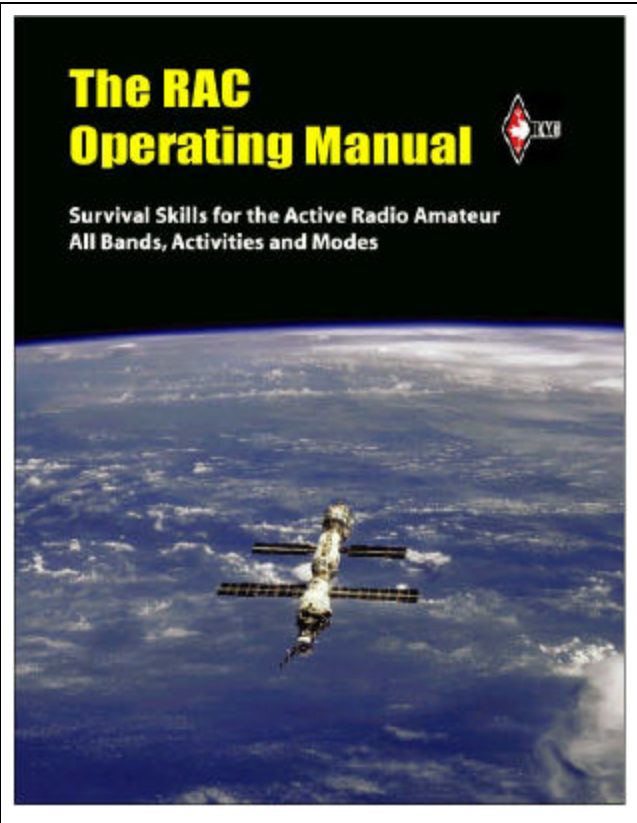
DIAMOND IMAGE

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NOTICE

TO ALL VISITORS WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSED AS _____ BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS IN OTTAWA.

BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

- 1) The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.
- 2) No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong. We suggest you call Western Union.
- 3) This is strictly a hobby; we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios or hi-fi. We suggest that you see a serviceman.
- 4) Yes, the antenna in the backyard is essential to the operation of the equipment.
- 5) The farthest station we have contacted has been in the Ubangiland.
- 6) The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations.
- 7) It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with television reception, telephones or stereo systems. Any interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the home-entertainment devices themselves.
- 8) An Amateur Radio station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled electronics expert. It takes dedication, training and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be license by the Canadian Federal Government. Therefore, it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the controls

FURTHERMORE... IF YOU ARE GRANTED THE EXTREME HONOR OF BEING INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- 1) Speak in a low and soothing tone.
- 2) Do not disagree with me in any manner.
- 3) Say no bad words and tell no off-color jokes.
- 4) It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, TURN ANY KNOBS, SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC. I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

Thank you for your cooperation