



# The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

<http://ve4.net/warc/>

October 2003

VE4BB

Free to Members

## Amateur Radio HF Operations - "in a Nutshell"

By Barrett VE4ABA

Date: October 20th, 2003

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

## The President's Call By John, VE4QV



For those who might not know me I'm John Pura, VE4QV your new president. Firstly I'd like to extend thanks to our now past president, Louis Gaudry VE4PLJ for a job well done this past year. Thanks also go out to Ruthie Mamon VE4CRS for three great years on the executive as secretary. Thanks also to Rick Allan VE4RA as director at large.

Welcome to Pat Giesbrecht VE4PLG our new vice president, Ed Horton VE4EIH our new secretary, and Bob Hrabí VE4ZAP, our Director at Large. This year promises to be an exciting one for WARC. Glen Napady VE4GWN already has some excellent programs lined up, and band conditions can only get better. I look forward to seeing you all at the next general meeting.

## Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club VE4WSC By Adam, VE4SN, President.



Wasn't that a fabulous summer! I suppose there are some who would not agree to the very hot days we experienced in August, but how long

### Other Important Dates:

Articles: October 28th - Deadline for November Articles

WARC Nov. 10 - Rick VE4OV "Eznec Computer-aided Antenna Analysis Program"

Dec 8 - Cafeteria - Xmas Party

Jan. 12 - Willard VE4WJE on an E/H antenna

Feb 9 - David VE4DAR & the RR Dxpediton

Mar. 8 Bruce VE4KQ "How to work DX, 144MHZ and above

Apr. 19-Cafeteria - Home Brew Night

May 10 - Ed VE4YU "Digital Communications"

Jun. 14 - TBA

Nov. 2 - Flea Market

April 25 2004 - Flea Market

WSC: 2nd Thurs. of month - Breakfast - Garden City Inn

ARES: Oct 21 - Annual General Meeting & elections

Other:

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  
Daily 14:30 UTC MB Wx Net 3743 KHz  
Weekdays 9:00 Seniors morning net 147.390 MHz  
Wed. 9:00 pm Six Meter net 50.238 MHz.  
Thursday 9:00pm MRS Net 147.390 MHz +  
Sundav 9:00pm MRS Net 147.390 MHz +

### WARC: Executive for 2003 - 2004

Past President	Louis Gaudry	lcgaudry@mts.net
President	John Pura	ve4qv@rac.ca
Vice-Pres	Pat Giesbrecht	339-3018
Secretary	Ed Horton	885-4084
Treasurer	Fred Venema	fvenema@shaw.ca
Membership	Mark Blumm	ve4mab@rac.ca
Program	Glen Napady	ve4gwn@rac.ca
Field Day	Vacant	
Flea Market	Vacant	
Director at Large	Bob Hrabí	ve4zap@rac.ca

does that last? And now with the furnace in my home coming on for the first time this season and with the darkness arriving before 7:30 pm, I can only say.... I hope everyone had one whale of a summer!

Once again it's back to business and normal routines as far as the WSCRC is concerned as we prepare for the Fall and Winter seasons.

The monthly breakfast gatherings at Garden City were continued through the summer months although attendance did suffer a little bit. Winners of the free breakfast draw were Tony Kozak, VE4AO for July, Grant Delaney, VE4HGD for August and Hillel Taylor, VE4TP for September. As usual, those who did attend enjoyed themselves and were served a good breakfast as well.

August 28 was one of those rare days when the weatherman didn't cooperate and brought in some cool and moist weather. Nevertheless it was on that day that our hardy members chose to attend the WSCRC annual picnic. A total of 75 people braved the elements and showed up at the duck pond in St. Vital Park. There was plenty of barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs with all the condiments. The corn was fresh and sweet and there was lots of coffee and soft drinks. Entertainment was provided by Ed, VE4YU and his sound system and also the Intermods performed three songs, one of which was our 20th anniversary song written by the late Paul Palace, VE4PXP. It is to be noted here that joining the Intermods for the first time were Jadianne Drysdale and Lauryn Henderson, both three years old. We believe in starting them at a young age! The event was closed with the serving of a Birthday cake for the 20th anniversary of WSCRC. A good time was had by all!

Our first Executive Board meeting of the season was held on September 17th with the highlight of the meeting

being the Archives report by Ed Henderson, VE4YU. Among the many donations received by the club over the past few weeks was included a copy of QST magazine published in 1922. Ed gave a brief presentation of some of the more interesting articles from that publication.

That's it for this time around. To all you eager DXers out there... things will get better so keep those rigs warm and ready. 73 and good hunting!

### **Minutes for W.A.R.C. September 8th, 2003** **Submitted by Ed, VE4EIH**

Minutes taken by Ruth Mills VE4XYL in the absence of the secretary Ed Horton VE4EIH. Meeting was called to order at 1930 hrs. Members were welcomed, followed by introductions. There were 42 members in attendance. Congratulations to Aruni Perera VE4WMK who, at 9 years of age, got her Basic Amateur Radio License. She attends meetings with her father VE4WKP.

David VE4DAR moved to accept the June 2003 minutes as printed in the Newscaster. Seconded by Derek VE4HAY. Motion carried.

Introduction of the 2003/2004 Executive

- ☛ President: John Pura VE4QV
- ☛ Vice-President: Pat Giesbrecht VE4PLG
- ☛ Secretary: Ed Horton VE4EIH
- ☛ Treasurer: Fred Venema VE4FV
- ☛ Program: Glen Napady VE4GWN
- ☛ Director at Large: Bob Hrabi VE4ZAP

The President extended a thank you to Louis VE4PLJ, who served as President for the year, as well as the past Secretary Ruthie VE4CRS, who served on the executive for 3 years. The Board of Directors require a few more members, so Glen VE4GWN asked for volunteers.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

(Fred VE4FV) Bank balance as of August 29, 2003 was \$5,611.33

#### **Program**

(Glen VE4GWN) To date, Glen does not have any definite dates or programs in place, but he does have several programs lined up.

- October: TBA = to be announced
- November: Rick Lord - Computers
- December: Christmas Party
- April: Home brew Night

Derek VE4HAY suggested that someone prepare a primer course on proper etiquette and skills, for those going on HF for the first time. Other suggestions were HF Digital Modes and introduction to IRLP.

Industry Canada Amateur Centre  
Voice 1-888-780-3333 (toll-free)  
Fax: 1-613-991-5575  
Email: [spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca](mailto:spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca)  
[http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/h\\_sf01709e.html](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/h_sf01709e.html)

Comments or if you just want to reach us :  
**Newscaster Editor**  
**Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club**  
**C/O VE4WSC**  
**598 St. Mary's Road**  
**Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L5**  
Newsletters - past issues  
<http://www.ve4.net/newsletters.html>

**R.A.C.**

(Derek VE4HAY) There will be a meeting with CARAB soon. However a date has not yet been set.

**Flea Market**

(Bob VE4ZAP) Plans are in order for the Flea Market to be held on Sunday, November 2, 2003 at the Heritage Victoria Community Club. For tables, call Ruth VE4XYL at 837-6915 or Mariska VE4MMG.

**M.A.R.M.**

(Tom VE4SE) Tom reported that the MARM Fest was a very successful event and a good time was had by all. Dave VE4XN will send a report once his computer virus is fixed.

**Field Day**

(John VE4QV) Report not complete. Will be submitted at a later date.

**New Business**

- No new business.

**Good & Welfare of the Club**

- ✓ Announcement (Dave VE4DAR) - VA4PDC, Prairie Dog Central Railway Dx-pedition, September 20, 2003, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Tickets sell at \$20 each which includes the train ride and a prize draw. Over 100 tickets have been sold to date. Bring your picnic lunch.
- ✓ Radio Interference Bob VE4ZAP reported that there is a group trying to trace the interference.
- ✓ 50/50 Draw of \$16.50 was won by George VE4GHR.

Ted VD4VID moved that the meeting be adjourned at 2008 hrs. In place of a program, a social visit took place.

**WPGARES**  
**Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**

The CANWARN Summer Severe Weather Season wrapped up SUN 07SEP. There were at least ten (10) CANWARN Nets run this season. Thanks again to the 2003 VE4WWO Net Controllors VE4s:WF, AJR, VID, RCJ, HGD, KEH, TJR, KAZ, RST, HAZ, ALW, AEY, MMG, SE, JNF, GWN, WTS, EH, ACX, DWG, MBQ.

Twenty-six (26) WPGARES members and associates provided volunteer Amateur Radio communications for the NWIRA Regatta 21-23AUG at Winnipeg Rowing Club. Thanks to Interlake ARC for use of VE4ARC and thanks to Yori Tsuji for use of VE4TWO. The volunteer operators were: VA4AA, VE4s: AJR, HAZ, MAQ, ZAP, ACX, CDP, WF, EH, XYL, WJE, HGD, SE, FV, DWG, HK, MMG, JHJ, EAR, ALW, WTS, RST, OAK, VZ, JNF, MBQ.

Nineteen (19) WPGARES members participated in Exercise 37 the evening of 27AUG at the City Of Winnipeg Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The goals of this exercise included:

- ◆ familiarize members with after hours entrance to City Hall complex
- ◆ discuss organization of City Emergency Preparedness Program
- ◆ meet Emergency Program Coordinator and Assistant under relaxed atmosphere
- ◆ see normal configuration of VE4EOC equipment
- ◆ find out where additional ARES equipment is stored and how to set it up.

Twenty-two (22) WPGARES members and associates provided volunteer Amateur Radio communications on a cool, wet morning for the Terry Fox Run SUN 14SEP. We covered the four run sites in Winnipeg (Assiniboine Park, The Forks, Kildonan Park, Harborview Park) plus the Provincial Office. Thanks to Interlake ARC for use of VE4ARC and to Prairie Communications for use of VE4CNR. Thanks to our volunteers VE4s:KAZ, KU, OAK, CRS, DAR, MMG, HK, ZAP, STS, CDP, DWG, WF, ESX, YYL, GWN, AKS, KAB, JHJ, MGR, GWB, AJR, MBQ.

Eleven (11) WPGARES members and associates provided volunteer Amateur Radio communications on another cool, wet morning for the Parkinson Superwalk SUN 21SEP at St. Vital Park. Thanks to Dick VE4HK for coordinating this event. Thanks to our volunteers VE4s: GWN, YYL, OAK, MMG, WF, ZAP, AJR, CDP, TJR, JNF, HK.

The next WPGARES meeting - which will be the Annual General Meeting - is TUE 21OCT 1900h at Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Nominations for the 2003-04 WPGARES Executive are to be submitted to Jeff VE4MBQ by SUN 12OCT. The current members of the Executive have indicated that they are prepared to stand for another year. The members attending the AGM will deal with a review of the 2002-03 Financial Statement and be asked to approve a budget for 2003-04. There is a possibility that the City might require new members and perhaps all members to undergo background checks before being granted access to the EOC and other civic facilities. A Notice of Motion was given at our SEP meeting for debate at the AGM dealing with incorporating background checks into our membership criteria if it becomes a condition imposed by the City for civic access.

**Parkside Appliance & Electronics**



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

## Contest Calendar

### October

SARL 80-Meter QSO Party		1700Z	Oct 2
TARA PSK31 Rumble		0000Z	Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest	Phone	0800Z	Oct 4
EU Autumn Sprint	SSB	1500Z	Oct 4
California QSO Party		1600Z	Oct 4
QCWA QSO Party		1800Z	Oct 4
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	SSB	0700Z	Oct 5
YLRL Anniversary Party	CW	1400Z	Oct 8
10-10 Day Sprint		0001Z	Oct 10
Oceania DX Contest	CW	0800Z	Oct 11
EU Autumn Sprint	CW	1500Z	Oct 11
Pennsylvania QSO Party		1600Z	Oct 11
	and	1300Z	Oct 12
FISTS Fall Sprint		1700Z	Oct 11
Iberoamericano Contest		2000Z	Oct 11
North American Sprint	RTTY	0000Z	Oct 12
YLRL Anniversary Party	SSB	1400Z	Oct 15
JARTS WW RTTY Contest		0000Z	Oct 18
ARCI Fall QSO Party		1200Z	Oct 18
Worked All Germany Contest		1500Z	Oct 18
W/VE Islands QSO Party		1600Z	Oct 18
Asia-Pacific Sprint	CW	0000Z	Oct 19
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	CW	0700Z	Oct 19
Illinois QSO Party		1800Z	Oct 19
CQ Worldwide DX Contest	SSB	0000Z	Oct 25
Int. Fall Contest	CW	0001Z	Oct 25

### November 2003

IPA Contest	CW	0600Z	Nov 1
	and	1400Z	Nov 1
Ukrainian DX Contest		1200Z	Nov 1
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest	CW	2100Z	Nov 1
North American Collegiate	CW	2100Z	Nov 1
ARCI Running of the QRP Bulls		2100Z	Nov 1
IPA Contest	SSB	0600Z	Nov 2
	and	1400Z	Nov 2
High Speed Club CW Contest		0900Z	Nov 2
	and	1500Z	Nov 2
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest		1100Z	Nov 2
WAE DX Contest	RTTY	0000Z	Nov 8
Japan Int. DX Contest	Phone	0700Z	Nov 8
SARL Field Day Contest		1000Z	Nov 8
OK/OM DX Contest	CW	1200Z	Nov 8
Anatolian ATA PSK31 Contest		1800Z	Nov 8
LZ DX Contest	CW	1200Z	Nov 15
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest		1600Z	Nov 15
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest	SSB	2100Z	Nov 15
North American Collegiate	SSB	2100Z	Nov 15
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	2100Z	Nov 15
CQ Worldwide DX Contest	CW	0000Z	Nov 29

## RAC Morse Survey results are in

The RAC web site survey page was set up on August 3rd, and continued except for the Ontario power blackout, until August 31. Over 1400 responses were received, with over 1300 of these being valid and worth retention. The remainder were duplicates, responses from outside Canada, clubs, or multiple call signs for the same amateur, invalid call signs etc. Some responses were incomplete and therefore unusable. A detailed report has been prepared for the RAC Board of directors, to help them in reaching decisions on how to advise Industry Canada on the Morse issue. All comments (over 150 pages in total) have been forwarded to the Board, and to the group working on possible revisions to the examination content and structure.

### Results

The important overall results of the survey are:

- ☛ Two of three Canadian amateurs responding to the survey (66 %) wish to see Morse Code dropped as a requirement for access to the HF bands.
- ☛ Two of three, (69 %) want to see changes to the Basic Exam.
- ☛ 9% reported that they are not currently active, but 67 % of these also said they favoured dropping Morse
- ☛ Less than 1% said they were not interested
- ☛ 58 % have the Advanced qualification
- ☛ Of those who have the Advanced qualification, 57 % say drop Morse and 75 % say change the basic exam
- ☛ 59 % have a Morse qualification
- ☛ Of those who have the Morse qualification, 51 % say drop Morse testing, 77 % say change the basic exam.
- ☛ 47 % have both Morse and Advanced. 52 % of this group favor dropping Morse, and 77 % are in favor of changing the basic exam.
- ☛ 63 % say they like to operate VHF and 66 % of these say drop the Morse qualification for HF
- ☛ 78 % say that they like to operate HF or would like access to the HF bands and 66 % of these say drop Morse.

Results by Area.

The relative enthusiasm in different parts of Canada for dropping the Morse requirement can be found in the following table. The four Atlantic provinces were combined.

Area	Percentage wishing to drop Morse
MB	78 %
AB and NT	75 %
BC and YT	68 %
PQ	65 %
ON	64 %
SK	62 %
Atlantic	58 %

I

Type Certificate		Breakdown of Responses by Type of Certificate and Province (%)												
		All	ON	BC	AB	QC	MB	SK	NB	NF	NS	PE	YT	NT
<b>Basic only</b>	40 %	31	31	25	40	34	<b>35</b>	40	27	16	30	44	0	0
<b>Advanced</b>	5 %	9	9	8	12	10	<b>18</b>	11	9	15	7	8	50	50
<b>Morse</b>	9 %	12	12	9	9	14	<b>4</b>	11	15	19	17	8	25	0
<b>Advanced + Morse</b>	46 %	47	48	57	39	42	<b>43</b>	38	49	50	46	50	25	50

### *Type of Certificate of respondent*

The largest number of respondents, were those who had passed both a Morse and an advanced test. The next largest group were those who had passed the Basic only. As the following table shows, this corresponds well with the percentages in the Industry Canada database. For the whole of Canada, response from Basic- only holders was a bit low, and response from Advanced (no Morse) certificate holders was a bit high.

## News from the Net

### ***BELGIUM, GERMANY DROP MORSE REQUIREMENT***

Belgium and Germany are the latest countries to drop the requirement to pass a Morse code examination to obtain HF operating privileges. Their action followed the decision of World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 to delete the treaty requirement calling on applicants to prove Morse proficiency to have HF access. Belgians holding ON1-prefix Class B tickets can get new Class A HF licenses and ON4, 5, 6 or 7 prefixes by applying to Belgium's telecommunications authority and paying a 5 Euro fee. As of August 8, some 200 Belgian Class B licensees had taken advantage of the plan. Starting August 15, an estimated 33,000 German Class 2 VHF/UHF-only licensees will be permitted access to the HF bands on an equal footing with current Class 1 licensees. "Morse telegraph knowledge as a prerequisite to use the high-frequency bands is no longer required," said a statement from the German Federal Ministry of Economy and Labor (BMWA). "These rules apply for foreign Amateur Radio licensees with comparable privileges operating during visits in Germany." At least for now, the upgraded Class 2 licensees will use their current call signs (prefixes include DB, DC, DD and DG). Switzerland was the first country to drop the Morse requirement, albeit on a provisional basis while it makes the rule change permanent. The UK soon followed. Radio Amateurs of Canada is conducting a national on-line Morse survey <http://www.rac.ca/news/msurvey.htm> to record Canadian

amateurs' preferences on the current 5 WPM Morse requirement for HF access. The RAC Board of Directors will consider the results of the survey in arriving at a recommendation for Industry Canada, which will decide the matter in Canada. -- ARRL

### ***New Zealand to prepare for removal of Code requirement***

15 August 2003

The recent ITU World Radio Conference in Geneva (9 June to 4 July 2003) reviewed Article 25 of the International Radio Regulations relating to the Amateur Service. The Conference decided that the ability to send and receive morse code is no longer a requirement for amateurs to use the HF bands below 30 MHz. Administrations now have a choice as to whether morse code should continue to be a requirement for amateur operation in the HF bands.

The ITU decision aligns with New Zealand's position on this issue. Consequently, the Ministry intends to remove morse operating competency from the syllabus for the New Zealand General Amateur Operator's certificate. The Ministry is also considering related matters such as the ongoing requirement for a limited amateur operator's certificate, reciprocal licensing arrangements, and other consequential changes to the examination syllabus.

The changes will be implemented as part of the next round of updates to the New Zealand Radiocommunications Regulations 2001, which is expected to occur later in 2003. Details of the final arrangements will be published on this web site and communicated by letter to all licensed amateurs. Until the necessary changes to the regulations are made, however, holders of Limited Amateur Operator's certificates are not entitled to operate on bands below 30 MHz. In the meantime the Ministry will be consulting with the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Inc. and other parties who are interested in having an input to the development of policy on the changes. Anyone who is interested in providing such input should write to The Manager, Radio Spectrum Planning, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington, or email [info@rsm.govt.nz](mailto:info@rsm.govt.nz) --Ministry of Economic Development,

### ***Norway & Netherlands drop Morse***

The Norwegian Post and Telecommunication Authority reportedly has told the Norway Radio Relay League that the three former license classes with LA, LB and LC call sign prefixes were combined into one class on August 19. Those holding LC call signs have been issued new LA-prefix call signs, and those holding LB-prefix call signs may apply for LA call signs if they wish. The Netherlands Radiocommunications Agency announced this week that Morse proficiency will cease to be a requirement for HF access as of September 1. The Netherlands' Class A and C licenses which correspond to CEPT Classes 1 and 2 respectively will enjoy the same privileges, although they'll retain their distinctive call sign prefixes for now. The change does not affect the Class N license, which permits 2-meter and 70-cm operation only. A letter to all amateurs was to go out this week to all hams in the Netherlands. --ARRL

### ***Austria drops code in September***

Information from Austria's IARU member-society, the Austrian Radio Transmitters Union (OeVSV), indicates that country will grant provisional HF access to all CEPT Class 2 licenses "sometime in September," pending formal changes. -ARRL

### ***Australia draft Discussion paper on Amateur Service***

Check this site for the PDF file

[http://www.sma.gov.au/aca\\_home/issues\\_for\\_comment/discussion/amateur\\_review\\_disc\\_paper.pdf](http://www.sma.gov.au/aca_home/issues_for_comment/discussion/amateur_review_disc_paper.pdf)

### ***VK set for code removal***

The Australian Communications Authority is preparing for the removal of Morse code telegraphy tests for amateur licensing, in line with the decision of the ITU in Geneva in July this year. An official announcement by the ACA on when code tests will end is expected in a matter of weeks, if not sooner. The ACA no longer wants to delay the end of code tests until early 2005, which is when the ACA expects to make major reforms for the amateur service. Those regulatory and administrative reforms will flow from the ACA's discussion paper that was released on 22 August for public comment. The only delay now facing the removal of code tests is the legal document drafting process - a government requirement for changes to legal documents including the amateur service regulations. The ACA has received many requests from radio amateurs and representations from the WIA in support of code-free licensing. It will also have an eye on the European Conference of Telecommunications (CEPT) working group meeting this month, which is discussing its implementation of an end of mandatory Morse code tests. The result being widely tipped is that CEPT licensing involving some 40

countries will be code-free. A number of CEPT countries have already jumped the gun by removing the code requirement. A few more radio administrations have told radio amateurs in their country that code-free licensing is supported, but rather than take unilateral action they prefer to wait for it to be done through the formal CEPT decision-making process. The ACA may decide to hold off any announcement on the timing of VK code-free licensing until the CEPT decision is known. Australia has a reciprocal licensing agreement with the CEPT and any decisions it makes will be felt down under. -- WIA- Victoria

### ***SOUTH AFRICA - IMPORTANT PRECEDENCE WITH AR ANTENNA AND MAST INSTALLATIONS***

After an 8 year battle with neighbours and just about every conceivable authority, Oakdale AR Club member Dennis Wells, ZS1AU, has made an important breakthrough with his mast and antennae installations at his home in Durbanville. Stemming mainly from an awkward neighbour who didn't like the tower and antennae when it was initially installed, Dennis has stood up to all manner of demands from the Municipality, ICASA, etc., to either remove his installation or shut down his station. Just 4 weeks ago, the whole matter was brought to a surprising conclusion with a letter from the Public Defender, stating that Dennis, having complied with the existing rules and regulations, must be allowed to continue with his hobby without further harassment by any of the parties concerned. This would include not having to make any changes to his mast or antenna installation. Dennis also states that he is very thankful to the SARL! -- SARL

### ***Diamonds a ham's best friend ?***

Eetimes.com has reported that Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) has developed a diamond semiconductor device that operates at 81 GHz. The NTT lab has collaborated with the University of Ulm in Germany, that had already succeeded in fabricating FET devices, to develop a thin-film layer diamond semiconductor device. The joint team formed T-shaped gates on the diamond layer that is on a 3 square millimeter diamond substrate. The gate width, that determines the performance of devices, is 0.2 micron. The device operated continuously at 81 GHz. NTT researchers said that once the peripherals technology is established they expect to boost the output power of the device as high as 30 Watts per square millimeter, the level required for practical use. NTT is now working to further decrease impurities to improve the quality of diamond crystal. It is targeting devices with an operating frequency of 200 GHz and an output power of 30 Watts per square millimeter. (Reported by Peter Ellis VK1KEP in QNEWS)

***VE6SH, Tim Ellam nominated as IARU Vice President.***

The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) held its annual meeting on 6-8 September 2003 in Amsterdam. The International Secretariat presented nominations of candidates for President and Vice President for the 2004-2009 term, and the nominations were unanimously endorsed by the Council. Larry E. Price, W4RA, was nominated for a second term as President. Timothy S. Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, was nominated as Vice President. The nominations will be submitted to the IARU member-societies for ratification -- RAC

***Great new initiative for RAC Youth Education Program***

The Almonte Radio Repeater League (ARRL) in eastern Ontario is challenging each and every amateur radio club across Canada to match its \$100 donation to the RAC Youth Education Program. The purpose of the newly established Youth Education Program is to promote the use of amateur radio in Canadian schools across the country. Details about the Program, headed by Bj Madsen, VE5FX, can be found by clicking on "Youth Education" --RAC

***ARRL ANNOUNCES CONTEST RULE CHANGES***

The ARRL Contest Branch has announced rule changes governing ARRL-sponsored operating events. The changes become effective November 1, 2003. In any contest that requires off-time, any claimed off-time period must be at least 30 minutes long. "Remember that listening time counts as operating time when calculating off-time," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. Second, the Northwest Territories (NWT) multiplier has been renamed "Northern Territories"--abbreviated NT--for contests that use ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sections as part of the exchange. "While not an official RAC section, the VE8, VY1 and VY0 (Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut) are grouped together as a multiplier in the ARRL November Sweepstakes and the ARRL 160-Meter Contest," Henderson explained. "The new name and abbreviation will more accurately describe their makeup." Henderson said use of the NWT abbreviation was inconsistent to designate a multiplier that also included Yukon and Nunavut. Awards for ARRL-sponsored contests will continue to be issued to the VE8, VY1 and VY0 together as the Northern Territories section. Finally, in contests using geopolitical entities as multipliers--the ARRL RTTY Roundup, the ARRL International DX Contest and the ARRL 10-Meter Contest--the official abbreviation for Northwest Territories is NWT. "This change brings the multipliers for those events into a consistent form," Henderson said. ARRL encourages contest participants to update the necessary files for their logging software. --ARRL

***Ireland Drops Code***

ComReg have announced that with effect from the 15th of September 2003 a Morse Test is no longer required for access to the HF Bands. Accordingly, B licensees may now operate freely on all the HF Bands subject to the same power limits applicable to A licensees. No formal application is required to avail of this concession. Because not all countries operating under the CEPT agreement have yet removed the mandatory Morse requirement, operation by B licensees on the HF Bands abroad is confined to those countries that have done so. At this point there will be no change to existing callsigns. B licensees who wish to do so may apply for an A callsign but will be required to pass a Morse test. New licence applicants who have passed the Theory Test will continue to be issued with a callsign having a three letter suffix ending in B, unless they also pass a Morse Test. -- Irish Radio Transmitters Society Radio

***Requirement for Morse Code Examination for General class Licence Removed.***

The Info-comm Development Authority of Singapore that as from the 15th of September the requirement for a Morse code examination for HF operating privileges in Singapore was removed. As from the 16th of September all current and future licences will be convertible to General Class with full HF privileges. Singapore is thought to be the first country in Asia to adopt the recent amendments of Article 25 of the ITU Radio Regulations. -- Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society

***My First Year as a Ham***

***By David, VE4DAR***

*(Written Dec. 1992)*

Yesterday I celebrated my first birthday as a "ham". Radio amateurs, who have been on the air for forty or fifty years and have albums full of QSO cards, may not be impressed. But to me it was significant event.

In August the D.O.C. told me it was much easier now to get an amateur radio station licence. Morse Code was no longer required to get on the air as a beginner. They sent me RIC 24 and 25. A few days later Wayne VE4WR described his Informatics course at St James Collegiate. In September Larry VE4ELH and I started car-pooling to classes two nights a week until January. We studied; wrote the exam; and got our amateur licences (Basic Qualification) and call signs last February.

Most of our class spent a few hundred bucks on ht's to get on the air -- 2 metres, rubber ducky style. Jim VE4AJR

helped me put local repeaters into memory and gave me a tour of the Senior Citizens' ham shack. Sandy VE4TEL and I connected some 9913 to a one-dollar "coat hanger special" in the attic and I felt I was really getting into it! "VE4ELH, VE4DAR. How do I sound, Larry? Can you hear me?"

I discovered "London America" (Lorne VE4LA) when we were paired as radio operators in the Manitoba Marathon. Next I worked with Jim VE4AJR at the MS Society's "bike tour" between Headingly and Portage la Prairie. These activities exposed me to the public service facet of amateur radio and helped me to realize the effort, skill and collaboration required to set up the net and to be net control. About then I started checking into the MRS Net regularly.

Field Day attracted me to the top of the Saskatchewan Avenue hill where Rene VE4TV demonstrated ATV. In another tent I witnessed the flying fingers of Ed VE4YU sending CW for double points. Judy VE4JBN showed me how to write up the log for another operator. Kay VE4YF encouraged me to get on the air. I was really nervous when I tried HF. But I was thrilled to reach WA4USN on an aircraft carrier near Los Angeles! Next day Bill VE4UX gave me a shove into starting on my Worked All Winnipeg Award. During the summer I visited the Manitoba Amateur Radio Museum at Austin; had a QSO with someone flying a hot air balloon; and met Dave VE4XN and other hams at the International Hamfest at the Peace Gardens.

Perhaps my best rag chews have been at the "golden arches" where hams gather every morning to exchange info and advice. You can listen to Vic VE4GJ describe using CW to make reservations for Trans Canada Airline, or overhear someone talk about teaching veterinary students how to artificially inseminate cows! Many are seniors on coffee break after walking Polo Park Mall. Nothing slack about that crew! Most are active hams interested in Packet and computers; ready to offer government free advice on how to run this country. Saturday mornings they graciously expand the "net" to include us neophytes. I tried "coffee at the BK" on Narin Avenue one Sunday evening, but it's too far for me to become a regular.

I've joined the Manitoba Repeater Society and I attend the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club's monthly meetings. Twice I've been privileged to be net control for the MRS net. Stations along the net were patient while I tried to build skill. One of Alec's VE4AIM battery charger kits. The kits almost finished on my workbench! Learning CW has been a challenge. Three times I've started and stopped. Nevertheless, I am determined

to get my 12 wpm endorsement by summer. Perhaps I'll join Vern VE4VQ on a Dxpedition to Cumberland House, Saskatchewan.

It's been a busy and fulfilling first year. I've met hams who are inquisitive, inventive, helpful and courteous. Thanks to all who have answered my many questions and have encouraged me to try the various aspects of this hobby (obsession?).

## **RAC - Midwest Director Report**

### **By BJ, VE5FX**

#### ***On the Morse code issue:***

The CARAB meeting with Industry Canada is scheduled for October 23. The CW issue will be a big item on the agenda. I will be attending as one of the RAC representatives.

#### ***National Antenna Tower Review:***

Would you like to have input on this issue? Check out <http://www.antennareview.ca/english/welcome.htm>

#### ***Power Line Communications:***

check out <http://www.rac.ca/news/world>

#### ***RAC Youth Education Program:***

This program now has five schools interested in participating. One in Winnipeg and one in Saskatoon. We have a WEB site - go to the RAC WEBSITE: <http://www.rac.ca> then 'Info Centre' then the 'Youth Education' Can you help out with financial assistance, resources or expertise? Can your club participate. Check out our WEBSITE to see how you might be able to take part in this vital undertaking. This will be another major presentation at the CARAB meeting with Industry Canada.



### **Jamboree On The Air 2003 is October 18-19**

The annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), which combines Amateur Radio and scouting, takes place this year on October 18-19. JOTA offers amateurs an opportunity to offer Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts (Cub Scouts, Brownies and Girl Guides are welcome) a chance to participate in this worldwide scouting tradition--now in its 46th year--and share experiences over the air with other scouts. Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be on the air for at least part of this year's JOTA.



## Rail Road DX-pedition

*Around the world in 4 hours on the 'radio ham' express*

*Extracted from the Winnipeg Free Press Sun Sep 21 2003  
By Shamona Harnett*

The West Kildonan senior's chosen mode of communication? Not the phone or even the Internet.

He uses amateur radio.

For almost 50 years, Romanchuk has been an amateur radio operator, commonly known as a radio ham. He's one of more than five million people worldwide who have taken up the hobby. Most admit radio hamdom is all about the thrill of contacting people around the world using relatively basic technology that does not require a server or cell tower. The only things required are an antenna, a radio, technical know-how and the love of the radio chase.

"We often set our radio equipment up in some bleak, God-forsaken place and hope to get in touch with someone," explained Romanchuk, who is also president of the Winnipeg Senior Citizens' Radio Club. "It's a lot of fun if you



Ruthie Maman and David Rosner prepare to board the Prairie Dog Central along with 120 other amateur radio operators. Photo by Marc Gallant / Winnipeg Free Press

have the constitution."

Romanchuk was one of about 120 Winnipeg radio hams and their families who chartered the historic Prairie Dog train yesterday for a massive radio outing to Warren. The goal, said David Rosner, who masterminded the trip, was "to talk to the world."

All amateur radio operators in North America must be federally licensed. Industry Canada assigns hams their own radio bands and identities after they pass an extensive technical exam. There are about 500 licensed hams in Manitoba. Most are part of a close-knit community who share a unique lingo and a passion for the airwaves.

"For fun we set up stations and go some place unusual -- an island, a train," said Rosner, adding that yesterday's

four-hour train trip was the first time a large group of Manitoba radio hams tried to make contact from a moving vehicle. "We wanted to see who we can contact. It depends on the signals and the sunspot cycle."

During the ride, operators made about 100 contacts, all within North America.

Along for the trip was Kent Haase, a data specialist with Environment Canada who has dabbled in the hobby for the last year-and-a-half. And he's captivated.

"It's a little bit of magic. I know you can communicate with better technology. But cell phones require infrastructure. Amateur radio doesn't." Haase would know. He often travels to the Arctic, where cell phones don't work and communication is difficult, save via his hand-held radio.

"To be able to speak with the other side of the world from a remote place is amazing. When other technology fails, the radio will still work."

In fact, that's why ham radio operators have become an invaluable asset in crisis situations. They volunteer their skills to all levels of government and have helped out in everything from the 1997 Red River flood to the Y2K computer scare to the Manitoba Marathon.

"It's a way to give back to the community," said Don Mackinnon, Manitoba's director of amateur radio emergency services. The former Winnipeg police officer and current lawyer has operated amateur radio for 10 years.

His kids, Kevin, 11 and Ryan, 9, also want to get in on the action. "It's a good hobby to have. I want to get my licence," said Ryan. His inspiration? A 10-year-old girl and recent Sri Lankan immigrant who happens to be the youngest radio ham to be licensed in the province.

One of Romanchuk's greatest "needle-in-a-haystack" experiences happened about eight years ago at a 35,000-person amateur radio conference in Dayton, Ohio. He was wearing his ID number when a young Russian man who flew in for the meeting recognized the number; they had communicated a month earlier.

"It was amazing to me. Can you imagine what the odds are of us being in the same room at the same time?" said Romanchuk. "He and I chatted like old-time friends."

Ed Henderson, a radio ham for 49 years, has also had far-reaching contacts. He's overheard the late Jordanian leader King Hussein, a known ham radio operator. Romanchuk and Henderson are worried their hobby is dying. So they are helping out in a national effort to bring the hobby to local schools.

"That's why that 10-year-old was such a refreshing thing to see," says Romanchuk. "Man, that's beautiful. Maybe there's hope."

*The author Shamona can be reached by e-mail at  
shamonah@hotmail.com*

**Tuning your Dipole**  
**By Ellis, VE4AJ0**

When I was making a wire dipole for a new band I wondered: How long? How much do I cut off in each attempt to get the SWR respectable? For a Dipole I cut the wire 5% longer than a quarter wave length ( each side ). This means I will always be shortening the antenna instead of trying to add wire.

BAND	CF MHz	Wave Length in Meters	Quarter Wave	0.95 Quarter Wave	One Degree
10 Meters	28.85	10.398	2.599 m	2.469	2.88 cm
12 Meters	24.93	12.033	3.008 m	2.857	3.34 cm
15 Meters	21.225	14.134	3.53 m	3.356	3.93 cm
17 Meters	18.110	16.565	4.141 m	3.934	3.93 cm
20 Meters	14.175	21.164	5.291 m	5.026	5.87 cm
30 Meters	10.125	29.629	7.407 m	7.037	8.23 cm
40 Meters	7.150	41.958	10.489 m	9.965	11.65 cm
80 Meters	3.750	80.000	20.000 m	19.000	22.22 cm
160 Meters	1.900	157.894	39.473 m	37.50	43.85 cm

Art Collins had a one degree rule in his design work and I have tried to apply it here when cutting the antenna to get the SWR just right.

Some tuning of the antenna can be done by raising or lowering the ends of the dipole. This is easy as most of us string wire dipoles off the side of the tower and the ends to a tree or fence.

Antenna resonance changes summer to winter, the leaves and the frozen ground have effects, so the word is go slow.

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



No report submitted. However, the planning for the year continues. Please see the front page for details. If you would like to present a topic, please contact me on the air or by telephone. I am good in the blue book.

**QTX~**  
**By Derek, VE4HAY**



**Did you know -**

Last month I mentioned about a new UHF repeater in town. Well first, it is not new, just re-born. VE4UHF is on 444.000+ with a PL tone (in/out) of 127.3 Hz. Output is 24 watts (22 out of duplexer) into a Sinclair 310-C4 antenna (9db gain) at 325 feet aimed N/E in the Osborne village area. The repeater is capable of 50 watts, but I have it turned down so as to not out talk itself to much. Repeater works really well north, east and in the city. Range is somewhat less from behind the antenna and there's a shadow to the south from 55 Nassau.

**HDTV**

This site provides the best definition of HDTV, what it is, and how it works, that I have seen so far. Check it out <http://videoexpert.home.att.net/artic3/253dtv.htm>

**National Antenna Tower Policy Review**

Individuals, community groups and other stakeholders are invited to participate in an e-Town Hall antenna Web site which will be launched September 3, 2003. Researchers at the University of New Brunswick have designed this Web site to solicit and capture a broad range of opinions about how the current antenna placement polices are working and about how these policies might be improved in the future. Please bookmark this page to check for the upcoming public announcement regarding the launch of the e-Town Hall Web site. The URL is <http://www.antennareview.ca>

**Canadian Forecasts of Geomagnetic Conditions**

Canadian Government is providing current "Space Weather" reports and forecasts which may be useful to radio amateurs using both HF and VHF bands.

[http://www.spaceweather.gc.ca/forecasting\\_e.shtml](http://www.spaceweather.gc.ca/forecasting_e.shtml)

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