



The **NEWSCASTER**

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

April 2002

Free to Members vol: 2002-04

Home Brew Night

Bring out your Winter Projects and
Show off your Talents

Date: April 8th, 2002
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

Other Important Dates:

Articles: May 1st. - Article Deadline March Newscaster

WARC: - Apr. 8 - HomeBrew Night,
Apr. 21 - Flea Market,
May 13 - Canwarn, June 10 - Summer Activity Update

WSC: April 11 - Breakfast meeting - Garden City

ARES: Monthly Meetings Apr-16 May-21 Jun-26;

Other - April 18th - World Amateur Radio Day

Nets: 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		

From the Vice President WARC, Tom VE4SE

As I write this spring has officially arrived, although somebody forgot to tell Mother Nature. Hopefully by the time you read this temperatures will be more spring like.

We had a good turn out at the March meeting, 46 members braved the cold and were presented with a program by the Sun Valley Venturers about their time at the Scout Jamboree in Prince Edward Island.

The April meeting is home brew night. On April 21 its the WARC Flea Market and Ed VE4EIH is organizing that. Tables are going fast so contact Ruth VE4XYL or Tom VE4SE to reserve your table. June is also busy with Field day 22nd and 23rd at Birds Hill Park and Robert VE4RCJ is organizing that one and I know he needs some volunteers to help out.

Also at the June meeting it will be elections for the new executive. Dave VE4DAR is heading up the nominating committee. Please give serious consideration about being on the executive if Dave contacts you or let him know if you are interested in being a candidate. The new executive will take over at the September meeting and the present one will certainly help to make the transition as smoothly as possible.

News Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club By Gil Frederick, VE4AG, President

We had our Board meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2002, and these are some of the highlights: we began with a moment of silence for 2 members who have recently become Silent Keys – Keith McConnell, VE4BC, and Joe Butchard, VE4NY. 14 of our members attended at the memorial church service for Keith; Gil, VE4AG and xyl Beryl Frederick attended at the memorial reception for Joe, to extend the Club's condolences to Grace and the family. We also included, in our moment of silence, Shirley McArthur, wife of Peter, VE4PJ, and Bert Timlick, husband of our member Lillian, VE4LPT.

We received the audit report from Albert, VE4AX and Joe, VE4WF, and we thank these 2 members for their diligent work in checking our financial records for the year 2001. Albert, VE4AX, made a short thank-you speech, on behalf of the Board, to Gladys, VE4GE, who has been our treasurer for five years! Gladys received a loud applause.

We read an e-mail, forwarded to us by Derek, VE4HAY, regards World Amateur Radio Day taking place on Thursday, April 18th, 2002. It was suggested that the Club operate on this day for contacts to celebrate WARD.

The Club has purchased 6 used Pentium computers, which will be networked, and used for packet, as well as computer training for people in the community. We hope to be able to offer basic courses in word processing, spreadsheet operation, etc. within the next few months, or by early Fall at the latest. Nominal fees will be charged.

On Mar. 5, we had 6 students in the CW class pass their exam; the 2 failing have had extra training, and will be re-tested soon.

Permission has been granted for the use of WSCRC premises by the Manitoba Repeater Society for its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30), and by the WPGARES-WARC Manitoba Marathon Group for use a Net Control Station for the running of the Marathon on Sunday, June 16, from 0530 – 1330 hrs.

Our Club was invited to a special meeting of the Old St. Vital Biz, a business group that comprises 200 businesses in old St. Vital, to get acquainted with other public service

groups in this area, to learn what services we all perform and to band together for mutual support and communication. Those attending from WSCRC were President Gil, VE4AG, our Treasurer, Ed, VE4YU, and our Computer committee head, Harsha, VE4SAI.

We are re-writing our Agreement of Understanding with the Manitoba Red Cross, and hope to have this ratified at their Board meeting on May 4. We also learned that they are having a S.E.T., at the Caboto Centre on Wilkes, on April 9, to which we have been invited. The new Red Cross building (1111 Portage Ave., next to the RCMP) is being made ready, and they will have their ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, June 3.

Our next monthly breakfast meeting is Thursday, April 11, at 9:00 a.m, still at the Garden City Inn, McPhillips at Jefferson.

The next Board meeting of the Club is Wednesday, April 17; and we will have Louis, VE4PLJ, give a motivational talk to us shortly after the conclusion of our business. This will take place approximately 11:30 a.m., and anyone who is interested in hearing Louis speak is welcome to attend. Bring a brown bag lunch – coffee is available.

The Club has a table at the upcoming WARC flea market, and if any members have anything to contribute for this table, please drop your goods off at the Clubrooms, attention Ed, VE4YU.

And, in closing, we congratulate Norm Coull, our Membership Chairman, on his appointment as Mid-West Director of RAC, to finish out the term vacated by Rick Lord, VE4OV, which ends Dec. 31/2002. WSCRC also has the Assistant Director in the person of Adam Romanchuk, VE4SN, our Vice-President. Together, they should make a good team in the representation that RAC enjoys from this Region.

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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Minutes for W.A.R.C. March 11th, 2002

Submitted by Ruth, VE4XYL

Meeting was called to order at 19:30 hrs. Chaired by Tom Mills VE4SE. Tom welcomed everyone, followed by introductions with special guests John Richardson VK5HJR from Adelaide, South Australia and Mike Lynch, a very interested person and soon to become a Ham.

Motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newscaster. Moved by John VE4JNF, seconded by Harm VE4HAZ. Carried

Business arising from the minutes, none. Correspondence. Several QSL cards came for VE4BB from last year's field day.

TREASURERS REPORT

Opening balance, February 28, 2002	\$4843.97
Total monthly expenses	\$39.43
Petty cash	\$149.52
Bank Balance	\$4665.33

Moved by Wayne VE4WR, seconded by Dick VE4HK that the treasurers report be accepted as presented. Carried

STANDING COMMITTEES

Program by Glen VE4GWN

April 8, 2002 is home brew night in the cafeteria. May 13 2002, to be announced. June 10, 2002, elections for the new executive and the last meeting until September

MEMBERSHIP

Mariska VE4MMG, nothing to report except a reminder to all to think "renewal"

RAC REPORT

Rick Lord, P.Eng., VE4OV RAC Midwest Director has resigned on March 11, 2002. Rick has been a director for the last seven years. In his letter of resignation to the RAC Board and to RAC President Bill Gillis VE1WG, Rick said that he was "just swamped" in his corporation, Probe Industrial Electronics Ltd. and that the increasing workload at Probe demanded more and more of his time. Knowing that the Directorship demands a vigorous and dedicated commitment of time, Rick has named Norm Coull, VE4EH as the new Midwest Director. Norm is the past President of WARC and will finish Rick's unexpired term until 31 December 2002. Rick said that Norm will make an exemplary Director and that Norm is enthusiastically looking forward to his new responsibilities. In Closing, Rick that it was "an honour and a privilege" to serve with such a tireless group of dedicated professionals.

MARATHON AND WPGARES REPORT BY JEFF VE4MBQ

Planning is already well under way for the amateur radio operation for the 2002 Manitoba Marathon Father's day 16 June. The Planning committee is a joint effort of WPGARES and WARC. Members are Richard VE4KAZ, Wayne VE4WTS, Robert VE4RST, Derek VE4HAY, Yori VE4ACX and Jeff VE4MBQ. Coordinator is MBQ, Deputy Coordinators are KAZ and WTS. KAZ and MBQ will be attending the first Technical Committee meeting of the year 21MAR, the plan is to always send two of three people. We are currently making arrangements with repeater owners and have booked WSCRC for net control through Gil VE4AG. Volunteers from last year will be contacted within the next month by a sub-committee of KAZ, WTS, RST. New volunteers are most welcome. There will be a sign up sheet at the WARC flea market and likely the April general meeting. New or veteran volunteers can also register by e-mail if desired: ve4mbq@rac.ca Please give us your name, callsign, mailing address, contact numbers (home, cell, pager), and T shirt size (S,M,L,XL,XXL, etc.)

Don MacKinnon VE4DJM reported that the Federal Government has given the Manitoba ARES \$15,000.00 for purchasing of radio equipment.

DX SLEUTHS by ADAM VE4SN

Adam congratulated the 5 Hams who have passed the 5wpm cw test. One who got 95% on the written and passed his cw still hasn't got his license yet. A special event is coming up on April 13th to the 15th. It is the 90th anniversary of the loss of the Titanic. A special Event Amateur Radio Station in memory of Jack Phillips, Chief Wireless telegraphist whose sacrifice saved so many lives. He was just 25 when he died. It will start on 08:30 UTC 13th April to 05:47 UTC 15th of April the exact time in the UK 90 years ago when Jack made his last transmission from the Titanic which sank a few minutes later. The contacts will be on CW only, all bands, and the call sign will be the Titanic's call GB90MYG.

FLEA MARKET

Tom VE4SE reminded that Ed Horton VE4EIH is Chairman of the organizing committee for the Flea Market. He needs volunteers. Please call Ed at 885-4084 or Ruth at 837-6915. Ruth and Tom are also booking tables for the event. Call them at 837-6915

FIELD DAY

Robert VE4RCJ is heading the committee to organize Field Day. It will be held at Birds Hill Pk. On June 22nd and 23rd. Robert needs volunteers in order to put this on. Please contact him as soon as possible.

INTERNATIONAL HAM FEST

This event is being held on July 12,13,&14 at the International Peace Garden

THRESHERMANS REUNION

This is being held at Austin Mb on July 24-25-26-27. The amateur radio museum on site is always manned by Radio Amateurs. It's a great event for anyone interested in our history.

MANITOBA AMATEUR RADIO MUSEUM (MARM FEST)

This will be held on August 16th & 17th at Austin Mb. There is a flea market, ladies activities, shuttle service, access to the museum grounds, a delicious full course dinner at 5pm put on by the Austin Community Ladies.

ELECTIONS

Dave Rosner is heading the nominating committee for members willing to stand for election for the new executive board which needs to be elected at the June general meeting. The club needs your support. Please contact Dave if you are willing to stand for election.

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY.

Tom VE4SE received an e-mail asking if WARC was going to be involved in the celebration. According to the lack of interest from the membership it doesn't appear that WARC will be participating.

**Semi- Annual
WARC
Flea Market**

April 21

**Heritage Victoria Community club
950 Sturgeon Rd.**

\$2.00 Entrance fee

Tables are \$5.00 for WARC members, \$10.00 for non WARC members and commercial outlets.

Ed Horton VE4EIH is the Coordinator. If you would like to volunteer for various jobs please contact him.

Ruth VE4XYL and Tom VE4SE will be selling tables, please contact them at 837-6915 or at 605 Bruce Ave.

Meeting adjourned at 20:20 hrs.

Our sincere thanks to Bob VE4MAQ and his crew The Sun Valley Venturers for the very interesting display of pictures and the video presentation on their visit at Summerside P.E.I. attending the Scouts Jamboree last summer. Bob VE4MAQ expressed a hearty thank you to all for the donations the group received to help while in P.E.I.

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

I see that another month has come and gone. For those of you who missed the March meeting, we were given a wonderful presentation by Bob Poole, VE4MAQ. Bob covered how he and other members of VE4SVV, the Sun Valley Ventures, made out in Summerside PEI this past summer. Bob, on behalf of all members of VE4SVV, thanked WARC and individual members for the donations that helped their trip to be as successful as it was. Bob was supported by: Don Schellenberg, VE4DOG, & Cindy Bell, VE4BUG (both advisors for VE4SVV) plus the following members: Graham Poole, VE4GRM, Eric Schellenberg, VE4ERS, Matt Lacasse, VE4MAT and Andy Slusarchun (soon to be tested). As well they had a Honouree Member John Richardson, VK5HJR. John will be here for about a year and I hope to hear him on the air SOON, and see him at other meetings.

April is just around the corner and with it comes Home Brew Night. Bring out your projects, there are prizes to be won. This is one of my personal favourite meetings each year. Come out and see what has been built this year, and bring a friend.

In an earlier article I listed my schedule for programs until June, and said that it may change... well it has. The May meeting will now be Jeff, VE4MBQ, who is giving a timely presentation on CANWARN. This will be a good time for all local amateurs to find out what CANWARN is all about.

June will be both Election night and reports form standing committees. We should get a final report on the Flea Market, plus an update on both the Manitoba Marathon and Field Day. Thank you to the members who are working so hard to bring these and other events into reality.

I'm also going to thank Mark, VE4MAB, for updating the WARC web page <http://www.virtualmultimedia.com/warc/>.

I hope to see all of you at each of these meetings. Remember without your attending the meetings or helping out with all of the events, there would be no WARC.

MANITOBA MARATHON

Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ

Planning is already well under way for the amateur radio operation for the 2002 Manitoba Marathon, Father's Day 16JUN.

The planning committee is a joint effort of WPGARES and WARC. Members are Richard VE4KAZ, Wayne VE4WTS, Robert VE4RST, Derek VE4HAY, Yori VE4ACX, and Jeff VE4MBQ. Coordinator is MBQ, Deputy Coordinators are KAZ and WTS.

We are currently making arrangements with repeater owners and deciding on a location for Net Control. Volunteers from last year will be contacted within the next month. New volunteers are most welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet at the WARC Flea Market and likely the MARCH and APRIL general meetings. New or veteran volunteers can also register by e-mail if desired:

ve4mbq@rac.ca

Please give us your name, callsign, mailing address, contact numbers (home, cell, pager), and t-shirt size (S, M, L, XL, XXL, etc).



This is a picture of my dad, VE4LF his ham shack on Ingersoll Street in the 50's
Submitted by Dave Wood ,VE4KU

Contest Calendar

April

MARAC County Hunters Contest	SSB	0000Z	Apr 6
SP DX Contest		1500Z	Apr 6
EA RTTY Contest		1600Z	Apr 6
Missouri QSO Party		1800Z	Apr 6
		1800Z	Apr 7
YLRL DX to NA YL Contest	CW	1400Z	Apr 10
JIDX HF CW Contest		2300Z	Apr 12
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party		1200Z	Apr 13
EU Spring Sprint, SSB		1500Z	Apr 13
His Maj. King of Spain Contest		1800Z	Apr 13
Yuri Gagarin Int. DX Contest		2100Z	Apr 13
UBA Spring Contest	SSB	0600Z	Apr 14
YLRL DX to NA YL Contest	SSB	1400Z	Apr 17
Holyland DX Contest		0000Z	Apr 20
TARA Spring Wakeup	PSK31	0000Z	Apr 20
YU DX Contest		1200Z	Apr 20
GACW CW DX Contest		1200Z	Apr 20
EU Spring Sprint	CW	1500Z	Apr 20
Michigan QSO Party		1600Z	Apr 20
Ontario QSO Party		1800Z	Apr 20
Harry Angel Memorial Sprint		1100Z	Apr 25
SP DX RTTY Contest		1200Z	Apr 27
Helvetia Contest		1300Z	Apr 27
Florida QSO Party		1600Z	Apr 27

May

IPA Contest	CW	0000Z	May 4
MARAC County Hunters Contest	CW	0000Z	May 4
10-10 Int. Spring Contest	CW	0001Z	May 4
Indiana QSO Party		1300Z	May 4
Massachusetts QSO Party		1800Z	May 4
		1100Z	May 5
ARI International DX Contest		2000Z	May 4
Connecticut QSO Party		2000Z	May 4
		1200Z	May 5
IPA Contest	SSB	0000Z	May 5
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest		1200Z	May 11
FISTS Spring Sprint		1700Z	May 11
CQ-M International DX Contest		2100Z	May 11
Baltic Contest		2100Z	May 18
CQ WW WPX Contest	CW	0000Z	May 25
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint		2000	May 26
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint		2300Z	May 27

LET'S TALK CW!

By Adam Romanchuk VE4SN

It's incredible! You can hardly believe it, but it's true! You have passed your 5 word per minute cw exam and have gained the right to communicate on the lower frequency H.F. bands. So here you are seated in front of an H.F. Transceiver with a morse key attached to it. For whatever reason, you have decided to try out your new- found expertise and seek out some QSO's on cw. Perhaps a microphone was not included with the rig in question or perhaps your sense of accomplishment is at an all time high!

Nonetheless, here you are and at once you begin to tune around the selected band in areas that were only talked about when you first got your basic license. You are hearing cw signals which you might find difficult to copy because it seems all these stations are sending at speeds a wee bit above 5 words per minute! Don't despair or even think about giving up. For the first go around, find a quiet spot on the band if one is readily available and prepare to go fishing on your own.

Before you even touch the key, listen for a minute or so to ascertain that the spot you have picked is not being used by someone else. This is just common courtesy. Then transmit "QRL?". We all know that QRL? asks "are you busy?". In this case we are asking if the frequency is busy. If it is, you will hear "yes" sent in cw. Silence denotes that the frequency is available. Do this procedure a couple of times to be sure. Some seasoned operators use only the question mark to ask if the frequency is busy, but I would suggest that QRL? be used as it eliminates any ambiguity.

Okay, we have established a clear spot and now we are ready to send out a general call, looking for another station. Go to it and begin sending "CQ CQ CQ DE VE4SN VE4SN VE4SN K". Repeat this procedure once or twice more. DO NOT make the mistake of sending CQ multi times followed by your call sign only once! Anyone listening will get impatient with you and move on to someone else. Remember, send at the speed with which you are comfortable to receive. Most Hams out there will respond at the same speed that you are sending. And if they don't, then ask them to do so by sending QRS which means, "Please send more slowly".

Someone decides to answer your call. Depending on your antenna system and the power of your transceiver, more than likely it will be a station from somewhere in the United States as there are a large number of Hams there and they are close to us geographically. You will hear the following: VE4SN DE W3ABC W3ABC W3ABC K Notice that your call is sent only once while his (or hers) is sent

three times. This is just common sense! After all, you know your own call so why should you have to hear it a half dozen times? But W3ABC is new so it is sent at least three times. Remember this for times when you will be answering CQ calls.

At this point in time I will digress slightly and bring up the matter of CW LINGO. If you are new to cw communications, you will run into a form of language which might make you think you are entirely in a different Universe!

Morse code abbreviations were developed in order to keep message sending brief and easier to decipher. The Q code, which was introduced to you during the Basic Radio Course was developed so that International radio operators whose primary language was not English could understand the information being transmitted. For example, QRM meant "I am being interfered with" regardless what language you spoke.

You have been introduced to a couple of these short forms already, namely "DE" and "K". The former is just straight Latin for "THIS IS" while the latter means "OVER TO YOU". Could you imagine sending in Morse the phrase "OVER TO YOU" instead of just "K"?

I will list a few more of the more common abbreviations you will encounter.

TNX	thanks
TU	thank you
FER	for (just easier to send an "E")
UR	your
RST	readability, signal strength, tone
ES	and
GM	good morning
GE	good evening
KN	over to only the station I'm working
WX	weather
RPRT	report
R	received (although QSL is used a lot)
AR (sent unbroken)	end of message
AS (sent unbroken)	please wait
SK (sent unbroken)	end of work (I'm gone)
HR	here
HW	how
CPY	copy
BK	back
CUL	see you later
CUAGN	see you again
GUD	good
SN	soon
TEMP	temperature
PSE	please
SIGS	signals
73	best regards (NEVER send "best 73")
88	love and kisses (make sure it's a YL you are talking to)

There are probably others you will encounter that are made up by various ham operators but the above list is pretty well complete.

And now back to our QSO. W3ABC has answered your call and turns it back to you. From here on in you behave as you would if you were in face to face contact with W3ABC. Thank him (or her) for the call "TNX FER CALL". Again it's just common courtesy. The most important piece of information to another ham operator is the status of his (or her) signals; how are you receiving him (or her). So you comply by sending this information next. "UR RST 599 599 599". Notice that the report is numerical. It is configured thus:

READABILITY (1 to 5)

1 being unreadable and 5 perfectly readable

SIGNAL STRENGTH (1 TO 9)

1 being very poor and 9 very strong

TONE (1 to 9)

1 rough, hissing and 9 purest DC note

You can see that a 599 signal is what we all like to hear!

Now we get to the personal aspects. Send your name: "MY NAME IS JOHN JOHN JOHN". Don't bother with surnames as it doesn't matter and nobody cares anyway. Notice we send this information three times. It doesn't hurt anything and it might prevent requests for repeats. We also did this for the RST report. Then send your QTH; (your location) and repeat three times. Remember that a lot of Hams don't even know that your city or town exists! "MY QTH IS WINNIPEG WINNIPEG WINNIPEG".

Now you want to know something about W3ABC so hand it back to him (or her).

"SO HW CPY? W3ABC DE VE4SN K". You both know each others call signs so it's normal to send it once only. Some seasoned operators simply send "BK" which signifies "back to you", but I recommend using call signs until you get into serious cw contest or heavy DX'ing. After these simple pleasantries, you can if you wish send out information about your equipment, your family, the weather or whatever. Just stay away from the controversial subjects like politics and religion!

As someone new to the ancient mode of cw, you'll more than likely do very well and run into very little opportunity to be a first class LID, (a poor operator). However as your skill and your speed increases along with your confidence, you'll probably delve into the more exotic realms of DX chasing and contesting. These places are where opportunities to be a LID increase by leaps and bounds. There are boundless numbers of them out there, believe me! If you remember to

behave always as a human being with courtesy, care and consideration for your fellow hams, you will never be called a LID.

In closing, I will say give cw a shot. It's a lot of fun and you just might enjoy it! Good Luck and Good Hunting..... 73 de VE4SN

RAC Bulletins

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

WARD

Just like to remind you that World Amateur Radio Day is coming up again on April 18th.

That will present an opportunity for some Public Relations. The theme this year is technological innovation. The current IARU press release is on the RAC web site, and the pointer can be found at: <http://www.rac.ca/news.htm>

RAC Bulletin 02-018E

New PSHR criteria

A new criteria for the Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) begins May 1, when revised qualification criteria go into effect. The PSHR recognizes amateurs who demonstrate exemplary public service performance each month. In addition to streamlining the criteria, updated PSHR categories will combine some now-separate areas of qualifying performance into a single category. The new regime also will readjust point credits and, in some cases, point limits for individual categories. For assignment of points values and other pertinent information visit RAC website at: <http://www.rac.ca/psshr.htm>

RAC Bulletin 02-019E

SM Elections

Tom Caithness, VE1GTC the interim Section Manager for the Maritimes was elected for a two-year term, which began March 1, 2002

Derek Hay, VE4HAY was recently re-elected Section Manager in the Manitoba Section for a two-year term that will begin on July 1, 2002.

Joe Craig, VO1NA was recently re-elected Section Manager for the Newfoundland/Labrador Section for a two-year term that will begin on July 1, 2002.

Tom, Derek and Joe ran unopposed in their respective section, eliminating the need for a balloted election.

News from the Net

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY '2002 Award

"Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."

The W.A.R.D. Award is designed to commemorate the World Amateur Radio Day celebrated 18 April each year. It is issued by PZK (Polish Amateur Radio Union) and the Editor of MK QTC. The WARD Award is available for at least the following number of contacts: 50 QSO's on HF bands or 10 QSO's on VHF bands. All contacts must be made at 18 April between 00:00 and 24:00 UTC. A standard application form including the list of QSO's should be sent before 31 May 2002 to: Redakcja MK QTC, ul. Wielmożny 5b, 82-337 Suchacz-Zamek, Poland. The price of the WARD Award is 3\$, 5IRC or 5Euro. Full colour Award, sized 210 x 297mm can be seen in <http://qtc.radio.org.pl>. Special prizes: (1) A station which will make the largest number of digital mode QSO's will receive a special prize established by President of PZK and the Editor of MK QTC. (2) A station which will make the largest number of SSB QSO's will receive a special prize established by President of PZK. (3) A station which will make the largest number of CW QSO's will receive a special prize established by the Editor of MK QTC. The WARD Award is available also for SWL's.. - RAC

World Amateur Radio Day Celebrates Amateurs' Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology

Amid the much-publicized commercial successes and failures in the telecommunications industry it is easy to overlook the fact that radio amateurs continue to be an important source of innovation in communication technology. A century has passed since Marconi spanned the Atlantic and excited the imaginations of the first generation of amateur wireless experimenters. Amateurs were the first to discover and to exploit the remarkable properties of the ionosphere that permit worldwide communication with less power than it takes to illuminate a light bulb. They were the first to make widespread use of single-sideband voice communication to conserve power and precious radio spectrum. Amateurs applied microprocessors to data communication, popularizing packet radio and developing protocols that are now in widespread use in public safety and other services.

As we enter radio's second century, amateurs continue to lead the way in numerous areas. World Amateur Radio Day, held each year on 18 April to mark the anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union in Paris on that date in 1925, provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on these current achievements.

✎ Digital HF Radio: Radio amateurs are the leading developers of new digital techniques for high-frequency (HF) data and text communication. For example, PacTOR

combines the strengths of packet radio and the mode known commercially as SITOR to offer reliable and essentially error-free data communication. Disaster relief agencies have adopted it for use from remote locations where no telecommunications infrastructure is available. PSK31 is a user-friendly mode that provides live keyboard communication at low transmitter power levels when error correction is not required. An implementation of PSK31 using computer sound cards has made this the most popular digital mode for radio amateurs in less than two years. Other developers, building on the success of PSK31, are using sound cards to explore a wide range of other digital modes tailored for the challenging HF environment.

✎ Software Defined Radios: Perhaps the outstanding example of a DSP radio designed for experimental use is the DSP-10, a transceiver for the 144-MHz amateur band designed by Bob Larkin, W7PUA, of Corvallis, Oregon, USA. Working with Mr. Larkin, a team of amateur software developers is refining a family of programs tailored to explore a wide range of VHF, UHF, and microwave propagation media, including moonbounce (Earth-Moon-Earth) and extended-range tropospheric scatter. These are but examples of what is happening in the 21st Century Amateur Radio Service.

The IARU is the worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio organizations representing radio amateurs in 153 countries. It is a Sector Member of the International Telecommunication Union and is the recognized representative of the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services at the ITU. - RAC

Introduction to WSJT

(APC News Australia)

Imagine regular VHF communications over distances up to 2000 kilometres. That's the promise of WSJT, a mode that is finding increasing use amongst VK VHF operators.

WSJT is a digital mode, designed specifically for meteor scatter communications. It stands for Weak Signal communications by Joe Taylor K1JT. Its advantage for meteor scatter communication is that it sends extremely fast in a standard SSB bandwidth at 147 characters per second or about 1700 words per minute. By virtue of this speed it is possible to send two call signs and a signal report in a tenth of a second meteor ping.

The equipment to make WSJT contacts is fairly modest. A two metre SSB transceiver and a computer (Pentium, at least 75 MHz) is the main hardware required. Then you need a simple PSK-31 interface box, as described in March 2000 AR magazine and some WSJT software. An RF power output of 50 is the practical minimum, with 100 watts providing a worthwhile improvement. A major advantage with WSJT is the small antenna system required. A five

element yagi will do as well as a 10 element yagi. Antenna with higher gain and narrower lobes will have been found to do worse. You also do not need to be in a particular good VHF site in order to make WSJT contacts.

WSJT operating procedure is different to the voice or Morse that we are all used to. Generally it takes 20 to 60 minutes to complete a contact, depending on distance and propagation. In south-east Australia there is considerable WSJT activity around 144.230 MHz in the early mornings. Apart from these sked times, there is also sometimes portable activity from rare grid squares.

Australian WSJT pioneer, Rex Moncur VK7MO, has written a detailed article on WSJT activity in Australia. It is highly recommended for anyone seeking a primer on this fascinating mode. You can find it on the WIA Tasmania website. You'll find the URL on the Packet/Internet edition of APC News.

WSJT URL: <http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/vk7wia/>

Why Should You Join RAC or Renew Your Membership ?



If you don't know what RAC volunteers have done for YOU lately, - just read through this impressive list compiled by Doug Leach VE3XK !

- ⊞ Provided the RAC Tower Papers, with a complete program for securing neighborhood and municipal approval for a tower. 1997, updated 1999.
- ⊞ Acted for BC and Alberta amateurs in tower disputes, successfully negotiating with Industry Canada to override opposition from local authorities. 1997, 1998, 1999.
- ⊞ Defeated an attempt to give type approval to new, higher power, licence exempt devices, on and around 70 cm. 1998.
- ⊞ Proposed a single, certificate/licence document as part of the delegation initiative, now to be implemented by Industry Canada in Year 2000.
- ⊞ Proposed a single point of contact for amateur radio certificates and licences (and consistent policy implementation) as part of the delegation initiative, implemented by Industry Canada in June 1, 1999.
- ⊞ Proposed a new, consistent, policy for special call signs and special prefixes under the Call Sign Working Group, and further refined it recently, implemented by Industry Canada Sept 16, 1999.
- ⊞ Proposed 10 Metre operation for those with Basic plus 5 WPM, implemented by Industry Canada on Sep 11/99.
- ⊞ Introduced the RAC Official Observer program, independent of Industry Canada, to monitor amateur

- radio bands, recognize good operating techniques, and to show where marginal operation can be improved.
- ⊞ Sponsored ten Canadian DXCC Field Representatives for DXCC card checking, deployed Sep/99.
- ⊞ Developed an e-mail alias address service for amateurs to avoid need to store hundreds of e-mail addresses.
- ⊞ Published a new improved Study Guide for the Basic Exam - Sixth Edition - Sep/99.
- ⊞ Developed and published the new RAC Operating Manual Sep/98
- ⊞ Rejuvenated the Amateur Radio Emergency Service program with new RAC Emergency Coordinator's Manual available for free download by ARES Emergency Coordinators, and ARES Instructor's Manual - June/98
- ⊞ Published a new RAC Section Manager's Survival Guide for the RAC Field Organization Oct/98
- ⊞ Successfully defended VHF/UHF Bands from Little LEO threat. 1997
- ⊞ Promoted Industry Canada adoption of Contraventions Act - employing "ticketing" as graduated enforcement method.
- ⊞ Introduced a new RAC Affiliated Club Program with the RAC Affiliated Club President's Workbook. 1998
- ⊞ Introduced a new RAC Audio/Visual Program with nine VHS cassettes covering recruiting, emergency communications, contesting, history, newer modes, etc. 1998
- ⊞ Developed the RAC Foundation to support amateur radio through scholarship, community and research grants. 1998
- ⊞ Developed and continuously update the RAC Internet Web Site (including a members-only section) with hundreds of pages of useful information

WARC Nominations

Elections to fill four vacancies on the WARC Executive Committee will be held at the June Meeting. Those elected will take office at the September meeting. The Executive Committee will decide among themselves who will take each position.

A critical challenge over the next few years will be the recruitment and training of new amateur radio operators and their integration into our hobby and our club. Here's a chance to get some experience dealing with this issue and others. Are YOU up to the challenge?

If you are interested, contact the nominating committee, Harm VE4HAZ or David VE4DAR. We are good in the Blue Book. We will be approaching potential nominees as well.

Bulletins

Just like to remind you that World Amateur Radio Day is coming up again on April 18th.

That will present an opportunity for some Public Relations. The theme this year is technological innovation. The current IARU press release is on the RAC web site, and the pointer can be found at: <http://www.rac.ca/news.htm>

Winnipeg ARES Report
by Jeff, VE4MBQ - Winnipeg EC

No article received in time for printing.

Editors Ramblings
By Derek VE4HAY

Did you know


Tom, VE4YG found this interesting link and wanted to pass it on.

[Http://www.amateurradio.ca/](http://www.amateurradio.ca/)

I hope everyone got their antenna projects completed this past winter. Now that Spring is finally here, it's time to

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try out just how good a job you did on these connectors and joints.

I am having a great Spring. I actually have articles waiting for the next issue. The cupboard is not bare any more. I spent a lot of time searching the net this past month looking for interesting items, and by the time I was done, I had more than I could use. Plus I was greeted with articles from some club members. But this is not a reason not to submit me your item. I can always use it.

As a reminder to those who are still getting their newsletter via Snail mail. If you have an e-mail address you can get the newsletter electronically. Just send a message to ve4mmg@rac.ca and you can look forward to colour newsletters and additional stuff not found in the printed version. That's all for now. 73



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