



The NEWSCASTER

The Official Publication of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club

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

December 2003

VE4BB

Free to Members

Christmas Party

Social gathering
Everyone welcome

Date: December 8th, 2003

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School

From the Planning Chair: Glen, VE4GWN



I hope that everyone who attended the November meeting enjoyed Rick's presentation as much as I did. I understand antenna theory much more now than I did before Rick's presentation. I downloaded the demo version of ezec (from www.eznec.com) and I've have had fun playing with it. Thank you Rick for sharing your knowledge with us.

December 8th will be the WARC Christmas party. I know that the Intermods will be there to entertain us with their harmonious melodies. Ruth (and her "elves") will also be providing use with a wonderful bounty to tantalize our taste buds. Bring your spouse and come and join us.

Once again we will have our Hand Held Radio decorating contest. There will be first, second, and third place prizes. The rules are simple:

- ✓ Decorate your HT (appropriate to the holiday season),
- ✓ You must be able to operate your radio (turn it on or off, change frequency, transmit and receive) without un-decorating it (i.e. You can't just take it out of a wrapped package to get at the controls).

Since I'm talking about Christmas I wish all of you the very best of the season regardless of how you choose to celebrate, or what you give for a greeting.

73, Merry Christmas, Happy, Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza or???

Other Important Dates:

Articles: December 29th - Deadline for January Articles

WARC Jan. 12 - Willard VE4WJE on an E/H antenna
 Feb 9 - David VE4DAR & the RR Dxpediton
 Mar. 8 Bruce VE4KQ "How to work DX, 144 MHz and above
 Apr. 19-Cafeteria - Home Brew Night
 May 10 - Ed VE4YU "Digital Communications"
 Jun. 14 - TBA
 April 25 2004 - Flea Market

WSC: Dec. 9th - Christmas Party
 Dec. 17th - Annual General Meeting
 2nd Thurs. of month - Breakfast - Garden City Inn

ARES: Dec. 6 - SKYWARN Recognition Day
 Dec. 16 - Meeting - Jay Anderson
 Jan. 27/04 - All Amateur Meeting with WRHA

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 +
 Sunday 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	Bob Hrab	774-5178
Director at Large	Bob Hrab	774-5178

Minutes for W.A.R.C. October 20th., 2003
Submitted by Ruth, VE4XYL

The meeting began with the introductions with 35 members in attendance.

Correction to previous minutes

on page 6 of the newscaster under DX Sleuths to read Adam VE4SN and call sign CEOY San Fernandus Island.

Moved by Harm VE4HAZ seconded by George VE4GHR that the minutes be accepted as amended. Carried.

TREASURERS REPORT.

Not available as the books are being audited.

FLEA MARKET

In the absence of the Flea Market organizer, Bob VE4ZAP Glen VE4GWN expressed a great big thank you to everyone for the support given to make our event the success that it was. For those interested in the figures of Nov. 2/03 Flea Market they are:

Attendance	270	
Revenue		
Main door admission	\$483.50	
Vendor door admission	58.00	
Tables sold 30	197.50	
50/50 draw	62.00	
Canteen	308.25	
Total		1109.25
Expenses		
Hall Rental	\$ 75.00	
Prizes	150.00	
Canteen	120.00	
Tickets	12.00	
Total		357.00
Net profit		\$752.25

Industry Canada Amateur Centre
 Voice 1-888-780-3333 (toll-free)
 Fax: 1-613-991-5575
 Email: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca
http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwG eneratedInterE/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>

David on behalf of the membership expressed a thank you to Bob VE4ZAP for a job well done.

Programs

Glen VE4GWN -

Today's presentation will be inform us on Ez nec Computer Aided Antenna Analysis presented by Rick VE4OV.

December 8th will be our Christmas Party hosted by Ruth's Kitchen and helpers. There will be a decorated H.T. contest. The rules that will apply are: You must be able to turn it on and off without taking the decorations off. You must be able to change frequencies and operate as it remains decorated. There will be 3 prizes and 3 judges. The Intermods will entertain. We invite you all to join us in the Christmas celebrations.

Membership.

Mark VE4MAB - To date there are 104 paid members. RAC

Adam VE4SN gave us a breakdown of data provided by Industry Canada of Amateurs by ages and provinces. In Manitoba only:

80 and over	126
70-80	188
60-70	267
50-60	313
35-50	397
25-35	106
18-25	81
15-18	1
12-15	1
Under 12	1

I'm sure the under 12 must VE4WMK who achieved her basic license at the age of 9. Congratulations Aruni.

In the Province of Manitoba 18% of Amateurs belong to RAC, Ontario has 21% and all other provinces are below 18%.

ARES

Dick VE4HK announced the winners of the Flea Market draws. Fred VE4TRO 2 Prizes, Bill VE4AAZ, Alexander VE4APN, Patrick VE4PTH, Sandy VE4SZ, Stan VE4SG, Gil VE4GIL, Don VE4AY A thank you to all the donors from the members of ARES.

Parkside Appliance & Electronics



**Sales & Service of
 Computers & Software
 Home repairs offered**

John, VE4JNF

386 Belvidere Street 885-9278
<http://www.escape.ca/~ve4jnf> ve4jnf@escape.ca

New Business

It was discussed and agreed by the executive of WARC that a financial support be donated to a couple of good endeavors.

\$100.00 be donated to the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund. DARF. It was moved by David VE4DAR seconded by Harm VE4HAZ that \$100.00 be donated to DARF. Rick VE4OV suggested we donate more, perhaps \$500.00. Base on discussions of the membership it was agreed to be \$100.00. Motion was carried.

Radio of Canada Education Program. It was moved by Rick VE4OV, seconded by Derek VE4HAY that \$100.00 be donated to this program. Carried.

OSCAR AWARDS

Nominations are still open. Many excellent candidates have been nominated but there is still time to put more names forward.

REMEMBERANCE DAY

A moment of silence was held to remember the very many who gave their lives for our freedom..

Meeting was adjourned at 20:00hrs. Thank you to John VE4JNF and Fred VE4FV for the delicious coffee and tim bits.

WPGARES**Jeff Dovyak VE4MBQ**

CANWARN Net Controllers are planning to operate VE4WWO again this year during SKYWARN Recognition Day on SAT 06 DEC. If we get enough ARES volunteers we will operate 24 hours. Briefing is TUE 02 DEC 1900h 4th floor PSPC.. The SRD web-site is: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>

Thanks to VE4VZ, VE4ALW, and VA4RMM. The reports of reduced visibility that they provided on 2m that were relayed by telephone by VE4SE and VE4MBQ to Prairie Storm Prediction Centre were much appreciated by PSPC staff and instrumental in helping the Severe Weather Meteorologist to issue a Special Weather Statement for southern Manitoba. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a list of Severe Winter elements of interest to PSPC staff.

Our November General Meeting featured WRHA Disaster Management Director Guy Corriveau who spoke very enthusiastically about WRHA Disaster Management and the Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS). WRHA wants to build Amateur Radio support into their disaster plans. With over 60 discrete locations in Winnipeg WRHA is a much bigger entity than what can be supported solely by WPGARES. Current ARES

commitments to government agencies in Winnipeg could require up to 18 operators per shift depending upon the nature of the callout. We want to try to assist WRHA in a manner similar to 1997 Flood Operations or Y2K Operations where ARES became the coordinating body for the Amateur Radio response that was staffed by members of many local Amateur organizations including MRS, UMARS, WSCRC, WARC, Sun Valley Venturers, as well as grassroots Amateurs without any organizational affiliations.

An "All-Amateur" meeting to gauge the interest of the general Amateur community (particularly those without current emergency response obligations) in assisting WRHA Disaster Management has been booked for TUE 27 JAN 2004 1900h Deer Lodge Centre 2109 Portage Avenue. If you are considering attending please notify VE4MBQ so that we have enough handout material available at the meeting and an appropriately sized room.

The next WPGARES General Meeting is TUE 16 DEC 1900h Sir Wm Stephenson Library 765 Keewatin Street. Guest speaker will be Jay Anderson Warning Preparedness Meteorologist PSPC. Jay's presentation is "Keeping Informed When Nature Strikes".

FLEA MARKET CANTEEN**submitted by Ruth VE4XYL**

A sincere thanks to my special support girls who help in preparing the food for our Flea Market on Saturday and then run the canteen on Sunday.

- ☞ Susan VE4SYM. She slices those Kaiser buns just perfect.
- ☞ Mariska VE4MMG. The saran wraps are the perfect size and keeps an accurate count of the bunwiches.
- ☞ Ruthie VE4CRS. She's quick on the filling spread and makes sure we don't miss the butter on the buns.
- ☞ Isabelle Haase, xyl of VE4KEH. She's Mrs. Speed at any job needed doing.
- ☞ Pat VE4PLG Thanks for the offer of help on Saturday. Although I was unable to use your talents then, you sure used them with your sales pitch on Sunday.
- ☞ Rosie VE4YYL. Thanks for the offer Rosie, even with a brace on your wrist you still offer to help on Saturday. Rosie always helps in other locations on Sunday.

My job as canteen organizer would not be the success it always is without the yl's as my helpers and support. We do have a lot of fun and fellowship. This job is a 2 day affair and these girls all work on Sunday as well.

Lastly, to the special guy behind the scenes VE4SE. He is my support, my transport, carrying of supplies, boxes etc. waiting in line at the checkout stands and his job extends up to when the last box is carried in to our house after the Flea Market is Over. Thank you Tom.

News from the Net

Fractal-Shaped Tiles Developed For New Broadband Class Antenna

Recently, engineers at an American university, Penn State (Pennsylvania), have shown that fractal structures have been shown to produce many interesting properties when they are used in antenna designs. Often fractal structures can be used to build smaller antennas than their conventional counterparts and send information over a broader range of frequencies. In this presentation, fractal tree structures, which resemble trees found in nature, are used to miniaturize the fundamental dipole antenna and spiral fractal structures, which resemble spiral galaxies found in space, are used to miniaturize the broadband cavity backed spiral antenna. Many natural objects, such as tree branches and their root systems, peaks and valleys in a landscape and rivers and their tributaries are versions of mathematical fractals which appear pleasingly irregular to the eye but are actually made of self-similar, repeated units. Fractal-shaped tiles can be shown to offer anywhere from a 4:1 to 8:1 improvement in bandwidth compared to their conventional counterparts. The new broadband antennas are composed of irregular but self-similar, repeated fractal-shaped unit tiles or "fractiles" which cover an entire plane without any gaps or overlaps. The outer boundary contour of an array built of fractiles follows a fractal distribution. This work has been led by Dr. Douglas H. Werner, professor of electrical engineering and senior scientist in Penn State's Applied Research Laboratory. A link to further information is at <http://labs.ee.psu.edu/labs/dwernergrroup> --WIA *Queensland*

Surfin': Radio Ghosts

Have you ever heard a long delayed echo (LDE)? I have experienced short aurora-inspired echoes and they are a disquieting experience, so I imagine that an LDE will cause you to wonder if your radio was haunted.

Natural and manmade objects reflect radio signals. The reception of a reflected signal at the transmitter site will be delayed depending on how far away the reflecting object is from the transmitter. The greater the distance, the longer the time before the echo is received at the transmitter site.

It takes an average of 2.7 seconds for a signal to make the round-trip from the earth to the moon and back (Earth-Moon-Earth, or EME). Echoes less than 2.7 seconds are likely caused by objects that are nearer to the Earth, for example, natural objects like the ionosphere and manmade objects like aircraft. (An "echo" of 1/7th of a second is not really an echo; it is the reception of signal after it has gone around the world and returned to the transmitting station.)

Echoes of greater than 2.7 seconds are considered long delayed echoes (LDEs). What makes them interesting is that no one knows for sure what is causing these ghost signals. Some believe that the aurora activity that follows a solar

storm like the one that occurred a few days ago is the source of LDEs. Others believe that the ionosphere is the cause. The most popular current theory is that the radio signals are trapped between two ionized layers in the atmosphere and then are guided around the world many times over until they fall out of a gap in the bottom layer.

Still others believe that LDEs are double EME (EMEME) reflections, ie, the signal is reflected by the moon and that reflected signal is reflected by the Earth back to the moon and reflected again by the moon back to the earth.

A few even believe that LDEs are caused by alien probes launched from a distant civilization and put in orbit around planets likely to harbor life. A probe attempts to make its presence known by repeating whatever signals it receives on the same frequency. - WIA *Tasmania*

World's Fastest Transistor

Looking something like a piston in a cylinder but at a nano-metre scale, the world's fastest transistor has been demonstrated by a team at the University of Illinois. Their latest device, with a frequency of 509 gigahertz, is 57 gigahertz faster than their previous record holder and could find use in applications such as high-speed communications products, consumer electronics and electronic combat systems. The 500 GHz device is 37 percent faster than the 370 GHz mark they achieved in January this year. Feng and graduate students Walid Hafez and Jie-Wei Lai fabricated the high-speed devices in the university's Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory (<http://www.micro.uiuc.edu>). Unlike traditional transistors, which are built from silicon and germanium, the Illinois transistors are made from indium phosphide and indium gallium arsenide. (Reporter: Peter Ellis VK1KEP) -- WIA *Queensland*

Bluetooth and Spectrum Pollution

Just when you thought you'd heard it all, Bluetooth has announced last week that, for the first time, one million Bluetooth devices have been shipped in a week. Even if the technology-savvy and radio-active Aussie market gets only one percent of this world-wide output, that's a lot of 2.4 GHz action coming to the airwaves near you over the next weeks and years. Expect Bluetooth to appear in every type of commodity electronic device that might need data transfer, such as: portable MP3 players, cameras, set-top boxes and DVD players, TV sets, cordless headphones and ear-pieces, cars (for cordless phone calls). Already, Bluetooth is in laptop computers. "Radios that comply with the Bluetooth wireless specification operate in the unlicensed, 2.4 GHz radio spectrum ensuring communication compatibility worldwide. These radios use a spread spectrum, frequency hopping, full-duplex signal at up to 1600 hops/sec. The signal hops among 79 frequencies at 1 MHz intervals to give a high degree of interference immunity." (Reporter: Peter Ellis VK1KEP) -- WIA *Queensland*

Australia to Drop CW January 1st.,2004

Dr Bob Horton, the Deputy Chairman of the ACA has made an information release on the widely anticipated removal of Morse code testing requirements for Australian amateur radio operators. As identified in Dr Horton's information release the removal of the Morse testing requirement will not come into force until 1 January 2004. The proposed changes will require no changes to existing licences or callsigns and so amateurs across Australia will be able to enjoy access to HF operation from the beginning of 2004. I look forward to hearing many new operators on HF over the New Year break including all of you interested in ensuring the preservation of on air CW. -- *WIA Queensland*

WIA "Welcome to HF" QSO Party

On New Year's Day 2004 Australian radio amateurs will gain access to the High Frequency (HF) bands using licences that don't require the passing of Morse code telegraphy tests. The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) invites the world's amateur radio fraternity to join an on-air celebration of this special occasion.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has been campaigning for more than three years to have code tests removed as a licence requirement to operate on amateur bands below 30 MHz, and for Australia this will happen on the 1st of January, 2004. To celebrate the event, there will be a "WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party" beginning at 0001 Australian Eastern Daylight Time and conclude at 2400 UTC on New Year's Day - a total of 35 hours.

The VK radio amateurs appearing on HF bands for the first time can be identified by three-letter VK callsign suffixes that begin with the letters H, T, U, X, Y and Z. (for example VK2Z**, VK4T**, etc.) Official WIA amateur stations will be on air to join the HF QSO Party, and these have two-letter callsign suffixes "WI" or three letter suffixes starting with "WI" (for example VK3WI). Listen for the call "CQ WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party". Further information may be obtained by e-mail to: Jim Linton, VK3PC, "WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party" Organiser at hfqsoparty@wiavic.org.au

Quebec to begin trials of Internet over power lines

The CBC reported on Friday, that Hydro-Quebec is planning to offer high-speed internet service over its power lines. Users of short wave radio such as radio amateurs and broadcasters have expressed concern that the signals on the power wires could interfere with radio reception.

But the Hydro Quebec spokesman thought it would not be a problem, and pointed out that interference doesn't occur over cables that provide both television and internet service. (None of the "experts" seem to realize that television signals are on a different frequency than the proposed high speed Internet signals, while amateur radio and shortwave broadcasting share the HF band with the proposed service).

German utilities started offering Internet service over power lines the summer of 2001, and in Sweden service is also available. In both countries, tests have shown that interference can be as high as S9 in some locations. Many other tests are underway in Europe, the USA, and some parts of Asia and the South Pacific.

As reported here a couple of weeks ago, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is looking into the potential interference caused by various approaches to Broadband Information Transmission over Power lines, with a view to possibly imposing regulations setting acceptable levels. The International Amateur Radio Union is participating in the studies.

Hydro-Québec is reported to have said that it will start testing in January 2004 and hopes to offer the service in a few years. Without a doubt, Industry Canada will be monitoring the tests closely to measure the interference levels and decide if they are unacceptable. Radio Amateurs in Quebec should also monitor and report cases of interference. -- (RAC)

Students in a BC high school school enthusiastic about amateur radio

The Nov 21 issue of the Times Colonist of Esquimalt BC (reporter Norman Gidney) describes how students became interested in Amateur Radio in a local high school.

According to the Times Colonist, two students, Tyler Paquette and Alexa Hanson, qualified for amateur certificates over the summer, and several more are ready to follow as a ham radio club gets going at the school.

Ian Soutar, VE7RRU, father of an Esquimalt high student and a communications specialist who builds custom electronic systems for businesses, said the reason is something called IRLP.

The Internet Radio Linking Project, a combination of Linux software and older hardware, was perfected in B.C. four years ago. Soutar has built four IRLP "nodes" around town, the first in 2001. He decided that Internet-linked ham radio might interest students. "Realistically, it takes a couple of weekends of study to get your licence," said Soutar.

At Esquimalt high, an antenna and cable were donated by the Victoria Emergency Program. The antenna will go on the roof of the school gym. A four-year-old radio that's no longer used by local police and fire departments since they switched to the CREST system has also been given to the school. When the antenna is installed later this month, the student ham operators plan a live demonstration of the technology at a school pep rally, where they hope to interest more ham fans.

Geoff Orme, teacher librarian and sponsor of the new club is quoted as saying, "It's wonderful, the opportunities for kids to connect around the world". -- RAC

Sweden Could be Next to Drop Morse Requirement

The November issue of the Swedish national amateur radio society's magazine, QTC, states that: "Soon - very soon - the requirement for knowledge of CW [for HF-bands access] will be dropped for the country's would-be amateurs and current Class 2 amateurs". Gunnar, SM0SMK, the President of SSA, says that they hope the Morse code test requirement will be removed at the turn of the year. --RSGB

South African Radio League - recommends dropping Morse for ZU licences

At the Council meeting on 5 November 2003 it was agreed to recommend the following changes to the requirements for and privileges of amateur radio licenses in South Africa.

The Morse code requirement for the ZS license will be reduced from 12 w.p.m. to 5 w.p.m.

Applicants for the ZU license will no longer be tested for proficiency in Morse code.

A new license class will be introduced with the callsign prefix ZT. This license will not have any Morse code requirement. The holders of ZT licenses will have full VHF privileges and will be permitted to transmit with a maximum power output of 100 W on the following HF band segments:

- 1838-1850 KHz
- 3580-3800 KHz
- 7035-7100 KHz
- 21300-21450 KHz

Note that the reason for introducing a new license class, rather than simply extending the privileges of the existing ZR license, is that we do not want to make any changes to the ZR and ZS licenses which are subject to the requirements of the international CEPT and HAREC agreements. Applicants for ZU and ZT licenses will be required to pass a practical test of their ability to correctly set up, adjust and operate an HF transceiver. The operating privileges of the ZR, ZS and ZU licenses will remain unchanged. However holders of existing ZR licenses will be able to upgrade to a ZT license on successful completion of the practical operating test.

Welcome to Amateur Radio

By Arundathie Kumari Perera VE4WMK

Welcome to the fun and exciting hobby of Amateur Radio! Amateur Radio, or "ham" radio, has been around for over ninety years. Amateur Radio operators proudly call themselves "hams" but nobody knows the origin of this nick name. The most possible theory behind this as it came from the initials of three college students who believed to be among the first Radio Amateurs.

This is a hobby for all ages. Hams make many friends over the air as close as their own neighborhood or as far as around the world. They use two-way radio stations to talk with each other. Some even talk with hand held radios that fit in their pockets. They communicate across the country, around the globe using voice, computers, and Morse code. There are even ham-astronauts who take radios with them on the International Space Station and thrill thousands of hams on earth with a call from space!


Hams enjoy building their own radio receivers, transmitters, antennas and electronic circuits. They exchange pictures through ham radio frequencies in a mode called slow scan television (SSTV) and send amateur television pictures (ATV) on radio waves similar to real television pictures.

Ham operators use amateur satellites rotating around the world to communicate especially in very high frequency bands. They experiment with home brew equipment to bounce radio signals back to earth even from the moon.

Ham radio is not only a fun or pass time or a hobby. Radio Amateurs help out the general public in times of communication needs. This includes public events such as road races and marathons. They help to provide emergency communications during natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados and floods.

This is a good hobby for us as school children to develop knowledge and skills in radio communication equipment and operating methods. It naturally helps us to


DIAMOND IMAGE



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improve our science knowledge too. In USA and Canada a program called ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) helps school children to design, build and operate radio equipment to communicate with International Space Station crew members.

Ham radio is a hobby but that means ham operators are not allowed to do anything with radio transmitting. They should follow various guide lines and regulations. They are not allowed to broadcast to the general public. Ham radio transmissions are only to be sent to other ham radio operators.

To operate as a Radio Amateur you must obtain a license from Industry Canada. The "Basic Qualification" is the entry level requirement. To obtain this, you must pass an examination totaling 100 questions on radio theory, regulations and operating practices. To qualify for your license you must score minimum of 60% on these questions. There is a computer program developed by Industry Canada for the beginners to prepare for this exam. When you pass your examination, Industry Canada issues you a certificate and a "Call Sign" which is assigned to you as a licensed Radio Amateur. This is your identification when you exchange radio communications with other ham operators.

Hope you would join with this great hobby of "Amateur Radio" and have lots of fun!!

Arundathie Kumari Perera VE4WMK

Member of Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club WARC

Member of Radio Amateur Canada RAC

Editor note: Aruni is only 10 years old. She received her certificate this past summer and is VE4's youngest HAM.

Winnipeg ARES Silent Auction **By Dick, VE4HK**

Winnipeg ARES Fall Silent Auction took place Sunday, November 2, during the WARC Flea Market, at Heritage Victoria Community Club. There was a lot of action around our table, ogling the excellent items available. One of the most popular lots was number 9, which included a fold out chair from McNaught Motors, and a large gym bag from Astra Credit Union. This lot was so popular, we had to substitute a larger pail to hold all the tickets.

Each of the winners of the nine lots was delighted with their winnings, especially Stan VE4SG, who won the fold out chair and gym bag. Mariska and I would like to congratulate the winners. Thanks to all the individuals and companies who generously donated prizes. A special thank you to everyone who purchased tickets, and contributed to a most successful event. The list of winners and donors follows:

Lot 1	Fred Collings	VE4TRO
Lot 6	Sandy Sandwith	VE4SZ
Lot 2	Bill East	VE4AAZ
Lot 7	Skip Trueman	VE4AY
Lot 3	Gil Restiaux	VE4GIL
Lot 8	Fred Collings	VE4TRO
Lot 4	Alexander Parkin	VE4APN
Lot 9	Stan Gilewich	VE4SG
Lot 5	Pat Harapiuk	VE4PTH

Donors

Mariska Maguire VE4MMG	Dick Maguire	VE4HK
David Rosner VE4DAR	Ruthie Maman	VE4CRS
Kent Haase VE4KEH	Ron Martin	VE4MGR
Gary Smith VE4YH	Bob Myatt	VE4STS
Keith Lindstrom VE4FR	Rosi Napady	VE4YYL
Glen Napady VE4GWN	Barrett Filbert	VE4ABA
Cal Shermerhorn VE4XQ	Ian Clark	VE4CLK

Prairie Dog Central Committee VA4PDC

Smitty's Restaurant at Meadowood

Prairie Storm Prediction Centre

Canada Safeway

Standard Electric Contractors

Johnstone Plastics

McNaught Motors

Morse Code Classes

Tuesday's & Thursdays
starting January 6th, 2004
7:00 p.m. - 8: 30 p.m.

Until majority of class can qualify for 5 WPM

16 spots in total 5 spots still available

Cost 10 (includes the examination fee)

Instructors

Adam Romanchuk, VE4SN

Bruce Massey, VE4GR

If anyone feels that they would like to challenge the Morse code test (i.e. take a stab at it), please feel free to contact VE4SN when he is testing the rest of the class at the end of the course. Of course, if you make arrangements ahead of time, I'm sure some other testing time could also be arranged with Adam.

Register with

Sandy Sandwith (VE4SZ)

Training Coordinator

Winnipeg Senior's Amateur Radio Club (VE4WSC)

233-3122

Fall Flea Market Report Bob, VE4ZAP

Last Spring I was elected to the Board of Directors of W.A.R.C. and as such, was appointed Flea Market Coordinator as well as Director at large. Sunday, November 2/2003 found me very nervous as this was my first attempt at running one of Winnipeg's Amateur Radio social events. The Flea Market is one of the few times that we Amateurs gather in large numbers and folks, what numbers this Fall's event produced. From what I can gather, we set a record turnout of 270 Amateurs and guests. We also had record sales from Ruth's kitchen. Impressive to say the least.

First off, I would like to thank "ALL" who came out. You showed how much you want this event to continue and in the future, we, the Executive of W.A.R.C. will do our damndest to see that it keeps happening. I would like to thank the vendors for the excellent wares on the tables this Fall. Without you, there is no show. A thank you to the clubs and organizations who participated and shared with us. Always welcome. A BIG thank you to the people who donated door prizes... UNSOLICITED. And last but not least, I would like to say a very special thank you to the well seasoned volunteer group, who year after year have given their time to see that things go well. Heroes one and all.

- ☺ Vendors-Tom VE4TOM, Gerry VE4ACE, Mariska VE4MMG for A.R.E.S., Dick VE4HK for M.R.S., Mark VE4MAB for W.A.R.C., Doug VE4TG, Tom VE4ZV, Albert VE4AJB, Werner VE4UA, Chris VE4SET, Cal VE4XQ, Lee VE4ANC, Rolf VE4VZ, Rick VE4OV + Rob McCoy*, John VE4OL, Darcy*, Adam VE4SN for W.S.C., Ed VE4YU, Ron VE4AKW, Tony VE4AKF, Paula VE4MHZ, Rick VE4RA (you missed a great show), Dale VE4DAW, David VE4DAR, Derek VE4HAY, Dave VE4XN + guest for M.A.R.M., Dave VE4KU + Louis VE4PLJ, Les VA4LES, Isabelle and the young ones {family of Kent VE4KEH... Isabelle, you need your own call sign} Potential Amateurs Rick and John?
- ☺ Ruth's kitchen- Ruth VE4XYL, Susan VE4SYM, Pat VE4PLG, Isabelle -xyl of Kent VE4KEH (see what I mean?)
- ☺ Setup/tear down- Bert VE4AND, Ed VE4EIH, Ed VE4OAK and helping hands
- ☺ Table sales- Ruth VE4XYL, Mariska VE4MMG, Dick VE4HK
- ☺ Vendor doors- Glen VE4GWN, Rosie VE4YYL
- ☺ Admission doors- Tom VE4SE, Fred VE4TRO, Kent VE4KEH, George VE4GOM, Eric VE4EWN, Ron VE4MGR
- ☺ Talk in station- Jim VE4AJR
- ☺ Quiet guy behind the scenes- Fred VE4FV

- ☺ Prize donators- Prairie Mobile, Dave VE4XN + M.A.R.M, Mariska VE4MMG, Ron VE4MGR
- ☺ Door prize winners -Mike VE4OM, Bert VE4AND, Jim Bake friend of John VE4OL {needs a call sign too}
- ☺ 50/50 draw winner- Rob VE4RRB {Sorry if anyone was missed.}

Some have asked "What happened to the auction Bob?". I tried to get it going but it was impossible to yell above the crowd noise. At the next market, I WILL have a megaphone or other sound system and will attempt it one more time.

I would like to remind you that the table setups have been changed, which means there is more room for Amateurs who are in people movers, scooters some call them, to come out and have fun with us too. All Radio people are more than welcome, no matter if your a SWL person, mike shy or just not very active anymore. And ladies, this is not just a man's thing either. Please come and join us.

I am very grateful that my first Flea Market went so well. I have 5 more to do before my term is up as Director. See you in the Spring at the next Flea Market on April 25/2004 at Heritage Victoria C.C., 950 Sturgeon Rd

Manitoba ARES CANWARN "Reportable" Winter Weather

If you notice any of the following weather conditions this winter, please report this to the Weather office along with your locations and callsign;

- * Low Visibility
- * Freezing Rain or Freezing Drizzle
- * Snowfall accumulations over 6-8 cm
- * Rain that changes to Snow (when temps near Zero)

There will not generally* be an amateur net in operation, so phone your report in via: the 1-800 number received at Spotter Training. If you are not a CANWARN member you may use the general PUBLIC number is 1-800-239-0484. Or consider possibly joining CANWARN.

* Consider Participation in:

MMWX NET	3743 kHz LSB	approx 0830h local
MEPN	3760 kHz LSB	approx 1900h local

MMWX Net Manager may collate severe winter wx reports and forward to PSPC.

Contest Calendar

December 2003

QRP ARCI Topband Sprint		0000Z	Dec 4
ARRL 160-Meter Contest		2200Z	Dec 5
PSK31 Death Match		0000Z	Dec 6
TARA RTTY Melee	Rtty	0000Z	Dec 6
TOPS Activity 80m Contest		1800Z	Dec 6
QRP ARCI Hol. Spirits Sprint		2000Z	Dec 7
ARRL 10-Meter Contest		0000Z	Dec 13
Great Colorado Snowshoe Run		0200Z	Dec 14
AGB Party Contest		2100Z	Dec 19
Russian 160-Meter Contest		2100Z	Dec 19
OK DX RTTY Contest	Rtty	0000Z	Dec 20
Croatian CW Contest	CW	1400Z	Dec 20
International Naval Contest		1600Z	Dec 20
DARC Christmas Contest		0830Z	Dec 26
RAC Winter Contest		0000Z	Dec 27
Stew Perry Topband Challenge		1500Z	Dec 27
Original QRP Contest	CW	1500Z	Dec 27
WIA Welcome to HF QSO party		1400Z	Dec 31

January 2004

AGB NYSB Contest		0000Z	Jan 1
SARTG New Year	RTTY	0800Z	Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest		0900Z	Jan 1
ARRL	RTTY	1800Z	Jan 3
Kid's Day Contest		1800Z	Jan 3
EUCW 160m Contest		2000Z	Jan 3
	and	0400Z	Jan 4
Hunting Lions in the Air		0000Z	Jan 10
East Asia 160/80 DX Contest		0900Z	Jan 10
UK DX Contest	SSB	1200Z	Jan 10
Midwinter Contest	CW	1400Z	Jan 10
North American QSO Party	CW	1800Z	Jan 10
NRAU-Baltic Contest	CW	0530Z	Jan 11
NRAU-Baltic Contest	SSB	0800Z	Jan 11
Midwinter Contest	Phone	0800Z	Jan 11
DARC 10-Meter Contest		0900Z	Jan 11
070 Club	PSK	0000Z	Jan 17
LZ Open Contest	CW	1200Z	Jan 17
MI QRP January	CW	1200Z	Jan 17
Hungarian DX Contest		1200Z	Jan 17
North American QSO Party	SSB	1800Z	Jan 17
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes		1900Z	Jan 17
CQ 160-Meter Contest	CW	0000Z	Jan 24
REF Contest	CW	0600Z	Jan 24
BARTG RTTY sprint	Rtty	1200Z	Jan 24
UBA DX Contest	SSB	1300Z	Jan 31

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



As I put together these few words for submission to the WARC Newsletter, I am aware of the new mantle of snow that has been put down during the night. And it always seems to be accompanied by a small whisper of wind, which does nothing more except create a rather substantial drift by my back door. I can hear the gods of winter laughing at me and chiding me saying, "You got away with it the last time because almost all the snow that fell then has disappeared! But this time... go find your snow shovel old man! It ain't going nowhere!!" It's not the shovelling that bothers me, it's just getting the desire to do it that is my stumbling block!

Anyway, getting down to the business of activities during November at WSCRC, the breakfast get together at our usual place attracted thirty persons and as usual, a good breakfast and a lot of friendly socializing was enjoyed by all present. The winner of the free breakfast was none other than our Treasurer, Ed Henderson, VE4YU, who usually pays out for all the other winners. "It's my first time and about time!" said a pleased Ed Henderson whose number was drawn by his granddaughter Lauryn. Congrats Ed!

Our final Executive Board meeting of 2003 welcomed the addition of a new member to the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club namely John Black, VE4HJB, who meets all the requirements of membership. Welcome on board John and we hope that your association with our club will be a pleasant and happy experience for you and for us as well. The next meeting on December 17 will be our annual General Meeting and we urge all members who are able to attend to do so. This is our elections time as well where a new Executive Board and officers will be chosen.

Our Games Day Social was a success even though less than thirty people attended. The pot luck contributions were excellent and there was enough for everyone. Those present enjoyed all sorts of games including cribbage, chess, checkers and other card games. Thanks to Harry Tapper, VE4HST, who organized the event.

December 4 is the day of reckoning for our ten students in the Basic class. I think that most if not all are ready to take the plunge. Word has it that the upcoming cw class in January is very close to being filled up, so if you still have any thoughts of taking on Morse code as a possible mode, get in touch with Sandy, VE4SZ as soon as possible.

Finally, a reminder once again to those who plan to attend our annual Christmas luncheon at the Assiniboine Christian Centre. Time is flying by fast and December 9 is on the horizon. Call Gil Frederick, VE4AG, to get your

tickets or visit the WSCRC clubrooms at 598 St. Mary's Road to purchase your ticket to a fabulous afternoon!

To all of the Ham Radio Community out there, on behalf of my family and me, I want to wish you a very joyous and safe holiday season. May Santa be kind and generous to all and may all your fondest wishes come true. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The President's Call
By John, VE4QV



Just a reminder that Monday, December 8th is the annual WARC Christmas party. Following a brief business meeting there will be both great food and equally great entertainment. Because of the high quality of the programs that we have been able to arrange (thanks Glen) there has been some discussion amongst the membership about the possibility of making these presentations available via video tape or DVD for those members who may not be able to make a particular meeting. Prior permission from the presenter would of course be needed. We will be discussing this at the next executive meeting but certainly if there is any member that is interested in helping out the club in this area please contact any member of your executive.

Also a reminder to have your handy talky dressed up for the WARC Christmas Decorated HT Contest, As Glen VE4GWN detailed at the last general meeting, the HT must be fully functional without removing the decorations. That is you must be able to receive, transmit, and change frequencies. There are some great prizes.

From myself and the rest of the WARC executive, best wishes for a very safe and happy holiday season and a very hammy New Year.

RAC Canada Winter Contest 2003

In December each year, the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sponsors the Canada Winter Contest. Amateurs all over the world are invited to participate.

Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, 27 December 2003

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.)

Suggested frequencies: CW - 25 kHz up from the band edge; SSB - 1850, 3775, 7075, 7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

<http://www.rac.ca/downloads/RACWinterRules3.PDF>

QTX~
By Derek, VE4HAY



Did you know -

✎ That could use the VE4RAC callsign or the VA4RAC callsign for the **RAC Winter Contest** on December 27th. Remember that these callsigns are must sought after for this contest. Why not run mult-operator and really promote the 4th callsign area. If this is of interest to you, please contact the RAC VE4/VE5 Region Director ve5fx - bj.madsen@sasktel.net. BJ would be glad to tell you all about it. And if not the RAC Winter Contest, then how about any contest. Why not put our region on the map. Check the contest calendar and pick a date to operate.

✎ Are you looking for real time MUF (Maximum Useable Frequency) vaules, then check this site out

✎ <http://www.spacew.com/www/realtime.html>

✎ Are you looking for VHF/UHF Tropo ducting forecasts, then check these sites - Western

http://www.iprimus.ca/~hepburnw/tropo_wam.html

Eastern <http://www.iprimus.ca/~hepburnw/tropo.html>

National http://www.iprimus.ca/~hepburnw/tropo_nat.html

✎ Looking for QSL maker software check this site by John McDonough, WB8RCR, <http://hfradio.org/wb8rcr> and download his free QSL creation software, QSL Maker. Again, using your computer and ink jet printer, your QSL card is only limited by your own imagination. Digital photographs or scanned photos can be the background for your personal card.

✎ Looking for something to do on new years Eve, why not welcome the newest HAM to the HF bands by trying to check into the WIA Welcome to HF QSO contest. Australia goes code free on New Years Day, and with the time difference it happens at 1400 December 31 local time.



Silent Key

VE4VQ

Vern Dutton

November
14th